

MEDIA RELEASE



Monday, 17 December 2007

Workshops empower 'Naturally Resourceful' women on the land

Women on the land play a vital role in sustaining our natural resources and rural communities – as teachers of their children, land managers and community leaders.

To support and encourage women in this role, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) has just completed two, out of four, 'Naturally Resourceful' short courses to be delivered in the Maranoa-Balonne and Border Rivers catchments.

Course coordinator, Amanda Woods, said the workshops recently held in Roma and Injune aimed to foster groups of rural women to learn about, and overcome, the challenges of sustainability and changes in the environment currently being experienced in rural districts.

"Naturally Resourceful is a short course for women on the land, designed to develop their communication and management skills whilst increasing their involvement in natural resource management (NRM)," said Amanda.

"The participants learnt about regional, national and global NRM issues affecting agriculture and gained greater knowledge and understanding of the opportunities to respond to these challenges. The women also undertook personal development coaching that focussed on recognising different communication styles, succession planning and planning for positive change."

The framework for the course allowed women to participate in a supportive environment and helped them to learn how to confidently apply their learnings both in their homes and communities. Rita Jackson, of 'Rockvale', said that she particularly enjoyed this aspect of the course.

"I loved it. It was a very supportive workshop and has made a difference to the attitudes and lives of this group of women," said Rita.

Participants said that they are really keen to continue building on the knowledge and friendships that developed during the series of workshops.

"We really hope to build on this and have planned to meet again in February as a group. For the meeting we'll choose a particular focus topic that we would like to discuss and increase our knowledge on, as well as enjoy a lovely lunch," said Rita.

The Naturally Resourceful workshops were funded by the Queensland Department of Communities through the Blue print for the Bush programme. QMDC will be delivering the courses in the Border Rivers Catchment early in 2008. For more information, contact Amanda Woods on 07 4671 7900.

ENDS

Media contact/s

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For additional comments

Rita Jackson, "Rockvale", Injune, 0427 261 445

Images

Photo 1
Injune Naturally Resourceful group



Pictured left to right
Front: Julia Telford (QMDC), Sally McGilvray,
Middle: Lyn Weir, Olwyn Crimp (CEO QMDC), Puddy Chandler, Joy Denton, Valda Helfmeister, **Rita Jackson**,
Claire Wilson, Le-Anne Whitton, Jane Cosh
Back: Shirley Harland, Emma Taylor (Facilitator)

Photo 2
Roma Naturally Resourceful group – out in the field conducting vegetation assessments



Pictured right to left
Madonna Campbell, Jacky Campbell, Jenny Walker, Jo Otto, Bernadette Brennan, Karen Brown, Coralie Daly,
Pam Fisher (QMDC), Emma Taylor (Facilitator)

Photo 3
Roma Naturally Resourceful group



Watching a demonstration by QMDC's Kate Reilly of how ground cover can help prevent severe run-off