

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Women from around the world share experiences

World Rural Women's Day was celebrated in Roma last week with a breakfast at Mt Abundance Homestead and a range of guest speakers from around the world.

Guest speakers included Anne Mungai, Wanjiku Kiereini, both from Kenya, and Xueqi Li from China, all attending university in Queensland to further their educations.

"Women are noted for their resilience and tenacity, and it is not governed by which country they are from," said Anne Mungai in her address.

"In working with women from remote villages in Kenya, I stress to them not to wait for donations or aid. I encourage them to take control of their lives today, as tomorrow will then be theirs."

Breakfast guest Jenny Loughnan said that she found the guest speakers inspiring.

"I find the fact that these girls have ventured so far away from their home, family and friends to further their education with the idea of helping the rural families of their homeland is incredible. Listening to the three of them speak to us was engrossing," she said.

"It demonstrates that we all need a strong woman to be the backbone of the family unit."

"Anne Mungai opened her address with the words ' Don't live your life like you own tomorrow'. I found this very thought-provoking, and after hearing the three women speak, I was interested to learn just how life really is for women in other countries, and that it is not as we read in the press," said Angela Betts from the Maranoa Balonne Catchment Centre.

Guests attending the breakfast travelled from as far away as Toomelah in NSW, as well from the Roma Mitchell and Injune districts. Breakfast was served by the Zonta ladies of Roma, and Don Tite kept the billy boiling.

Organiser Pam Fisher from the Queensland Murray Darling Committee has already arranged for the guest speakers to return to the district in 2007 to learn more about natural resource management activities underway, such as sub-catchment planning. There will be an opportunity for local people to once again catch up with the overseas visitors.

**ENDS**

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Caption: Xueqi Li, Wanjiku Kiereini and Anne Mungai enjoying a moment at the WRWD Breakfast in Roma.