



## HOW WAS THE VICTORIAN RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK ESTABLISHED?



- The Victorian Rural Women's Network (VRWN) is a supportive and inclusive group of rural and regional Victorian women who connect, share ideas and empower each other to step up, lead and succeed in business and community.
- Re-established in 2017 by Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Jaala Pulford, the Network is free to join and encourages women to have an active voice in their communities, government and decision-making.
- A Reference Group of 18 highly regarded Victorian women inform and shape the Network's objectives, policies, communications and activities.

### HOW WAS THE VICTORIAN RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK ESTABLISHED?

- The VRWN was re-established on 1 July 2017 by Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Jaala Pulford with a \$1.7 million funding commitment.



- The VRWN aligns with the Victorian Gender Equality Strategy and works towards equal and fair representation and treatment of women in rural workplaces and communities.

## WHO DOES THE VRWN REACH?



- The Network has launched a dedicated website and social media platforms, a Rural Women's Forum, and annual magazine, *Network Connect*, and a \$500,000 leadership and mentoring program.
- The Network has attracted more than 1000 subscribers and numbers continue to grow.
- More than 100 rural and regional Victorian women of all ages and backgrounds attended the first Rural Women's Forum in Creswick in August 2018.
- The magazine, *Network Connect*, was made available to all stakeholders and subscribers via direct mailouts and digital channels.
- Four quarterly e-newsletters and monthly event updates keep subscribers regularly informed and connected.

## IMPACT OF VICTORIAN RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK

- The network's magazine and forum were well received with 88 per cent of participants saying the forum 'exceeded expectations'.
- The network continues to connect, inspire and engage rural and regional Victorian women with its website attracting more than 23,000 views and Facebook and Twitter sites growing fast.
- The VRWN opens doors to many opportunities from upcoming events, grants, scholarships and activities to potential mentors, publications and resources.

**Website:** [extensionaus.com.au/VRWNnetwork](http://extensionaus.com.au/VRWNnetwork)

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