

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Riverina women represented well at
2013 National Rural Women's Conference**

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina recently sponsored three outstanding young women from across the Riverina to attend the 2013 National Rural Women's Conference (NRWC) as part of an ongoing commitment to boosting youth leadership within the region.

The NRWC was held 18 – 20 February 2013 in Canberra and featured more than 30 exceptional presenters who shared their experiences of business, community, rural issues and the joys and challenges of rural life.

Frankie Freeman, Wagga Wagga; Elissa Strong, Lockhart and Tanya Kassman, Griffith joined 380 women from across the country, including more than 35 representatives from the Riverina region. While their backgrounds could not have been more diverse, each of the three women's ambition to make a greater contribution in their local community through leadership was a unifying factor.

"We had a number of exceptional applications for the NRWC sponsorship opportunity from across the Riverina. All members of the RDA-Riverina committee and staff were extremely impressed by the calibre of young women who applied," said Lani Houston, RDA-Riverina CEO.

"The overarching aim of the program was to provide a unique opportunity for young women to be inspired and build networks with other rural women who are doing wonderful things to build vibrant rural communities.

"We had a fantastic week at the NRWC, our aim was certainly achieved and we were even able to squeeze in a visit to Parliament House and meet with the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon. Simon Crean MP. This was a wonderful opportunity for the young women to meet the Minister behind the Regional Development Australia initiative."

Following the conference Frankie, Elissa and Tanya will report back to RDA-Riverina Committee about their experiences at the NRWC and demonstrate how their gained knowledge can be incorporated into their workplace or community.

Additional youth-focused sponsorship opportunities will continue to be promoted by RDA-Riverina and the committee encourages youth with a passion for improving and contributing to their communities to apply.

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More information regarding the key-note speakers at the NRWC can be found at:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/national-rural-women-s-conference-2013/custom-17-d9ae31a0c5f048eca10cf8ed829840ef.aspx>