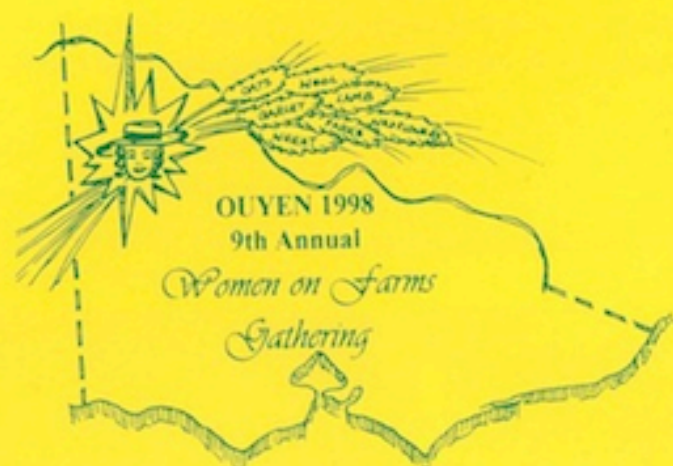


Women on Farms Gathering

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th March 1998

Ouyen



Proceedings Handbook

Supported by

Westpac Banking Corporation

Department of Natural Resources & Environment

Mallee Tourism Association Inc

Ouyen Inc

THANK YOU
FROM
THE OUYEN ORGANISING COMMITTEE

We, the members of the Ouyen Organising Committee, wish to thank all who were involved in our Gathering.

We are proud to have been given the privilege to have the Gathering in our region.

Without the support and generosity of our community we would not have been able to provide such a wonderful event.

To our sponsors, speakers, workshop presenters, tour leaders, bus drivers, caterers, accommodation houses and the many other individuals who had the confidence to support us and provide all that was asked of them, our sincere thanks goes to all of you.

The support of the participants is also important for without participants there would have been no Gathering. Thank you all for coming and making our Gathering a very special event.

Marion Morrish,
President,
on behalf of the Ouyen Organising Committee.



The Committee with Janine Shepherd

BACK ROW: Colleen Morrish, Lois O'Callaghan, Jennifer Edelstein, Teresa Scott, Betty Thomas.
MIDDLE ROW: Carolyn Balint, Sae Lancaster, Kathy Coleman, Merril Boland, Deidre Hall.
FRONT ROW: Shirley McIlwenna, Janine Shepherd, Marion Morrish, Maree Ryan.
ABSENT: Karen Crook & Gaye Lamb.

1998 Women on Farms Gathering
Proceedings

This proceedings book is a précis of how our committee saw the weekend. Our Women's Stories are reprinted in full.

Our committee was committed to extending Mallee hospitality, to bring the Gathering back to basics and to have a good time. The feedback through evaluations and comments to the committee establish that our aims were more than fulfilled. We hope you enjoy our look at the weekend as presented in this book.

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Sponsors back cover

Thank you to our Entertainers

THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME TO KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED OVER THE WEEKEND:

Mary Cummins (who wrote and put the music to our theme song)
The Ouyen Theatre Group
The Tongan Choir.

Our thanks also goes to Chooka Williams and Judith Baker who sang along with Mary Cummins.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

- 4.00 pm Registrations
- 6.00 pm Workshop E Earlybird (6-7 pm)
- 7.15 pm Official Opening
- Mary Cummins "Theme Song"*
- Anne Mansell - Mildara Rural City Council Representative to officially open the Gathering.*
- Ian Cox - Westpac*
- Grace Dean lighting the light*
- Women's Story - Grace Dean*
- Dedication to Pat Hall*
- 7.45 pm Buffet Tea
- 8.30 pm Entertainment
- Women's Story - Marion Morrish*
- Women's Story - Phyllis Vallance*

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

- 8.00 am Registrations
- 9.00 am Welcome
- Marion Morrish*
- Janine Haddow*
- Advance Australia Fair*
- 9.30 am Keynote Speaker - *Janine Shepherd*
- 10.30 am Morning Tea *Book Purchasing & Signing*
- 11.00 am Workshop A (11 am - 1 pm)
- 1.00 pm Lunch *Book Purchasing & Signing*
- 2.00 pm Workshop B (2-4 pm) OR Long Tour (2-6 pm)
- 4.00 pm Afternoon Tea
- 4.30 pm Workshop C (4.30-6.30 pm) OR Short Tour (4.30-6.00 pm) OR AWIA Meeting (4.30-5.30 pm)
- 6.00 pm Free Time
- 7.00 pm Pre-dinner Drinks
- 7.30 pm Dinner & Entertainment
- Women's Story - Lorraine Mott*
- Women's Story - Helen Brown*
- Tongan Choir & Dancers.*

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH

- 8.30 am Ecumenical Service OR Garden Walk
- 9.30 am Keynote Speaker - *Jan Denham*
- 10.30 am Morning Tea
- 11.00 am Interactive Presentation - *Val Wilkinson*
- 12.00 pm Evaluation & Closing Ceremony
- 1.00 pm Approximate departure time

Women's Story

Life and Memories of Farming Life of Grace Frances Dean - nee Hickmott
(as read by her granddaughter)

Today I have the honour to share with you my Grandmother's memories, experiences and thoughts on Women on Farms. As a pioneer child of this district Grace Dean (nee Hickmott) has given me many happy hours whilst sharing her past - hours I will always cherish and also share with my family and many cousins and their extended families.

Grace was born to William and Frances Hickmott in Lalbert, near Swan Hill, on the 24th April, 1911. Grace was to become the eldest of 16 children and then the mother of 10 healthy children of her own. She now proudly boasts being grandmother of 38 grandchildren and 48 great grandchildren. I am the eldest of the grandchildren; my daughter Lyndel is the eldest of the great grandchildren and being 23 she tells Grandma that she needs to look further than her for the much awaited first great grandchild!

Grace's parents, like many pioneers were eager to venture to build their own farm. Bill had heard of land in the Ouyen area growing prolific crops and so decided to apply for land; at the time being provided by the Government for settlement. The couple was granted a block of land northeast of Ouyen of 640 acres at 10/- an acre, and of course then the hard work was to begin; I think most farm women would agree that buying the land is great, it's the paying for that creates the worry and stress but there's also the feeling of achievement when the last payment presents itself. Work such as rolling scrub, picking stumps, burning the waste, building sheds and haystacks, making house, sinking catchment dams for water etc.

One of the first major hurdles Grandma remembers facing was the trauma of having to attend school. She didn't start school until she was 8 as the family had taken a working holiday to Perth to visit family. The first day at school away from the safety of family was no less daunting by being older. The journey to school was a major feat daily and getting lost on the way home was a possibility - especially in dust storm weather. Grace tells me that as they got a little older they were asked to help stack a load of hay on the wagon before continuing on their journey to school - arriving with straw in their bonnets as it were!

There were always many chores to be completed living on a farm and having many siblings to help was great usually after consuming plenty of drop scones on returning from school; chores such as stump picking, feeding the horses, cows, chooks etc. all had to be done. Farm children learned life's story very young as feeding animals in droughts caused many heart breaks. Droughts meant that there was a very valuable hay to cut, oats for horses or cows or water available for the animals. Water was a very valuable commodity in early farming as the only source was from catchment - dams or tanks. Mouse plagues also caused havoc with the stores for the animals and also for the family household.

You needed to have a very secure area to store clothing and food supplies or the mice could destroy the lot in no time. (Things don't change a lot!) Grandma shakes her head in memory of losing a lovely collection of handworked embroidery items - she says these little things were sometimes the hardest to endure.

Their first family home was one of dirt floors and canvas partitions but she never remembers it causing them any great concern or discomfort. As the years went by they gradually upgraded their dwelling. Grace can remember her mother using the timber from the packing cases to put a floor on the house. Firstly she laid the dirt with salt and then the boards over the top. They never ever found white ants in these boards, just a little tip to pass on.

Grace married Bert Dean on 29th June 1931, in a double wedding with her sister. Bert had picked stumps to get enough money to buy a suit for the wedding plus a new overcoat. The men were paid ten pound for a truck load of stumps.

Grace's mother made the two wedding dresses for her daughters, their two going away outfits with matching hats, as well as outfits for the rest of the family. She cooked to serve the eighty guests at the wedding breakfast which was held at the home of Mrs Garner, a very dear friend of Frances in Ouyen.

And so the farming lifestyle continued. Bert was 24. He worked for Bill Hickmott and shared his machinery, in lieu of wages. Eventually Bert was able to buy a block of land with a good house already established. The land cost approximately 2 pound an acre but they were only able to pay the interest for a number of years as farming was particularly difficult during these years. Lots of farmers were walking off their land through the Debt Adjustment Scheme. At this time the farms were only about a mile apart and some farmers were able to get work digging the channels that would eventually bring a more constant water source to the farms. The introduction of channels was a real bonus. Grandma tells me they were able to grow garden vegetables on the seepage from the channels but that there was only ever one crop from each area of soil sown in this way as the next year that soil would be too salty.

To sow their crops the farmers used horses and disc drills. They would plough the fields twice and then broadcast the seed originally. This was a very slow process. They planted wheat and oats. Wheat to sell to the mills. Oats for feeding the stock and also for hay-making. The wheat was stripped by horse and stripper. The seed would be cleaned ready to cart to the railways by using a winnower to blow away the chaff. The bags were filled as full as possible to save money in having to buy more bags. The bags of wheat were carted to the station by wagon and the farmer was paid once his wheat reached the station. This wheat was then stored at the station before being transported to the mills. The area was capable of growing crops of about 8 bags to the acre, in a good year.

You needed to be very self-sufficient on farms in these times and so growing all your own vegetables and fruit was a priority. If you were fortunate enough to get or be given enough fruit to bottle and make jam so much the better. The main items Grandma can remember buying were jam and potatoes, sugar and tea.

Whilst talking with my Grandmother, we touched on many subjects and got off the track constantly. Major topics were the few social functions that were attended – the Ouyen Show, the School Picnic, the Christmas Tree and later on Church meetings. The main concern was which yeast you should use to do the family bread baking – some believed that yeast made from the leaves of hops was the best others preferred the yeast made from potatoes cooked and strained and the liquid poured onto the hops leaves – each had their own speciality. Flour for the baking of the bread was readily available from the Ouyen Flour Mills. Farmers would deliver their own wheat to the mill and then throughout the year would pick up a sack of flour from the mill as it was needed. The deal was roughly 12 bags of wheat for the return of 8 bags of flour. The mill would keep the bran and pollard to sell. Flour was always a precious commodity.

I asked Grandma about the safety and medical side of rearing a large family in early farming times and how they were able to handle their emergencies. She says she was very fortunate to have very healthy, happy children and hardly ever had a real trauma, but she can remember being beside herself with worry when one of the children developed croup and eventually had to be taken to hospital. Doctor Nichill sat with the sick child for three days before he recovered. The family considered itself very lucky to get through this incident. Another time Grandma was bitten by a spider and felt very ill and in terrible pain but with no phone and too many little children to walk very far she used vinegar as her first aid and it eventually worked to her benefit. Vinegar was regarded as a good remedy to many ailments in earlier times and still today I guess.

As for safety well there were many dangers and fire was always a great worry in early times as there was no running water, and no fast fire trucks about, usually you just lost the lot – homestead, shed, haystack whatever. Grace can remember a time that the family were all home and hearing a roar sounding as though a visitor was coming they all went outside to see who it was; only to their tin chimney on fire – luckily there were two kerosene buckets of water near the fire place though no-one remembers putting them there, and they saved the house.

Grace believes that as she and her mother both had large families they were more like sisters than mother and daughter. They helped each other, looking after each other's children, going to town together on "town day," helping neighbours through illness and accident together. Rearing a family in a farming environment in these times was relatively easy as you were all forever busy with the daily tasks and helping on the farm was more important than doing the housework – other than the food preparation – as the housework didn't make the money or feed the family.

Grace's belief is that you never lose that ability to look for the improvements or 'to see the good side' if you are a farmer. An example – the channels – a real bonus for farmers. They provided work and also helped to

make the Mallee a little more drought proof. They enabled the farm house to have running water connected – a real luxury after years of carting water in kerosene tins each day. Carrying buckets of water had meant that baths were not a daily event as they are now. The family had many bodies to keep clean and Saturday evening was bath time – whether you needed it or not! Tins of water would be placed on the stove to heat. Bert would wash, Grace would dry. Grandma says her memories of bath times in those days are cold water and wet towels!

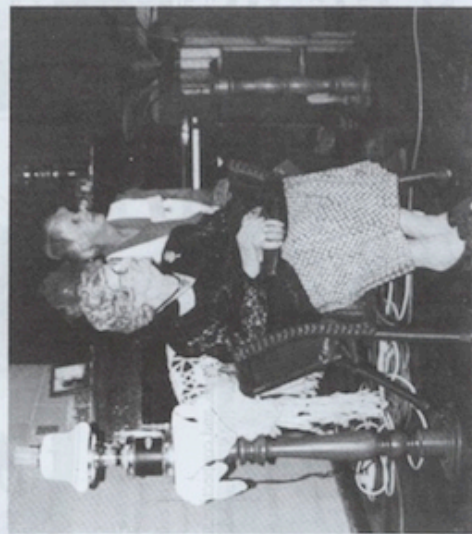
As the family grew over the years farming developed and became mechanical – tractors were purchased, cars bought always with a struggle and juggle. Horses were gradually replaced; Grace believes that this was the era when the Mallee was able to flourish for crops could be sold for profit not saved for the horses. Things became more stable. The introduction of a little help from the government in the form of child endowment (approximately a \$1.00 per child each week) enabled the family to gradually buy a few of life's luxuries. A Homelite generator for electric light and power, extra clothes for the kids (still "made by mum", label, and proud she was of that fact) hot irons replaced by electric irons – but the generator had to be running to use them. Grace's mother Frances purchased a washing machine and Grace used to take washing over to her place to begin with until she purchased her own.

A second block of land was bought about the same time as child number 5 arrived. This too proved very difficult to buy, paying only the interest for a few years as the years had turned dry and not so productive. Droughts were full of heartbreak – one in particular led to all the cattle having to be shot and only the very best saved for the family to use. This was a major set back, taking years to overcome.

The work was hard the hours were long but it was all accomplished as a family working together, helping each other and helping neighbours through their illnesses and losses. The kids were happy and healthy and each had their particular quirks but of course they gradually grew up and made their own way. Grace believes they were given plenty of love, if not much else, to set out on their journey and thoroughly enjoys the fact that she has such a large family to visit her today. All their joys are her joys; all their sorrows her sorrows.

My biggest wish is that I can enjoy my life and remember the times as being as good as what my grandmother does. Her motto is "loving to be with people before anything else – tomorrow you can rest at home!" I say thank you to her for the sharing she does for all of us and also to say thank you to my own mother for her encouragement in our farming lives and the sharing of her love and expertise with our families.

I think the saying: "When the going gets tough – the tough get going" is a very apt one for farming women – farming women are strong.



DEDICATION TO PAT HALL AND KATH PAYNTER

The Ouyen Women on Farms Gathering is dedicated to the memory of Pat Hall.

DEDICATION BY JENNY SIMPSON

Those of us who attended the first Women on Farms Gathering in Warragul some 9 years ago will all remember how Pat and her good friend Marion shared their stories of life on a Mallee farm with the Gathering. Both their stories brought with them laughter and tears. It was the next day that Pat and Marion decided with the few other women from the Mallee that it would be fun to hold the next Gathering. It was in the following months on the organising committee for the Sea Lake Gathering that I came to know Pat and understand the empathy she had for rural women.

Pat attended every Women on Farms Gathering and enjoyed the individuality that every Gathering offered. In 1996 Pat travelled with her daughter-in-law Deidre and Marion Morrish to Murray Bridge and attended the first ever S.A. Rural Women's Gathering.

Pat along with her husband Jack (who died suddenly in 1996) were keen members of the Victorian Farmers Federation and enjoyed travelling to the yearly Grains Council Conferences.

Pat's commitment to rural women and the philosophy of the Women on Farms Gatherings was again highlighted when she supported the idea of holding this years Gathering in Ouyen. In January 1997, while holidaying at Rosebud Pat was injured in a car accident and died from her injuries 2 days later.

Pat was a gracious woman who always had words of support and optimism for those who lived life on the land. On behalf of all the women who knew Pat Hall I would like to dedicate this Gathering to her. Let us celebrate Pat's life by enjoying the time we have to share with each other during this Gathering in a way I know Pat would have wanted if she was here.

DEDICATION BY YVONNE JENNINGS

The passing of our dear Pat Hall from Mittyack and Kath Paynter from Chillingollah saddened us all. I recently read a book called "For She is the Tree of Life" - Grandmothers through the Eyes of Women Writers edited by Valerie Kaek-Brice and it brought home to me the real value of our elder members - their wisdom, stability, continuity and practical commonsense.

In this book the stories of many different grandmothers are told and there is something to be learned from each - although like Pat and Kath, each of these women would probably be amazed to hear that.

The following quote is particularly apt I feel:

"The Cut of Her Cloth"

"While many of our Grandmothers led simple lives, some lived simply in the middle of extraordinary circumstances, demonstrating great courage, fortitude and commitment. Undaunted by specific events, they were tenacious in their survival, hope, and connection to family. For some grand-daughters, the example of how their grandmothers lived offered valuable lessons and gave gifts, sometimes even resulting in a determination to live differently. For others, a particular quality of being, such as eccentricity, stoicism, or dignity, is most notable."

I believe Pat and Kath are here with us and the last thing they would want is to have us overcome by their not having a visible presence. As "grandmothers" of the gathering who have passed on and become part of that spirit of the Gathering that is generated each year when we get together I know that they would not want us to dwell on and be weakened by their passing, but instead be strengthened and healed by being together.

As a mark of respect and in their memory a board with their names has been made and people from other areas are welcome to add women from their area if they wish. It will be passed on to each Gathering with the banners.



Thank you for a great relaxing weekend.



Janine Shepherd was a riveting, inspirational speaker. Her story showed that you should never give up.



Val Wilkinson was thought provoking, funny and enjoyable. How come so many West Gippsland women are now wearing new knickers?

Women's Story

Life and Memories of Marion Morrish

My mother was a tailor and my father a painter by trade. They were married after father returned from the World War I. He was allocated a block of ground, some miles north of Ouyen, which had to be cleared of Mallee scrub. This meant long hours of hard work for little return. My first years of schooling were spent at the Cramerton School, until it was closed through lack of student numbers.

My parents bought a boarding house in Ouyen where I finished my schooling at the State and High Schools. During this time I was kept very busy helping mother with the household chores.

I married in 1944 and went to live on the farm at Tiega. My in-laws were also living there and did so for about ten more years. With four children coming during those years, I found it very difficult to discipline them with the Grandparents having their say in rearing my children, for their way was best, whether I agreed or not.

As a young housewife, milking six cows twice a day as well as attending to the home under watchful eyes, I found the loneliness hard to bear for my husband worked long hours on the land, and I only had the children for company.

Experiencing the loss of a loved child brought with sorrow and strength and brought our family closer together.

Shearing time at our depot lasted about six weeks. Sheep came from miles to be shorn there. That appeared reasonable enough, perhaps, but the worst of it was, these people had their meals at my table, supplied by me. Sometimes up to 12 at a meal time - endless cooking. For our own shearing I was the roustabout or the musterer as well as cook.

In 1961 I had the surprise of my life, when after seven years along came twin boys. How I enjoyed these babies.

In dryland farming cropping is hectic, all the seed has to be planted at once if the rains come and before the next downpour. I was the gopher - go here go there, get this, get that, never ending - but meals on time.

Harvesting was no better, with me working the choke cutter on the header while my husband was the tractor driver. By night my body was one big ache - arms would still want to throw the lever, my feet would still press the pedal even hours later, but the cows still needed milking and the family fed. However, after a couple of years I put a stop to that - I ordered a new header. My mother-in-law agreed with me, she must have realised it was too much and felt sorry for me, so the next harvest was much easier - I only had to sew up the full wheat bags.

Holidays were mentioned but never taken as my husband was always too busy; however we did finally travel by caravan when the twins were about 2. All five children had a marvellous time for it was a really relaxing few weeks.

Mouse plagues had to be endured for we had our fair share of them. What disastrous conditions these rodent leave behind, so much waste of stock feed and ruined equipment. I dread to think of it!

Another time consuming chore, but inclined to be a little profitable, was the local Tiega post office which was at our home. This meant walking two miles to the railway station in the morning to collect the mail, sort it, and in the evening take the mail bags back to the station, three days a week. Consequently we had many interruptions during the day when other farmers came to collect their mail. When one old chap came and I asked him how his wife was, his answer came thus - "She was away on holidays." He paused, then said "A bloody man wants three wives, one on holidays, one sick, and the other to look after me." The post office and railway station have long since gone.

Drafting sheep is a health hazard, especially when there hasn't been rain for weeks. Dust everywhere, in the hair, eyes, nose and through the clothes. This particular day the dog wouldn't work it was so hot and I had to take the dogs place in the yard, when nothing would go right. I was told I was as bad as the bloody dog, so I did what the dog did and went home.

There was plenty of social life in our small community. In the late fifties I joined the Galah Hospital Committee working for the Ouyen Hospital serving as President for a number of years and was made a life member in 1971.

I was President of the Tiega Ladies Football committee, active in the Ouyen State and High Schools Mothers' Club and served on the High School Advisory Committee. I became a Red Cross member and helped instigate the Meals on Wheels Program here in Ouyen. Everyone looked forward to the Saturdays when tennis, cricket or football was played.

The population is not as big now as the farms are much bigger, they need to be, for us to survive. The community spirit remains as strong as ever.

During the bad years of the late eighties we decided to join the Isolated Mallee Family and Support Group at Sea Lake. There we met Maureen Walsh and later Sharon Guerra and heard of the first Women on Farms Gathering at Drouin. My friend Pat Hall and I travelled down to it with them. This weekend for us was to study how the farmers there were situated compared with our area. It was a very enjoyable weekend for we made friends there who have met us at subsequent Gatherings and I hope we will continue to come, to meet each other at these friendly weekends in the future.



Ecumenical Service Thank You

Thank you to Sister Terese Ryan for preparing our Ecumenical Service. Also to Sister Eileen Carr for her address, Judith Baker for playing the organ and the people who read the Bible readings.

Women's Story

Phyllis Vallance - Primary Producer and Agripolitician

Invited to speak on Hardships, I asked for, instead, the opportunity to speak on the positive and rewarding aspects of my 50 years farming life in the Mallee.

50 years of marriage! A milestone so often not striven for these days. I first met Jack in 1947, when a teacher in Sea Lake, at a ball in Pier Millan. The hall has long since gone.

Saturday nights, in Sea Lake, I would hear "If you lend me a quid I'll take you to the pictures." Well I think it was 2 shillings admission and then a box of Roses chocolates, but never the change.

The challenge for success with my husband Jack was there from day one. The philosophy of the famous Blue Hills ABC serial was to marry when you had nothing and earn it together.

This attitude was the same at Blue Hills, Pier Millan in 1948. Lack of basic facilities - roads, telephone, etc. was not a deterrent. We lived in isolation on abandoned leasehold land.

Our six children were born within nine years and our social life was simple and fitted with dedication to family and farm but with ambition.

Structures - sheds - and land development led us to enter the Commonwealth Development Bank Farm Management Competition in which we had two major successes and minor ones over a number of years. Jack was always an innovator and ahead of the developing farming trends.

The bookwork became my responsibility - a reason behind this was that if the need ever arose in adversity I could understand and manage the enterprise.

My youngest child a toddler I ventured to the local football venue and quickly was invited to participate in netball by a past pupil who had been under my sporting coaching and umpiring.

Netball became part of my life for twenty-one years. I retired in my 60th year.

A new interest - the Mallee Garden Club. I was an avid gardener! I edited the Mallee Garden Gazette for nine years.

As population and industry change, the mind seeks wider parameters. Personal confidence also grew. I had already pursued knowledge of the water industry. The Mallee is reliant on the Wimmera Mallee Domestic and Stock System. I represent customers at the various levels.

Contact with the farming industry opens other doors. Jack very often travelled to meetings throughout the state. He still had to do farm work so I became the driver so he could sleep for the hours of travelling - day or night. Why sit outside in the car? I joined the meetings.

I found women were welcome at all levels.

From a participating VFF Branch Member I progressed to President, then Secretary Southern Mallee District Council VFF (for 10 years and current). Such roles allow one to be involved with so much and so many.

Involvement as a primary producer in ABB, VicGrain, Silo Meetings, VLine Grain too often there are no other women partners present yet they deliver grain, manage silos, drive trucks, handle livestock, etc. I feel I pioneered women driving grain trucks in the Mallee.

JANINE HADDOW

On February 4 1998 I found, once again, I was the lone female farmer at the Ouyen VicGrain meeting. I recall going to a sheep sale in Ouyen, probably 30 years ago. Then it was not acceptable. Today women are recognised as part of the industry and in particular attend cattle sales in number.

I have been a delegate to VFF conferences for 26 years. To stand and make a contribution is a major step forward for any person. Encouraging younger persons to participate - contact with industry and political leaders is a measure of one's contribution and value.

The nomination for Life Membership of the VFF, which I hold, was instigated by younger members of the Southern Mallee District Council. It is a prestigious award.

Having a win for yourself is okay, BUT it must be for the people. In January 1997 I battled a hire purchase tax. The whole Primary Producer population was provided with the result. The Tax is NOT applicable to farm machinery.

Participation in Industry Workshops - Water Reviews, DNRE, Landcare, ABB Review are all on my calendar but so few women are to be seen. It is recognised that we start from the grass roots and participate. Show we are Women on Farms industrially and active partners.

Back to Blue Hills

To finance development land clearing and dam sinking contracting in the surrounding areas was built into our program. In the 50's we were known as the "modern pioneers."

Imagine! We couldn't borrow 250 pounds to buy super to sow the crop! We couldn't raise an overdraft. We had no mortgagable asset.

Running 4000+ sheep with shearers "found" (live-in) meant cooking for all hands. Sharing mustering, marking, dipping etc. when required - even at times being Boss of the shed.

Changing to cattle my very youthful hand milking experience was a sound basic background.

A child of the Depression, as with so many other children this was a part of life. I STILL MILK A HOUSE COW.

Our herd was built gradually and has been maintained through good seasons and severe droughts with conserved/purchased fodder.

Development meant hand picking stumps and poisoning rabbits. My husband made a poison cart for me. I asked the LMO for the carrots "to be butted up." He thought for a moment or two and then replied, "I'm a margarine man myself."

FARM SAFETY is paramount. The person in the field has always been regularly checked. Cuppas and meals (usually hot and 2 course) delivered to the operator. Our farm is broadacre and time for cultivation etc. valued.

One soon learnt after a walk or two of several miles to always check the fuel tank reading, take a hat and water.

Memory is of my parents unable to sell their grain, pay their rent meant eviction with a family of seven children. Farmers fought for orderly marketing and single desk. We remember the dire need and are "died in the wool" Grain Board Single Desk growers for Wheat and Barley. In 1997 I was a member of a VFF working party presenting a submission to Review Consultants on the Australian Barley Board.

Women's Story

I thank you for the opportunity to speak and urge women to earn their place as partners and develop their image by participating at the local level. Agri-politics will come if you have that instinct.

To our menfolk - we do not have your brawn and few of us match your ongoing apprenticeship of ever changing agricultural knowledge and skills. You must be applauded.



An invitation to women throughout Australia to come to the

Warragul Women on Farms Gathering

April 30th, May 1st & 2nd 1999

Return to Warragul, where it all began, and celebrate 10 years of Women on Farms Gatherings.

Celebrate the lives, achievements and friendship of farming women.

Renew acquaintances from previous Gatherings while meeting new friends at the Warragul Arts Centre in 1999.

Enjoy keynote speakers, workshops, women's stories and the Saturday evening celebratory dinner.

Further details will be available on the official registration form which can be obtained from

Evelyn Lillie, P.O. Box 12, Yarragon 3823. Phone 03 5634 4220

JANINE HADDOW

Big Engines, Free Lunches and Butterflies.

Janine Haddow is the Regional Manager for the department of Natural Resources and Environment, North West. She is responsible for fire management, crown lands, catchment and agriculture services, flora and fauna, forests and mining.

Janine believes that women have big engines which they require to carry out all of the things they do. Even being only a tiny person herself, she claims she was stomped on, squeezed out and had many knockbacks and jobs before her current role. She uses her voice and her "big engine" to ensure she is heard and acknowledged at meetings.

Janine told the group of driving to the gathering from Bendigo. She passed a bus full of women from Gippsland travelling to the gathering. As she passed the bus she thought about the bus and its big engine. Janine then realised that the big engines were inside the bus, inside the women that travelled so far to this important gathering. The arrangements that had to be made and the commitment required to make the effort to attend testified that they were the ones who had truly had the drive and power of a big engine.

Because she was such a shy child, none of Janine's family could believe she would be speaking about her "big engine". She can recall many instances when she talked and was not heard. Janine believes this is what makes her appreciate even more people like Michael Taylor, Secretary of DNRE whose commitment towards providing opportunities for women within and outside the Department.

Janine described her role within the Department and the perception of "free lunches" within Government. She explained the reason that DNRE and in particular senior management supported these gatherings was that they could see the value and benefit in sponsoring such events. Women are such important contributors to the rural community in so many ways.

DNRE has demonstrated its commitment towards women in the rural sector by employing women in senior positions and the rural service delivery sector.

Janine also spoke of the significance of butterflies. She described the chaos theory of if a butterfly beats its wings in mainland China, it can cause a tropical storm on the other side of the world. Imagine if one butterfly can have that impact - what can all of the women sitting here at the gathering achieve.

Janine believes this is a time of change for all women. Time to use our big engines to be heard, to realise there is no such thing as a free lunch and to recognise our worth and finally to have an impact larger than the butterfly in China on the rural community.

N.B.: In recognition of Janine's presentation, gathering participants created paper butterflies and placed them on their buses and the farm machinery outside the venue. This was to symbolise the impact of such gatherings for women in the rural communities.

JANINE SHEPHERD

MY DAY WITH JANINE - Written by Colleen Morrish

While waiting for the airplane to land, with great expectation, I was wondering what would she be like, and what we would talk about etc. Well things turned out to be great. By the time I met Janine, Jan Denham, who was on the same flight, had filled Janine in about the whole weekend.

With the introductions over, bags and three boxes of books collected, we headed into Mildura to the motel. Janine was amazed at how big and busy Mildura was.

I had arranged to pick Janine up at 7.30 am on Saturday morning. I returned to the Airport to await the arrival of Helen Brown whose flight had been delayed. The traffic noise was so bad in the motel that Janine nearly rang me to ask if she could come to Ouyen with me that night, but eventually another room was given to her.

On the early morning drive back from Mildura Janine was keen to learn as much as possible about the area and how we lived. Janine was given a letter that had been faxed to us with a special request from an admirer.

On arriving in Ouyen we went straight to the Gathering, where we were met at the front door by members of the committee. Janine was introduced to a special person, Ruth Murphy who had come to the Gathering just to meet Janine. Ruth had been inspired by Janine's books to get her life back together after a tremendous accident. Ruth's comment of "Janine is my God" brought the house down on Saturday night.

The atmosphere in the hall was great and after making our way onto the stage we were seated and faced a sea of 200 faces all waiting in expectation and wonder. Janine was finally introduced and after a minor hiccup with the microphone, her story unfolded with humor, emotion and amazement. During her story two women fainted. Janine was not distracted by this, but enlightened us to the fact that it is a common occurrence at her speeches. People become overwhelmed, emotional and so involved, that this is why they have these reactions. There must have been many lumps in throats throughout the story. We all enjoyed lots of laughter, gained lots of inspiration, and came away uplifted and full of vitality.

Afterwards, we moved out to the table where Janine met with people, heard their stories and signed books with their special messages. Had we known what the response to Janine was going to be, we would have had many more books for sale. Janine was very interested in people, and spent time talking with them about their experiences.

Eventually the workshops began and it was time for a cuppa, morning tea, photo sessions and meet the press. Things were very busy. Janine was offered a rest, but refused asking if it was possible to change into more comfortable clothes and her favorite runners and then take a look around the area and town. While Janine was given a guided tour of the complex and school, I decided to see if I could arrange for Janine to drive the big tractor that was parked outside. Eventually permission was given and it was time to see if Janine would take the challenge. So off we went to find Janine who was sitting out in the sun talking to a group of participants, the challenge was accepted and we were off. We went outside to the front of the centre, where my son Brent was waiting with the tractor, a Quadtrac valued at approximately \$275,000. Janine decided that she would be a passenger only, so off they went around the corner, but when they came back there was a new driver - Janine had decided to take the plunge and drive the monster herself. Sheer amazement and excitement was written on her face. Well the tractor was no longer big enough, Janine thought it would be great to drive a header, so we went to the machinery yard where Janine was told to take her pick.

"But they don't seem big enough, where is the bit in front," Janine asked. The front was put on the header and up the paddock we went. Brent explained all the controls and before long Janine was in the driver's seat, excited, as to drive a header you don't need to use your legs only hand controls and this was far easier for her. Janine told Brent if he ever needed a header driver just give her a call. Her comment was "It would be safer in a header than a plane - not as far off the ground." Photos were taken as proof of the adventure.

We went back at the centre for lunch, more book signing and talking with the women. After lunch we went on a tour of the Ouyen township with Maree, Renee and Yvonne. We showed off some of the local landmarks even called into a local cricket match, talked to the gallery who were there watching with their esky and sitting under the trees. We continued around town, called into a local cafe for an ice cream and fuel for the car. As there was time before Janine's massage appointment, we decided to drive out to our farm which is 15 kms out of Ouyen. We were met by the sheep dogs, we drove up to the paddock to show Janine some of our lambs running around. Janine was amazed that there were no neighbours nearby, and at the vastness and size of our properties.

There was quite a lot of laughter, stories and explanation done while driving around. On the way back we visited the famous "Tickle Belly Hill." Janine thought the golf course was just a bare paddock and said that we couldn't possibly play golf there.

We returned, and while Janine was having her massage, I had lunch and organised the return trip to Mildura. After more photos and talking with women who wanted to share their experiences with Janine, we checked that all Janine's luggage was in the boot. But Janine wasn't about to leave until she had personally said goodbye to Ruth. We had to find out which workshop Ruth was in so that Janine could say goodbye. Finally she was ready to leave, last minute jokes were shared. Tears were shed with our goodbyes. We left at 5 pm for Mildura. We didn't realise just how much you can fit into a day, it seemed ages since arriving. Tired, but thoroughly thrilled with the day, Janine said she would rest on the plane.

Arriving at the airport, Janine rang home to check that things were okay. As we sat talking to Janine, my daughter Renee was thrilled when Janine gave her ideas on how to earn extra pocket money. It felt like we were old friends. The plane arrived and with hugs and good-byes said, Janine boarded the plane. Renee and I watched with tears in our eyes, I was very privileged to have spent the special time with Janine - she has left a lasting impression on both my daughter and myself.

In less than 24 hours Janine had inspired so many people. She touched them with her beautiful personality, special spirit and caring nature. Janine's outlook and courage towards life gave everyone the inspiration to keep going in life, enjoy life and "live the dream."

I would like to thank the committee for having the faith in me to be assigned the job of looking after Janine.

Colleen Morrish

Women's Story

My Life on the Land - Lorraine Mott

I was born in Hopetoun into a farming family, so I've been on the land all my life. I was educated at Hopetoun State School and Hopetoun High Elementary.

I was a member of the Girl Guides, member of the Junior Red Cross, Brownie Leader for some years, Sunday School Teacher and Organist (on the pedal organ) in my early days. I attended Sunday School every Sunday afternoon without fail and gathered a number of prizes for 100% attendance.

I left school at 16 to help on the farm, as Dad didn't have a working man. I wanted some pocket money. Dad had some cattle so every time a cow had a calf I bought the calf home and milked it until I had 12 cows, which I milked by hand! I later invested in a 2 stand milking machine and had a electric motor put on the separator. I sold milk to the local baker shop and the cream was sent by rail to Stawell Butter Factory. I raised the calves which I was not very impressed about because they slurped and licked you all over.

Mum grew a lot of fruit, so we did a lot of bottling and jam making. I disliked this chore because it was a sticky icky messy job, and it was always hot 100 degrees plus. After I got married I only ever made apricot jam and tomato relish, because I hated it.

Shearing was a big thing at home, as we had shearers from the Western District. We had to accommodate and feed them for the duration of their work, so it was hands on deck for breakfast, dinner morning/afternoon tea and tea. All meals had to be served on time.

I taught myself to sew, because my mother could hardly sew a button on. I learnt to make a lot of my own clothes. I also did a lot of knitting and craft work such as paper flowers and stocking flowers and lots of other things.

I married my husband Neville in 1962 and moved to Lascelles where Neville farmed with his parents. We are still living there today. I served my apprenticeship as a farmer's wife: tractor driving truck driving, crutching fly blown sheep, tailing lambs, sheep droving, shifting field bins, cutting thistles and burrs, and towing a comb trailer and comb over most of the Mallee when Neville and the boys were contract stripping field peas.

I have a love of gardening which my husband hasn't. So by myself and with my main tools - Front-end loader, bag truck and the chain saw - I work miracles.

As well as being a mother and a wife I have taken on many roles: Vet, Doctor, Nurse, Accountant, Banker, Solicitor, Secretary, Mechanic and General Fix-it man.

I had three children, 2 boys and 1 girl. I made all their clothes including jeans, shirts, jackets, plus I knitted most of their jumpers. I also knitted a lot of jumpers for other people.

When the children were young and we were going out, you would be busy dressing them and hubby would come in and get himself dressed and ask, why aren't you ready?

Darren and Wayne started school at Lascelles, to which we had to drive 28 miles a day when it was dry, and if it was wet, 44 miles a day. We were then lucky enough to have a teacher who was teaching in Sea Lake, pass our gate each day, pick them up and take them to school at Sea Lake. After some time and much caffolle we got a bus diverted passed our gate.

After the children got older, they were involved in football, gun shooting, pony club, net ball and tennis. I was involved in parents club, serving as secretary for some years. Plus mum was the taxi for all their social engagements.

JAN DENHAM

I also helped on the farm taking someone up the paddock or going to get them. I also spent plenty of time waiting for them, because they were not quite ready, getting back 3 hours later, dirty dishes still on the table. No fairies did them for you whilst you were away. Most time we had a working man that lived with us too.

The children went to college, Darren doing a Farm Apprenticeship course at Bendigo and Wayne and Annie went to Ballarat College, which, of course, required much more travelling to catch up with events, rowing and sport etc.

Lows have been the dry seasons, such as the droughts of '82, '84 and '85 which we experienced. There have been many other difficult times but we have looked on them as more of a challenge than a hardship.

After the untimely passing of Neville's father in 1969, we owned 2800 acres. We have purchased more land over 29 years and with our two sons, we now own and farm close to 10,000 acres, and share farm another 3,000. Cropping 5,000 to 6,000 acres each year, of this comprising of barley, wheat, triticale, canola, chickpeas, peas and lupins. We also run about 2,000 sheep.

As our farming enterprise grew, I was responsible for the book keeping and office work. Recently our sons have taken over more of this role. The children are all married now and we have seven grandchildren to spoil and send home and no dirty nappies to wash.

Even now at shearing time, I cook for at least 8 - 10 men, plus most days I have 4 men to feed at lunch time, plus morning and afternoon tea breaks. For a number of years I also did microwave demonstrations and classes over a wide area of the Wimmera and Mallee.

About six years ago, two daughter in laws and myself invested in a small number of emus with the hope of supplementing the farm income because of the low grain prices at the time. After successfully incubating emu eggs for ourselves, we took on Contract Incubating Emu Eggs which turned out to be a successful short term venture over four years.

It seems that after reaching my mid years, I am still working just as hard, but taking longer to do it. One thing I have learnt over the years is you do not get gold medals for housework and ironing.



Women's Story

Helen Brown Senior Reporter A.B.C. Melbourne

I do not live in the Mallee anymore, but my family are still farming there as strong as ever, and so it is an honour, and a bit scary, to be asked to give my life story - all 30 years of it.

I was born in Ouyen, and went to High School there after attending primary school in the small outlying town of Underbool. I grew up with the same people, as you often do in rural communities, and my education was of a high standard considering such a small population.

Yet while growing-up in the country has many wonderful advantages, it also has a cocooning effect which meant it probably took me a little longer to determine what I wanted to do, to understand the options and break away from the only life I knew about.

I always yearned to do something different to what was obviously available in regional areas, but had little idea of what and how. So I left school after year 11 with vague ideas about communicating, studied English Literature by correspondence, and worked in my parent's farm supplies business to earn income. I eventually gained work as a casual journalist for the local TV station, after badgering the news editor, and the new female owner who I thought might give me a break. I had suggested there needed to be more stories from the station's wider viewing region - so I was told to meet a camera crew in Ouyen and prepare two stories. Thus my career began.

For the next few years I worked on and off as a television news journalist and reader. But I was not moving ahead fast enough, and sought the advice of several people in the business. I was fortunate that a capital city news editor indulged my determination and put me through an interview process for a job going at the time. It was then I realised how little I knew about the profession of journalism. Because I could not get the job I wanted I decided to go to university to obtain a journalism degree that would put me more on par with my potential colleagues and competitors.

I was one of about 40 students accepted into the Magill journalism course Adelaide, completing a series of exams and an interview because of my incomplete secondary schooling.

It was in my second year at Magill I started to receive radio training at the office of ABC radio's Country Hour, which led to being paid for casual reporting. Just as I was about to start my third year at university, I applied for and accepted the job as ABC radio's Rural Reporter covering all of western Victoria, based at Hotham. It was one of the most challenging three and a half years of my life - professionally and personally. I also spent time in Melbourne working with the Country Hour and National programs. I then took some time off from the ABC, working freelance for print and broadcast outlets.

Then came a turning point in my life. One of the ABC positions I had long hoped for came up at a time my personal life had fallen to pieces.

The difficult decision I made was the right one. I now work in Melbourne hosting a national rural current affairs program on radio, a progression from my job as senior reporter. I am fortunate to have a job which gives me a sense of who I am. I love the city, and relish the pace and challenges of my career. And part of that comes from having a background that fuels my interest in rural issues and news, and retains my links to the land.

I hope the information I help broadcast will give people the bit more knowledge needed to form clearer ideas about the complex and changing world we live in. And to also help bridge the gap between city and country, to provide a sense of the vital nature of our rural industries.

JAN DENHAM

Keynote speaker for Sunday was Jan Denham, 1996 Victorian ABC Rural Woman of the Year.

It is very important to take on challenges in one's life. Challenges extend our knowledge and skills, they broaden our concepts, they are stimulating and test one's ability. It is quite amazing how often we do not realise that we are taking on a challenge when going about our lives.

Challenges are all around us in our local community, they do not need to be in the broader community.

The opportunity to take on challenges can be found -

- * community - issues, services
- * in our schools
- * your choice of career
- * sporting
- * environment
- * technology - accepting, influences in our lives
- * consumer - with the development in science this will become more of a challenge to us all.

Challenges are unlimited - you can take on a challenge to climb the highest mountain or you can be challenged to climb the highest ladder in the corporate sector or you can be challenged to retain your local school.

We have all been through these situations and the challenges we take to overcome them see us becoming more confident to take the next step and challenge.

Whenever opportunities come your way - take them and make the most of them, even though at the time it may seem as though the effort is too much.

Opportunities from Jan's challenges -
ABC Rural Woman Award
Overseas travel
Organic farming
Industry development

Take on the challenges, have the courage of your convictions but also be prepared to accept that you can be wrong.

VAL WILKINSON's Story

Wear Clean Undies

When I was little, my mother seemed more preoccupied with ensuring my undies were clean. "You never know when you might be in an accident" than she seemed interested in teaching me how to make sure I never was. It always puzzled me, the priorities adults had. It still does.

I continuously wonder why so many 'grown ups' behave like spoilt brats, demanding and expecting others to take care of their every need and abdicating responsibility for their own life choices. Consequently, I have a sense of wonderment when I encounter real adults, folk who take responsibility for meeting their own needs. These same folk are usually the ones who meet the needs of others in their 'spare time'.

We have been kept isolated from our history, our genetic inheritance for thousands of years. More often than not, the severing has been deliberate disempowerment, something successive generations of women remain ignorant of, deprived of and discouraged from doing anything outside the domain determined as her 'place'.

Sharing just one brief moment in time with women who are choosing to see the world as their 'place' is a tonic and a treat to be savoured long afterwards. It was not just the easy camaraderie, the cooperative instead of competitive atmosphere but the attention to detail whilst completing the 'big picture'. It was the little touches on pillows and big touches to the heart. It was laughter across tables and serious talking about salt. It was the ability to wear clean undies and drive huge harvesters, to make a great cuppa and manage a growing business, to listen with an open mind and ask with an astute one, to give praise readily and to pick boxes with girlish glee, to discover wise elders and rediscover youthful dreams.

It was a privilege to speak to such a gathering of great women. It was a humbling experience to be confronted with so many who have done so much and to realise we still all have the capacity, the desire and the necessity to do far more.

"Wear Clean Undies when Dancing on Glass Ceilings" was originally intended to highlight the incredible achievements of women in history, women who we never hear of, never learn about in school, women who do not become perches for pigeons in leafy parks, women who are not commemorated in film, print or currency, women who have made big differences and can inspire us to do the same. It was designed to challenge women to enjoy power, to actively pursue it, crave challenges and to create change in their own lives and in the lives of those around them.

What does a speaker do when confronted by an audience that are already doing all these things. Is your speech really redundant?

Well, I just had fun and drove home turned on, tuned in and thankful - and still chuckling about the secret women's business revealed by certain wise elders.

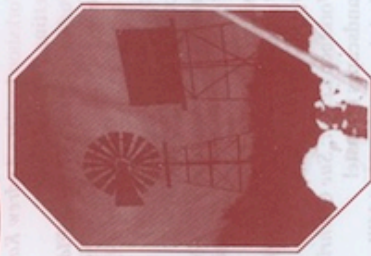
The Gathering was relaxed, friendly yet packed with interesting speakers, workshops and tours.



Women can be proud.



The tours were really great with the tour leaders a credit to themselves and their community. They were great ambassadors for their town.



Thank you to our Workshop and Tour Leaders

Our sincere thanks to the following people who volunteered their time to bring you interesting and informative workshops and tours. Our presenters put in many hours of preparation to provide professional workshops, if you would like to obtain further information about the presenters please contact our Secretary Shirley McIlvena 43 Nihill Street Ouyen 3490 or Phone/Fax 5092 2368

TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

TOURS

Hattah Kulkyn National Park and Hattah Salt Mining
Tour Leaders: *Sally Williams & Jan Thomson*

Bronzewing
Tour Leaders: *Carolyn Balint & Lois O'Callaghan*
Ouyen Township
Tour Leaders: *Graeme McKechnie & Doris Torpey*

WORKSHOPS

Furniture Restoration
Workshop Leader: *John Gilchrist*
Introduction to Computing
Workshop Leader: *Andrew Kane*
Getting Physical
Workshop Leader: *Graeme Floyd*
Home Drying - fruit and vegetables
Workshop Leader: *Sue Gilchrist*
Town Walk
Tour guide *Doris Torpey*
Dress with confidence and style
Workshop Leader: *Lois McBain*
Asian Cooking
Workshop Leader: *Arlene Wilkinson*
Waterwise Gardening
Workshop Leader: *Sue Gilchrist*
Landscapes in Pastel
Workshop Leader: *Mari Miller*
Classing & Selecting Sheep for Profit
Workshop Leader: *Kevin Hynam*
Welding
Workshop Leader: *Phil Goulding*

Planning for the Future

Workshop Leader: *Gerard Sullivan*
Business Planning

Workshop Leader: *Ian Cox & Leanne Harris*

How to turn your idea into a reality

Workshop Leader: *Jenny Garonne*

Property Management Program

Workshop Leaders: *Steve Vallance, Dave Munday and Jo Burr*

Tension and Relaxation

Workshop Leader: *Cathy Bowen and Gary Butcher*

Using the Options for the Future

Workshop Leader: *Bob Mutton*

Financial Planning for Women

Workshop Leader: *Lynne Ball*

Photography

Workshop Leader: *Steve Vallance*

Nutrition Facts and Fallacies

Workshop Leader: *Gayle Lamb*

Experiencing and Dealing with Grief

Workshop Leader: *Paula Bruce*

Wanna fly? Fly in Formation

Workshop Leader: *Yvonne Jennings*

Managing the Media

Workshop Leader: *Helen Brown*

Aromatherapy.

Workshop Leaders: *Andrea Pope and Jenny Robinson*

Farmstay Tourism

Workshop Leader: *Carilyn Moore*

CANCELLED WORKSHOPS

Coping with Cancer

Workshop Leader: *Margaret Mason*

Rural Women and Leadership

Workshop Leaders *Dr M. Alston & Jane Wilkinson*

Internet

Workshop Leader *Airlie Worrall*

Teenagers: Depression, Drugs, Alcohol

Workshop Leader *Jane Mazurek*

Tour of Walpeup Research Station

Tour Leaders: *Billy Morrish, Gwen Cooke, Geoff Stratford, David Blandthorn*

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE COMMITTEE OVER THE WEEKEND

Warragul ladies comments on the Gathering. They were thrilled we had brought it back to basics.

Comments from participants on the excellent workshops made it all worthwhile.

Hattah tour was a surprise to all. People didn't realise there was anything like this in the Mallee.

My highlight was the Gathering's dedication to my mother-in-law Pat Hill and plaque dedication to both Pat and Kath Paynter (Swan Hill) who although not with us in body, were with us in spirit. I know Pat's family were thrilled and honoured to be asked to attend the dedication during Friday evening's proceedings.

My highlight was the renewing of friendships made at previous Gatherings both here and in South Australian, meeting new friends and the challenges offered to us by our keynote speakers. As a member of the organising committee, I know by the positive comments made to us by the women attending the Gathering, that all our hard work and many hours spent in organising the event, had paid off.

Dedicating the plaque to Pat and Kath.

Hearing how the participants enjoyed themselves.

Seeing the happiness of Ruth Murphy when she met and talked to Janine Shepherd and then hearing the excitement in her voice as she told me about it.

The lovely service on Sunday morning prepared by Sr Terese Ryan. The address given by Sr Eileen Carr and Judith the organist.

Colleen's vision of how the hall should be and was.

Mary's theme song.

The buzz that came with each part of the program, it just kept getting better and better. It was a great feeling knowing that it was because of our efforts the participants were gaining so much knowledge, learning so much, enjoying themselves and generally having a wonderful time. I am proud to have been part of the committee that DID IT!

FACTS AND FIGURES

ATTENDEES

145 Friday night (including 40 Invited guests and 13 Committee)
200 Saturday for Janine Shepherd's address.
180 Saturday Workshops
125 Saturday Dinner
110 Sunday

Full registrations 92

Attendance at previous Gatherings

1995 Swan Hill 21

1996 Ararat 24

1997 Bendigo 31

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WEEKEND (taken from evaluation forms)

Networking/Fellowship 70%

Renewing Friendships 31%

Learning new things 18%

Having fun 14%

Learning about & seeing the Mallee & how they are handling things 20%

Workshops 20%

Inspiration 16%

Women's stories 9%

Respite from farming 10%

10%

WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS SATISFIED?

Yes

Eleven (11) saying absolutely.

Two (2) people commented on disappointment of workshops being cancelled.

RATINGS OVER THE WEEKEND

Excellent 80%

Good 20%

BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS

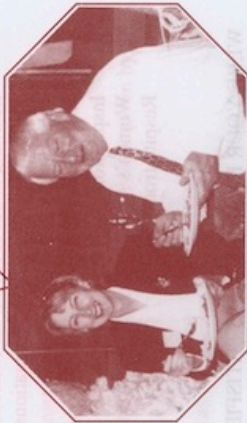
Janine Shepherd:

Excellent
Never tell me Never is a true
inspiration of courage and
dreams



Janine Haddow:

Women are big engines, so full of energy
to expand, and like the butterfly, gently
float and make waves.



Need to reach the next
generation of women farmers.

Thanks for a great weekend

More time for
NETWORKING

Great networking
opportunities!!

ENJOYED
IT ALL

TOO much entertainment.
TOO loud.

Australian made mugs.
Support local business

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT WEEKEND

Great networking
opportunities

fantastic



Well done to the committee

Val Wilkman:
*Fun Message for everyone
*Not impressed - switched to my own



WOW
Fantastic

The Gathering was fabulous,
warm and friendly with real
Mallee hospitality extended
to everyone.

A wonderful thing you have
done for women, for Ouyen,
and
for the Mallee



Above: The Memory Board.
Instigated by Ouyen Women on Farms Gathering 1998.

PARTICIPANTS Cont.

Yvonne Anderson	Hopetoun	Janet Florh	Lameroo	Ann Moloney	Patchewollock	Red Cliffs
Lucia Andrews	Nar Nar Goon North	Margaret Gray	Nar Nar Goon	Carolyn Moore	Timboon	Bendigo
Meridith Appleyard	Lameroo	Jenny Grigg	Patchewollock	Noela Morris	Manangatang	Swan Hill
Noelene Austerberry	Berrillock	Karen Gunther	Port Fairy	Lorraine Mott	Lascelles	Horsham
Marianne Bakkeland	Geranium	Maureen Hall	Lech	Margaret Murphy	Maryborough	Canberra
Jean Banks	Swan Hill	Ruth Hall	Parilla	Ruth Murphy	Maryborough	Rupanyup
Joan Barowski	Huntly	Kath Hardiker	Tynong North	Roma Nalder	Swan Hill	Melbourne
Meg Barry	Ballarat	Marie Harding	Pakenham	Sharon Nicita	Arawata	Woorinen
Fiona Bawden	Mildura	Leanne Harris	Bendigo	Maria Noble Hayes	Culgosa	Manangatang
Marion Berlin	Pinnaroo	Michelle Harrison	Bridgewater	Kate Nunan	Mildura	Melbourne
Maire Birch	Athlone	Trudy Holch	Leongatha South	Lilian Oliver	Manangatang	
Noela Black	Narre Warren North	Isobel Hopkins	Swan Hill	Meg Parkingson	Fish Creek	
Bessie Boseley	Cowangie	Merrilyn Horman	Hopetoun	Meg Partridge	Adelaide	
Cathie Bowen	Swan Hill	Margaret Horne	Ouyen	Elaime Paton	Tallangatta	
Leigh Bowring	Irymple	Jenny Hosking	Bridgewater	Jenny Patterson	Coldstream	
Joy Brand	Sale	Anne Hughes	Geranium	Joan Pattinson	Patchewollock	
Alison Brewster	Canberra	Ailthea Hunt	Merbein South	Cathryn Peace	Piangil	
Bev Brown	Tutye	Liz Jacobsen	Hopetoun	Nancy Pickering	Ouyen	
Dorothy Brown	Underbool	Tracy Hynam	Warragul	Shirley Pickering	Kulwin	
Helen Brown	Underbool	Sue Jenkins	Druin South	Susan Poole	Mildura	
Tracey Browning	Kadina	Yvonne Jennings	Swan Hill	Ann Price	Kadina	
Diane Burnett	Bridgewater	Lyn Johnson	Neerim South	Ren Prysosulio	Melbourne	
Garry Butcher	Swan Hill	Freule Jones	Manangatang	Joan Rautman	Lameroo	
Helena Cattanaach	Ouyen	Helen Jordan	Coerico	Virginia Richardson	Malmesbury	
Helen Chambers	Marong	Deb Lang	Mildura	Sr. Terese Ryan	Woorinen	
Joy Chambers	Marong	Kaye Leckie	Clunes	Heather Saunders	Mildura	
Peggy Clark	Ouyen	Evelyn Lillie	Yarragon	Heatherbelle Saunders	Coldstream	
Kathie Clarke	Ouyen	Fay Lockhart	Garfield North	Theilma Shearer	Elmore	
Val Colbert	Yarram	Lois Lockhart	Wedderburn	Helen Sheil	Churchill	
Colleen Condliffe	Inglewood	Heather Loxton	Goodnight	Jenny Simpson	Berrillock	
Sandra Cook	Kyneton	Joy Lynch	Speed	Joan Skehan	Moondarra	
Gwen Cooke	Walpeup	Roslyn MacInnes	Underbool	Dawn Spencer	Swan Hill	
Lyn Cooper	Kilsyth	Win Macreadie	Horsham	Hilary Steenholt	Cora Lynn	
Helen Corbett	Walpeup	Margaret Manuel	Nar Nar Goon	Heather Stephenson	Geranium	
Ian Cox	South Melbourne	Jennifer Manuel	Swan Hill	Anne Stone	Underbool	
Noelene Crow	Underbool	Shirley Martin	Swan Hill	Wendy Stone	Walpeup	
Merna Curnow	Maldon	Margaret Mason	Hallora	Tracey Strugnell	Mount Barker	
Mary Curran	Robinvale	Marion Matthews	Meringar	Helen Summerhayes	Berrillock	
Fiona Davis	Mildura	Lib McClure	Adelaide	Beryl Taylor	Nar Nar Goon North	
Charmaine Dayman	Wallaroo	Jean McClymont	Inglewood	Janet Taylor	Whorouly	
Angie Derham	Straithford	Mary McDonald	Orbost	Cecily Thomas	Raywood	
Muriel Dick	Garfield	Dianne McIntyre	Seville	Kay Thomas	Seville	
Meridith Dickie	East Melbourne	Diana McKee	Cowangie	Helen Tibballs	Nar Nar Goon North	
Erin Dyason	Mildura	Kerry McLoughlan	Berrillock	Diane Trager	Lameroo	
Margaret Elliot	Nandaly	Anne McMahon	Murray Bridge	Judith Troeth	St Kilda	
Jan Els	Nar Nar Goon North	Ainslee McManus	Kiamal	Julie Van Twest	Nar Nar Goon North	
Lorraine Ermacora	Simpson	Florence Miller	Nar Nar Goon	Prue Walduck	Harcourt North	
Nola Evans	Bonnie Doon			Elizabeth Walpole	Whorouly South	
Joan Ferguson	Mosama					

PARTICIPANTS

Yvonne Anderson	Hopetoun	Janet Florh	Lameroo
Lucia Andrews	Nar Nar Goon North	Margaret Gray	Nar Nar Goon
Meridith Appleyard	Lameroo	Jenny Grigg	Patchewollock
Noelene Austerberry	Berrillock	Karen Gunther	Port Fairy
Marianne Bakkeland	Geranium	Maureen Hall	Lech
Jean Banks	Swan Hill	Ruth Hall	Parilla
Joan Barowski	Huntly	Kath Hardiker	Tynong North
Meg Barry	Ballarat	Marie Harding	Pakenham
Fiona Bawden	Mildura	Leanne Harris	Bendigo
Marion Berlin	Pinnaroo	Michelle Harrison	Bridgewater
Maire Birch	Athlone	Trudy Holch	Leongatha South
Noela Black	Narre Warren North	Isobel Hopkins	Swan Hill
Bessie Boseley	Cowangie	Merrilyn Horman	Hopetoun
Cathie Bowen	Swan Hill	Margaret Horne	Ouyen
Leigh Bowring	Irymple	Jenny Hosking	Bridgewater
Joy Brand	Sale	Anne Hughes	Geranium
Alison Brewster	Canberra	Ailthea Hunt	Merbein South
Bev Brown	Tutye	Liz Jacobsen	Hopetoun
Dorothy Brown	Underbool	Tracy Hynam	Warragul
Helen Brown	Underbool	Sue Jenkins	Druin South
Tracey Browning	Kadina	Yvonne Jennings	Swan Hill
Diane Burnett	Bridgewater	Lyn Johnson	Neerim South
Garry Butcher	Swan Hill	Freule Jones	Manangatang
Helena Cattanaach	Ouyen	Helen Jordan	Coerico
Helen Chambers	Marong	Deb Lang	Mildura
Joy Chambers	Marong	Kaye Leckie	Clunes
Peggy Clark	Ouyen	Evelyn Lillie	Yarragon
Kathie Clarke	Ouyen	Fay Lockhart	Garfield North
Val Colbert	Yarram	Lois Lockhart	Wedderburn
Colleen Condliffe	Inglewood	Heather Loxton	Goodnight
Sandra Cook	Kyneton	Joy Lynch	Speed
Gwen Cooke	Walpeup	Roslyn MacInnes	Underbool
Lyn Cooper	Kilsyth	Win Macreadie	Horsham
Helen Corbett	Walpeup	Margaret Manuel	Nar Nar Goon
Ian Cox	South Melbourne	Jennifer Manuel	Swan Hill
Noelene Crow	Underbool	Shirley Martin	Swan Hill
Merna Curnow	Maldon	Margaret Mason	Hallora
Mary Curran	Robinvale	Marion Matthews	Meringar
Fiona Davis	Mildura	Lib McClure	Adelaide
Charmaine Dayman	Wallaroo	Jean McClymont	Inglewood
Angie Derham	Straithford	Mary McDonald	Orbost
Muriel Dick	Garfield	Dianne McIntyre	Seville
Meridith Dickie	East Melbourne	Diana McKee	Cowangie
Erin Dyason	Mildura	Kerry McLoughlan	Berrillock
Margaret Elliot	Nandaly	Anne McMahon	Murray Bridge
Jan Els	Nar Nar Goon North	Ainslee McManus	Kiamal
Lorraine Ermacora	Simpson	Florence Miller	Nar Nar Goon
Nola Evans	Bonnie Doon		
Joan Ferguson	Mosama		