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Alpine Valleys

agribusiness forum

'Australian Alpine Valleys - Where the Best Grows to Perfection'

media release & photo opportunity

May 18, 2010

Rural Women's Leadership Program – Canberra visit early March

Twenty one women from the North East attended their graduation from the Rural Women's Leadership Program last week at the Quality Hotel Gateway in Wangaratta.

The program was delivered by the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program in collaboration with the Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum and was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The aim of the eight month program was to skill rural women from a diverse range of agricultural industries in order to enhance their leadership skills and enable them to contribute to the ongoing strength of their communities during times of change as a result of ongoing drought and climate change adaptation.

The program provided the women from a variety of backgrounds with workshops that included high profile leaders and guest presenters and leadership, risk management and decision making skills, mentoring and networking.

Sixteen participants from the program travelled to Canberra for a two day visit to Parliament House where they met with government agencies, policy makers, politicians, political advisors, government department managers and industry leaders in order to gain an understanding of government processes.

Quotes from participants:

'Politics and policy making can be exciting and makes real changes to benefit people's lives'

'An understanding of the stages involved in the development of policy and the process it takes through the levels of government – the trip provided me with the realisation that we have the power to contribute and provide input on issues that are relevant to us.'