



# Alpine Valleys

## agribusiness forum

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

### **North East Farmer – September 2010 North East Victoria needs strong governance**

Agribusiness and rural community organisations need strong governance to operate and deliver beneficial outcomes on a local, regional and national platform. The Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum has been successful in receiving funding for rural women in North East Victoria involved in regional agribusiness industry, agritourism groups and community organisations will be able to participate in a specifically designed governance and leadership program.

At a regional level it has been recognised that there is an identified need for governance skills training and that provision of the training needs to be provided locally and in a timely manner.

The Rural Womens Governance and Leadership Program is designed improve the governance skills of rural women which will enhance their capacity to lead and govern improving the effectiveness of regional agribusiness industry, tourism, economic and community groups. The knowledge, skills, networking and mentoring provided by the project will encourage rural women to take on key roles in regional and national organisations and make a contribution to industry decision making.

Rural women are currently underrepresented on boards (as cited in Women Getting into Boards report Nov 2009).

Not a great deal has changed in relation to board participation by rural women since the RIRDC report in 1998 titled "Missed Opportunities: Harnessing the Potential of Women in Australian Agriculture".

The program will provide a specifically designed series of workshops based on governance, leadership and financial skills to enable rural women an opportunity to understand their role and better contribute to their industry groups and communities

We are looking for 25-30 women from North East Victoria coming from a broad cross section of agribusiness industries to participate in this program. Rural women involved in regional agribusiness industry groups, agritourism groups and rural community organisations with an interested in representing their sectors in industry organisation's and advisory groups are encouraged to apply.

Cost is \$250 for 5 sessions all inclusive

Please contact Anne Shaw on to register your interest

Anne Shaw

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