Have we Grown Up & Got Potential?

Carmen Bayley

Christine Hill gets animated talking to Audrey Bird & Lauren Gordon

At the beginning of last year the Facey Group set out to run the 'Growing Potential' suite of events thanks to $17,451.50 funding from the department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Recognising Women Farmers initiative. The final event in this suite was held last Wednesday with a broad demographic of female Facey Group members enjoying and sharing ideas at the What Women Want Wine and Supper evening. The evening, like all good cut outs, provided a chance to catch up & enjoy a wine… and then they had to do some work. Together they reflected on the project and other events held by the Women in Agriculture committee in 2009 - 2010 to start formulating a training database that will be used by the Facey Group in the future.

There were many interesting ideas flowing over the course of the evening and it was great to hear that there is a need for some events to be held each year. I am keen to hear from anyone who would like to attend any of the events we ran last year. The ladies also established four key priorities that the Women in Agriculture committee will be focused on, these are;

- Preparing for and dealing with change
- Life balance - farm, family & community
- Family stress & mental health
- Business development.

In tackling these priorities the group will be looking into using the advantages offered by new technology. Our aim is to offer more to members through our members only website section which will be in place some time over the next year.

Thank you to the wonderful women who attended, each of you contributed some great ideas that have inspired me for another year. I am looking forward to nutting out the final report as 100 people directly benefited from attending the Growing Potential suite of events. These included Super Succession Planning, Achieve!, Introduction the Board Meetings and Governance in addition to the two ladies field walks which looked at cropping and sheep & pastures works in the region. It was great to hear over the course of the project that each event was well received and that most participants indicated that they were now more confident thanks to the knowledge they had acquired.

Thank you to Felicity & Maree for their continuous support for every event, they have done everything from presenting, welcoming participants, setting-up, photography and dishwashing. Thank you also to Susan Hall from the Grower Group Alliance who travelled down from Perth to facilitate the event as part of their ongoing support of WA grower groups.

Women in Agriculture

Diamonds in the Dust. Thursday 29th July 2010

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