



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Monday, 25th June 2012

#### **SEARCH IS ON FOR 'HIDDEN TREASURES' RECOGNISING WOMEN VOLUNTEERS IN RURAL NSW**

The NSW Government is calling for rural communities to nominate women volunteers for the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson and Minister for Women, Pru Goward said today.

Ms Hodgkinson said Hidden Treasures is a great way to formally acknowledge the efforts of rural women and celebrate volunteering as an important community value.

“This annual project which started in 2010, is helping to create a lasting archive and uncover inspirational quiet achievers – women who are so often the backbone of our community organisations,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Volunteers are essential to rural NSW and without these selfless workers, charities, arts and sporting groups would struggle to exist.

“Their roles are diverse and include fundraising, delivering meals to the elderly, fighting fires, driving patients, mentoring young people, creating community artworks or coordinating events.

“The NSW Government values all volunteer contributions and is proud to honour these women through this important initiative,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

Minister for Women Pru Goward, said the Hidden Treasures initiative is an opportunity to highlight the role of women volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the millions of everyday Australians who give so much of their precious time to improving the lives of others, their communities and neighbourhoods.

“Women volunteers are an essential part of our community with many based in regional areas,” Ms Goward said.

“The 2012 *Hidden Treasures* Honour Roll is a positive way society can recognise, thank and celebrate the vital role 1.7 million NSW volunteers contribute to our way of life.”

All women nominated will be included in the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll to be launched at the annual NSW Rural Women’s Gathering in Parkes, 12-14 October.

“Last year we uncovered 140 “Hidden Treasures” and this year we would like to continue to add to this growing bank of inspiring stories,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“I would like to encourage anyone who knows of a valued female volunteer in their rural community to nominate them for this worthwhile project.”

Hidden Treasures is a joint project of the Rural Women's Network (NSW Department of Primary Industries), NSW Centre for Volunteering and the NSW Office for Women's Policy.

To nominate a rural woman, download the nomination form at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn) and fill in the details. You can also request a nomination form via email: [rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or contact the Centre for Volunteering on (02) 9261 3600.

The Hidden Treasures Honour Roll recipients from previous years are listed on the RWN website at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn/activities/hidden-treasures](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn/activities/hidden-treasures)

Nominations close 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012.