

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

BALANCE THE SCALES...MAKE EQUALITY THE RULE, NOT THE EXCEPTION

Background

Each year GLAM agencies, led by Gannawarra Shire Council and Northern District Community Health proudly celebrate International Women's Day, continuing a strong local tradition that began in 2019. This global event recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, while also serving as an important call to action to advance gender equality. Through these celebrations, we aim to support and empower women and girls in our community, while fostering ongoing awareness and progress toward a more equitable future.

2026 IWD BREAKFAST: OUR AIM

The event aimed to connect and celebrate local women and girls, while welcoming the broader community to attend and be part of the conversation.

WHAT DID THE EVENT DELIVER?

- Lisa Farrant, Councillor at Gannawarra Shire Council, hosted the morning as MC.
- Guest speakers included Belinda Batchelor (The Fiit Space), Rianna Matuch (Murray Mind and Wellness), and Lucy Pilgrim (student cadet and peacekeeper), who shared their experiences and insights.
- Around 80 community members attended the breakfast at the Glasshouse in Kerang.
- Invitations were sent via social media and personalised emails to previous IWD attendees, encouraging strong community participation.
- Attendees enjoyed coffee from a local coffee van and a healthy breakfast, providing opportunities for connection and conversation.
- The event was supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant through National Centre for Farmers, as part of the Victorian Government's 2025 Drought Support Package.
- Aunty Lil opened the event with a heartfelt Welcome to Country, grounding the morning in respect and connection to Country.
- Twenty-seven attendees completed the post-event survey, offering feedback to guide future events.
- Each attendee received a goodie bag with a thoughtful gift, while guest speakers received a local Gannawarra hamper.



WHAT DID THE EVENT ACHIEVE?

- Of the 27 attendees who completed the post-event survey, 85% indicated they are definitely or likely to attend next year's International Women's Day event, with 15% unsure.
- Of the 27 attendees who completed the post event survey, 80% indicated they are very likely or likely to recommend this event to others in the community.
- Overall, attendees enjoyed and appreciated hearing from inspiring local women and girls, while connecting with others in the community.

FEEDBACK FROM EVENT

What inspiring women and girls we have residing in Gannawarra. It was a very special morning. The Glasshouse is the perfect setting for such an event. Thank you.

I honestly thought everything was excellent. Great location, great speakers, great breakfast. Well done on facilitating such an event like this!

It was great having a student as well as the other speakers. Maybe someone in an older age bracket as well would have been good to hear from.

Was a great social and informative morning. Thank you to the organisers, sponsors and the caterers.

Love this format, so nice to connect in the morning. Higher energy lots of great chats and conversations were had.

A breakfast event is a wonderful and positive way to start the day.



LEARNINGS FROM IWD BREAKFAST

- Survey feedback overwhelmingly indicated that the coffee service could be made more efficient. This is a recurring theme each year, suggesting the need for a rethink or updated approach to ensure efficiency and a positive experience for all attendees. Options for next year could include pre-ordered drinks or simple tea, coffee, and juice options.
- Provide clearer instructions for first-time attendees on how the breakfast operates.
- Ask attendees about dietary requirements (e.g., coeliac, allergies) when booking tickets to ensure all needs are accommodated.
- Include a trigger warning on the ticket or event description, noting that personal stories shared during the event may be sensitive or triggering for some attendees.
- Introduce clear start and finish times for the event to help manage attendee expectations.
- Include a question on next year's survey asking if attendees have suggestions for local guest speakers they would like to hear from.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IWD BREAKFAST

- Consider placing goodie bags in the foyer with resources to encourage conversation while attendees mingle.
- Allocate time for questions for panel members to enhance engagement, atmosphere, and insights from the guests.
- The MC could ask attendees who are new to the area to help welcome and connect participants.
- Suggest potential guest speakers for next year, such as:
 - Sally Willson – Skin Essence business owner, mum, and nearly qualified naturopath.
 - Emily Wood – Positive, dedicated NDCH staff member and mum, valued for her approachable and grounded nature.

GLAM - Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting - Partnership

