



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday October 26, 2012

Time to grab your Gumboots

Farming ladies from the upper Wimmera descended on Elmhurst property “Millbanks” for the first Chicks in the Sticks in the region last Wednesday evening. Close to thirty Chicks took part in the women only event, designed to give local ladies the opportunity to network, socialise and gather information on sustainable farming practices. Project Platypus Events Coordinator Bronwyn Bant said the event was a joint initiative between Project Platypus and the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority. “It was great to see close to thirty ladies attend and take part in what was an informative, inspiring and importantly fun evening” said Ms Bant.

Cocktails and canapés were followed by a short tour of the property with Jodie Greene. Millbanks has been farmed by the Greene family for three generations. The property is a mixture of steep hill country, intermediate slopes and Wimmera River flats. Early settlement practises of over grazing the fragile soils and annual pasture bases began to take its toll on the property, with deep erosion gullies forming. The Greene’s took a combination of practical and innovative action to address the gully erosion, even taking out the Soil Conservation Department esteemed Hanslow Cup on two occasions.

The Greene’s continue to prevent erosion on their property through the establishment of perennial pastures, fencing off waterways, and excluding livestock from the Wimmera River. “Millbanks is a great example of where smart business management has also lead to better environmental outcomes” said Ms Bant. “The use of perennial pastures, riparian fencing, revegetation and stock exclusion all help to keep soil in paddocks where it’s needed, rather than in waterways where soil run-off leads to poor water quality and low biodiversity values” said Ms Bant.

Chicks in the Sticks also included a presentation from environmental biologist Josh Griffiths, who unveiled a few platypus secrets before completing platypus surveys in the area. “Based on the success of our first Chicks in the Sticks, we look forward to organising more in the future” said Ms Bant.

Photo pp079e Photo by Kerri Kingston

Insert caption:

“Participants kick up their heels before taking a farm tour with Jodie Greene”.

End of release

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