

2025 Red Centre – Rural Ladies Gala Dinner

Event Summary & Conclusion Report

The 2025 Red Centre – Rural Ladies Gala Dinner, held on Saturday, 18 October 2025 at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, was an outstanding success and a significant milestone for our region. Running from 6:00pm to midnight, the evening brought together 102 attendees, both men and women, from across Central Australia — including VIP delegates, station families, community members, industry partners, and local businesses.

Event Highlights & Activities

Welcome & Formalities

- The evening was formally opened by the new Mayor of Alice Springs Asta Hill, acknowledging the importance of this event.
- The recognition highlighted the value of rural women and the significance of providing them with a platform for celebration and connection.

Entertainment & Performances

The program offered a full and vibrant lineup:

- **Kirsty Lee Akers**, our headline act, delivered an exceptional performance, showcasing her well-known talent and bringing a nationally recognised artist to our local stage.
- **Sneaky Train**, the beloved local band, created an energetic and warm atmosphere throughout the night.
- **Desert Diamonds** delivered a fun and interactive performance, teaching dance moves and getting the crowd up on their feet — a highlight for many.
- **MC Amy Hetherington** kept the night lively with comedy segments, crowd interaction, and icebreakers that brought the audience together and kept energy high from start to finish.

Guest Speaker – Lyn French

Our keynote speaker, Lyn French, delivered a heartfelt and deeply impactful speech that brought:

- Laughter, Tears and A full standing ovation

Her message resonated strongly with rural and remote attendees, many of whom expressed how seen, supported, and uplifted they felt after hearing her story. She is a very inspiring woman.

Awards Ceremony

Three esteemed rural women were recognised through the community-nominated awards:

- **Ley Kunoth**
- **Grainne Martin**
- **Laura Heaslip**

Each award highlighted their leadership, contribution, and dedication to life on the land. The ceremony was a powerful and emotional moment for the entire room.

Local Stallholders

Five local businesses set up stalls inside the venue, providing guests the opportunity to browse, purchase, and support small local traders:

1. **Hunter & Co Designs**
2. **Red Desert Soaps**
3. **Eleanor Rose Designs**
4. **Lavvish Alice Springs**
5. **Nature of Alice**

These stores added to the atmosphere and were well received by attendees.

Event Photography

The entire evening was beautifully documented by Amber Simms Photography, ensuring our memories from the night were captured professionally. Photos will also serve future promotional and reporting needs.

Overall Assessment & Success

This event was an enormous success both in delivery and impact. Key strengths included:

- High-quality entertainment and production
- Strong community engagement
- A powerful atmosphere of recognition and celebration
- Excellent venue setup and accessibility
- Positive feedback from all attendees
- Increased social connection and wellbeing outcomes

Given the limited social opportunities for many who live remotely, this event played a vital role in reducing isolation and fostering community ties.

Final Remarks

The 2025 Gala Dinner showed once again why this event is so important for our region. It continues to grow in strength, reputation, and purpose. It remains the only event in Central Australia dedicated to International Rural Women's Day, and its positive community impact is clear and substantial.

Thank you to you all for your ongoing support in letting me deliver this meaningful celebration for our rural and remote community.

