2026 Red Centre – Rural Ladies Gala Dinner

Event Conclusion & Summary Report

The 2026 Red Centre – Rural Ladies Gala Dinner was an outstanding success, welcoming 102 attendees, both men and women, for an evening of celebration, connection, entertainment and recognition of the incredible people who make up our rural and remote communities.

Held at the Alice Springs Turf Club on a beautiful, warm Alice Springs evening this year's event embraced the theme 'Untamed & Raw Masquerade' delivering a wonderful combination of glamour, entertainment, laughter and outback spirit.

Guests were welcomed on arrival by the beautiful Shay and Jasmine, who poured complimentary champagne from their aerial hoop against a stunning masquerade mask backdrop. Guests were then invited to enjoy the 360-degree photo booth supplied by Kiki and Kuba Co, a new local Alice Springs business which proved to be a fantastic addition and created plenty of laughs and memorable moments.

Amber Simms Photography captured the evening throughout the venue, including professional arrival photographs of guests in front of the aerial hoop performers.

Event organiser Danyelle Haigh officially welcomed guests and attending dignitaries before introducing the evening's MC, drag queen Sherri Lee Volua who opened proceedings with plenty of humour and laughter. Alice Springs Mayor Asta Hill then officially opened the dinner.

The evening kicked off with an interactive icebreaker with guests given inflatable microphones and divided into coloured groups before being challenged to sing and dance to Shania Twain's iconic Man! I Feel Like a Woman! What followed was far more entertaining than anticipated with the entire room breaking into one enormous dancing train that made its way around the venue. It was a fantastic way to bring everyone together and set the tone for the night.

Guests enjoyed a spectacular three-course dinner catered by Country Heart Catering with a selection of Tuscan chicken linguini and grilled salmon for entrees, followed by braised beef short ribs or Thai coconut barramundi curry for mains. Dessert included blueberry cheesecake and lemon myrtle cake rounds with chocolate ganache, strawberries and Chantilly cream.

Entertainment continued throughout dinner, with Stardust & Co wowing the crowd with an incredible aerial hoop performance combining dance, strength and aerial acrobatics.

A key feature of the evening was guest speaker Janelle Coleman, an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker and Psychosexual Therapist. Janelle delivered an engaging and informative presentation, sharing practical advice, tips and insights around relationships, intimacy, sexual health and wellbeing. She also answered questions from the audience and later spent time speaking individually with guests providing further advice and complimentary product samples. Her contribution encouraged open conversations around topics that are not always easily discussed and supported the event's focus on healthy bodies and minds.

Following dinner, the highly anticipated Rural Women Awards ceremony was presented by Bill Yan MLA and Northern Territory Government Ministers. Three well-deserving women selected through public voting were recognised for their contributions to their communities.

Our 2026 award recipients were Amanda Brown, Jane Hayes and Ellen Easy. Each winner received a beautiful trophy generously donated by Warwick Screenprinting & Embroidery along with a substantial prize package filled with a fantastic selection of goodies donated by our supporters.

In a lovely and unexpected moment, Liz Bird and Rebecca Cadzow had secretly organised a beautiful gift and heartfelt speech for event organiser Danyelle Haigh, recognising her ongoing efforts and contribution to the local community. This was a particularly special moment and a wonderful surprise.

Guests were then ushered outside to the grassed area to enjoy a spectacular fire-twirling and dancing performance by Millie and Nicole adding another exciting element to the evening.

The night continued with live music from Wolfpack Amadeus who kept the dance floor pumping until the end of the event. The band certainly got into the spirit themselves. Guests kicking off their shoes and letting their hair.

To ensure guests could relax and enjoy the entire evening, the drinks package remained open throughout the event and a hired bus was provided to collect and drop off guests as part of the event's hospitality and transport arrangements.

An event of this scale would not be possible without the generosity and support of our sponsors, local businesses and wider community.

Major Sponsors:
Northern Territory Government, Indiana Station, CLMA, Athelle Outback Hideaway, Mt Riddock Station, Elders Insurance, Alice Springs Realty and Murranji Water Drilling.
Supporting Sponsors:
LAWD – Olivia Thompson, Panda Pearls, Warwick Screenprinting & Embroidery, CKS Electrical, Swank Shoes, Woks Up, Alice Springs Turf Club, Kent Saddlery, Sandover Pastoral, Bluedust NT, Joshua Burgoyne, Bill Yan, Steve Edgington, Eyecare Plus, Kunze Family, Amber Simms Photography, A Home Like Alice, Delmore Downs, Hunter & Co, 8CCC, Jervois Station, Elders Alice Springs, Outback Ballooning and YOWY.

We extend our sincere appreciation & a HUGE thank you to every sponsor, entertainer, supplier and supporter who contributed their time, services, products and generosity to make the evening possible. Your generosity and enthusiasm are what allow this event to continue growing and we look forward to bringing everyone together again in 2027.

The feedback received following the event has been overwhelmingly positive. Numerous guests have personally expressed that this was the best event across the four years they have attended, describing it as the most enjoyable yet, their favourite annual event and a fantastic opportunity to meet new people and form connections.
With 102 attendees, outstanding entertainment, an engaging guest speaker, a successful awards presentation and a packed dance floor the 2026 Gala Dinner exceeded expectations. Most importantly, the evening achieved what the Red Centre – Rural Ladies Gala Dinner was created to do: bring people together, celebrate the achievements and contributions of rural and remote women, encourage conversations around wellbeing and create opportunities for connection in a region where social isolation can be a very real challenge. The 2026 Red Centre – Rural Ladies Gala Dinner was more than just a gala. It was a celebration of community, resilience, friendship and the incredible spirit of rural Australia.


Red Centre Rural
Ladies Day








Red Centre Rural
Ladies Day


Red Centre Rural
Ladies Day


DELMORE DOWNS


YOWY













