

Drought and climate adaptation program



Basalt Bash & Beauty

Empowering Women of Far North Queensland

Basalt Bash & Beauty is an event for rural and remote women, bringing them together to strengthen social cohesion, reduce the sense of isolation, encourage conversations on key issues and common themes, and improve mental health and wellbeing.

At this event women develop skills and are provided with links to assistance and industry related updates and information. The Basalt Bash provides a unique opportunity for rural and isolated remote women to build networks, relax and have a few fun days together.

Over the years the event has grown and evolved, with more and more women coming along to share their stories, experiences and challenges of life in far North Queensland.



Basalt Bash 2020

'Bloom & Prosper'

5th – 7th June

For the first time, Northern Gulf NRM's popular women's event will be held in Mount Carbine, bringing it closer to the Cape.

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BACKGROUND

“Fantastic few days – exactly what I needed.”

The Basalt Bash is an annual highlight in the rural events calendar. It is organised by Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG) with support from the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF), where **people attend for the social connection, and leave with new skills and capabilities**. The 2019 Basalt Bash included a variety of learning opportunities for those who attended. There was everything from a *Soils Forum* to an *Agri Data Management* session focused on improved herd recording options. Ladies also built new pathways for support and assistance by connecting with the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS), mental health counsellors and the Country Women’s Association (CWA).

The Basalt Bash partnership (RFCS, DAF, NGRMG, CWA, AgForce and the Edward Koch Foundation) is strongly aligned with the NGRMG organisational priorities of **caring for the land and people**. The event is supported by the GrazingFutures project which supports NGRMG, DAF and partner organisations to deliver workshops, training, and targeted support within the themes of **people and business, grazing land management and animal production**. GrazingFutures emphasises **enhancing the skills and capability of grazing industry support officers** to facilitate improvement in business resilience, drought recovery and future drought preparedness of grazing businesses. The team assist graziers in managing drought and business risk; boost industry and community engagement; mentor new extension staff; promote and run targeted industry events: and expand grazier-stakeholder networks.

The Basalt Bash, while social in nature, provides an array of additional learnings. Animal health, herd husbandry and land management are just some of the Basalt Bash topics, with DAF taking a lead role in delivering these sorts of activities. With large distances and small populations characterising the North Queensland rangelands, it is critical organisations take a collaborative approach to orchestrating industry events. The Basalt Bash is testament to this, with strong partnerships at state and local government level, as well as regional industry bodies contributing resources to improve grazier-community engagement and participation at local events.

PAST & PRESENT EVENTS

2020 **BLOOM & PROSPER** **5th – 7th June (Mt Carbine)**

2019 **Pyjama Party Cocktails & Canapes** **11th – 13th June (Mt Surprise)**

Topics: Forage Budgeting, Soil Health and Composting, Budgets, How Healthy is your Mental Health, Goal Setting, Data Collection, Confidence Building, and Resin Jewellery.

2018 **All Glitz No Glamour** **14th – 15th June (Mt Surprise)**

Topics: Digital Inclusion, Disease Surveillance, Post-mortem Kit for Cattle, Drones, Farm Planning and Business Analysis, Animal Welfare Module, Weeds (herbicide application techniques), and Macramé Craft Session.

2017 **Bower Bird Blowout** **12th – 14th June (Mt Surprise)**

Topics: Women’s Health, Breast Health, Livestock Record Keeping (Excel), WH&S 101, Managing Stress, Getting Connected, Weed Woes, Painting, and Hair & Beauty treatments by appointment.

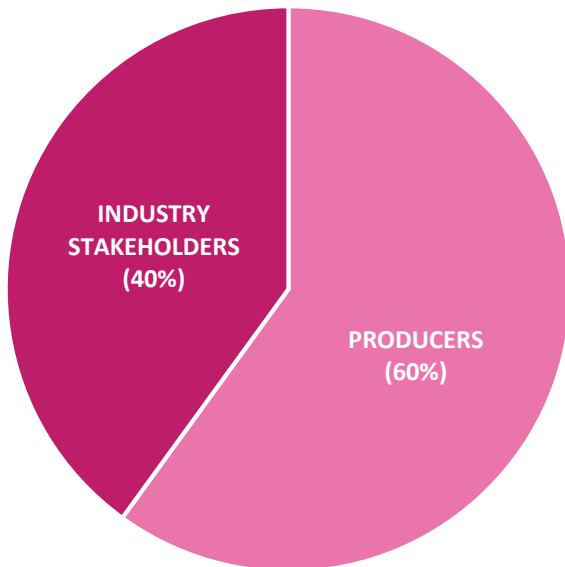
2016 **Dust Off the Drought** **15th – 16th October (Chillagoe)**

Topics: Biosecurity, Women’s Safety, Succession Planning, Weed Identification, Social Media and Mosaics, Working Dog Health, and Cattle Sale Requirements (NVD, NLIS).

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PEOPLE

Producers dominate the Basalt Bash, with 60% of attendees being primary producers. Most of these are beef producers, however, ladies from other agricultural industries do attend. Other guests are typically industry stakeholders and agencies.



PARTNERS

The important partnership between NGRMG and DAF, embedded in the relaxed social nature of the event has created an environment in which graziers are more willing to ask for assistance and services that relate to their grazing business, as well as seek out RFCS and QRIDA advice. These partnerships help to deliver comprehensive support to grazing businesses and value add to existing services.



The Basalt Bash has encouraged greater discussions and opportunities for landholders to reach out, with a comforting realisation that they can ask for support with questions around their business, land management and personal concerns. This is one of the reasons that Basalt Bash, and similar events such as the Queensland Women's Week Roadshow and Bush Business workshops, are so valuable in North Queensland.

"A great couple of days reconnecting and making new connections, but also learning new & different ways to help our business & ourselves."

INCREASING ATTENDANCE



At earlier events, the total number of participants was around 25. However, over the years this number has skyrocketed, with recent years seeing as many as **70 women** converge on the Basalt Bash for a few days of fun, learning and abit mischief.



Networking & making connections are a necessity

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GOALS & OUTCOMES

- ❖ Prioritise the delivery of workshops, training and targeted support to the region.
- ❖ Improve the skills and capability of grazing industry support officers.
- ❖ Create partnerships to deliver comprehensive support to grazing businesses.
- ❖ Analyse and document key learnings from grazing businesses.

“This is a great event to empower ladies with more confidence to make their businesses better. Networking & connections are really important for bush women.”



Weed Management is always a favourite!

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2020, the Basalt Bash is heading to a new location, Mt Carbine. This will see the event welcome a new wave of ladies from Cape York Peninsula. **'Bloom & Prosper'** will offer a networking event followed by workshops that are themed around *disaster recovery*. The GrazingFutures team (Southern Gulf NRM & DAF) in Cloncurry and Richmond are eager to mirror this successful model to engage rural women across north west Queensland.



Craft sessions require the women's upmost concentration.



Information sessions on agricultural topics



Small groups provide a safe place to share.



The ladies love getting involved in practical activities