Women in rugby league appreciated

WOMEN in rugby league - we love them.

That was the message at the recent Women in League Appreciation Evening held at Atherton's Barron Valley Hotel.

Under 14 and u17 girl league players attended the enjoyable event.

Jillaroo and National Rugby League Queensland Northern Division game development officer Renae Kunst of Mackay and Queensland NRL female participation coordinator Keeown Rawnsley were among the dignitaries who came to town for the night.

Other dignitaries included NRL North Queensland regional manager Tony Quinn, QRL local league operations manager Sheron McDougall and Tablelands Regional Mayor Rosa Lee Long.

Past and present volunteers in the local leagues from all the clubs - Herberton, Malanda, Atherton and Ravenshoe - were present to recognise women’s valuable contribution to rugby league.

Eacham Rugby League secretary Leanne Thomas said the evening was an inaugural event for the local league and hailed the night a success.

Woman in League events were held across the nation in the lead-up to the Women in League round of the NRL and Volunteers Week.

“We aim to make this a yearly event,” Ms Thomas said.

“This will enable us to recognise many more of the women who do so much behind the scenes.

“They do things like ensuring players make it to training and games, washing jerseys, coaching, managing teams, cleaning clubhouses, running canteens and working in the canteens to provide food and drink to players and spectators at our local club games.”

Ms Thomas said a huge number of people gave up their time to ensure children could play what many people call “the greatest game of all”.

Annette Pearson of Herberton, Cindy Mathieson (Millaa Millaa), Taleesha Aniba (Herberton), Zoe Baker (Ravenshoe) and Danuta Tomsana (Herberton) enjoy the recent Women in League event at the Barron Valley Hotel.

Picture: Brigitte Daley

Renae Kunst (Jillaroo and NRL ambassador), Keeown Rawnsley (Queensland female participation co-ordinator for NRL), Leanne Thomas (Eacham Junior Rugby League secretary) and Kaycie McPherson (Ravenshoe and District Junior Rugby League secretary).

Renae Kunst (Jillaroo and NRL ambassador), Tablelands Regional Mayor Rosa Lee Long, Tony Quinn (NRL North Queensland regional manager) and Keeown Rawnsley (Queensland female participation co-ordinator for NRL) at the BV for Women in League.