



MEDIA RELEASE

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Students officially recognised to provide hope for future generations of Indigenous people

Thirteen year 9 and 10 students and two staff members from Kilbreda College, Mentone were recently appointed as *Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education (FIRE) Carriers* in an emotive commissioning ceremony held at the college and led by Ms Sherry Balcombe from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry for Victoria.

The college and its community which recognises standing on the sacred land of the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation, acknowledged that the fifteen newly appointed FIRE Carriers on behalf of the college were responsible for educating themselves, their peers and the community to respect and celebrate Indigenous culture. Co-Principal Teresa Lincoln added “*As a school community, we have a responsibility to acknowledge the discrimination and injustice that has been inflicted on Indigenous Australians. It is our responsibility to promote equality by honouring each unique culture in our society*”.

During the commissioning ceremony, which has stemmed from the colleges’ existing commitment to reconciliation, the FIRE carriers were welcomed with a traditional blessing from Ms Balcombe which took place around a fire, the significance of the fire representing the heart of Aboriginal culture. In a further poignant moment, a sacred prayer over 40,000 years old belonging to the Aboriginal People of the Kimberly was read by the newly inducted FIRE carriers.

The community within Kilbreda College respects Indigenous spiritual connections and beliefs and aim to work together on a journey to help reconcile wrongs done in the past and to deepen the understanding of Indigenous culture within the college.

For more information, relating to college based initiatives, visit www.kilbreda.edu.au.

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*Images to accompany this story are attached

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Kilbreda College is a Kildare Ministries School for Girls in the Brigidine Tradition. Based in the Bayside suburb of Mentone in Melbourne, the college is committed to providing a contemporary, comprehensive and innovative learning environment that empowers young women to be well informed and confident to embrace an ever-changing world. For more information about the college visit www.kilbreda.vic.edu.au



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