



MEDIA RELEASE

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Celebrating women making a difference

There was a wonderful atmosphere in the room as Kilbreda College celebrated the remarkable achievements of alumnae at their recent inaugural *Past Pupils of Distinction Dinner*. The Past Pupils of Distinction program, launched earlier in the year, was established to acknowledge and celebrate past pupils who have achieved outstanding success in their lives and careers, and have made a positive difference in the lives of others.

After calling for nominations over the past few months, the selection committee was overwhelmed with the breadth and calibre of nominations, making the selection of inductees a very challenging one. After much deliberation, the four women inducted as the inaugural Past Pupils of Distinction were Carol Gaston AM, Professor Judith Kinnear, Doctor Mayumi Purvis and The Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC. While these remarkable women have embarked on very different journeys they all embody the College motto of *Strength and Kindliness*.

Carol Gaston AM has held numerous nursing roles both locally and internationally, worked for the World Health Organisation, been instrumental in changing legislation for nurses and served as board chair for community organisations and charities. Her services in health and nursing and humanitarian work in both Australia and overseas led to Carol being awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2008.

Professor Judith Kinnear is very well known in the tertiary sector having held numerous senior leadership roles, including Vice Chancellor of Massey University; making her the first female to lead a University in New Zealand. Judith is a fellow at the Linnaean Society in London and the author of several textbooks and prize-winning educational software packages.

Doctor Mayumi Purvis, a criminologist, lecturer and consultant has been instrumental in developing programs related to the management and rehabilitation of sexual offenders. She is also a member of a government expert panel designed to review and implement standards in all prison-based Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) treatment programs and Chairperson for Headspace Bairnsdale.

The Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC is the first woman to be appointed Chief Justice in an Australian Supreme Court. In 2005, Marilyn was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for her service to the judiciary and to the legal profession, particularly the delivery and administration of law in Victoria, to the community in areas affecting the social and economic conditions of women and to forensic medicine internationally.



Among the nominees were many more past pupils who have made a very positive difference in the lives of others including: Fiona McCormack, CEO of Domestic Violence Victoria; Vikki Petraitis, True Crime author; Daniela Roberto, co-founder of the Isabella and Marcus charity which raises funds for children's brainstem cancer research and Sister Angela Ryan csb, a gifted educator and leader who has made a significant contribution to Catholic education and the Brigidine Sisters locally and internationally.

The Kilbreda community is incredibly proud of all nominees and inductees who serve as wonderful role models for young women today.

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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, the College is committed to providing a contemporary, comprehensive and innovative learning environment that empowers young women to be well informed and to develop into confident and articulate young women. For more information about the college visit www.kilbreda.vic.edu.au