



Epsom Girls  
Grammar School

## Media Release

04 November 2013

### Physics prize promises positive future

**Epsom Girls Grammar School (EGGS) students Ashani Perera and Xiaohang Fu were awarded the Emens-Spencer Physics Prize for excellence in physics. The award includes a financial prize to study physics or engineering at university.**

The new prize was established by Janice McAdam (nee Emens) and Jean Lang (nee Spencer) who gifted \$10,000 each to the School creating a \$20,000 fund that will endow a prize in physics every year.

The prize is awarded for excellence in physics and is given to a student enrolling at a University or similar tertiary institution to study physics or engineering. It is a way to recognise and honour an exceptional student or students who have exhibited a sustained commitment to excellence in physics education.

McAdam and Lang visited from Australia to present the award for the top physics student at EGGS. The prize-giving took place on Thursday 31 October. Both are old girls of EGGS and each was dux her final year, Janice in 1952 and Jean in 1957. Janice was the first woman to graduate MSc with Honours in Physics from Auckland University College, University of New Zealand in 1959 and Jean was the second woman to do so in 1964.

McAdam says: "We are both feminists and believe that given equal talents, women should be able to tackle anything that men can. It is good for society to have as many women as possible conversant with the mindset and knowledge of the hard sciences.

Lang says: "Consequently, we are attempting to give a little extra encouragement to school leavers who are considering going down that path."

"My first experience of gymnastics was in the then new gymnasium at EGGS in 1953. The heightened body awareness gained through good physical education remained long after active participation ceased, and has been exceedingly useful in many life situations," says Lang.

Lang, who was a New Zealand Gymnastics Olympian in 1964, has also donated to the Epsom Girls Grammar School Leading Women in Sport campaign.

The campaign organisers are challenging the community to raise \$7 million for much-needed facilities for the school. The school's current sports facilities do not meet the need or demand of the 2200 students who participate in more than 40 sports and physical education classes. The campaign includes the Lady Joyce Fisher Sports Centre and the Sports Complex.

Principal Madeline Gunn says that it's a simple matter of gender equality: "It is part of the ethos at Epsom Girls Grammar School to provide, as much as possible, opportunities for girls to participate in what are non-traditional roles, whether they be in academic or sporting areas."

The initiative will also benefit the residents of Epsom and the surrounding areas who will have immediate access to world-class training and sports facilities. The Sports Complex will serve as a sporting facility as well as a venue for community activities, meetings, performances and events.

Designed and inspired with longevity and sustainability in mind, when completed, the Sports Complex will include an Indoor Arena with two full-sized multi-use courts for netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, dance and physical education; an all-weather multi-use turf covered Outdoor Arena and three competition tennis courts and more.

Epsom Girls Grammar School hopes to showcase the Sports Complex at their Centenary in 2017.

To make a donation go to: [www.eggs.school.nz/foundation/sports-complex](http://www.eggs.school.nz/foundation/sports-complex)

-End-

#### **Media Contact**

Carolyn Guthrie  
Epsom Girls Grammar School Foundation  
09 970 6753

Leola Abraham  
Communications Consultant  
Springs2Mind.co.nz  
027 669 9156

#### **MEDIA NOTES**

##### **Sports Centre**

Two full sized netball courts (also for basketball, badminton and volleyball) which can be reconfigured to one main international size court with spectator seating  
Dance studio  
Health and well-being suite  
Mezzanine and viewing gallery  
Fitness Centre  
Lecture and study room  
Offices

**Sports Arena**

Multi-use covered all-weather turf

**Courts**

3 new competition tennis courts

Multi-use courts for hockey, netball, basketball, football, lacrosse and physical education