



Epsom Girls  
Grammar School

## Media Release

17 October 2013

### Exceptional Epsom women honoured

**On 16 October Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (OGA) presented Founders Awards to recognise three former students who demonstrated exceptional individual achievement or contributed significantly globally or nationally. The award recipients were Lisa Harrow, Lauraine Jacobs and Jill Mandeno.**

Launched in 1997, the Founders Awards are a prestigious School award that is presented to truly exceptional alumnae. There are only a small number of the awards given out annually. The award standard and criteria are high and the Rt Hon Helen Clark was one of the first recipients of the award.

OGA President, Julie Goodyer says: "The Old Girls Association is delighted to again be hosting this function with the School to recognise the achievements of this year's Founders Award recipients. This year's recipients Lisa Harrow – Dramatic Arts, Lauraine Jacobs – as a Culinary Professional and Jill Mandeno – Business and Community Service will be an inspiration to the current and future students of the School. The Awards help to strengthen the presence of the Old Girls Association in the School. Recently the School held an historic function for past Head Girls and Games Captains to name its new Sports Centre for another former student, Lady Joyce Fisher nee Paykel. In 1998 Lady Fisher was also the recipient of a Founders Award for her Community Service."

Lisa Harrow, who has played the leading lady in more than 40 stage productions in Britain and the US, received the award for Dramatic Arts. During her theatrical career with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Lisa performed opposite actors such as Dame Judi Dench, Patrick Stewart and Peter O'Toole. She also had a successful film career starring in a dozen films. In 1991 in *The Last Days of Chez Nous* she earned Australia's Oscar for Best Actress. Then in 1997 the film *Sunday* won the Grand Jury Award at Sundance and gained Lisa an Independent Spirit Award Nomination for Best Actress. In addition, she is the author of the environmental handbook, *What Can I Do?*

Lauraine Jacobs, well-known foodie expert, received the award in recognition of her achievement as a Culinary Professional. Having earned the Advanced Certificate in Cordon Bleu cookery, London, Lauraine cooked for the Ministere Plenipotentiaire at the British Embassy in Paris during the mid-

1970s. Returning to New Zealand, she was the principal of Austin's Cookery School, Grey Lynn. In 1987 she became the food editor for *Fashion Quarterly* and wrote for *Cuisine Magazine* for the next 20 years. She has been a restaurant critic, a food editor and a major contributor to magazines and has written numerous cook books. In 2009 Lauraine was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the Food Industry.

Jill Mandeno received the award for Business and Community Service. Jill began her career in the UK where she worked for Rolls Royce Aerospace as a programmer and systems planner before she joined ITT Europe HQ in the Technical Department where she stayed for 10 years. She moved to the US and worked for ITT HQ's Technical Director in New York and then for the Telecommunications Group in North America. In 1968 Jill and three partners bought a temporary computer personnel company (Key Programmers Guild) one of the earliest temporary staffing agencies in the UK. They also set up a US subsidiary to design, manufacture and market, printer graphics controllers for bar coding and other industrial automatic identification systems. In 1992 with the help of now Dame Justice Judith Potter, Jill set up the Epsom Girls' Grammar School Endowment Trust.

The Founders Awards are to both recognize former students as well as to inspire current students. It helps maintain a connection between the School and its alumnae and it works to broaden the School's perspective on its major achievements over time. The event took place at Romfords, Tamaki Yacht Club.

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**Media Contact**

Carolyn Guthrie  
Epsom Girls Grammar School Foundation  
09 970 6753

Leola Abraham  
Communications Consultant  
027 669 9156

**FOR MEDIA**

**Founders Awards background:**

The Epsom Girls Grammar School, Old Girls Association (OGA) Founders Awards were made annually from 1997 through to 2007, the year of the School's 90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. No awards were made for several years after that.

The current OGA President, Julie Goodyer, re-established the awards in 2011.

The purpose of the Founders Awards, which are a prestigious award and are only made to a small number of past student recipients annually, are to provide inspiration for current girls at the School, to bring the School and its alumnae closer together, to broaden the School community's perspective on the major achievements of the School over time and to have a prestigious School alumnae award that is given out to truly exceptional women.

In 2011, they recognised the achievements of six former students:

- the late Dame Judith Binney – History
- Prof Jillian Cornish – Medical Research
- Hon Dame Ann Hercus – Politics

- Brenda Perry, MNZM – Women’s Tennis
- Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter – Law and Foreign Affairs
- Dame Robin White – Art

In 2012, three awards were made to:

- Jeanette Fitzsimons, CNZM – Politics
- Susy Pryde – Cycling
- Karen Walker, MNZM – Fashion Design and Business

The Rt Hon Helen Clark was one of the first recipients in 1997.

The 2013 three recipients are:

- Lisa Harrow – Dramatic Arts
- Lauraine Jacobs – Culinary Professional
- Jill Mandeno – Business and Community Service

Recipients’ names appear on an Honours Board mounted above the reception desk in the Administration Building along with other boards recording the names of Scholars and Head Girls so the names are highly visible to the current girls and to visitors to the School. It has often been commented that they attract a lot of interest from people waiting in reception.

The selection process for individual recipients includes assessment against the following criteria:

- Exceptional and outstanding individual achievement, contribution or service in a significant area of New Zealand or world life – examples include achievement in academia, politics, leadership, education, science, business, service to New Zealand or world Society, service to the School or another school, achievement in the arts, achievement in sports, etc. as perceived and measured by New Zealand and/or the world;
- Recipients as well as having already achieved, should be likely to continue to achieve, and receive wide recognition for the work they have contributed to New Zealand or the world in their sphere;
- Recipients will ideally have broken barriers, broken glass ceilings, expanded possibilities, and pushed boundaries and horizons on the national or international scene for women specifically, in any field.