

Women reflect on achievements

A DIVERSE group of about 50 women gathered in Kings Park late in the afternoon of March 8 to celebrate International Women's Day at a function organised by Annie Keating and Maxine

Chi from CALM Kensington.

They listened to tales of survival of shootings, racism in schools and many other hardships, followed by quietly achieved triumphs against almost impossible odds.

All were told, with not a trace of rancour, but with the quiet dignity of Nyoongah Elder of the Ballardong and Bibbulmun tribes and member of the Council of Elders Doolann-Leisha Eatts.

Participants also heard of vastly different hardships, experienced in the bleakest of places by Marilyn Boydell, a school deputy principal who took on the challenging role of Station Leader at Casey in Antarctica.

She told of the gradual, but continuing increase in the number of women working in Australian Antarctic Territory, and of her belief in the positive contribution women can bring to such places and in such circumstances.

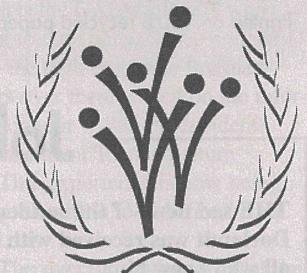
And finally, the newly appointed Environment and Heritage Minister, Dr Judy Edwards, acknowledged the achievements of the previous speakers and highlighted the many achievements gained since International Women's Day was first held. She also spoke of her wish to see more women take part in all levels of public life.

Left to right: Doolann-Leisha Eatts, Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards MLA, CALM Acting Project Coordinator Annie Keating, Marilyn Boydell, CALM Aboriginal Employment and Training Officer Maxine Chi, and Aboriginal Member for the Kimberley Carol Martin MLA. Carol has earned the distinction of being the first Aboriginal woman member of parliament in Australia.
Photo by Verna Costello

In this issue

- Friends boost Taryn's "I'll survive" fund - page 2
- Profile of new Environment Minister - page 3
- Executive Director's Scholarship winners - page 4
- Friends under fire - page 5
- New species found; others found again - page 5
- Mapping award winners - page 8

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