

## THE ARCHDIOCESAN E-NEWS Tuesday 20 August 2013

### EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN

When the organisers of Celebrating Women at St John the Apostle, Kippax, started brainstorming names of female parishioners who would be inspiring speakers, they had a list of 30 in no time.

As difficult as it was to trim the line-up to 12, co-organiser Sabina Van Rooy said the plan was always to have a cross-section of ages, background and experience.

And that is exactly what the enthusiastic audience of more than 80 people got, as the St John's community turned on an event that answered the Archdiocesan Commission for Women's invitation to parishes to honour women as part of the Archdiocese's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Speakers (pictured) aged from 22 to over 80 spoke for up to 10 minutes at a time, providing insights into a variety of vocations, ministries and callings.

Ms Van Rooy said their stories illustrated just how many exceptional women were members of the Kippax parish.

The talks covered everything from personal perspectives on living with disability, music ministry, World Youth Day, young families and the changing face of the parish to professional perspectives on prison ministry, pastoral care at a secondary college, and social justice and refugee issues.

Ms Van Rooy said men from the parish served afternoon tea at the event, which was timed to coincide with the feast of Mary MacKillop.

"We've already had a lot of interest in doing it again next year," she said.

