

# WOMEN OF DISTINCTION FINALISTS

## Community

### Linda Gouldsmith (Troughton '77)

Linda's passion for service led her to establish Access Hope Inc., an Australian charity supporting vulnerable and orphaned children in Kenya. As CEO, Linda oversees care, schooling, and housing for children in need, aiming to help 200 children through the organisation. Her previous experience includes mission trips and grassroots aid projects, and her commitment continues to make a global impact.



### Carole Kagi ('64)

Carole completed her Bachelor of Arts at UWA while raising two children, one with significant disabilities. Her public service career included 26 years in child protection and parent education, and she played a pivotal role in introducing policies like the Supporting Parents Benefit. She served as National President of NAPCAN and was influential in advocating for Children's Commissioners and courtroom protections for vulnerable witnesses. As Director of the State Domestic Violence Prevention Unit, she led initiatives including the internationally recognised Freedom from Fear campaign. In retirement, Carole remains active in health and research advisory roles, continuing to advocate for vulnerable populations.



### Dr Emily Pearce (Beckwith '85)

Emily is a veterinarian who has worked internationally before settling in Perth to run her own businesses. Following her son's autism diagnosis, she recognised the lack of educational options for neurodivergent children in WA. In response, she founded and chairs Furthering Autistic Children's Education and Schooling, a nonprofit working to establish WA's first Autism-specific school.





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### **Margaret Saunders ('72)**

Margaret began volunteering in athletics at age eight and has dedicated her life to the sport ever since. She has coached and mentored hundreds of athletes while working full-time, contributing as a coach, official, and committee member. Her outstanding service was recognised with Life Membership of Athletics WA in 2010, and she continues to support Masters Athletics WA through her coaching and mentorship.



### **Gemma Walker ('93)**

Gemma is a respected leader and volunteer in regional communities and the agricultural sector. She holds leadership roles across a variety of boards and organisations, with a focus on building brighter futures through collaboration. Her contributions have earned national recognition, including the People's Choice Award at the National Landcare Conference and selection as a finalist for the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. She is also a graduate of Leadership WA's Signature Leadership Program.

