

MEDIA RELEASE

Galilee School honours its past and inspires its future with new Commemorative Garden

24 September 2026

Galilee School officially opened its new Commemorative Garden at its Kambah Campus on 24 September 2026, creating a permanent living legacy project to recognise the people and organisations that have helped shape the school over nearly three decades, as well as providing space for similar contributions into the future.

First envisioned during Galilee School's 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2024, the Garden has been designed as a place of recognition, reflection and connection for students, staff, families, alumni, supporters and the wider school community.

Featuring native plants, stonework, pathways and commemorative markers, the spiral garden honours those whose leadership, advocacy, service, and support have contributed to Galilee School's growth and its impact on the lives of hundreds of young people.

Galilee School Principal Tim McNevin said the Garden reflects the collective effort behind the school's journey.

"The Commemorative Garden is more than a tribute to our past. It is a recognition that Galilee School exists today because of the vision, determination and generosity of countless people who believed that every young person deserves the opportunity to succeed.

"This Garden ensures their contribution is remembered and celebrated for generations to come."

The inaugural inductees represent people and organisations whose contributions have had a lasting impact on the school's development, culture and success, with more to be recognised in future years.

The garden also commemorates significant milestone events in the life of Galilee School, including the devastating 2003 Canberra bushfires that effectively destroyed the Kambah campus of the school.

Communities at Work Board Chair, Trixie Makay, said the Garden creates an important link between Galilee School's history and its future.

"We are proud to recognise the remarkable individuals and organisations whose leadership, advocacy and support have helped Galilee School create opportunities for young people who have experienced significant barriers to education.

"The Garden creates a lasting place of acknowledgement and appreciation, connecting past and present generations of the Galilee School community."

First registered in the ACT in 1999, Galilee School supports young people who have experienced significant barriers to mainstream education through individualised learning, wellbeing support and practical pathways for the future.

The Commemorative Garden reflects that history while ensuring the people who helped shape Galilee School remain part of its story for generations to come.

To learn more about Galilee School, visit www.commsatwork.org/galileeschool

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Interviews: Tim McNevin, School Principal, is available for interviews.

About Galilee School

Galilee School is an independent special assistance school operated by Communities at Work. The school supports vulnerable young people who have experienced barriers to mainstream education through wrap-around holistic support, including personalised learning, wellbeing support and practical pathways. These help students build confidence, skills and an alternative path to success in school and beyond.

On 27 November, Galilee School will be hosting the second edition of Black Friday Ball, a fundraising event that helps the school continue transforming young lives and helping young people shine again through its unique supportive program and exceptional learning opportunities.

To read more and get involved:

<https://www.commsatwork.org/ball>

First inductees into the Commemorative Garden

Lions Youth Haven (primary lease holder of Galilee School Kambah site since inception)

Craig Webber (Director/CEO of Galilee Inc, 1987-2007)

Dr Robert Long (inaugural principal, 1997)

Paul Adcock (Coordinator, Living Skills for Teenagers Project, 1990-2002)

PHOTOS FROM EVENT

Photo 1 (vertical), **Photo 2** (horizontal): Current school principal Tim McNevin (front) with inaugural inductees in Galilee School Commemorative Garden: Craig Webber, Robert Long, Paul Adcock

Photo 3: At launch of Galilee School Commemorative Garden: from left to right: Paul Adcock (inductee), Lesley Jordan (Communities at Work CEO), Robert Long (inductee), Trixie Makay (Communities at Work Board Chair), Tim McNevin (school principal), Craig Webber (inductee).

