



Cr Winston Johnson, Judi Ross-Smith, Mary McIver, Bruce Kelly, Val France (with Eevee) and Ian Demack.

By Sonia Isaacs

THE unveiling of the Hinterland's 12th Red Bench at the Maleny District Sports Precinct last Thursday, November 28, marks a significant step in raising awareness about domestic and family violence in the community.

Organised by the Speak Up Now – Stop Domestic and Family Violence group in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Maleny, Zonta Blackall Range, and the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre, the initiative aims to foster conversations around this critical issue.

The red bench, crafted by the Maleny Men's Shed and sponsored by the Maleny Lions, serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing need to address domestic violence.

Approximately 25 representatives from local community organisations attended the event, which was officially opened by Division 5 Councillor Winston Johnston.

Val France, a representative of the Speak Up Now – Maleny and Blackall Range group, expressed her gratitude for the community's support and reiterated

the importance of remembering those who have lost their lives to domestic violence.

"It is important that we know what is happening, so that we, as a community can be more aware of how large an issue domestic and family violence is, and the effect it is having on our society," she said.

This latest installation at the Beersheeba Museum, Maleny is part of a broader red bench initiative aimed at promoting public dialogue and community action against domestic and family violence.

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