



KARLEE BOX

## 16 Days of Activism

**EACH YEAR, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, we take part in the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign.**

### WHEN DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

Campaigns and events will take place across Australia from Thursday 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to Friday 10 December, Human Rights Day.

We will also be raising awareness locally in Mackay over the 16 days.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

In Australia, 1 in 3 women has experienced physical or sexual assault in her lifetime.

By recognising the 16 Days of Activism, we aim to raise public awareness of gender-based violence and mobilise people everywhere to bring about change.

### WHAT PART DOES ZONTA PLAY?

We aim to do the following: Raise awareness of the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against

Women campaign in our local communities;

Take local, national and international actions to influence the making and implementation of laws;

Contribute to changing gender-based attitudes and behaviours to end violence against women.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

During the 16 Days of Activism, keep an eye for our well known 'Orange Ladies' in locations around Mackay!

These will provide an opportunity to learn more about the issue of gender-based violence, and the effects it has on our community.

We will be posting more information regarding our activities, and the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign on our Facebook page.

I look forward to sharing more about Zonta and our events with you!

For further information about any of these events, please send a message via Facebook or email [zontamackay@gmail.com](mailto:zontamackay@gmail.com)



Rotary Club of Mackay members in active service as ongoing vendors of the G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day, one of their biggest annual fundraisers. (Photo supplied)



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With nine neighbouring Rotarian clubs in Mackay alone, there is a strong willpower of community service in the eastern coast city.

Rotary's motto is 'Service above self' since it was first formed globally and what all rotary clubs come under and live by.

President of the Rotary Club of Mackay, John Lang, first joined the non-for-profit club in 2015 and is now in his sixth year. As the former Club Administrator, the secretarial role prior to being elected President of the club equipped Mr Lang for the success actively demonstrated in his strong leadership of the Rotary Club of Mackay.

'I joined Rotary when I retired from my life job and thought, I've got time to do some community work now,' President of Rotary Club of Mackay, John Lang said.

For 43 years Mr Lang worked for Air Services Australia as an Aviation Technician, responsible for the Air Traffic Control System Australia.

'In retirement I felt I had time to devote to Community Service and that's exactly what Rotary is about.

'I knew about service clubs; my father was in a Lion's Club and I knew what service culture was all about.

'A friend, Michael Buckeridge, was the one who got me into Rotary.

The 'way into the club' is by invitation from an existing Rotary member. Upon a membership application made, a unanimous decision is then made by the club to welcome in new members.

Majority of the members of the club have been there for a significant number of years ranging from twenty to forty-four years.

Presidency of the Rotary Club changes annually and membership intake was originally based on one's vocation in business.

'When it first started in Mackay it was very much corporate oriented, you were a businessperson if you joined the rotary club and it was all about community service but also about networking in your vocation.

'It's been that way for a long time, and it's modernised now where that's not as much the focus.

'You do get networking by the club like Rotary, but the main thing is community service.

'There's a lot of flexibility nowadays in the modern Rotary about how we operate. 'Any money we raise always get redistributed. 'We are non-for-profit, but we do fundraise so that we've got money to give away.

The Rotary Club of Mackay meet once a week on a Tuesday night, to share a meal and deliver club business announcements, with a different guest speaker in attendance each week from various sectors within the community.

Rotary Club of Mackay operate a two-day program on road safety, Road Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) for school students.

The RYDA Program that ran at the Mackay PCYC this month, has been generously facilitated by the PCYC for the Rotary Club's use.

A working bee at All Abilities Mackays' Summer House, is being

held this week and weekend as a community project.

'I love it and that's what keeps me going in Rotary,' Mr Lang said.

St Vincent De Pauls, Lifeline, CQU, JCU, Mackay PCYC, Tufminds and Grapevine Group Mackay are some of the main organisations Rotary Club Mackay donate to and sponsor.

'Our biggest fundraiser for last year was the 'Mayor's Charity Golf Day' where \$48,000 was raised and given to the Ronald McDonald Charities Family Room at Mackay Base Hospital.

'Outside of that 'G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day, Rotary Club Mackay have been a vendor and sold wine at the event held in Queen's Park in July every year.

Due to COVID last year, this year's numbers saw close to 20,000 people attend.

'It is quite labour intensive. 'Each year that has been our biggest fundraiser. 'The majority of the rotary clubs around the world are now all mixed gender and diversity and inclusivity is something we really push. 'The Rotary district formerly reached Mackay to Bundaberg to Longreach.

'As of this year 2021, it joined with the district above us, up to Townsville and Cairns, across-up to Darwin and our one district has doubled to 84 rotary clubs.

The hope of the Rotary, on a global scale, is to grow from 1.2 million members to 1.3 million this year.



Business Development Manager - PRD Mackay  
**Raylene Trewartha**

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