

## Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

**Alison & Daniel Healy and Chris Hamilton have made a contribution to The Mackay Foundation to build a secure future for the community in honour of their parents**

### IAN GEORGE HAMILTON and VALERIE JANET HAMILTON

**Ian George Hamilton** was born in Mackay on May 1, 1935, the fourth child of Jack and Florence Hamilton. His father had a bakery and the family lived in North Mackay. His mother was a director at Lamberts Pty Ltd. Ian was educated at North Mackay State School, Mackay Intermediate School and Mackay State High School. Ian completed his National Service in the army in 1955 after two years. He became a member of the Mackay Jaycees and was a keen sportsman. Well regarded as a tennis and hockey player, he eventually became patron to both codes. He carried the torch for the Melbourne Olympic Games relay in 1956.



After gaining experience with AGC Finance, Ian was appointed a director of Lamberts Pty Ltd in 1965 and in the same year became its managing director. He retired from this position in 1996. He was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups and was a member of the Rotary Club of Mackay becoming its president in 1987. He and wife Val are both Paul Harris Fellows.

Ian has retained close ties to St Paul's Church, in Macalister Street. He was a member of the management committee and when the church made the national heritage register, Ian was involved in raising funds for the restoration and acted as appeals chairman. Recently, St Paul's made additional restorations and additions and Ian was again involved in fundraising. Ian was also a committee member of Mackay Lifeline, a member of the Mackay Ambulance Committee, chairman of the district Scouts and a council member of MBF Australia.

Ian met his wife Val Hamilton in 1960 and they married in 1963. The couple went on to adopt three children. Val was the daughter of Septimus and Margaret Hamilton and had seven siblings. She was raised on a cane farm and was educated at Mia Mia School and then at PCG Warwick for high school. She commenced work as a receptionist in the medical practice of Brown and Chapple while boarding at Cromer House. While still single, Val was a member of the VAD, thus beginning a lifetime commitment to charitable organisations throughout Mackay. She was awarded an Order of Australian medal for her varied service to the Mackay community which included the Red Shield Appeal committee, hospital support, patron of the Girl Guides Association and service to many other charities.

Ian undertook casual broadcasting for the ABC for 15 years. He was elected to the Mackay City Council from 1994 to 1997 and then re-elected for the 1997 to 2000 term where he held the position of deputy mayor and chairman of the finance committee. He was also appointed to the Pioneer River Improvement Trust, the Mackay Electricity Board and the Northern Retail Electricity Corporation. Both Ian and Val are also foundation members of Mackay Combined Probus.

The Hamilton's charitable endeavours and commitment to serving their community ensures the couple has made a significant contribution to this region.