

MANLY



From left: Northern beaches architects Luisa Manfredini and David McCrae, Manly Women's Shelter president Julia Lever with husband Frank, and Mareete McGuinn and Vel Vooks.

# Shelling out for shelter

Community chips in to help indispensable women's not-for-profit raise \$140,000 at its masquerade ball

**Beverly Hudec**

COMMUNITY support for the Manly Women's Shelter continues to grow, with the not-for-profit organisation raising \$140,000 at its masquerade gala ball at Manly Pavilion on the weekend.

Masked guest attended the sold-out event and made generous donations – including an anonymous \$50,000 pledge – exceeding the initial target of \$100,000.

Manly Women's Shelter president Julia Lever thanked donors, sponsors and supporters on the night for their help.

"Generous contributions are helping to keep our doors open and to provide a safe space for homeless women on the northern beaches," Mrs Lever said.

"It costs up to \$500,000 each year just to keep our doors open.

"We are grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the community."

The shelter, which opened

**Helping women**

- ▶ The Manly Women's Shelter will be rebranded as the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter to reflect its services and reach
- ▶ The not-for-profit organisation raised \$140,000 at its gala ball held at Manly Pavilion
- ▶ Last year the shelter supported 77 women with a total of 3284 bed nights
- ▶ The Manly Women's Shelter opened in 2010

in 2010, will also have a new name: the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter. The re-branding reflected its growing reach and expansion of services, Mrs Lever said.

"Since we first opened our doors in 2010, our shelter has grown to provide crisis accommodation and support to hundreds of women in the region," she said.

"Our services extend far beyond Manly. The women

who turn to us in times of crisis come from across the entire northern beaches."

Since it opened, more than 300 women have sought refuge and support, and have benefited from the shelter's services in domestic violence, mental health, financial hardship, and drug and alcohol abuse.

"Our trained and experienced welfare workers continue to provide a safe place for women seeking shelter and on-site support 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Mrs Lever said.

"We continue to help women find secure and long-term housing, to rebuild their lives and return to the community."

Last year the shelter supported 77 women, with a total of 3284 bed nights.

"Without support, these women would have found it incredibly difficult, or even impossible, to break away from the dangerous or unsafe environment they were living in," Mrs Lever said.



Claire Heritage and Oliver Renton show off their masks at the gala ball.



Former Warringah mayor Michael Regan with wife Bronwen.



Shelter patron, former Premier and Manly MP Mike Baird, with wife Kerry.