

Tuesday January 30th, 2024

Deserved AM for Index boss

Congratulations to Brisbane business identity **Jeff Maclean** who picked up a gong in last week's Australia Day awards for his extensive charity work, particularly in medical research. Maclean, who heads The Index Group, has been chairman of the Queensland Brain Institute since 2018 having been a board member since 2004. Maclean (illustrated), who was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), also is heavily involved in the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal and Endeavour Foundation.

The Maclean family have been big backers of the Queensland Brain Institute's research into motor neurone disease after Jeff's father Ross sadly succumbed to the disease in 2005.

The Index Group underwrote fundraising for The Ross Maclean Fellowship launched in early 2004. Although **Ross Maclean** knew there was little chance he would benefit from new research into MND that didn't stop the Index Group founder from concentrated efforts during his final years to establish the fund.

He conceived the idea to create a MND Fellowship after meeting with QBI's inaugural director Professor **Perry Bartlett**.

Bartlett is an internationally renowned neuroscientist, who has set about to continue his groundbreaking research into the fundamental mechanisms that underpin brain function.

The fellowship is now one of

CITY BEAT

with
Glen Norris



the few research positions in Australia dedicated to fundamental research of the underlying neurological factors behind motor neurone disease.

The inaugural Ross Maclean Senior Research Fellow was **Dr Robyn Wallace** while current incumbent is **Dr Adam Walker** who joined QBI in 2018, moving to Queensland from Macquarie University.

Jeff Maclean began his career selling pool supplies, and in 1977 became the Queensland Distributor for Kreepy Krauly, the automatic pool cleaning device company. In 1995, Jeff joined his father at The Index Group.

Firing up

Gas producer Arrow Energy will assist its Surat Basin-based staff to help emergency services following a series of damaging bushfires last year. Under a new leave arrangement introduced in December, Arrow is offering its regional staff up to five days of paid leave per year to employees who

volunteer with local fire and emergency services.

Arrow Energy's new chief executive **Zhengxin Peng** says the leave entitlement was a way to support the local community while easing the pressure on Arrow staff who volunteer with emergency services. "Last year, the Surat Basin community faced some devastating bushfires," Zhengxin says.

"Tragically, many homes, properties, environments and livelihoods were lost. But the toll would have been greater if not for the efforts of volunteers in the Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service. I'm humbled to say several of those volunteers were Arrow team members. They worked tirelessly to support the firefighting efforts to protect the properties and lives of others."

Boxing clever

Tattersalls Club is gearing up for its 18th annual black tie boxing event next month with eye-watering prices to grab the best seats in the house.

The event, featuring eight rounds of boxing, is held in the club's iconic members bar with hundreds packing the venue for the event. Mezzanine seating to the event is on offer for \$320 with ringside seats going for \$300. For fans with a bigger budget, an entire room can be booked for a whopping \$12,000 with private wait staff.

