

Bio for Michael and Yvonne Lacey

Michael and Yvonne Lacey have both been devoted community workers and volunteers who over the years have received extensive recognition for their community work. Michael was a Ministerial appointment to the Victorian Hume Regional Council of Adult, Community & Further Education, he provided ATO tax help, as a volunteer, for ten years from 2004 – 2013 and was a board member of the North East Local Learning and Employment Network in addition to establishing and operating as a volunteer, a No Interest Loan Scheme in a North East Victorian area. Yvonne was a Rotarian for a number of years and was also honoured to be awarded the Victorian Premier's award for Community Leadership, she was inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll and was also awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Michael and Yvonne moved to South Australia four years ago after travelling around Australia for three years. They choose to settle in Mannum and decided to purchase an old houseboat from Lake Eildon and had it transported overland to Mildura with the intention of renovating it, sailing it down the river to Mannum and living in it for a while as they designed and built a new home for themselves.

With this plan in mind, they chose to rent in Mannum. In December 2019, due to the drought at that time, they decided to sail their houseboat from Mildura to Mannum even though it was only partially renovated (this is another very interesting story they can talk about to the club as it was quite an adventure). Despite Covid creating issues for them with finalising the renovation they were very happy with their decision to reside in Mannum until almost two years ago when they moved into a new rental and their life was literally ripped apart.

It is this incident and the aftermath that they would like the opportunity to speak to our club about. Their aim is to raise awareness of the serious problem created by methamphetamine contamination of properties and its broad reaching ramifications for innocent members of the community, regardless of socio-economic background, especially children.