

Quiet achiever honoured

Club stalwart in OAM thrill

By MICK ROBERTS

CLUB industry stalwart and Georges Hall resident John Mackay has been honoured with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) as part of the Australia Day Honours List.

Mr Mackay, Bankstown District Sports Club secretary manager, was named for his services to the industry and to the Bankstown community.

After experiencing a health scare last year when he was diagnosed with lung cancer, Mr Mackay, 63, said the honour was unexpected and thrilling.

"At a time when I am re-evaluating my future, I'm truly humbled," he said.

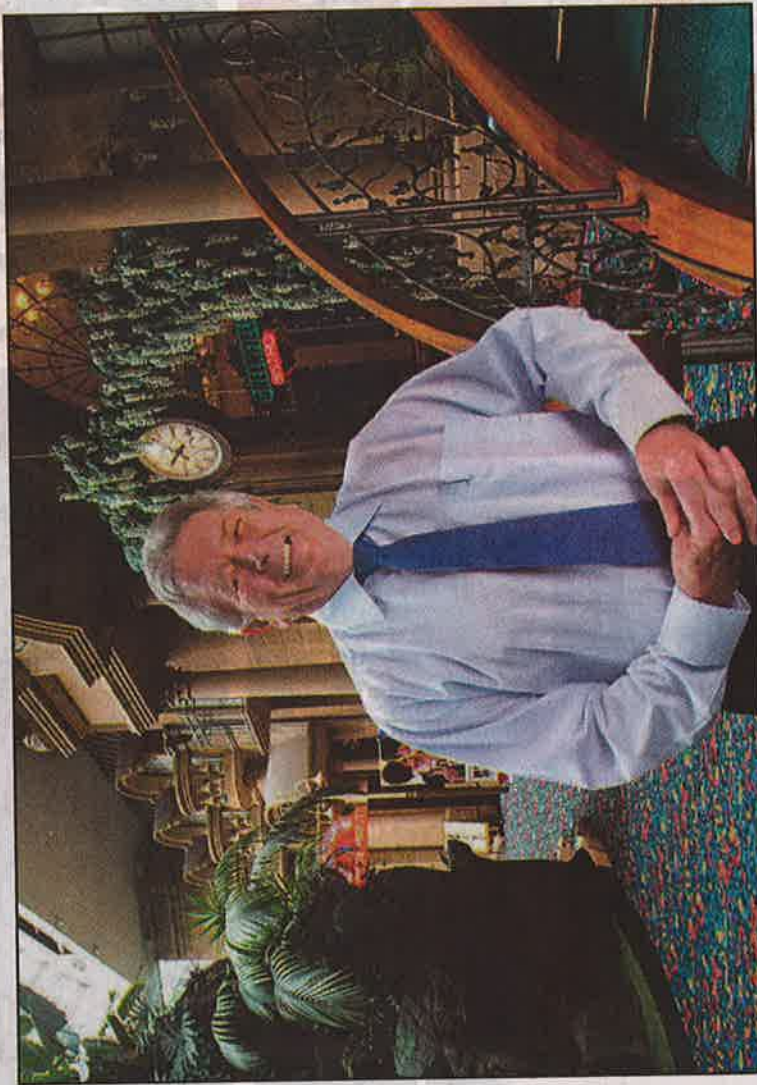
Mr Mackay has been given "the all clear" after undergoing cancer surgery, and the 40-year industry veteran says he feels the OAM belonged to Bankstown Sports.

"I deem it as an honour for the club," he said.

"I feel a sense of satisfaction working for such a wonderful organisation."

Since 1985, Bankstown Sports, under the stewardship of John Mackay, has contributed over \$60 million to the City of Bankstown and surrounding areas, assisting local schools, childcare facilities, hospitals and charities, as well as \$14.4 million which has gone directly towards services for people with disabilities.

Mr Mackay, a volunteer direc-



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tor on the board of Bankstown City Aged Care, is actively looking at the issues of climate change and the aged care industry, with a particular focus on ways to reduce the carbon footprint and to lower carbon emissions from aged care providers.

Bankstown City Aged Care CEO Terry Madden said Bankstown owed a great debt to Mr Mackay in his stewardship of Bankstown Sports.

"Looking at our organisation alone, up to 1992, Bankstown Sports donated around \$400,000 to the provision of aged care services," Mr Madden said.

"From 1992 to the present under John's leadership, Bankstown Sports has donated \$3 million to our organisation alone."

Federal MP for Blaxland, Jason Clare, said Mr Mackay was the embodiment of the term 'quiet achiever'.

"Bankstown wouldn't be the

same without him," he said. "Over the last 30 years he has helped build the Bankstown we have today – putting tens of millions of dollars into local sport, local schools and aged care facilities," Mr Clare said.

Bankstown Sports assistant secretary manager Mark Condi said Mr Mackay had set the tone for the organisation, encouraging the board and management of the club to constantly look beyond, with a keen sense of community.