

# My face is the truth about this epidemic

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**Madeline Crittenden**

Jordan Collins was beaten so badly by her former boyfriend she was terrified of her own reflection in the days and weeks following.

Sailosi Dausaiga Tubakibau had attacked her in a fit of jealous rage, choking her and punching her in the face at least four times.

"My nose was broken, my cheekbone, jaw and eye socket were completely shattered," the 24-year-old said.

"I ended up having titanium plates and screws to replace my shattered bones, I had to have fat put into my eyeball, and my nose rebroken to be straightened."

But worse than the painful recovery, surgeries and sleepless night was the lingering fear Ms Collins was forced to endure.

"It's something that I think about everyday," she said. "Even a noise outside or a glass breaking can set me off or put me back in that place."

The night Ms Collins was attacked was the first time Tubakibau had physically abused her, but she realises now she had been a victim of controlling and emotionally abusive behaviour.

Once, he climbed a drain pipe to enter her apartment and she woke up "to him at the foot of my bed going through messages on my phone. I should have called the police, but I think I was so unaware of the severity of his actions that it almost didn't faze me the way that it should have."

She believes the Empower You App – a secret diary for victims developed by NSW police officers – could have helped her record those times when she might not have been black and blue, but was suffering internally from the emotional manipulation.

Two weeks ago, Tubakibau was jailed for seven years and six months.



Jordan Collins and, below, her injuries. Picture: Sam Ruttyn



## Death of a beloved woman

# PURPLE FRIDAY A TOWN UNITES AGAINST EVIL



**EXCLUSIVE**  
**Cydonee Mardon**

When news swept through town that a well-known local woman was found dead in a laneway, an already brittle Ballina felt a collective stab in the heart.

Still reeling from the devastating floods, the shock death – which police allege was a domestic violence killing – brought to the surface a hidden threat to the already fragile psyche of the community.

"It's boiling point up here, people are still living in their cars, in tents, there is a lot of pressure on families," said David Harmon, the Rotary Governor for the northern NSW region that includes Ballina and Lismore.

"Then when the death happened in a laneway just back from the main street we just wanted to do something, show a strong united force and help people in situations of domestic violence."

Men, women and children attended a candlelight vigil on the



Lindy Lucena.

banks of the Richmond River to remember 64-year-old Lindy Lucena.

Her body was found in the early hours of January 4 with what police described as "significant head trauma". Robert Karl Huber, 66, her former partner, has been charged over her death.

Mr Harmon, who had already spent four years shining a spotlight on domestic violence through Rotary initiatives, worked with his community to make real, grassroots change. His members, and other clubs in five Rotary districts are joining forces with local cops to show they won't stand for family violence.

Every Friday since the January

tragedy, local schools, hairdressers, local council, local clubs and businesses have worn purple shirts to drive home their message "Stop the Violence End the Silence".

Rotary and the local bowling club picked up the tab for 1000 shirts; they handed them out free, saturated social media, and the tradition of Purple Friday was born.

"People ask me 'What are you achieving by this Purple Friday Dave?' And I tell them the story that one hairdresser in town on one Friday, just by her staff wearing purple, there were three women who came in and for the first time in their life they opened up and

## sparked outrage, and action



Superintendent Scott Tanner, with Rotary's Jodie Shelley and David Harmon. Picture: Brendan Beirne

shared their stories of being victims of domestic violence," Mr Harmon said.

Very aware that Rotary may be seen by some as an old fashioned service organisation, he has worked hard to make his like-minded members "very relevant" to their community and in touch with the issues that matter.

"Rotary needs to ... stand up and be a voice for people that don't have one," Mr Harmon said.

Behind the scenes Mr Harmon and Rotary have been working with NSW and Queensland police, using their combined resources.

Richmond Police District Commander Superintendent Scott Tanner said the partnership forged between Rotary and NSW Police was a powerful one.

"Domestic and family violence crosses all races, all financial groups, all classes of people and no one should not be afforded support because of their life circumstances," Supt Tanner said.

"It's been a very big focus of mine, I have been a cop for 30 years in regional and rural areas and I have seen everything from the horrific DV murders right through to subtle coercive control to young



kids being brought up in horrible circumstances."

In the northern region police have noticed a rise in domestic violence – getting calls to homes they've never had to frequent before – as people battle the pressures of rebuilding, living costs and mental health issues.

"We want to show a strong united force with Rotary standing up saying no to domestic violence and we want to encourage other regions around the country to do the

same. It's time to speak up, stop the silence," Supt Tanner said.

NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb said: "They have turned the death of their friend ... into a call-to-arms; by uniting as a community, we can end this cycle of pain and protect our most vulnerable."

A survey found 21 per cent of women living outside of capital cities have experienced violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15, compared to 15 per cent of those living in a capital city.

**The community vigil beside the Richmond River in Ballina to remember 64-year-old Lindy Lucena, whose body was found in a laneway off the main street.**