

50 Years of Q.C.W.A. Service in Maleny

On September the 4th 1928 a public meeting was convened by the late Mrs E.J. Evans for the purpose of introducing the late Mrs Tregear, who was then the vice president of Q.C.W.A, Southern Division. She addressed the meeting on the aims and objectives of Q.C.W.A. and after hearing her address it was decided to form a branch of Q.C.W.A. in Maleny with following Office Bearers.

President:	Mrs E.J. Evans
Vice Presidents:	Mesdames King, Glasgow and Wall
Secretary:	Miss Mills
Treasurer:	Mrs J. Grigor

Meetings were to be held monthly in the School of Arts and during 1931 improvements were made and the committee added a rest room and this was officially opened on December the 1st, 1931. This rest room was to be our home until 1951 when unfortunately the School of Arts and adjoining buildings were destroyed by fire. Mr Myers of the Ambulance managed to save the contents of the rest room.

The local ambulance came to our assistance and allowed us the use of the ambulance centre for our monthly meetings until our new rest room was opened on the 16th of June, 1953. The building was then the old Golf House and the trustees generously donated it to the School of Arts for use as a library and rest room for Q.C.W.A.

The first public work was to write to the then member of Parliament the late Mr Grimmstone, advocating and soliciting his interest in a rural school for Maleny. It was not to eventuate for 22 years. Then an industrial school was built adjoining the primary school with two full time teachers, domestic science for girls and manual training for the boys. There was also adult education classes in dressmaking.

In our early days we had a very active younger set, this was started in 1936, but unfortunately was disbanded during the war years.

In 1934 we started our hospital visiting and to this day we still have our hospital visitor who extends comfort and cheer to our sick and gives small gifts at Christmas time on behalf of the branch.

During the war years we were affiliated with the Australian Comforts Fund and all members worked actively for the welfare of the fighting forces. At this time also we had a friendship link with the U.K. and food parcels were sent. Our own needy have not been forgotten over the years and we have been quick to help in cases of hardship and distress.

In 1950 we supported a move by the Q.D.O. to have a policeman stationed in Maleny. In 1951 we sent a letter of loyalty to the then Prime Minister Mr Menzies and in 1953 our president was one of a delegation of community citizens to approach the minister of Education re- the establishment of a High School in the area. During these years we were also instrumental in getting a footbridge over the Obi Obi Creek, the placing of rest seats in the area, and additional Street lighting, for which we part paid for.

In recent years we have tried unsuccessfully to get a Pedestrian Crossing for the main street. This matter still has our consideration and the main roads department will be approached again as it is of a vital necessity as there are a number of elderly people in the town and all council trucks using the quarry also use the main street.

We purchased and had installed a cardaphone in the Maleny Hospital in 1976 and this has proved to be of great benefit. We have also donated a manakin to the ambulance so as school children and interested adults may be taught life saving techniques.

Over the years we have had visits from our State and divisional office bearers and these have kept us in touch with C.W.A. State wide.

Over the past 50 years we have had 18 presidents. Part of our furnishings are in memory of these far sighted people who with their high aspirations and ideals have been a guide to us all.

In reading over the records of the past 50 years, one realises with pride the activities of the members in sponsoring or helping in everything worthwhile towards the advancement of the district. The Q.C.W.A. State wide has many objectives which all receive our consideration and financial help.

Our membership in the first year was 48 and unfortunately with the economic situation we have today, we number only 41 - but with younger people moving into the district we have high hopes for the future.

In closing we would like to pay tribute to those wonderful women who formed our first committee. To the many members old and new we say thank you for your loyal support over the years. Our work has been one of "Giving and forget the gift", we have also appreciated the help of the public in all our objectives. Today is our golden jubilee, over the years we have been weaving the patters of the future. Our leaders each in their turn have given us a pattern of love, service and loyalty to be woven into the future, so let us carry on with the banner of:

"Honour to God
 Loyalty to the Throne
 Service to the Country
 Through Country Women
 For Country Women
 By Country Women"

