

Desley's Glenferna Opening Speech

15 June 2019

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman.

This is a very proud time in Maleny's history to have an old farmhouse restored for posterity.

I realised at the Maleny School Centenary in 2013 that we needed somewhere to record Maleny's History of Education. Our district had 7 one teacher schools. Over time, all but one, the Maleny Township School, closed down. The President of our Society at the time, Stan Collard, The Maleny State School Principal John Byrne, Tom Malone and myself approached Andrew Powell MP for a 1 teacher school. The Premier at the time, Campbell Newman, announced that he planned to close many one teacher schools down. Fortunately this never eventuated but an offer from Brian & Leonie McFarlane some months later fulfilled our dream for a building.

Brian & Leone McFarlane bought the property where Glenferna was situated at 1010 Maleny/Landsborough Rd and pondered what to do with the old house. A builder deemed it suitable to be restored, a chance meeting with Tom Malone by Brian McFarlane for a fire permit resulted in the house being gifted to the Society.

My family, Henry & Nellie Neilen with their family of 8 including me, bought the property on the eastern side of Glenferna in 1946, we lived there for almost 40 years and we had no idea of the history of the property. The house was known by all as Glenferrie but when I went to the Lands Department and contacted Dotti Kemp, the Thynne family historian, I discovered the history.

The land where the house was built was part of the first land selected in Maleny by Isaac Burgess in 1876. 790 acres. In 1902, the property was sold and subdivided, 469 acres to Ted Thynne and 320 acres to his 3 sisters. Their mother was Mary Cairncross and part the sister's property is now part of Mary Cairncross Park. The house was originally called Glenferna as that's where the Thynnes originated from in Ireland.

Ted Thynne built Glenferna in 1903. It was registered as a Receiving Office for mail from 1904 - 1912. Ted bought a herd of cattle from Oakey, they died, so did his fruit trees. His father, Andrew Thynne, a respected lawyer and politician, was one of the founders of the Maleny Co-operative Dairy Association. In 1912 Ted & his family sold Glenferna.

Andrew Beacom became the new owner briefly, then in 1915 it became the family home for Arthur & Mary Cork and their 11 children for almost 40 years. Their eldest daughter

Blanche married Ernest Pattermore in 1916, linking Pattermore House, Maleny's only State Heritage Listed house, to Glenferna.

From the late 1940s the farm was sold several times, some of the owners were Bill Burgess, King Family (yes, the family of Bernard King), Arthur Middlestadt, Jack & Ivy Dudley, Earl & Ivy Hemsall, Hal Moore, Ross McCowen until 1976 when it became an Art Union Prize Farm. The winner tenanted the house and farm separately and a procession of people lived in the house. In 2002 Phil & Debbie Amos tenanted the property until 2013, when it was sold to Brian & Leonie McFarlane.

The house truly did look a wreck when we shifted it in May 2016. It had withstood time for 113 years, the verandahs were falling off, the roof was folded down; we did wonder if we could. What had gone on inside the house with the bright rainbow coloured walls? But the core of the building was beech and sound. I felt confident that we could and we did.

I thank Greg Williams for his support with getting grants: the Sunshine Coast Council, Gambling Community Benefit Fund, and generous donations from donors and the public who have supported our fund raising occasions. Maleny now has an air quality controlled archive to preserve our history.

I truly thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make this happen. Especially to Ed Lawley the Project Manager, Bernie Gilbert the Site Manager, Clive Powell the painter and gardener, Tom Malone and many members of the Men's Shed. All have given up hundreds and hundreds of hours for Glenferna to become the handsome house that it is today.

The setting up as a Schools, Post Office & Telecommunication Museum is work in progress. We have been offered a wonderful display of dolls, a lifetime collection of handmade porcelain dolls, 600 in total for the back rooms. We have such a treat in store for the future of Glenferna.

Thank you everyone for coming today and sharing Glenferna's history and future.