

History of Cooperatives in Maleny compiled by Amanda Wilson for Sunshine Coast Libraries January 2012

1903

3rd May, the Maleny CoOperative Dairy Association was formed at a meeting held at the Wootha home of Joseph McCarthy. Present on that first historic meeting were: Joseph McCarthy, Thomas Cole, John Grigor, H. Bartlett, R. Tucker, Hon. A.J. Thynne and E.T.F. Thynne.

1904

First cans of cream were treated at the Maleny CoOperative Dairy Association Butter Factory in Maple Street, 19th December 1904. Mr Alec Bryce of Howell's Knob (or Reesville), was the first farmer to get cream to the Maple Street factory. Bryce took all the cream from other farmer share holders in his district to the factory. Ref: Maleny: the first 100 years, page 6.

1905

Official Opening of the first Maleny Coop Dairy Assoc. Butter Factory, situated in Maple Street roughly where the Henzell's Real Estate & Maleny Drapery stores were in 2003. A section of the Butter Factory was high up on stumps, the cool room to allow the air to flow. Mr John H. Skerman was the first Manager 1905 - 1926. Ref. Maleny Co-Operative Dairy Association Golden Jubilee, Page 9.

The first store in Maleny proper, was established in November, by the Maleny Coop. Dairy Assoc. to fill an urgent need in the district, followed a year later by John Tytherleigh, who opened his store on the opposite side of Maple Street.

1907

Butter Factory Manager's residence completed at a cost of 208 Pounds, on land donated by Mr T. Dixon, at the rear of the Maple St. factory.

A store 60 foot by 40 foot was built by J. Pollock on site of present day 15 Maple Street (Boxsell's -2003) for the Maleny Co-Operative Dairy Association, having moved from their first store next to the first Butter Factory on the corner of Maple and Coral Streets. The new store was managed by local dairy farmer, Mr Alex Hunt. This store was known for many years as the Maleny Emporium. The Dairy Store served several purposes; the building was in 3 parts. The Eastern side was a bulk and produce storeroom, the central and largest part was the main store. The smaller section to the Western side housed the Post Office, with Miss Maud Scott being the first Post Mistress and in 1908 the E.S. & A. Bank opened a sub-branch in this western section of the building. Ref: Vic Waddell's book. This historic beech timber building was demolished 6th-14th August, 1995, by Selwyn Larsen, of Little Mountain, Caloundra. The building was infested with white ants. It was owned by the Boxsell family of Kenilworth. Another building was constructed on the site during October 1995.

1908

The Maleny Co-operative Dairy Association won a trophy at the Franco British Exhibition in London, for butter produced at its Maple Street Factory.

1909

The Sallaway family built their Boarding House in Maple Street, where Maple St Coop is now (2012). The boarding house was called Allawah and was run by Mrs Isabella Sallaway and designed and built by her husband, Sam Sallaway. Sam Sallaway, designed and built many homes and shops in the Maleny district and supplied the plans for the second Maleny Butter Factory. Sam also supplied the local coffin requirements. Sallaway's boarding house was well frequented by the local bank staff & teachers; it was a social gathering place. Ref: Jack Sallaway 1987 and Peg Burnett. See Local Studies Photographic Collection MALENY - Firms - P87288 & P87490.

1911

The second Maleny Butter Factory, in Coral Street started processing cream some time during December 1911, after the ceiling collapsed in the Maple Street factory, spreading charcoal insulation throughout. The move was made to the new (second) factory during the Christmas break. The second factory was constructed on 12 acres of land, which was to be donated by Mr Thomas C. Dixon, but Mr T.C. Dixon died before the land transfer was completed and his heir, son, E.T. Dixon, required the exchange of 60 paid up shares in exchange for the 12 acres. The building was erected by Mr Nelson Hay for 4000 pound, with machinery and plant costing a further 4000 pound. Ref: Reminiscences of Maleny by Dave Hankinson, page 10.

1911-1912

The Maleny Co-operative Dairy Association sold their store in Maple Street to their Manager Mr Alex Hunt, who traded as A.M. Hunt & Co. Mr A.R. Myers and Mr Eric S. Webster were partners in this business. The Co-op sold their store to raise capital for the building of a new Butter Factory in Coral Street.

1912

20th January saw the official opening of the second Maleny CoOp. Dairy Assoc. Butter Factory in Coral Street, although the factory had been in use during the 1911 Christmas break. The second butter factory was built on land which was to originally be donated by Mr T.C. Dixon, but he died before the land was transferred and his son and heir, E.T. Dixon, required 60 paid up shares in the Co-op in exchange for the 12 acres of land. Ref: Reminiscences of Maleny by Dave Hankinson, page 10. This was used as the Queensco Foods Coop store until Nov 1989 when the building was demolished to make way for a new CoOp store. The old factory in Maple Street was later turned into a boarding house, the second in the town, by Mr P Heenan. It is now part of the Land Gold Real Estate office, in the old Drapery store, Maple St (1997).

1937

An Inspector condemned the Maleny Butter Factory some time during March. This was the second butter factory, which was operational from December 1911 and officially opened in January 1912. Ref: Nambour Chronicle

1940

The third Maleny CoOp Dairy Assoc. Butter Factory opened in Coral Street, in September. (Brick building). It was designed by William McDonald and in 1997 housed M.E.N.A. (Maleny Enterprise Network Association) Ref: Official Opening Plaque on building wall and local Studies Officer Amanda Wilson. Manager at the time Mr G. Newton, who managed the factory from 1926 - 1940. Then next manager Mr J. Ferguson 1940 - 1950 Ref. Maleny Co-Operative Dairy Association Golden Jubilee, Page 9.

1971

In November, Mr John Skerman, the first Manager and for a long time only employee of the Maleny Co-operative Dairy Association, died. Mr Skerman ran the Maleny Butter Factory for many years and acted as a First Aid Officer for the town while working at the factory.

Jill and Tony Jordan and Tom Victor and partner ? purchased a degraded disused dairy farm, Sub2 Por 138 on Bridge Creek Rd Maleny with the intention to create a refuge for at risk youth. This property later became an intentional community known as Frogs' Hollow, where residents formed the Manduka community Settlement Co-operative Society Limited some years later.

1973

On the 22nd June, the Maleny S.E.Q.E.B. Depot was officially opened by the Member for Landsborough, the Hon Mike J. Ahern. The station cost \$96,000:00 and was built by Brisbane contractors, Robb & Brown. The Maleny S.E.Q.E.B. Foreman at the time was Mr Laurie. Kersnovske. The new station, on the corner of Bunya & Cudgerie Streets, was built on the same

site as the Obi Obi Sawmilling Co., which was operating there in October 1894. Ref: LS vertical file, MALENY - History. When the S.E.Q.E.B Foreman, Laurie Kersnovske first started in Maleny in 1957 there were over 200 cream suppliers to the Maleny Cooperative Dairy Association Butter Factory in Coral Street, which had dwindled to only 20 milk suppliers in 1980. Ref: Laurie Kersnovske 2003.

1978

1st July the Maleny Co-operative Dairy Association amalgamated with Caboolture Dairy Co-op and the third Maleny Butter Factory in Coral Street, stopped producing butter in July 1981.

1979

At the first Annual General Meeting of the Maleny Amateur Swimming Club, held during February, it was announced by acting Club Chairman, Mr O. Hutchinson, that the Caboolture Co-operative Dairy Association had donated land in Coral Street, Maleny, in Trust to the Swimming Club to build a pool upon, on the condition that the pool was named the Maleny Centenary Pool. The land had been owned by the former Maleny Co-operative Dairy Association, which amalgamated with the Caboolture Co-operative Dairy Association on the 1st July 1978. As the project did not proceed at the Coral Street site, it can be assumed that the land reverted back to the Co-op's ownership. Ref: Nambour Chronicle 20th February 1979, page 10.

1979

Maple Street Cooperative Society Ltd. formed with Jill Jordan, Lorna Wilson, Matthew Davies, Gary Blisner, John Gilpin and Meg Kelly, as the Founding Directors. Their aim was to provide organically grown foods and health food items to supply the demand for such produce which was unavailable from mainstream stores in the town at that time. Previously all health food lines had to be purchased from Nambour or Brisbane. Interested Range residents met to discuss the formation of a food cooperative at the Reesville home of Lorna Wilson.

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1980

Eet Street fine foods café was opened by Amanda Wilson & Neil McDougall, in old shop, 31 Maple Street, bringing a new era of food availability to Maleny. Later sold & changed name to Maleny Kitchen in 1980, this café became The Up Front Club 1 July 1994, run by the Maleny Co-op Club Society Ltd. The building had previously housed an Antique Shop run by Gary Blisner and was originally where Stephen (Cook) Porter ran his stock and land agency from. Ref: Amanda Wilson.

1981

Maleny Butter Factory ceased to produce butter, July

1982

Maleny Resource Centre established at 48 Maple Street - run by Matthew Davies, Jill Jordan and Gillian Pechey.

1984

Maleny & District Community Credit Union incorporated on the 9th August, with the first trading on the 10th September 1984. The Maleny & District Credit Union opened in a building in Maple Street which was originally the Tytherleigh's Store Manager's residence during the 1920s. The building was named Bunya House by the Credit Union.

1987

Maleny L.E.T.S. formed and started trading in Bunyas (Local Economic Trading System). It was instigated by Jill Jordan & Ian Smith, and modelled on a Canadian system which they studied. This system of local trading was the first of its kind to start up in Australia. The Maleny L.E.T.S. team designed a computerised system for trading and was instrumental in assisting in the forming of many other such systems throughout Australia. In 1995 the Department of Social Security recognised L.E.T.S and actively started promoting its use for job creation in One Nation programme.

1989

During May, (possibly 15 May, 1989) Maleny WasteBusters formed, a rubbish recycling project run by volunteers and instigated by Jill Jordan. The re-cycling depot was established at the old Witta dump.

Barung Landcare was formed in 1989. Ref: The Range News 16. September 2010, Page 11.

A new publishing and writer's co-op was formed during October, called the Maleny Black Possum Publishing Co-Operative Society Ltd.

Also during November, the second Butter Factory built by the Maleny Cooperative Dairy Assoc, which was opened in 1912, in Coral Street, was demolished to make way for a new Queensco Coop. store.

1990

Maleny Resident, Jill Jordan was appointed a Director of the International Board of Women's World Summit Foundation which was incorporated in Geneva in 1990. Jill attended a workshop convened by the W.W.S.F. in January 1994 in Senegal - the workshop was titled 'Towards the 21st Century: Women & Children in Africa'.

During March the C.E.D.A. (Caloundra Enterprise Development Agency) office opened in the newly constructed, Beechwood Place in Maple Street. C.E.D.A. Was officially opened by Caloundra City Council Mayor, Ald. Don Aldous assisted by C.E.D.A. Managing Director, Margi O'Connell. The service was set up to assist people wishing to set up new businesses, by the way of market research and networking. Some time later the service moved to new offices in The Strand in Caloundra.

Mountain Fare CoOp hosted the inaugural Maleny Spring Festival, with workshops on, the Earth, Local Economic Development, Health, Arts & Practical Crafts and Women's Issues, September 21st 23rd and was coordinated by Jan Tilden and Meg Barrett. The Spring Festival became a regular event. Ref: Amanda Wilson

28th October, the Black Possum 1991 Diary was launched by well known Maleny personality, Margaret (Peg) Burnett. The diary was published by the Black Possum Publishing Cooperative, which held their first A.G.M. the same day. Ref. The Range News

Queensco Foods Co-operative Association Ltd's new rural Store was officially opened by the Member for Glass House, Jon Sullivan, on the 18th August 1990, on the same site in Coral Street, where the second Maleny Butter Factory stood. The second butter factory was demolished in November 1989 to make way for the new Rural Store. (Amanda Wilson of Manduka Co-Op assisted on the demolition job, she salvaged and recycled much of the tallowwood and beech 6" chamfer board cladding from the old butter factory built in 1911 and used it in the construction of her home at Frogs' Hollow.)

1991

The Maleny Film Society was formed. A similar group was formed by Gary Blisner in the late 1970s.

2nd October 1991, saw the official opening of the Maleny Enterprise Centre, in a building which was built as the third Maleny Buttery Factory in Coral Street in 1940. The Enterprise Centre Maleny Association Inc was instigated as a venue for fledging businesses, where business courses are also conducted. Bob Sample was the first Manager. This later amalgamated with the Maleny Telecentre to form M.E.N.A. - Maleny Enterprise Network Association.

1992

First Australian National LETS Conference 1992, held at Yarra Happini in northern NSW, near Maxville. The national conference was coordinated by Maleny LETS members Jill Jordan, Robyn Clayfield, Ann Jupp, Peter Pamment and Prabha De Masson. Conference Guest Speaker was Michael Linton, who initiated the first LETS in Canada, which the Australian LETS was modelled upon. Ref: Ann Jupp 2012

1994

9th May, the Formation Meeting of the Maleny Co-Op Club was held in the C.W.A. Rooms, Maleny Community Centre. The newly formed Co-op Directors, Jill Jordan, Veronica Davidson, Paul Lawler, Dick Bates, Derek Sheppard, John Fox and Billy Abbott, immediately commenced negotiations to purchase a main street business, Maleny Kitchen as a co-operative venture. Ref: Amanda Wilson.

15th May, Maleny Wastebusters Co-op celebrated its 5th birthday. The recycling Co-op is based at the Witta Refuse Depot. Birthday Celebrations were held in Tesch Park, Maleny to mark the occasion.

During June a group was formed to research the viability of a Community Radio Station for Maleny and districts with the view of producing test transmissions by 1995. Ref: T.R.N. June 1994, Vol 12. No 25, page 2.

1st July, the Maleny Co-op Club Society Ltd took over the lease on 31 Maple Street, previously Maleny Kitchen and opened a Co-operatively owned licensed brassiere/café called the Up Front Club. The opening night was a great success with over 500 people attending the club and a dance held in the Community Centre for the celebrations. Ref: T.R.N. Vol 12 No 27, page 15. Licensee was Pauline Ashford, Staff: Ann Keating; Amanda Wilson, Lee Goodrum

1995

The Ananda Marga Primary School at Bridge Creek Road, Maleny officially commenced running as an independent school, after a trial period during 1994. Students at the school chose the name, the River School. The school is situated on an Ananda Marga Community, set up in 1985 and run by the P.R.O.U.T. Community Settlement Co-operative Society Ltd. and is situated next to the tranquil waters of Bridge Creek. The school building is an old Queenslander home which was removed from Clayfield, Brisbane in 1982 by the then land owners, Doug Forgan and Meg Kelly. Ref: Amanda Wilson – Bridge Creek Road Resident.

1996

Saturday 6 July, International Co-Ops' Day, a brochure 'Maleny the Co-Op Town', was launched by Dr Jan Tilden a long time co-operator. The brochure outlined a number of the many co-operatives located in the Maleny area and was initiated by Elaine Green from the Maleny & District Community Credit Union. The MCU sponsored the publication, which was produced and printed by Double Take Publishing, with major contributions from Jill Jordan, Prabha and Steve De Masson, (from PROUT Co-Op). The occasion was marked by a gathering, speeches and lunch in the gardens of the Maleny Credit Union in Maple Street. Maleny is internationally known as the second having the second largest number of co-operative groups in the world, after Mondragon. Ref: The Range News 12 July, 1996 Vol14, No; 27, Page 1. Photo.

2009

Co-Operative Maleny Festival was held 10-18 September to celebrate Maleny's unique co-operative legacy. Co-op pioneers shared their vies and stories during a at a moderated discussion evening a celebratory dinner was held Wednesday 16 September 2009 at the upfront club in maple Street, where a documentary film was shown, 'Creating prosperous Communities', which focused on Maleny co-operatives. Ref: The Range News 27 August 2009, Page 5. <http://viewnews.com.au/bm/whatson/festivals/cooperative-maleny-festival-sept-10-to-18th.print.shtml>

2010

Maleny's Barung Landcare was formed 21 years ago in 1989 and celebrated the milestone with an inaugural community tree plant on Saturday 23 October 2010 on the Maleny Community Precinct, assisted by members of the Green Hills group. The Jill Jordan Memorial committee also organised a special planting to honour long time Maleny community advocate, co-operator and cultural auditor, Jill Margaret Jordan, who passed away 8 January 2010. Ref: The Range News 16. September 2010, Page 11.

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MCU: Making money count

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Black Possum diary

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Picture Sunshine Coast Early Directors Maleny Cooperative Dairy Assoc.

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- See more at: <http://www.upfrontclub.org/page-1202724#sthash.Gr9QqgTb.dpuf>