

What's your Story? Rotary Club of Maleny

Each day Rotarians pour their passion, skills, integrity, and intelligence into completing projects that have a lasting impact in our local community and abroad.

For more than 110 years, Rotarians have bridged cultures and connected continents to champion peace, fight illiteracy and poverty, promote clean water and sanitation, and fight disease.

The Rotary Club of Maleny was chartered on 22 May 1959 with 20 charter members who represented the "Who's Who" of Maleny at the time: Norm Tesch, Vic Waddell, Kev Neale, Edgar Cranney, Joe Spooner, Ivor Dunsdon, Ron Bishop, Rixon Bumett, Phil Bell, Bert Brooker, Wally Bumett, Hec Buxton, Brian Cole, Roger Dark, Merv Freeman, George Gibson, Clarrie Skerman, Arthur Tesch, Jim Waddell and David Wilson.

The inaugural president was Norm Tesch. A charter dinner was held on Saturday 10 October 1959 in the RSL Hall, catered for by the CWA, one of the biggest events in Maleny at that time.

Today the only surviving charter member is David Wilson who was then the youngest member of the club. In 2019, when the club celebrated its 60th anniversary, David recounted many stories about the early years in the club.

The rich history of the Rotary Club of Maleny is integral with the

history of the town - in fact the first project of the fledgling club in 1959 was to create and maintain 'the reserve and sanctuary' which became Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.

While many things have changed since the club was chartered, what has stayed the same is that Rotary is an organisation which stands for service to others, hence the motto "Service above Self", and the principle of "Doing good in the world".

Originally membership was based on the classification principle - with each member coming from a different business or profession.

This was very rigid and clubs could only have one member in each classification. As Maleny was a dairying community with



many of the members in this industry, the club had to be inventive when assigning classifications to members. This led to classifications such as dairy farming-Jersey, dairy farming-Friesian, agriculture-dairy, milk production etc.

Another major change came in the late 1980's when Rotary

International approved the admission of women to membership. It was 1996 before the club inducted its first female members when 3 women all of whom had been Rotarians in other clubs were inducted.

Membership is now open to people from all walks of life who wish to enjoy the opportunities of fellowship, self-development, leadership, and community service that Rotary provides.

In 2009 club historian, Jack Wilcox, published Rotary in Maleny - 50 Years of Service. Jack's book remains not only a history of the club but a social history of the town over that 50 years.

In 2020 the Maleny Rotary Club has 29 active members.

Pre-COVID-19 the club met at the Maleny Hotel on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of each month but we are now venturing into Zoom meetings!

The club is visible and active in the community with many hands-on local projects as well as supporting projects in Nepal, Zambia, and Tanzania and the Global

eradication of Polio - a major Project founded by Rotary in partnership with the WHO.

Interested in joining? Contact President Sherryl Gregory at:

president.maleny@rotary9600.org
and you can follow us on
FaceBook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Maleny-122832714731654/>

<https://malenysportandrec.org.au/>

[Maleny District Sport and Recreation Club Inc](#)

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