

Maleny Show Society honorary life members recognised

By Sonia Clark

Maleny Show Society has a long and proud tradition of delivering an outstanding regional show experience, driven by a tireless team of dedicated community volunteers. While every contribution, regardless of size, is highly valued, some members have devoted themselves tirelessly over such a remarkable period of time that their efforts deserve additional recognition.

This year, the Maleny Show Society pays special tribute to a number of long-standing members with the distinction of honorary life membership.

Florence Woods

Florence first became involved with the show in the mid-1970s, between her commitments of helping to run the family dairy farms and raising her eight children. Husband Frank would always lend a hand and equipment for the show, and Florence would help with the catering, making sandwiches and refreshments.

She said working with the other show society members was wonderful, as everyone liked each other and got along. It was the companionship, friendship and a sense of belonging to a close community that really stood out.

While it was wonderful to be recognised for her work over the years, Florence certainly hasn't looked for recognition as she was working like many others to help out her neighbours and friends.



Florence fondly recalls that a highlight was the way that show members would all gravitate together after lunch to the pavilion verandah area to catch up and watch the ring events from the best vantage point. "I would love to watch the grand parade, which was always spectacular, as well as the horses in ring jumping events. I also used to particularly enjoy watching the dogs on the utes," Florence said.

“ Everyone looked out for each other in the show society. It was like a good family filled with camaraderie, fun and affection ”

Ian Aldred

Since the early 1980s, many would recognise Ian as the gentleman on the front gate at the show handling the admission fees and food stalls money. Ian said he thoroughly enjoyed all the years that he, and previously his wife Beryle, had been involved in the show. He laughed that over the years, regular exhibitors and patrons would always say "still alive then Ian" as they arrived and then "see you next year" with a thumbs up as they left.

He remembers one year a man from Brisbane who had forgotten his wallet arrived so Ian lent him \$100, remarking to the bloke, who couldn't believe that a stranger would do that for him, that "he had an honest face". Ian was pleased to say that the stranger did send the money back to him.

Ian has always been involved with the show working committee, putting his jack-of-all-trades skills to use around the grounds, with many a painted surface under his belt. His favourite part of the show was the plane drop of parachutists carrying the Australian flag as well as the dairy cattle.

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“ It was just what you did! We all helped out and cooked, worked on our farms, attended the show and supported each other ”

Margaret Wild

Margaret Wild and her husband Laurie moved to their Bald Knob dairy property after World War II. From then on they volunteered with the show society and have always been heavily involved with horses. Margaret was involved in the catering side of the show and remembers the early days when the show ball was still held on the same weekend as the show. She would get up early to milk the cows, spend all day at the show and then the night at the show ball helping out and socialising, before returning home to milk the cows again.

Margaret would help out with meals for competitors and along with others would help run the horse stall near the main ring. She later took over the show catering and continued to help out until a few years ago. Margaret said that while she was very proud to have been awarded an honorary life membership, so many others also contributed.

"It was just what you did! We all helped out and cooked, worked on our farms, attended the show and supported each other," Margaret said.

Shirley and Lloyd Larney

After returning to Maleny in 1969 Shirley and Lloyd became involved with the show society in the mid-1970s.

Lloyd would always help out with the setting up and then clearing up after every show and would also help out with the Rotary stall and at the front gate.

Shirley stepped up to become a handicraft steward when Del McDonald retired from the position and said she



thoroughly enjoyed her time, particularly working alongside Meg Thomas and Marie Closkey.

Shirley said she loved embroidery but it was the long-term friendships she developed through working with others that really stands out in her mind.

She has great memories of her time with the show. As she hated housework, she always loved the excuse to get out and get busy with show work! "Everyone was just great to be around. We all worked together well and had the same thought, which was to make the pavilion look wonderful and to make the displays really good. It was always great to be involved," Shirley said.



Hilda Penney

Hilda and husband Ron contributed to the show for more than 60 years.



Hilda was involved with the floral art and flower section of the pavilion. Her initial interest in flowers developed through her friendship with Ellen Riordan (whose gardens at Witta would often feature in the 'Nambour Chronicle').

She also worked closely with Peg Burnett with the cut flowers and later the floral art section.

In later years, Hilda was also a regular contributor and exhibitor to the handicraft displays with her cross stitching, knitting and counter thread work.

As the family lived on their farm at Witta, working to put the show on each year and attending the show were always great opportunities to spend enjoyable times with other dairy families from the area, and socialise with friends from Maleny.

Hilda very much enjoyed her involvement with the show society community.

For more about the Maleny Show Society, visit www.malenysowsociety.org.au.