



# Maleny District Sport & Recreation Club Community Newsletter

## “A History of the Maleny Showgrounds Reserve”

This week as we head towards Friday and Saturday's Maleny Show 2022, we are sharing a beautiful little historical story, as recorded in the Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser on Friday 15th May 1925, by a writer with the nom de plume of "Pioneer".

The journalist wrote in the rich, flowery language of the time. For those who are keen on local history, here is the story how Maleny came to have its own grounds and Agricultural Show in 1923.

### Maleny Show and Recreation Reserve

"On the southern banks of the Obi Creek, the Maleny Show and Recreation Reserve contains an area of 18 acres and 2 roods on Portion 1271,

Parish of Maleny, County of March. It is one of the most conveniently situated public reserves outside the cities in Queensland. Yes! One only has to look over it to discover the natural advantages it has as a show and sports ground.

"A beautiful flat of several acres, with a gradual rising hill on the western side – an ideal spot from which to view the activities of the ring, and the beautiful creek running along the northern boundary, where cattle and horses can be watered most conveniently"

Willow trees have been planted along the banks of this creek and ornamental trees are to be planted around the ring, adding beauty to the grounds. The acquisition of this ground, forms rather interesting reading – so let me to my task.



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## ***A History of the Maleny Showgrounds Reserve Continued from Page 1***

Some twenty odd years ago, when the dairy pioneers of the Blackall Range thought it desirable to build a butter factory, the spot selected was centrally situated on the banks of the Obi Creek. The name chosen was the Maleny Co-operative Dairy Company, and gradually the township spread out in this vicinity.

At this time, and for a few years afterwards, there was no provision made for a public reserve for recreation purposes, Maleny township having been built on private property. As years rolled by, this want became more and more pronounced.



*Donkeys tethered in the new Showgrounds C1922*

In the early pioneer days most of the local sports meetings were held in Walker's paddock, and later, in Dunlop's paddock. (Note: Dunlop's Paddock is now the back oval of the Maleny Primary School). The district owes a deep debt of gratitude to the owners of these properties, where many pleasant days were spent by old and young alike, and where much money was raised for local purposes." (Written by 'Pioneer')

We pick up the rest of the story with records about Maleny Show's history regarding the development of the Maleny Showgrounds, taken from Trove and the Nambour Chronicle

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## A History of the Maleny Showgrounds Reserve

and North Coast Advertiser as follows.

The necessity of a public reserve was often spoken of by early residents. It was the Maleny branch of the Queensland Farmers Union that took the first steps, which ultimately resulted in the procuring of the present site.

In 1919 the Landsborough Shire Council was asked to procure ground in Maleny suitable for recreation purposes. Eventually "18 acres and 2 roods" were procured.

A public meeting of rate payers was called and a 'provisional committee' with Mr. A. M. Hunt as chairman and Mr. W. H. Simmons as secretary was appointed. This committee eventually recommended the block of land now known as the Maleny Show and Recreation Reserve.

Steps were taken to purchase this property from Mrs Chas Walker, but the price asked was prohibitive: therefore, it only remained for the Council to take the necessary action, and resume the portion required.

It was not until 1922 that Chairman Tytherleigh was officially notified that the reserve had been vested in the Council, as trustees. When this news came to the provisional committee, no

time was lost in convening a public meeting.

Discussion ensued whether a Show and Recreation Society to be formed, or an Agricultural, Industrial, Pastoral and Recreational Society. Cr Tytherleigh presided, and the following resolution was carried unanimously: 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to form a Show and Recreation Society in Maleny.' The role of provisional show committee had ended.

The 1925 Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser (15 May 1925) lists the 42 men on the first Show Committee:

Messrs. A. C. K. Cooke, A. M. Hunt, junr. Tytherleigh, A. Fleming, C. H. Dinning, J. N. Robinson, Thomas Porter, P. Daley, E. S. Webster, A. N. Webster, Geo. McCarthy, S. A. Sallaway, A. McLean, G. Smith, A. J. Bryce, Robt. Bryce, Chas. Bryce, E. Hunt, D. C. Johnstone, Jno. Grigor, senr, A. S. Cooke, H. O. Rees, junr, E. Thynne, R. Gibson, A. J. French, W. Walker,

F. H. B. Hirst, Thomas McLean, G. B. Sutton, Ben Bryce, F. E. Knott, J. B. Gibson, Alf Robinson, Jas. Robinson, R. J. Bodley, J. Grigor, junr, Reg. Cox, Alf. Kropp, A. Boxsell, A. Horn, C. Moffit and W. H. Harder.

It was decided to hold the first Maleny Show on the 26th and 27th of April, 1923. The new committee was then faced with the Herculean task of changing a veritable wilderness of lantana, wild tobacco, and undergrowth into a ground sufficiently well improved so that a show could be held.

The front page photo is a forerunner to our annual show, taken in 1917 at a Sports Day on Dunlop's Flats, to raise money for Maleny's Ambulance.

Jumping has a long history at the Maleny Show where many National Champion Horses have performed. The rider in the photo was Lou Rough, an uncle to the late Frank Rough, who worked at the Butter Factory at the time.



*A Sunday School and Community Picnic in Dunlop's Paddock 1910/11*

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