

*Crowal Aged Care Centre  
Maleny*



*High Care Lodges  
Official Opening and Dedication  
5th June 1999*



**Centres For Retirement Living**

*An Agency of the Division of Aged Care & Domiciliary Services within  
The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod*



In 1905 Ben Bryce purchased the 40 acres of land that Erowal now stands on from Izacc Burgess. He married in 1913 and Isabel was born in the old homestead on 8th November the following year. In her life Isabel has shown her care for people through her involvement in the Red Cross, C.W.A., Endeavour Foundation, Scouting & Guiding, Pony Riding for the Disabled, Committee on the Ageing, Hospital Auxiliary, Ben Bryce Park Auxiliary and Uniting Church organist.

For many years Isabel and her sister, Phyllis shared a dream to see a centre developed on the property to be used for the care of the elderly.

The generosity and dreams of Isabel and Phyllis have culminated in the building of the new 26 bed high care nursing centre to compliment the 53 bed hostel (additional 10 bed wing built 1992) and 16 independent living units (additional 8 units built 1994) all set in lush lawns and gardens.

The desire to build a Nursing Home facility at Maleny had been strong throughout the 1990's. Finally in 1996 the Department of Health and Community Services, as it was then known, publicly advertised the availability of high care places. Eventually in 1997 Centres for Retirement Living were given approval to construct a 26-bed facility.

The task was to construct a facility which not only built upon previous knowledge and expertise but also fitted in with the concepts muted in the then "soon to be declared" Aged Care Act (became law 1.10.97). Via the Resident Classification Scale and its subsequent funding implications, this Act brought about principles of Ageing-in-place and made it possible, for the first time to combine both high and low care under the same roof.

Planning commenced in July 1997 with construction commencing in July 1998 and finishing 7 months later in February 1999. The final cost was \$3 million dollars including \$2.4 million building works. These building works not only covered the Nursing Home but also a number of improvements in both the Hostel and the overall site. Such projects would be extremely difficult to attempt without the supportive bridging finance assistance provided by the Uniting Church Investment Service.

To build the new centre, Isabel's house had to be demolished and the old homestead relocated. The Maleny Historical Society relocated the original homestead below the Baptist church and is renovating it as an information centre.

The new high care centre also received assistance from the generosity of the late Clarice (Tassie) Cooke. Her generous donation was put to good use in fitting out the centre with nothing but the best in furnishings and equipment that will make the life for the residents of Erowal both enjoyable and comfortable. Tassie resided in Maleny during the latter part of her life and became firm friends with Isabel and Phyllis Bryce sharing the same ideals and vision for Maleny – the establishment of a Nursing Home. This beautiful Home is certainly a wonderful tribute to a very generous and caring lady and we thank her for her generosity.

The local CRL Sub Committee has also been generous with a donation from the farm funds towards the fitting out of the centre.

We would also like to thank the Maleny community, service clubs, volunteers, individuals and groups for their generosity and ongoing support of Erowal. Please accept our personal thanks on behalf of the residents and staff of Erowal.



*The Bryce Family from left to right. Back - Phyllis, Marjorie, and Isabel. Front - Ben and Priscilla*



*The new Erowal reception and foyer.*



*The new Erowal chapel.*



*The late Clarice (Tassie) Cooke.*



*Residents, Staff and Committee in the entrance of the new centre.*