

The Story of our Universal Providers IGA Store in Maleny from 1905

John Tytherleigh was born in London in 1867 and came to Australia at 19 years of age. He had 30 shillings in his pocket and an aunt and uncle living in Brisbane who owned a small mixed business. He worked for them for a time. He came to Landsborough after being appointed to work for D. McNab when he was 22 years. In 1894 he started his own business and the first thing he bought was a case of assorted boots & shoes from L C Dixon, a firm still in existence in Brisbane. The agreement was for him to pay for the boots when he could.

A dispute over a pair of scissors resulted in him leaving McNabs so John stored his box of footwear. He borrowed a horse "Ginger" to ride to Brisbane to collect orders and seek support. He travelled via Buderim, Diddillibah, Bli Bli, Nambour, Dulong, Mapleton Montville etc. He collected orders along the way and eventually established his first store Tytherleigh & Phillips in Landsborough, with the help from a friend called Phillips.

John's next venture was to employ travelling salesmen to collect and deliver orders to Woombye, Maleny Beerwah & Caloundra Districts. The salesmen left Landsborough with pack horses, loaded, to deliver good and take new orders. This led to the eventual establishment of shops in these areas.

The Maleny store was established in 1905. It was managed by John's brother Alf. John T sponsored a friend J S Waters from England and John W was trained for the Woombye store. John Waters eventually became the Maleny Manager for many years. There were no good roads to Maleny and the supplies were carried on pack horses and bullock wagons. Later John Tytherleigh acquired a horse team, wagon and driver to transport their own stock. During the Dairy Farming era in Maleny, all commerce revolved around the monthly payment for cream. Farmers would settled their monthly account with the cream cheque often directly by the ES&A bank as direct debit with accounts appearing the bank statement.

Farmers ordered their supplies through the cream truck who were the life line of the town. The drivers delivered cream, picked up orders from various suppliers (bread, meat, groceries, mail, drapery, hardware etc) and also these cream trucks were the school buses. In their spare time they were general carriers co-operating with the main carriers from the rail head in Landsborough.

The district was under the Caboolture Shire and eventually became the Landsborough Shire and John Tytherleigh was the first Shire Chairman. During his 39 years of residence in Landsborough, John took an active interest in public affairs. He was always looked upon as a wonderful clear-minded & able leader with a very

broad Christian mind. Under John's leadership the Landsborough School of Arts was built in memory of the fallen and after months of discussion the Shire Hall was built in Landsborough, not Maleny. His Council received £200.000 from the Main Roads as a free gift and many fine roads within the Shire were then built. After his active interest in public life he never neglected his business & family life. He had a family of 4 daughters & 2 sons, all of whom were involved in the Tytherleigh Empire.

In Landsborough, John built a cafe next door to this store for daughter Ruby. His eldest son Ted managed the Maleny Store for a while. He established a large dairy farm in Bridge Creek for sons Alf & Ted but neither of the boys were interested in farming. The property was share farmed for many years and the farmhouse still stands today.

Alf eventually managed the grocery section of the Maleny Store until WW2 when he joined the Air Force. During these years John Waters, (John friend) managed the Maleny Drapery Store and his daughter Lorna (Peterson) managed the grocery section. Male labour was in short supply. Towards the end of the war, John's daughter Rose T took over the management of the Maleny Store. When Alf returned from the war he found it difficult to take on where he left off, resulting in a family split. Alf then started up in opposition in an opposition grocery business in Harry Lyons bus depot with his best friend Percy Freeman. The business was known as Tytherleigh & Freeman. As the business grew they moved to Harry Lyons new premises (Maple St Co-op). Money was tight and Alf established a new revolutionary system called "Maleny Cash & Carry". The shoppers selected their own pre packed goods and paid cash.

After the death of Alf's partner Percy, his Father John bought out his opposition and re-established Alf in the Tytherleigh Store during the 50's. Maleny Tytherleigh's store was eventually bought out by Alf's opposition, G Eustace, in the early 60's. Later the store was bought by W Ross when it was 4 Square, then Struben & Cook in the 70's when the store became a Supa-Valu Food market, Frews in the 80's and Outridges from the early 90's. Rob Outridge reintroduced the Universal Providers trademark for Maleny Super IGA.

In recognition of Maleny's One Hundred Years of Commerce, the Maleny Super IGA store in the past century has continually been Maleny's main grocery store and has only had 6 owners.