

The Union Church

The first church in Maleny was the Union Church built on land donated by Francis Dunlop. It opened in 1907 in Bunya St. It was built by Ben & Charles Bryce with the help of locals. It was a Union Church because all denominations held their services alternatively on Sundays.

The price was increased and groups decided to build their own places of worship. The first to leave were the Baptists, then the Anglicans and the Presbyterians. The Methodists continued to use the church until 1952 when the building was sold to the Methodists and relocated to the corner of Coral & Myrtle Streets. The land in Bunya St was bought by Ted Hankinson.



Union Church on Bunya St. C1910



Ted & Phyllis (Wiley) Hankinson
Wedding Day,
Union Church, Maleny 1937.
Dave Hankinson behind Ted with
unidentified person



Scout Group C1930 at the Union Church, Bunya St
Pastor Cornish and it could be Heck Gibson second
from left.

Photo from Shirley Larney

Union Church Organ

This organ was donated to Maleny's first church, the Maleny Union Church which opened in Bunya St in 1907 on land donated by Francis Dunlop. All the religions in Maleny worshipped in this church until they built their own churches. In 1952 the church was sold and shifted into Maleny (cnr Coral & Myrtle St) to become the Methodist Church.

The organ was bought by Charles Bryce's daughter Beryl who took it to Brisbane. When Beryl died, her nephew Ian Bryce bought it back to Maleny. The stool & music all belong with the organ.

It was manufactured by Mason & Hamlin Organ Company in Boston.

It's an euphonium organ, which has a manual or pedal reed for increased volume.



**Francis Dunlop Estate & the Union of Churches
To; Mr William Collard Esq, Maleny
from
Solicitors: Nicol Robinson & Fox**

NICOL ROBINSON & FOX
S O L I C I T O R S

JAMES NICOL ROBINSON
COMMISSIONER OF HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA AND
OF SUPREME COURTS OF ALL AUSTRALIAN STATES
NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI
LEX SEYMOUR DUNN, B.A. LL.B.

TELEPHONE B 1671 (2 LINES)
CABLE ADDRESS "HOFTAL"

BOX 380 E G.P.O. OR
UNION TRUSTEE CHAMBERS
(SECOND FLOOR)
400 QUEEN STREET

Brisbane.

JNR/NM

8th November, 1950.

William Collard Esq.,
MALENY.

Dear Sir,

re: Francis Dunlop Estate
and the Union of Churches

Referring to your interview with the writer on Saturday last, we hold the Deed of the land which the late Francis Dunlop many years ago, donated to what was known as the Union of Churches. We understand from Mr. John Skerman, one of the Trustees appointed by Mr. Dunlop to hold the land, that in the early days of Maleny, there were no distinct churches and those persons professing the Church of England Faith and also the Presbyterians and the Methodists, joined together for public worship under the above term, the Union of Churches and so that a building could be erected in which public worship could take place, Francis Dunlop gave to the Trustees, selected by the above body, certain lands to hold in trust for this Union of Churches and on which a church was erected and still stands, but is no longer of use for the purpose of this trust. We understand from you, that at a meeting of representatives of the Church of England, Presbyterians and the Methodists in Maleny, it was unanimously agreed that the above trust had failed in that the objects for which it was established, no longer exist and all parties agreed to the sale of the building, which is to be removed and that the land itself, should be returned to the Donor's estate.

We find that we have entered up the death of Francis Dunlop and also of Walter Cabbage, they being both now dead, so that the Deed is in John Skerman's name only as surviving trustee and we will arrange with him to transfer it to the Estate.

We would like to be supplied by you with a copy of the resolution in connection with this matter evidencing that the Trust has failed and as to the disposal of the building, this being the resolution by representatives of each of the above churches.

We understand you are entrusted with the carrying out of the matter and the distribution of the proceeds for the sale of the church building, after payment of any debts incurred by Mr. Skerman in the matter. He already has an account of ours for £ / / and to complete the transaction and return the land to the Dunlop Estate, we estimate our costs at £21/-/-.

Yours faithfully,

Nicol Robinson & Fox



38b Coral Street, Maleny

At the time of research, the building operates as James Frames

Desley Malone
Maleny Historical Memories
November 2023