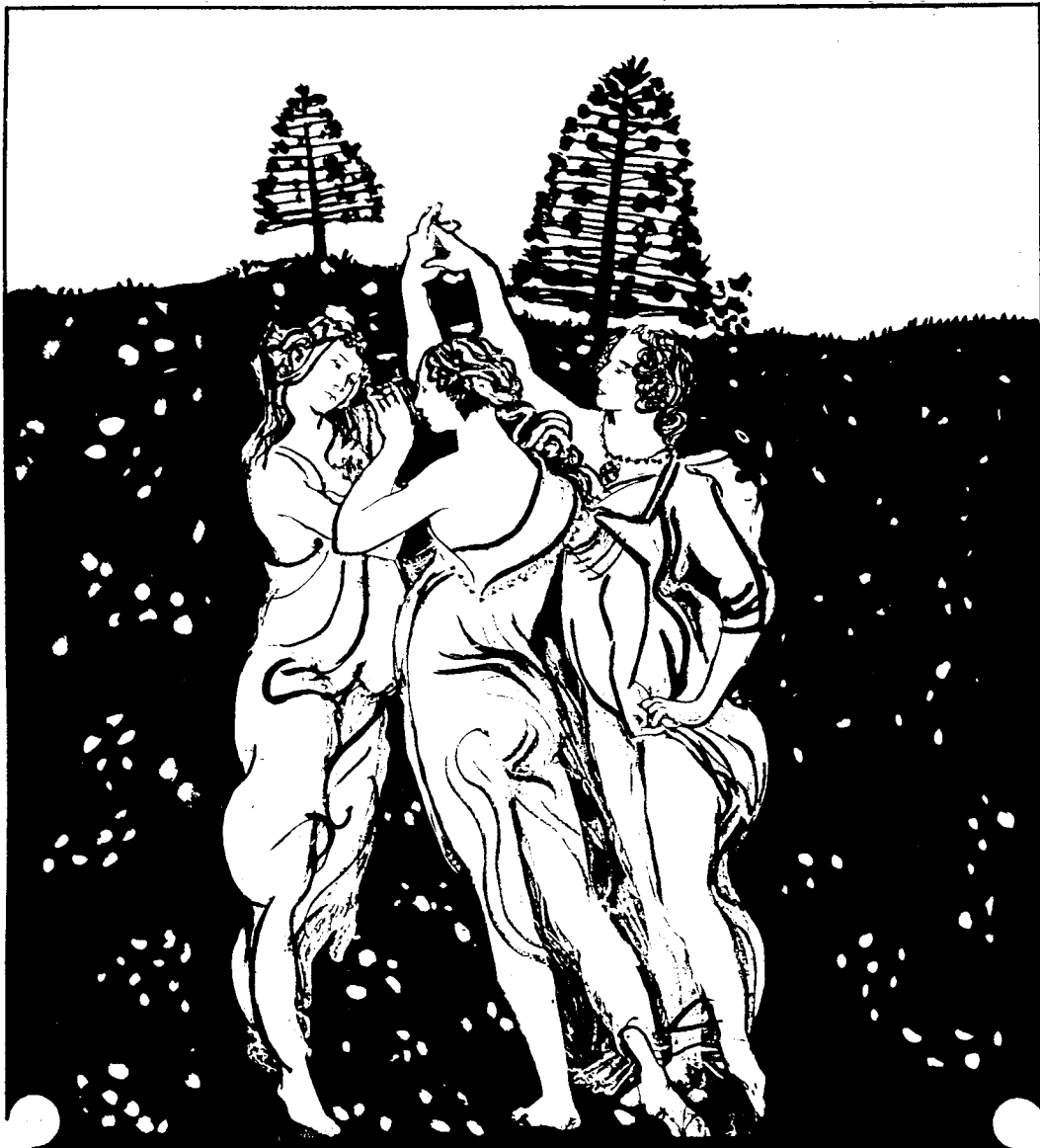


# Maleny Co-operatives

A QUARTERLY REVIEW

Volume 1, Issue 4

4th Quarter 1990



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## EDITORIAL

**T**his Spring is going to be celebrated with an educational festival to present the visions and manifestations of the Maleny Co-operatives and related groups. Find a registration form and program of the Maleny Spring Festival in the centre of this issue.

In this time of great economic change it is important to recognise the value of our Co-ops in contributing to the true 'quality' of Maleny life. Where lies our future? How can we keep an economy local? Where can we find local resources for the ever increasing cost of life? How can we maintain a green world where houses are going up faster than trees ....

Going on to our second volume we would wish for more variety of contributions. Why don't you write us a letter with your point of view or send us a drawing? The next year may bring a thirdly instead of a quarterly review spacing our thoughts and resources out for a bit.



The Maleny Co-operatives Review is published by a committee comprised of representatives of the Co-ops.

### Committee members are:

Meg Barrett, Peter Pamment, Jill Jordan, Janel Skrandies, Margi O'Connell, Denise Soya, Jenny Law, Trevor Angel, Bob Sample

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Desktop Publishing by Trevor Angel, Fruition Personal Publishing, C.E.D.A. offices, Beechwood Place, Maple St., Maleny Ph. 943 922

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## CO-OPERATIVES — The Larger Picture



**I**N looking at the broad picture that co-operatives present, it may be helpful to examine those basic principles that all co-operatives, no matter what their scope, historical origins, geographical sphere or philosophical underpinnings, encompass. These six principles, set out by the International Co-operative Alliance, formed part of the cover of the last issue (Vol.1, Issue 3) of this newsletter - the peaks of the mountains wherein lies the power of the earth.

The first two of the principles governing co-operatives deal with the democratic nature of the organisation; principles relating to open and voluntary membership and to democratic control of the organisation by the means of a one-person one-vote rule. The next principles enshrine the importance of membership involvement as being the key to the success of the co-operative. These principles talk about how the surplus arising from the co-operative's activities has to be disbursed to members in proportion to the business each member transacts with the co-op rather than being proportional to the amount of capital each member invests in his/her co-operative. The fifth and sixth principles relate to the value that co-operatives place on education - not only of members, but of the community in which the co-op establishes itself - and the importance of co-operatives supporting each other in a truly co-operative manner.

Having elucidated the general principles which govern the activities of all co-operatives, let us examine the scope of activities of co-ops in our current economic setting. World-wide, co-operatives have been set up in 72 countries and have formed a cohesive

organisation to network the individual organisations. This body, the International Co-operative Alliance, has its headquarters in Geneva, and is affiliated with the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation. Historically, co-operatives have been around in some form or other since 1750BC in Babylon, experiencing a huge revival in Britain in the 19th century. In Australia, they were introduced in the 1840's, with a peak in the early part of this century and the promise of a similar peak in its infancy now.

At this point in time, co-operatives cover a wide range of areas of goods and services provision. There are co-operatives covering primary production, all manner of trading in goods and services, housing and credit co-operatives, community settlement co-operatives (whose primary object is to settle land) and the community advancement co-ops. This last category of co-operative encompasses the provision of an enormous range of services, through from hospitals and child care centres to waste management (Wastebusters is an example of this). In Australia alone, there are over 6000 co-operatives, with a membership of in excess of 6 million. These co-ops employ over 52,000 workers, and have an asset base of \$35 billion. Goods and services produced annually by these co-operatives totals more than \$16 billion.

Thus, it may be seen that co-operatives are not just quaint little organisations that are an anomaly on the economic scene, but a vibrant sector which has its roots firmly embedded in people's higher motives. Since they are founded with the common good in mind, it is common to see them flourish

wherever a corrupt or poorly functioning economic system reigns. One of the most successful examples is to be seen in the vast complex of co-operatives in Mondragon, in the Basque region of Spain. Following the economic devastation of the region during its struggles with Franco, the people in this region began, in the mid-50's, to reshape their economic destiny with a strategy that was so simple and so profound that it has been an inspiration to many so-called more advanced societies.

It is not by accident that the Mondragon co-operatives' roots began in education. A local Catholic priest trained five young lads in the metal trade and helped them to establish their first co-operative, which initially made paraffin stoves. Several more such enterprises followed the success of this first one in 1956, and then came the formation of the first co-operative bank, the Cajor Laborale Populaire - the People's Bank. Not only had people claimed back the means of production, but they had also secured the means to capitalise such means of production! The co-operative system went from strength to strength, with co-operative schools and universities, hospitals research and development institutions and a social security system being formed. All owned by the members! Currently, there are over 200 co-operatives in this tiny region, with approximately 10% of the Basque population being involved in the sector.

Returning to the Australian scene, we must enquire into the state of co-operatives today. Looking at the majority of those co-ops which began with the expansion of the rural sector at the turn of the last century, we see organisations which to all intents and purposes look very much like any big business. This perception can extend even to members of those co-operatives, who feel as though they have very little control over the affairs of their co-op even though it has been set up to provide them with this control. These

members have in the main abnegated their responsibilities as members. In allowing their elected Board of Directors and those managing the affairs of their co-operative on a day-to-day basis to lose touch with the wishes of the membership, they sow the seeds for the demise of their organisation.

The before-mentioned "new wave" of co-operatives that is springing up, not only round Australia, but all around the world, seeks to address this and other important issues that have not been addressed to date by the co-operative movement. These issues have been raised because of our special niche in history at this time, where environmental factors have come into prominence in a way that we cannot ignore. Or if we do, we do so at our own peril! Another important issue that the new co-operatives are calling into question is that of the ethical basis of the co-operative activity. It is not enough that the co-ops should be able to survive in the market-place, but they must also do so with integrity and by sticking to their principles of environmental and social responsibility. It was quite a shock to learn from a representative of the Mondragon co-operatives who visited Australia in 1986 that the co-op bank did not have a policy of disinvestment from socially and environmentally irresponsible projects when they chose where to place their capital (apart from that which is

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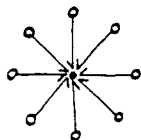
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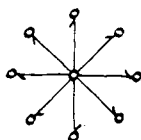
placed with their own member organisations). Yet another issue being examined by the newer co-operatives is the structural correctness of the organisations. It is all very well enshrining principles of equality into a legal framework, but if the organisation does not embody these same principles of equality into its operations, the organisation is living a lie. Thus, the new co-ops seek to live these principles out in a less hierarchical work environment, putting their actions where their mouths are.

What is the future for co-operatives as the planet moves towards its destiny and fortunes are made and lost overnight in this ever-changing economic climate? I can only answer this question in reference to our own co-operatives in Maleny and in reference to our commitment to the last two principles of co-operation discussed at the beginning of this article. I look around at the growth in the self-confidence of people in our little community of Maleny, the satisfaction that they have in their lives while endeavouring to live lightly on the earth, and I believe that this has developed in some measure as a result of their participation in the vigorous co-operative movement in the district. And, being a great believer in education as the prime source of social change and support networks as the prime tool for growth, I have reason to feel hopeful that we can continue to sustain ourselves without being too heavy a drain on the ecological (including both physical and human) resources around us.

Acknowledgement: Statistics are taken from the Australian Association of Co-operatives booklet "Co-operatives" by Mary Donnell.



Multiplicity in unity



Unity in multiplicity

*This we know.  
The earth  
does not belong to man.  
Man  
belongs to the earth.  
All things are united  
like the blood that unites  
us all...  
Man did not weave  
the web of life,  
he is merely a strand in it.  
Whatever he does to the web  
he does to himself.*  
Chief Seattle

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## The Debt Crisis

◇ *Peter Pamment*

**T**here is a lot of talk about "the debt crisis" these days. What is the debt crisis? Who's in debt to whom? And what does local debt mean to your credit union?

Most of the media coverage of the debt crisis is about Australia's overseas debt and about the so called "Third World Debt". Australia's debt is currently running at about \$21 billion each year and totals well over \$100 billion. The interest and repayments on our debt drains a lot of the productive capacity of the country, but we still continue to import goods and cheerfully ignore the consequences. The government have set high interest rates in an attempt to curb spending, but this has only caused problems to some people and has been largely ineffective.

The third(!) world debt crisis is a much bigger problem as many poor countries have been enticed to borrow huge amounts of capital to develop (or destroy!) their countries. Now with the downturn in the world economy some do not have the means to pay back the interest, let alone the capital.

All these debts are owed to the large world banking groups. Some banks are not just big, they are huge. They have assets larger than some countries and they are run along not just the profit motive lines, but on outright greed. They make huge profits and some are so large that the debt crisis is no more than a hiccup to them. A graphic example of this was reported in a TV documentary a few

weeks back:

A spokesperson from the English Midlands' Bank was interviewed about their third world debt. They reported that the bank had made a provision for 50% of their debt in this year. (A provision is like putting money in your phone jar for when the bill comes in). This provision had reduced their tax bill by \$1.5 Billion. (NB Not their profit.. Their TAX bill!!). The documentary reporters commented that this was about the same amount that the British Government spend on overseas aid this year, thus the British people were subsidising the bank to the same amount as all overseas aid. The third world countries have not yet defaulted on the loans, so the bank is getting the best of both worlds(!). In simple terms this debt crisis means a transfer of wealth from poor countries to the rich countries.

On a local level your Credit Union runs in a very different way. Like the banks we do have a provision for bad debts, the amount provided being set by the State Government that controls us. Unlike the banks the Credit Union runs very lean and is not there to make large profits. It is there to serve members and to make only moderate profits. In the last year a number of our members who had loans (a debt to the CU) have been hit by their own debt crisis and have defaulted on their agreements with your Credit Union.

Unfortunately the provision the CU had, has not covered these bad debts and the CU has sustained a loss for the year. Unlike the

Midland Bank it means more than reduced profits and tax subsidies; it means an impost on all members. The Credit Union will have to increase some new loan rates, some charges and impose some new fees and charges to recover these losses and to cover the cost of some services that the CU is currently absorbing. They are also reviewing security on loans, loan procedures and levels of debt provision to ensure that future bad debts are minimised as much as possible.

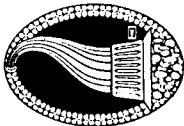
Debt crisis management for an individual in a caring community like Maleny is no problem. Unlike the third world crisis where the IMF acts like big brother and the rich countries show no compassion to the poor, there is a network established to help people out. Credit Union staff or financial counsellors are always ready to give advice and assistance. Most financial problems can be easily managed once they are acknowledged as a problem and assistance sought.

Let's all hope the western world wakes up to the so called "Third World Debt Crisis" and shows some compassion and global concern before it's too late for the planet.



## MALENY CREDIT UNION SURVEY

Due to this issue being brought forward a few weeks, the results of the survey promised in the last issue are not available. In fact the survey itself will only be coming out in the few weeks before this issue! If you are reading this and have not yet completed a survey form, please do so next time you drop into the Credit Union. The next issue WILL have feedback from the survey.



# PROUT

## Community and Economy – part 2

◇ *Michael Towsey*

In the previous article, we arrived at a general principle of trading; money transactions or multilateral trading is best used within a community because of its convenience. Potential instabilities can be corrected due to the cultural and political coherence of the community. On the other hand barter or bilateral trading is best used between communities because this system prevents one community gaining at the expense of another. As a corollary, the further two communities are apart, whether in distance, culture or politics, the more bilateral trading is to be preferred over multilateral trading.

The term 'community' has so far been used in a vague sense. In fact in any country there is a hierarchy of communities, as for example the village, the district, the province, the state and the country itself. And of course at the top of the hierarchy, the world is a global community. According to P.R.Sarkar (the propounder of PROUT), in larger countries such as India and Australia there should be three levels of economic organisation; the 'block', the region or province and the federal level. A 'block' is something akin to a Shire or Council with a population of about 10,000 to 100,000 people, but it is much more. It is best compared to the bioregional concept developed by Permaculture.

A bioregion is an area of land that is sufficiently homogenous to be considered an ecological and social unit for purposes of community and economic planning. It may be defined by a river catchment or a high altitude plateau. In Australia it turns out that bioregions (as deter-

mined by the Permaculture Association) have at least some correspondence to Aboriginal tribal areas prior to European settlement. Bioregions in highly productive, high rainfall, coastal or hilly areas are smaller in size, whereas bioregions in inland, dry, flat areas are larger in size.

According to Sarkar, 'block' boundaries should reflect factors such as topography, climate, soil, river system and vegetation similar to the bioregion concept. But he adds that 'block' boundaries should also consider existing economic circumstances and people's aspirations. In other words people and culture are as much a part of the 'landscape' as topography and vegetation. Of course the two are interrelated because a given soil or topography gives rise to a particular agriculture which in turn gives rise to a particular economy and culture.

The block is the smallest unit of economic planning in PROUT but it is the most important. It seems to this author that the Sunshine Coast and hinterlands represent a natural economic, topographical and cultural block. Likewise the granite belt around Stanthorpe, the Darling Downs, the Brisbane Valley and the Gold Coast are all natural economic units.

The next level of economic planning is the province or region (Sarkar's term). In most countries, the intermediate level of political administration is the state, but state boundaries almost always reflect accidents of history rather than natural factors. What is the difference for example between New South Wales and Victoria? The provincial level should, like the block level, reflect ecological and cultural factors. The author has seen various proposals for regional boundaries in Australia (about fifteen or so regions including for example the Murray River Catchment and Cape York peninsula) but such detail is beyond the scope of this article.

As far as the federal level is concerned, it is to be hoped that some day soon, national boundaries will dissolve or shift so as to reflect

cultural, climatic and economic factors. Whatever the case, federal boundaries serve as a third level of integrated economic planning. Beyond the federal level, there is today an urgent need for global economic planning so as to redress huge disparities of wealth between first and third worlds, 'north' and 'south' etc. Global economic planning is also required to deal with many pollution problems such as acid rain, green house gases and ozone layer depletion.

Sarkar's policy is economic decentralisation and political centralisation. That is to say, bioregions should have as much economic independence and security as possible but within a world federation which establishes rules of trade, a uniform code of human rights and uniform codes of environmental management. Prout supports in principle, strengthening the power of the United Nations to deal with urgent global issues. But it must be acknowledged that the UN is largely impotent to deal with these problems due to lack of trust between member nations. The defect is quite simple; it is not possible to achieve a unity of parts when the parts are themselves economically and socially unstable. Only when small countries are free from the threat of economic domination by big countries will global cooperation be possible. Thus solving global problems depends upon establishing

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economic security and viability at the bioregional level and building global cooperation from the grass roots upwards. This is the wisdom behind economic decentralisation and political centralisation.

The four levels of economic planning (ie bioregion, province, federal and global) correspond to four levels of community and four levels of economic integration. It is important to recognise that these economic units are not just arbitrary units of administration but living social entites. If the world is considered to be a living organism, then the bioregions are its cellular parts and the various provinces and larger groupings might be considered as organs or anatomical parts. The comparison is much more than analogy. Economic units are living entites which must be nurtured and encouraged just as the life of each cell within the human body requires special care. And just like the cell, an economic unit must consider such issues as internal homeostasis (ie maintaining constant level of prices), balance of imports and exports, waste disposal, regulated vs uncontrolled growth and so on. In particular, economic units, like living things, require a skin to shield the inside from the vagaries of the outside.

Policies such as deregulation of the banking system, unrestricted foreign investment, repatriation of profits and floating exchange rates are harmful because they effectively pierce the skin of an economic unit and let it bleed. Indeed the whole notion of unrestricted free enterprise is contrary to economic health but the rules of the capitalist system have never been designed with any other intent than to allow the big to get bigger by sucking the life out of the small - the colonial principle.

The skin of an economic unit is therefore not just a geographical boundary. It is an economically and legislatively defined boundary. But above all it must be a natural community boundary. The ultimate unity of a community, whether it be a bioregion or federation, resides in the minds of its inhabitants - they see themselves as a single entity with common interests and aspira-

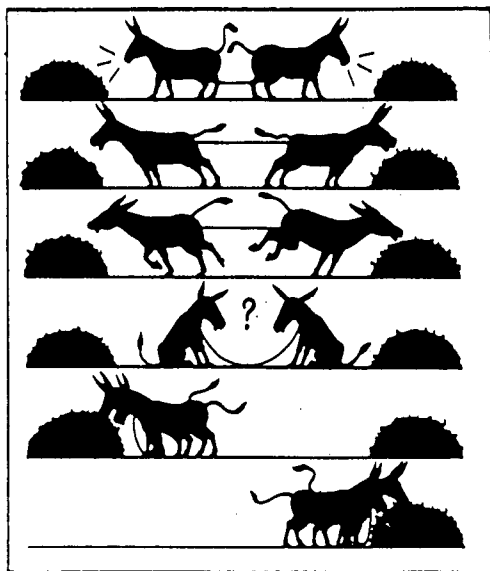
tions. Therefore very special care must be taken when establishing an economic unit that its boundaries correspond to a natural community.

In this article we have established:

- 1) the concept of a hierarchy of communities;
  - 2) the principle of economic decentralisation and political centralisation;
  - 3) that the boundaries of economic administration and planning must correspond to natural communities; and
  - 4) that economic planning must be careful to protect the 'skins' of natural communities.
- In the next article I will discuss PROUT's concept of balanced economy.



## CO-OPERATION



IS BETTER THAN CONFLICT

## THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE MALENY



◇ *Bob Sample*

**W**HY "enterprise"? What is significant or important about "enterprise" in the Maleny community? Perhaps there are people who are asking these questions, so I will convey my thoughts on the subject.

We are living in a socio-economic system where the thrust of "bigger is better" continues. At the level of our local government, divisions are being amalgamated and the probability of shire council areas being amalgamated is quite high.

At other levels of government the intervention in and control of lives is increasing with decision making taking place further and further from us. We are all affected by this trend.

In the world of trade and commerce, amalgamations and takeovers are the order of the day. The huge multinationals tend to avoid publicity but their world wide influence is staggering. Decision making in the board room is far removed from on-the-job employees.

These trends towards centralised control disempower so many people. Control of the productive resources of our world increasingly lies in the hands of fewer and fewer people. It is not a new scenario. The feudal land barons of previous centuries now assume new and grander roles as our planet becomes increasingly industrialised.

As this trend accelerates in the late 20th century, many of us are rebelling against it. We recognise the effects of this disempowerment. Benefits and other government support are in themselves disempowering.

We live in an area where employment opportunities are limited. And yet it is an area where natural resources are abundant. Add to this the pool of creative skills and

experience of so many unemployed or underemployed and you have an exciting potential for people-empowerment through small business enterprises.

However there are often necessary but missing ingredients before this potential can be realised - financial start-up capital, business management skills and marketing expertise. The Enterprise Centre Maleny project is designed to assist with these often missing ingredients.

Our aim is to encourage persons who have the ideas and skills for a small business to implement them. A basic need is to develop a business plan which will indicate if, and how long it will take for the project to become profitable. It will also show how much finance is required to establish the business. An assessment can be made of the business management assistance and training required.

By providing suitable premises at a reasonable cost, by providing secretarial support as well as management training and assistance, small business enterprises have the best chance of becoming healthy and profitable. This is the aim of the Enterprise Centre project.

Just how does this benefit our community? I believe that it does so in a number of ways. Those people who establish and succeed in their small business become more empowered and prosperous. At the same time they join the commercial activity of the Maleny region, adding to the circulating cash flow.

Perhaps more importantly they are joining a rapidly growing movement of people who are claiming the right to determine their own destiny, both as individuals and as local communities. As this movement grows, so will its influence extend further and further into our society.

## MOUNTAIN FARE CO-OPERATIVE



### THE SPRING FESTIVAL — ITS ORIGINS

◇ Meg Barrett

The Maleny Spring Festival was conceived as an idea in 1989 when several Mountain Fairies attended a Community Development Conference in Yeppoon. We were impressed by the scale and the organisation of the conference. We also became aware that when we said we were from Maleny, people displayed a greater than normal level of interest. The idea of a festival — a kind of Expo Maleny — took shape during the seven hour drive home.

Initial meetings with members of other Maleny co-ops revealed substantial support for the concept. There was the idea of a "summer school" and an "easter event" before plans solidified into the present "Spring" format. The whole thing went from "pipe dream" to real possibility with the availability of start-up funding from DEVET. Other sponsors, the Caloundra City Council, the Women's Information Service and the Australian Association of Co-operatives, provided us with resources to get the operation off the ground.

A visit to Bill Hauritz, organiser extraordinaire of festivals and events, boosted our confidence immensely. Bill gave unstintingly of his time, ideas and resources to help us plan our programme and promotional cam-

paign. Thanks, Bill!

At the time of writing, we are at the stage of having amassed *ninety workshops*, their presenters and relevant information. We have organised these people and information into a timetable, booked venues, entertainment, Mountain Fare caterers and child care givers. We have created a programme which is about to go to print. Ahead of us is the promotion, the booking process and the co-ordination of the participants' workshops, entertainers and event.

We hope to attract festival goers from all over South East Queensland, and further afield, as well as from the local community. Our aim is for a high quality educational event, with every workshop offering its recipients a valuable learning experience. Hopefully the festival will give the opportunity to learn, to share our ideas, to expand our contacts and to have a jolly good time!

Mountain Fare also has the long term aim of developing the festival as an annual event if the response in 1990 warrants it. We, as organisers, are tremendously excited at the prospect of the festival and encouraged by the very positive response from other Maleny co-operatives, groups and individuals.

### The Festival — What You'll Get

Festival goers who register for the full programme (\$48) will enjoy two nights of entertainment and two full days of workshops. On Friday 21st September, "*Visions of a Nomad*", a Sydney duo, with a big reputation as fine multi-cultural entertainers, will play at the Showgrounds pavilion.

Saturday night will see us at the pavilion again rocking along to Brisbane band "*Free Time*". Both nights, a bar will operate and

Mountain Fare food will be available. The entertainment is open to the public at \$8 per night, payable at the door.

The workshop programme for the daytime on Saturday and Sunday (22nd, 23rd Sept.) will focus on the themes of the Earth, Co-ops, Arts and Practical Crafts, Health, Local Economic Management and Women's Issues.

We hope Malenyites will welcome friends from out-of-town to stay for the weekend. Registration and payment for the workshops must be received by Monday 17th September. There is a limit to the number of people who can be accommodated in each workshop, so early booking is recommended. (See attached Registration Form). See you there.

## Maleny Spring Festival

September 21 to 23

### REGISTRATION FORM

TITLE: Ms/Mr \_\_\_\_\_  
(given names) (surname)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Workshop Preferences:

Please fill in the choices below, using the code from the program (e.g. B2) to identify each workshop. Closing date for workshops is September 17.

DAY 1	1st Preference	2nd Preference	3rd Preference
Session I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Session II	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Session III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 2			
Session IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Session V	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Session VI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I intend to camp at the Maleny Showgrounds: YES/NO

#### Payment:

Full Registration (W/shops, Entertainment)	\$48	.....
Full Registration - Concession	\$36	.....
(Please quote D.S.S. No. ....)		
Day 1 (W/shops only)	\$20	.....
Day 2 (W/shops only)	\$20	.....
Childcare: 5-12yr old — \$10/day/child or \$20/day/family		.....
Childcare: under 5 \$10/day/child		.....

TOTAL \$.....

Age of child(ren) .....

I enclose a cheque/money order for \$..... (payable to Mountain Fare Co-op)

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# MALENY

## SPRING FESTIVAL

*a Celebration of  
Community and Learning*

Maleny, Queensland  
September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>  
1990

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*on the themes of:*

#### EARTH

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- ☐ Permaculture
- ☐ Barung Landcare
- ☐ Animals As Friends

#### HEALTH

Including:

- ☐ Natural Childbirth
- ☐ Dynamic Living

#### CO-OPERATIVES

Including:

- ☐ Credit Union
- ☐ Wastebusters
- ☐ Mountain Fare

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Including:

- ☐ LETS
- ☐ Crystal Waters
- ☐ Sustainable Development
- ☐ Practical Tools

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Including:

- ☐ Car Mechanics for Women
- ☐ Women in Relationships

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(\$36 concession)  
(workshops and entertainment)  
or  
\$20 per day of workshops  
\$8 per night of entertainment

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21/9 Friday  
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22/9 Saturday  
"Free Time"  
23/9 Sunday  
Spring Equinox Celebration

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WORKSHOPS  
BY  
17 SEPT**

For further information contact:  
Meg Barrett (074) 942 880  
Lillian Okorn (074) 942 668  
C.E.D.A. (074) 943 922

# Maleny Spring Festival

September 21 - 23

## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY 21/9

- from 4.00 on: ..... Introduction and Information  
at Maleny Showgrounds
- 7.00: ..... Dinner and entertainment  
"Visions of a Nomad"  
at The Pavilion,  
Maleny Showgrounds

### SATURDAY 22/9

- 9.00-10.30: ..... Session I
- 10.30-11.00: ..... Morning Tea
- 11.00-12.30: ..... Session II
- 12.30-2.00: ..... Lunch
- 2.00-3.30: ..... Session III
- 3.30-4.00: ..... Afternoon Tea
- 4.00-6.00: ..... Local Development  
Practitioners Association  
A.G.M. at High School
- 4.00-6.00: ..... Meeting of Council of  
Community Co-operatives  
at the Credit Union  
building, Maple St.
- 7.00: ..... Dinner and entertainment:  
"Free Time"  
at The Pavilion.

All workshop sessions are at the  
High School unless otherwise stated.

### SUNDAY 23/9

- 9.00-10.30: ..... Session IV
- 10.30-11.00: ..... Morning Tea
- 11.00-12.30: ..... Session V
- 12.30-2.00: ..... Lunch
- 2.00-3.30: ..... Session VI
- 4.00: ..... Closing ceremony  
at the Showgrounds.

All workshop sessions are at the  
High School unless otherwise stated.

- ☐ Pre-booking for workshops is essential. Bookings close September 17.
- ☐ The symbol # denotes a workshop that occupies two sessions

### SESSION I

Sat 22/9 9.00 - 10.30

- Introduction To Permaculture # (A1) Skye**  
The principles of permaculture and why we need sustainable systems.
- Personal Environment Design (A2) Barry Goodman**  
Building to fit people and to fit the land.
- Introduction To Bamboo (A3) Hans Erken**  
Talk and slide show on bamboo and its uses.
- Computer Information Access and Pegasus Demonstration (A4) Peter Pamment**  
How to get information and talk to people worldwide - a practical demonstration. At C.E.D.A., Maple St, Maleny. Limit 10 people.
- Community Revolving Funds - The Maleny Community Credit Union As A Model. (A5)**  
Jill Jordan & members Of M.C.U.
- Mountain Fare Catering (A6) Karen Symms**  
Small business - from good idea to reality.
- Sustainable Development - The Issues. (A7)**  
A panel chaired by Paul Wildman
- Paul is the Co-ordinator, Sustainable Development Working Group for the Commonwealth Organization for Local Action & Economic Development.
- Cherbourg - A Local Development Model (A8)**  
Peter McMahon
- Working in an Aboriginal Community.
- How to Employ Consultants Without Losing Control (A9)**  
Craig Matheson, Cooloolo Regional Development Bureau.
- "Collage - A Medium for Drawing" # (A10) Marveen Ash**  
Presented by a practising artist and skilled teacher. Participants will be advised about what to bring on enrolment.
- Unlocking Your Potential (A11) Veronica Davidson**  
Build confidence in yourself and others and overcome fears that hold you back from achieving your potential.
- Speaking in Public (A12) Toastmasters**  
Discussion, activities and practice in speaking.
- Natural Childbirth (A13) Ann Charity**  
Getting ready for active birthing. Rights, responsibilities, physical, emotional and spiritual preparation.
- Girls in Schools (A14) Joy Penney**  
Deals with the ever-present need to counter sexist practices in schools.
- Body Movement And Awareness (A15) Elspeth Hulse**  
Integrates dance with other body awareness forms such as yoga, Feldenkrais, Alexander Technique and massage.

### SESSION IV

Sun 23/9 9.00 - 10.30

- Aquaculture Field Trip (D1) Hans Erken**  
Aquaculture (C1) a prerequisite. Participants require own transport to Crystal Waters Permaculture Village.
- Natural Pest Control For Gardens And Orchards # (D2)**  
Frances Lang
- Presented by an experienced permaculture and horticulture teacher.
- Plant Identification And Seed Collection (D3) Dean Cameron**  
A rainforest walk. Participants to arrange transport to nearby site.
- Co-opoly (D4) Skye & Robin Clayfield**  
A game to help community groups identify and use their resources.
- Maple Street Co-op (D5) Staff**  
The impact of a retail food co-op on its community and beyond. Includes a tour of the shop.
- Introduction To L.E.T.S. # (D6)**  
The Local Energy Transfer System is an innovative approach to the exchange of goods and services within the local community. Includes the game L.E.T.S. Play and a computer component.
- The Use of Statistical Analysis in Local Development. (D7)**  
Ted Fitzgerald, Sunshine Coast Regional Development Board.
- Caloundra Enterprise Development Agency - Wholesaling Employment Creation. (D8) Margi O'Connell**  
Margi is the Managing Director of Queensland's first Local Employment Initiatives Project
- Establishing Industry Self Help Groups (D9)**  
Mike Jones, D.P.I.
- Owner Building # (D10) Keith Patullo**  
Keith is a builder who works exclusively with owner builders.
- Basic Car Mechanics For Women # (D11) Jan Tilden**  
Theory and 'hands on' experience.
- Anyone Can Sing (D12) Stephanie Pollard**  
Fun with a talented artist.
- Keys To Successful Relationships (D13) Veronica Davidson**  
Enhance your personal relationships with partners and children. Relevant to everyone - parents, teachers, teenagers.
- Back Flower Remedies (D14) Yvonne Tolley**  
A unique system of wholistic healing involving the use of plant essences.
- Adolescence And Sexuality (D15) Elspeth Hulse**  
Information and discussion. Elspeth has extensive experience in women's health services, specialising in teenage sexuality.

## SESSION II

Sat 22/9 11.00 - 12.30

**Introduction To Permaculture continues (A1)**  
**From The Backdoor Out # (B1) Robin Clayfield**  
 Concentrates on permaculture for house gardens, orchards, small animals.

**Propagation And Cultivation Of Bamboo (B2)**  
**Hans Erken**  
 Introduction to Bamboo (A3) a prerequisite

**Establishing A Wastebusters Group (B3) Jill Jordan**  
 How to involve your community in recycling its waste

**The Possibilities Of Community Presses (B4) Black Possum**  
 How Black Possum Publishing Co-op is evolving.

**"Collage - A Medium For Drawing" continues (A10)**

**Legal Considerations For Community Groups (B5)**  
**Bob Sample**  
 To reveal the available legal options for collaborating groups.

**Tools for Growing Your Community Economy (B6)**  
**Paul Wildman**  
 Strategies for local economic development

**Process Management as Community Consultation (B7)**  
**Bea Rogan, Mackay Shire Council Development Officer**

**"Life On The Range" (B8) Jo Denver**  
 A dramatic experience with celebrated local playwright and teacher.

**Tai Chi (B9) Keith Smith**  
 Demonstration and participation in this gentle art.

**Dynamic Living (B10) Dr James & Maggie Reid**  
 Mind and body relaxation, improving relationships, physical and mental wellness.

**First Aid From The Garden (B11) Yvonne Tolley**  
 Yvonne has worked with alternative medicine since 1979 and has used it in many areas of family life e.g. childbirth, immunisation and first aid.

**Creative Movement (B12) Elspeth Hulse**  
 Freeing the mind and body through movement.

**Returning To Study (B13) Adrienne Price**  
 Deals with the pleasures and challenges of life as a mature-age student.

## SESSION V

Sun 23/9 11.00 - 12.30

**Crystal Waters Field Trip # (E1) Hans Erken, Robin Clayfield**  
 A guided tour of the first permaculture village in the world. An extra charge for bus transport will apply.

**Natural Pest Control For Gardens And Orchards continues.(D2)**

**Preparing A Site For Forest Regeneration (E2)**  
**Dean Cameron**  
 A practical demonstration at Maleny Showgrounds.

**Animals - Our Friends And Teachers (E3)**  
**Vanessa Gaudard, Bob Sample**  
 Vanessa and Bob are partners in Sharahd Arabian Stud and Horse Trek Australia. Discussion and 'hands on' work with horses at Maleny Showgrounds.

**Management In A Retail Co-op (E4)**  
**Maple St. Co-op Staff**  
 A workshop for those considering setting up a retail co-op.

**Employment Issues for Local Development Practitioners (E5)**  
**L.D.P.A. Committee**  
 Impact of Government Grants on Community Groups (E6)  
**Carrol Browning, Community Development Consultant.**

**Group Marketing (E7) Arthur Scurr**  
 Arthur is the Founding Chairman of Mita 10 - one of Australia's most successful Group Marketing ventures.

**Introduction To L.E.T.S. continues (D6)**

**Owner Building continues (D10)**

**Basic Car Mechanics For Women continues (D11)**  
**Aikido (E8) Eric Kiernan (1st Dan Black Belt)**  
 Demonstration and introductory lessons.

**Dynamic Living (E9) Dr James & Maggie Reid**  
 Mind and body relaxation, improving relationships, physical and mental wellness.

**The Power Of Manifestation (E10)**  
**Jay Murray-McLeish**  
 Shares some simple techniques which enhance our potential to realise our dreams and goals.

**Women In Relationships (E11) Barbara De Cambra**  
 Barbara is a Gestalt Therapist with many years experience in relationship counselling.

## SESSION III

Sat 22/9 2.00 - 3.30

**Aquaculture (C1) Hans Erken**  
 Permaculture design of ponds and dams for aquatic plants and fish.

**From The Backdoor Out continues (B1)**

**Introduction To Landcare (C2) Dean Cameron**  
 Presented by the convener of the Barung Landcare Group.

**A Tour Of The Wastebusters' Depot At Witta (C3)**  
 See recycling in action - a scavenger's delight! Participants require transport to Witta.

**Crystal Waters Permaculture Village (C4)**  
**Skyle, Barry Goodman**  
 A talk and slide show about Crystal Waters, the world's first permaculture village.

**Why A Women's Co-operative (C5)**  
**Meg Barrett, Lillian Okorn, Jan Tilden**  
 A discussion of the issues leading to the formation of Mountain Fare.

**The Role of an Economic Development Officer (C6)**  
**John Calligan, Ipswich City Council.**

**Futures Searches - A Community Development Planning Model. (C7) Eve Robinson, Bureau of Regional Development.**

**The Local Development Practitioners Association - An Introduction (C8) the L.D.P.A. Committee.**

**Fabric Printing (C9) Tricia Hatch**  
 Participants need fabric or a new T-shirt.

**Multicultural Dance (C10) Lesley Halliday**  
 Simple but exciting dances from Eastern Europe for men and women.

**Tai Chi (C11) Keith Smith**  
 Demonstration and participation in this gentle art.

**Eliminate Stress Through Understanding the Mind/Body Link (C12) Veronica Davidson**  
 Recognise and neutralise the Big 3 stress factors and achieve physical health through a healthy attitude.

**Understanding And Using Homeopathic Medicine (C13)**  
**Robyn Goozee**  
 Robyn is a registered nurse and homeopathic practitioner qualified at the Homeopathic College of Australia.

**Women In Relationships (C14) Barbara De Cambra**  
 Barbara is a Gestalt Therapist with many years experience in relationship counselling.

## SESSION VI

Sun 23/9 2.00 - 3.30

**Crystal Waters Field Trip continues. (E1)**

**Planting Out And Aftercare (F1) Dean Cameron**  
 Aspects of forest regeneration. At the Maleny Showgrounds.

**How And Why To Separate Rubbish (F2) Wastebusters**  
 A practical demonstration for the householder bent on saving the planet.

**Consumer Ethics (F3) Sue Smith**  
 A look at the social, environmental and economic impact of our behaviour as consumers.

**Consensus Decision Making (F4) Jill Jordan, Jan Tilden**  
 Presents a practical alternative to formal meeting procedure for groups where mutual trust is an important consideration. Includes role play.

**Intentional Communities (F5)**  
 A panel of reps from various intentional communities will introduce the communities and discuss the issues of communal living.

**Developing Entrepreneurship (F6)**  
**Bob Gibson, Queensland Venture Club.**

**The Role and Development of Leadership In Community Organisations (F7) Vicky Hendrix - Centre for Strategic Leaders.**

**A Federal Government Approach to Local Development (F8)**  
**Representatives of Department of Employment Education and Training.**

**Sacred Circle Dance (F9) Pat Cardie**  
 A style of dance originating in Finghorn, Scotland.

**"Life On The Range" (F10) Jo Denver**  
 A dramatic experience with celebrated local playwright and teacher.

**Live Poets Society Inc.(F11)**  
 Poetry writing and performing workshop presented by the Live Poets.

**Alternative Education (F12) Ananda Marga**  
 An introduction to the Ananda Marga philosophy and practice of education.

**Homeopathy For The Family (F13) Yvonne Tolley**  
**Perception And Sensory Awareness (F14) Elspeth Hulse**  
 An outdoor experience. A delightful way to end the day!

For further information contact:  
 Meg Barrett (074) 942 680  
 Lillian Okorn (074) 942 668  
 C.E.D.A. (074) 943 922

## Childcare

### Special Children's Festival

- School-aged children will be provided for at the festival at a cost of \$10 per child per day (\$20 per family).
- The festival will be at the Showgrounds and children may bring bikes, skateboards, board games and any other in-vogue activities.
- The free lunch will consist of a salad smorgasbord with fresh bread, fruit and juice.
- Organised activities include New Games, face painting, sport and pottery.
- Care is available from 9am to 4.00pm.
- Under fives will be provided for separately at a nursery at the workshop venue at a cost of \$10 per child per day.

### Nursery

The nursery will only operate during the workshops. Parents are asked to collect their children during the breaks.

☞ Please note: as total childcare is provided, no children will be accepted at the workshops. This will allow everyone to participate without distraction.

## Food

- *Delicious, inexpensive vegetarian food* from Mountain Fare will be available throughout the weekend
- *Breakfast and dinner* fare will be available at the Maleny Showgrounds
- *Lunch, morning and afternoon tea* will be provided at the High School. The Maleny township is within walking distance for confirmed carnivores.

## Entertainment

(Both nights at the Pavilion)

- *Friday September 21, 7 p.m.* — brilliant Sydney group "Visions of a Nomad" will provide some powerful entertainment with a multi-cultural theme, at the Maleny Showgrounds Pavilion.
- *Saturday September 22, 7 p.m.* — Brisbane band "Free Time" will have us rocking.
- *Licensed and meals* available at both events
- *\$8 per night* or free to people with full registration.
- *Sunday September 23, 4 p.m.* — *The Closing Ceremony* will celebrate the Spring Equinox, with tree planting, children's show and dance.

## The Programme

Mountain Fare Co-operative is proud to present a weekend of education and entertainment.

- The fun starts on Friday night (21st September) with live entertainment in the Showgrounds pavilion. More live entertainment will follow on Saturday night.
- Workshops in the daytime of Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd September will offer participants a feast of educational options. Workshops will focus on the themes of the Earth, Co-operatives, Arts, Practical crafts, Health, Local Economic Management and Women's Issues. Participants will partake of six workshops over two days. The workshops will be held at the High School (a short drive or a comfortable walk from the Showgrounds).
- On Saturday at 4.00, the Local Development Practitioners Association will hold their first national A.G.M. at the High School. There will also be a meeting of the Council of Community Co-operatives at the Maleny Credit Union Building at 4.00 pm.

☞ While entry to the entertainment is available at the door, it is essential to pre-book for the workshop component of the Festival.

## Accommodation

- *Camping* is available on site at the Maleny Showgrounds (\$2 per night). There is no power.
- *Crashpads* are available (\$2 per night) in the S.E.S. shed. Bring your sleeping bag.
- Another option is to *camp in the Visitors' Area of Crystal Waters Permaculture Village* (26kms from Maleny) ph. (074) 944 620
- Otherwise participants should arrange their own accommodation. Places in the local hotel, motels, caravan park and guest house are limited so book early. Tourist accommodation is available on the Sunshine Coast half an hour away.

## Special Events

- *Saturday 4-6 p.m.*
  - Local Development Practitioners Association First Annual General Meeting, at the High School
  - Council of Community Co-operatives meeting, at the Credit Union Building, Maple St.





## Mountain Fare's Women in Business course . . .

is underway with thirty women participating. It is the first of two courses being conducted by Mountain Fare to enable women who are unemployed to enter the workforce through the avenue of small business. Basic information on small business setup and management skills is being provided in five workshop sessions by experts in each field. Topics include:

- 1) Getting started - identifying your product or service.
- 2) The business plan - the elements of a good one and how to use it.
- 3) Self management and time management.
- 4) Finances - what your accountant needs.
- 5) Marketing - how to develop a market orientation.

It is hoped that the second course to commence in October will explore in greater detail the areas where participants indicate a need and the dynamics of communication in business. This project is being sponsored by the Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training through its Innovative Employment and Training Scheme as a method of helping as many unemployed people into jobs as possible.

*Lillian Okom,  
Women's Education Service.*

## COME ONE . . . COME ALL!

Are you aged between 5 and 12 years?  
Want a fun weekend at the Spring Festival?  
Even if your parents aren't participating in the Festival you can come along!!

Where - S.E.S. shed at the showgrounds  
When - Saturday and Sunday — Registrations from 8:30am (your Mum or Dad or some adult needs to sign you in) *Includes -*

- Horse rides (Saturday)
- Face painting
- Pottery
- New games (focussing on co-operation and self-esteem)
- Ball games
- Relays
- Bikes and Skateboards welcome (stackhats please)
- Free play

No activities are compulsory ...except preparing a yummy lunch for ourselves.

Nonni Cooksey and Rob Swain are facilitating the CHILDRENS FESTIVAL - both of whom have had considerable experience with children.

Cost - \$10 per child, \$20 per family, some BUNYAS are welcome!

Noni's phone number is 944271 if you have any queries.

See you there!



## The Maple Street Co-op MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY



**Come as your favourite character from wonderland.**

*Enjoy:*

- ◆ afternoon tea ◆ prizes for costumes
- ◆ tea-cup reading ◆ croquet
- ◆ AUCTION ◆

**2pm Sunday 7th October  
at Paula & Serge's place  
Gemelle Court, Witta.**



## THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF CO-OPERATIVES (Part 2)

◇ Jan Tilden

The first part of this talk, reproduced in the last quarterly review, ended with the question "If members and workers (in Maple Street Co-op) still do voluntary work to keep things going, in what sense do we claim to be economically viable?" The first task of part 2 is to address this question.

### **Towards a new definition of viability:**

We can step back for a moment and ask another question, one that gave rise to lengthy, and sometimes heated discussion at the co-op education day when this paper was first presented. Why do we accept the award wage as the bench-mark for our success? As long as we distribute whatever surplus we have in an equitable way that reflects members contributions - why is that not enough?

The answer, as I see it, lies in the fact that we still live in the mainstream economy and though we may, to a certain extent, simplify our lifestyle and trim down our consumption - and feel justifiably pleased with ourselves for doing so - there is a certain minimum beyond which we cannot fall and still maintain a reasonable quality of life. Our economy is geared to the notion that most people earn above a certain minimum income. Goods and services, including the essentials, are priced accordingly. People do enjoy contributing voluntary time to co-ops, and working for small returns to get the venture off the ground, but when earning enough money for individual survival comes first,

commitment to the co-op can suffer. One potential solution to this lies in expanding the co-operative economy, so that other life needs can be met within it. Co-operative housing, LETSsystems and so on all contribute to allowing people to lead fully satisfying lives within a co-operatively based economy. To some extent, this is the way we have gone in Maleny. Still, I have a feeling that there is some "critical mass", which we have not yet reached - a situation where there are enough co-operative enterprises running to ensure the overall economic viability of the co-operative system *in terms of the quality of life of people trying to operate within it.*

This brings up the possibility of a new definition of "economic viability", one which is compatible with economic sustainability. We could define economic viability as a situation in which quality of life is maximized within the bounds of sustainability and social justice. The problem with this definition is that we do not know what these bounds are. What standard of life would we all enjoy if the finite resources of the earth were distributed fairly amongst all of its people (and other living creatures), and in a way that did not ultimately overtax the environment? What I am really saying here is that in the long run some sectors of western society will have to settle for less if the earth is to survive. While we do not know exactly who, and how much less, we *can* voluntarily adjust our lifestyles to reduce material consumption without necessarily being poor and

miserable, especially if, in the process, we discover new personal definitions of "quality of life". Perhaps this is the kind of social change that we are working towards through our involvement with co-ops, and if our pay packets are a little lean, at least until the rest of the world catches up, that may not be such a terrible thing. Our involvement in such a social change process does at least offer us the possibility of a little self-satisfaction, and perhaps even excitement to fortify us against the wolf at the door! I do think it is important to continue with our aim to pay people full award wages for *all* the hours they work. At the same time we could recognize that one reason we are taking so long to achieve that aim is because we want to be sustainable as well as viable.

### Barriers to co-op viability (by the old definition):


The last issue that I want to touch upon is what hinders our viability in the mainstream system. Why do we have such a struggle making ends meet? Three factors come to mind. You can probably think of others. They are -

1. Co-operative businesses require time consuming "people-work", especially considering our competitive socialization. We have to learn the necessary communication and organizing skills to enable us to work together in a different way. This is time (=money) that the mainstream economy doesn't account for.

2. Likewise the mainstream economy does not account for the energy (=time = money) required to re-educate ourselves and others into environmentally sustainable ways of conducting business. One small example - at Maple St. we recycle plastic bags and glass jars. Paid workers and volunteers spend time getting these into a fit state for reuse, and further time is spent educating members to keep up a steady supply, preferably *already* in a fit state. In mainstream terms it is probably cheaper to buy new ones and throw

the used ones away. In reality, these practices "cost the earth".


3. The final factor is economy of scale - and this is strongly connected with the second. I think there is a point where economy of scale begins to have environmental costs. This is likely to coincide with the point where the scale becomes too large for us to perceive the long-term (or even short term) environmental effects of our activities. Co-operative businesses usually have difficulty taking advantage of economies of scale, and perhaps for the reasons noted this is all to the good. Nevertheless, our lack of access (or acceptance) of such economies effects our viability in the mainstream. In conclusion, I would just like to say that I believe it is economic sustainability, and not viability in the current economy that we should be aiming for. At the moment even if we barely manage to pay our bills we are probably doing well. This is not to say that we should not aim for viability under some new definition, but then we are in the business of social change. If my analysis is correct, in the long term, things should get better for co-ops as the mainstream economy moves towards a sustainable form of viability - and move it must or we are all in strife.



**MALENY L.E.T.S.**

LOCAL ENERGY TRANSFER SYSTEM

**WE ARE TRADING IN NUTS –  
& SO CAN  
YOU !**



**For more Info:**  
 Letsystem Maleny  
 Bunya House, 28 Maple St.  
**Office p Hours:**  
 Mon - Thur 11 am - 4 pm  
 Fri 11 am - 5 pm  
 Sat 9 am - 11:30 am  
 Ph. 074-943113

## FOOD OR POISON:

◇ *Graham Nott*



**H**ow much of what we eat should we eat or more to the point just what is it we are eating? Yes. We carefully read the list of ingredients but does it mean anything? How would you like to take on a daily dose of 5,7-Dihydroxy-3,4,- Dimethoxyflavone, and even a little caffeic acid, tectochrysin and cynamyl alcohol? Well, you probably wouldn't, but those are some of the components of one product we have sold recently. Sounds terrible but they are not. The point is, it is difficult to know just what it is we are using. With the lists of ingredients growing ever longer on some of our foods and household goods, the staff at the Co-op have decided research more thoroughly our product range to know more about what we are eating and what we are putting into our environment. So if you come across any information that could help increase our knowledge or understanding in this area, we would be pleased if you could share it with us.

**STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

### MALENY WASTEBUSTERS

### !!! CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Congratulation to Maleny WasteBusters for winning the "Community Recycling Award" in the recent Keep Australia Beautiful Awards. This is an Australian wide presentation and shows that Maleny is leading the country in recycling and waste management.

**STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

## SO MUCH MORE...

*"THE MAPLE STREET CO-OP - so much more than a health food store".* Fine words, but what do they mean? On a global scale our little corner-store co-op may not seem like much, but in effect, as with a stone tossed in a pond, there are ripples - economic, environmental and social - which are quite far-reaching.

Here are just a few to get you thinking:

□ we have a policy of buying as close to home as possible. This has a beneficial effect on our local economy.

□ when we have to purchase products in which overseas interests are involved, we try to consider the ethical aspects. Buying A.W.D. tea supports a third world co-op. On the other hand there are many products that you can't get from Maple Street because their manufacture "costs the earth" - or the dignity and freedom of some of its people.

□ Again, we try to have as much organic and biodynamic produce on our shelves as possible. As well as the health benefits to consumers, this policy also helps keep the environment healthy.

□ We are involved in a very direct form of recycling. While it sometimes may not seem so to the workers who have to sniff and fold endless plastic bags and wash bottles, this reuse of items in their original form involves very little energy expenditure. It is therefore the most desirable form of recycling from an environmental viewpoint.

□ As the first of the new wave of co-ops in Maleny, we played an important role in introducing new settlers and their ideals into the local community. This had the beneficial effect of helping to maintain a good community spirit in our township.

□ We have jobs designed and structured largely by those who do them - a good example of worker self-management.

□ After 12 years in business we are entitled to claim some degree of success in a very challenging environment. Something like 80% of small businesses fold in the first two years of operation. Again, this must amount to a useful example of how co-operation can work.

These are just some of the ways in which we are "so much more...". If you are interested in exploring these (and related) issues in more depth, or suggesting ways for the co-op to "ripple" further, come to our workshop "The Impact of a Retail Co-op on Its Local Community and Beyond" at the Spring Festival.



CRYSTAL WATERS  
PERMACULTURE  
VILLAGE

## Crystal Waters Cafe

◇ Denise Soya.

**S**UNDAY morning 10am. The aroma of croissants crisping in the oven and percolating coffee permeates the air. A Tai-chi session is in progress out on the lawn under the guidance of Keith Smith, who later makes himself available for what I can recommend is a very satisfying massage. The crowd slowly gathers, the children coming to spend their pocket money on a cola and maybe a croissant. The consignees arrive with their produce, fresh eggs, preserves, goodies out of the oven etc. Visitors arrive to mingle with the community. As I look between the heads at the counter I see groups gathered, sitting around in the morning sunshine catching up on the events of the past week. The children take themselves off, some imitating monkeys and koalas in the trees, others building sand-castles. Someone puts the badminton/volleyball net up which gets some of the bigger kids into action. Twelve noon and all the croissants have gone, gradually the crowds disperse. Our Sunday morning cafe sessions have become some-what of a ritual here at Crystal Waters with word of it travelling as far as Brisbane and beyond.



## Spring Fever

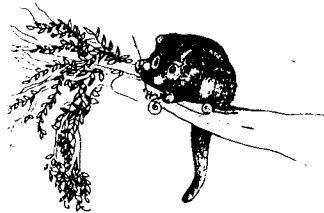
◇ Robin Clayfield.

**T**HERE are many skilled and talented people living at Crystal Waters. Mountain Fare's 'Maleny Spring Festival' gives us an opportunity to share some of our knowledge and experience with the wider community.

At least ten Crystal Waters residents will present over 20 workshops over the 2 days. Five of Crystal Waters Permaculture consultants/teachers (Skye, Robin Clayfield, Frances Lang, Hans Erken, Barry Goodman) will present various Permaculture related topics ranging from a basic introduction to Permaculture, gardening from the back-door out, organic pest control, aquaculture, and living environments. A guided tour of Crystal Waters will also be offered as well as a slide show and talk about our unique village. Hans Erken, who established the Australian Bamboo Network will give 2 workshops on Bamboo which will interest those who know nothing about it as well as people already involved in its propagation and use. Yvonne Tolly, one of our healers will present 3 workshops on Homeopathy, Bach Flower remedies, and 1st Aid from the garden where participants will get some 'hands on' experience with making remedies. Jay Murray-McLeish will share some techniques relating to the Power of Manifestation.

Trisha Hatch is a multi-talented artist who will share her fabric printing skills with people. On a more physical level, Lesley Halliday will take her group through the paces of some multi-cultural dances, Pat Cardle will share some sacred circle dances and Eric Kiernan will demonstrate and teach some Aikido which should be quite entertaining to say the least. Nigel Parrat and Denise Soya will be involved in the Wastebusters workshops and 'on duty' collection during the festival, and last but not least Phillipa Church will continue helping the organization team with on site practicalities throughout the event. We hope to see you there and that the Maleny Spring Festival is a successful and ongoing event.

## BLACK POSSUM PUBLISHING CO-OPERATIVE



◇ *Lesley Singh*

**C**OMMUNITY writers and artists are alive and well.... and are about to be published in the first ever Black Possum Diary out in October.

Connoisseurs of the printed form will want to acquire what will surely be a collector's item. And not only bibliophiles will want a copy! It's an anthology with just about everyone in it, and we're sure everyone will want a copy. What better Christmas present is there?

Our special pre-publication offer closes at the end of September, so send in your cheques NOW!

The experience of involvement in the diary is a special one. It's been likened to the creation of a floral carpet - a little bit of this and a piece of that - and the whole thing takes shape. The volunteers working on the project have gained valuable experience and are already looking forward to a 1992 follow-up. (Now that's keen.)

1992. Since we're on the subject of next year, funding may be available to the community to run workshops on contributing to a second community anthology. As well, a series of workshops 'Developing your Book-length Project' is planned. We'll keep you posted....

The Publishing Skills Workshop held on 14th July received very positive feedback from participants. A stunning number of talented people attended, many of whom have since joined the Co-op. Participants came from the Mary Valley, Blackall Ranges

and Sunshine Coast - proving the viability of a local publishing house.

Thanks to the many people who helped make the day a success.

Members and other interested people are invited to attend an evening of direction setting, facilitated by community activist, Jill Jordan.

**THINK TANK** is THURSDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm CWA Rooms in the Community Centre, Maleny. An important occasion. See you there!

There have been some changes in directors and office bearers over the year. Please note that Black Possums have a new secretary, Lorraine Duffy, and a postal address. (See Below.)

**DISCLAIMER.** The article "Publishing — a Co-operative Perspective" in the previous issue of the Quarterly contained a statement about the functioning of teams working on projects which was incorrect and misleading. The Directors wish to point out that there is no such animal as a team member who "may be expelled by a vote of the majority of his or her fellow-Team members."

This statement appeared without the authorisation of the Directors and is not the way the Co-op functions.

Secretary: Lorraine Duffy 942370

Directors:: Trevor Angel 943922

Glynis Tap

Lesley Singh 942809

Henk Manussen 435928

Jill Morris 943284

Postal Address: P.O. Box 366, Maleny 4552



## GREEN PRODUCTS

♦ Jenny Law

**T**HERE have been great steps forward in the production of environmentally safe products over the past 6 months. Some of the new items available are unbleached tissues, sanitary napkins and paper towels. There is quite a range of safe laundry cleaners, dish-washing liquids and soap powders. A new laundry powder I have tried is "Bionomics Aware" which is quite good. There is a new garbage bag being made from recycled plastic which is encouraging. Hopefully more of these products are on the way.

More shops are using recycled paper bags for takeaway food, pies etc.

Although these products are a little dearer than other products I think it is important to support the companies who are willing to offer these alternatives. I believe the prices will come down as demand increases and production becomes more geared up for these products. Not all of these products are available in Maleny yet. When shopping ask what new safe products are available. By doing this, you show that there is a demand and therefore encourage the retailers to stock more of these products.

## YOU HOLD THE POWER FOR CHANGE

It is what WE use and demand from industry that pollutes the Earth. If we use only safe products a cleaner, safer environment must follow.

## THE END: A BEGINNING

♦ (reprinted from Sunday Mail)

**F**OR a long, long time, man dreamed of conquering the untamed Earth. He knocked down the trees, sweated over his plough, hunted and subdued the wildest of animals and built monuments in steel to mark his deeds.

He grew and prospered, plumbed the sea for its riches, took faltering steps into the sky and beat the raw rugged planet into a home more befitting such a proud creature.

"This Earth is mine", he said. But it was a hollow victory.

The living planet that so challenged man's desires lay broken and breathless before him.

Man stopped for a moment and gazed deeply at his conquest, wounded and naked like a dying beast, and saw himself for the very first time.

"What have I done?" he asked. "What have I done?"

As yet this fable has no ending, no neat solution that restores the beauty of the Earth and the ego of ambitious man.

But there will be an ending, and today more and more people are realising that it is up to them to write it. And their children. And their children's children.

Black Possum Publishing Co-operative Society Ltd. presents

## Black Possum 1991

- \* A diary and anthology from local writers and artists, and produced by our members — a real community effort!
- \* Order your copy (or copies — they'll make great gifts!) in advance — before September 30 — by sending \$12.00 per copy to:

The Secretary, Black Possum Publishing Co-op,  
P.O. Box 366, Maleny 4552

*Available mid-October*

Man, ever the optimist, knows that there must be a way to heal the Earth's wounds - to remove the chemicals and the pollutants, to halt the destruction and desecration, to live in environmental peace. And today - right now - is the time to begin writing the first page of that ending. It is simply the story of the rest of our lives.

For the Earth's sake. For our own sake.



## **THE WASTEBUSTERS BALL**

♦ *Denise Soya*

**J**UNE '90 saw us in trouble, our truck threw a con-rod, necessitating a replacement motor - an expensive item for which we did not have the required funds. It was decided that we organise a fund raising event, the troops rallied to the cause and the wheels were set in motion. Sandy Malatios contacted her friends in the 'Centrepedes' a Brisbane based band and asked if they could provide some music. They agreed for a very reasonable fee and the date was set for the 16th July at the RSL Hall.

We thought an appropriate theme for the event would be to come in your most outrageous recycled outfit. A number of folk responded, displaying imagination and flair, exhibiting outfits ranging from their best Op-Shop finds to some more unconventional materials collected from our recycling depot and perhaps setting a new trend in alternative uses for styrofoam, onion bags and wine bladders! The hall was aptly decorated for

the occasion with materials from the depot, including balloons of inflated wine bladders strung on hay bale twine and various artistic items from the Steptoe Shed.

It was a great success! Steph Pollard and other local talents provided terrific warm up music until the Centrepedes swung into action taking some of us back to our more youthful days with music from the 60s and 70s. A squad of willing volunteers helped in the kitchen and bar keeping the refreshments flowing. Local businesses responded to our appeal by donating a wonderful array of goods for raffles and prizes.

And our truck is back on the road!

Many thanks to our wonderful co-operatively minded community and all the people involved in the organisation. A special thankyou to Sandy and Mark Merrill, both of whom put in a lot of time and effort to ensure a successful event.

## **BUSINESS INFORMATION SERVICES**

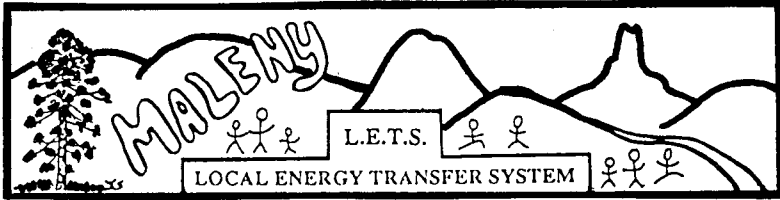
A full range of secretarial services & office support for the small business person.

- **Wordprocessing**
- **Photocopying (discount for bulk)**
- **Fax**
- **Filing**
- **Answering Service**

**Caloundra Enterprise Development Agency**

Shop 1 "Beechwood Place"  
45 Maple Street, Maleny.  
Ph: 94 3922 Fax: 94 3506





## LETS ISSUES

♦ Peter Pamment

**M**ANY issues arise in the operation of a LETS System and a few of them are discussed in this article, together with the current stance of the Maleny LetSystem.

### Taxation and Social Security.

Many LETS members have concerns about the issue of taxation. Some argue that the LETS systems are outside the main stream economic systems and that there should be no contact with the Tax or Social Security Departments. LetsMaleny decided a while back that as members are users of public facilities, and as LETS is not completely divorced from the world, that the Tax and DSS issues should be addressed.

LetsMaleny initiated contact with both the Taxation and Social Security Departments. The initial reaction of these departments were that the Bunyas (LetMalenys' units) received should be treated just like money. On further explaining the LETSystem and emphasising that LETS units do not have any real value and thus no real federal dollar value, it has been accepted that it is the value of goods and services *received* for the Bunyas that should be valued in federal dollar terms.

In the case of the DSS, this has led to the official acceptance of the advice given to LETSMaleny members that they should include the dollar value to them of goods and services *received* for Bunyas that have formed part of their essential living requirements. That is, they should declare the dollar value of essentials normally 'bought with their DSS benefit, but now received via the LETSystem. This is in keeping with one of the goals of any

LETSystem of making people more self-reliant and financially secure.

Whilst the DSS was happy to accept our proposal as outlined, the LETSMaleny proposal to the Taxation Department argued strongly that, for the Tax issue, federal dollar taxes should not be payable on LETS trading. Many LETS members do wish to fulfill their commitment to the general community and wish to pay taxes. LETSMaleny thus suggested that tax on LETS units should be paid in LETS units and to this end have made the Tax Department a LETS member and offered to administer and apply the local taxation energy to various local community projects.

The Taxation Department has been very slow to reply to our submission (nearly a year) and we have received only verbal feedback from talking to taxation officials. They have told us that the LETS systems themselves are seen as non-profit organisations and thus are tax exempt. Also it seems that LETS members who receive LETS units doing their normal profession, (i.e. a painter doing a house painting job) should declare the dollar value of goods and services *received* for those units in their income tax returns. We have not received any official confirmation of this as yet. They (the public servants!) guess correctly that LETSMaleny will not accept their advice and will appeal and pursue the local tax issue, creating more work for them!

### Starting and the Structure of a LETSystem

There are now many LETS systems all over the country. LetsMaleny has received hundreds of enquiries in the last year and assisted many systems to startup with advice and with the distribution of computer software to operate the

system. There are many issues that need to be addressed by groups that are starting a system. A few will be looked at here...

### Structure:

It needs to be decided whether the LETSsystem is completely community based or accepts some form of Government help such as sponsorship from a Job Centre. In recent times with a tight economic situation there is some acceptance by Government organisations of LETS as a regional economic strategy. LETSsystems should be solely community based and managed so that they can't be influenced by, or even closed down by Government.

It is important in any community organisation that a collective decision making process as opposed to voting is followed. This leads to less factions and groupings and to equal involvement in decisions by any member. LETSMaleny has chosen a system of trustees and advisors. The trustees, currently 5, have the responsibility of running and maintaining the system. The advisors, 5 also, have the responsibility of looking after the members' interests. Each month the trustees and advisors meet to organise the operation of the LETSsystem. At any time the advisors can sack any trustee, the trustees can sack any advisor, and the members can sack a trustee or advisor! Policy matters are decided at general meetings where a quorum of members is where the number of members exceeds the number of trustees and advisors together. So the members views are always paramount.

### Incorporation:

This leads on to the issue of some form of incorporation. The advantages are limited liability of members and the ability to own property in the name of the organisation. The disadvantages are that most forms of incorporation as an Association/Society or Co-Operative impose an executive / heirarchical structure on the group, which implies that some people or groups hold more power than others. Also required is some form of reporting to the Government department that is administrating the

relevant incorporation act.

LETSMaleny is not incorporated in any way, as members wish to operate as a collective and don't see the LETSsystem as a organisation for accumulating assets. Finally they wish to be seen as an independent regional economic system and not attached indirectly or having to report to any Government department, while, at the same time fulfilling all moral and ethical responsibilities and being accountable to the local community.



## LETS VISION THE FUTURE.

◇ Janel Skrandies

**T**he economic situation of our bioregion is mirrored in the viability and strength of the Maleny LETSsystem.

A brief look at the evolvement of this Maleny area would reveal drastic changes in the last 10 years. From a strong rural cattle and dairy farm region with related businesses serving maybe 500 people — Maleny has over the last 5 years expanded into something alienated from the old life known.

This certainly was a general trend in the 80's: get out of the city smoke and put your green thumbs on for the land. The former city dwellers had new and valuable experiences in rural life; the latest generation of primary production farmers found more and more disappointment in their hardworking existence. Cutting their large farms up in smaller, more managable lots to sell gave them an opportunity to get away from endless working hours with diminishing pay.

Less primary farmland, more small fruit and nut farms, but even more retirement brick-houses, more commuters' country homes, more people, more tourists, more developers, more impact and pollution were to set a trend for our regional future.

But more local wealth ?

Well, more employment for some — mainly building and tourist related jobs — but LESS independence! And there is the bulk of newcomers who have to face commuting to city workplaces.

Our orientation, formerly related to the rural economy now looks towards imports, money coming in from unreliable industries, making us vulnerable to their whims — like higher interest rates for housing loans or pilot strikes.

This way we will lose not only our local economy but our integrity and an area once proud to make a living from producing food for people from non-primary production areas. The passing city people, especially the developers, won't feed us with food — only with paper or even more likely with plastic credit cards. Leaving us with high prices for land and living.

And what if they will fancy another spot next year after we spoiled our land for them? Where will we go, the ones who really care about this place and want to live here in the foreseeable future?

So far we are only counting on a few of our rich resources and limit the real resources we once possessed so abundantly.

Are we going to do anything for money, likewise the Goldcoast or now the Sunshine Coast? Or do we have the power to stop the rolling stone?

Money has more power over our lives than we ourselves have. Why? There never seems to be enough of it around. It is hard to come by and too easy to spend. And in the end we don't even get for it what we need.

And when it disappears — where is it going? Maybe to produce arms to be sold and used in the Middle East? What happens to "our" money once we put it in a regular bank account? Who owns it then? Who decides what it gets spent on? Have you ever asked "your" bank what you are supporting without your knowledge?

It's hard to change our ways after a lifelong unconscious handling of these elusively valu-

able bits of paper or now more often plastic cards. We have no means of access to, or control over the value (dictated by untouchable phenomena like foreign exchange, stockmarkets, political decisions, multinationals or who knows what!) nor its invested powers. We are exposed to money everyday, but few of us have ever stopped to think and question how it brandmarks our lives — being too busy trying to get hold of it. Keeping our local economy healthy can make our local relationships with one another and the land healthy and viable again.

Creating an immaterial measurement for our energy away from the mindless use of wordings like currency, money, interest, payments, debt etc. - and calling it Bunyas is making us more aware of real values. Energy is circular.

The co-operative movement and bartering has a long tradition in the Maleny area. This has and will contribute in setting up various wide-ranging Co-ops and small businesses. The creation of the Bunya is another step to helps us to consciously trace an otherwise lost flow of local energy exchange and start a new balance.

Our resources, our wellbeing, our helpfulness, our skills show up, count in the region where we live, work and have fun. Our natural surroundings mirror the energy we are willing to inject.

Keeping our economy local, the Bunyas are our own creation. We have influence on their value. Our voice counts. Our trust in other people's abilities, knowledge and trustworthiness is expressed in their measurement. The paper or the plastic that money is represented by is worthless, our non-tangible Bunyas are worth every bit of invested energy!

The Bunya trade is one way of making a pathway to a balance against dependence on foreign income.

So LETS hope for our future!



# CELEBRATION!

At  
**The Old Butter Factory**

**in Coral St. — the location of our new  
enterprise centre building.**

**We plan to share lunch (BYO — BBQ available)  
at 12.30 pm**

**followed by a brief (but legally necessary) meeting  
at 2.00 pm**

**Be There!  
Saturday October 13**

**Come and join us in the celebration of the birth  
of the**

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**THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE MALENY (INC.)**

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**destined to become another landmark in  
Maleny's colourful history**