

## Maleny Police Station

My name is Pamela Joy Porter (nee Williams) and my father Senior Constable Thomas Harold Williams was the first permanent Police Officer stationed here in Maleny.



Pamela (Williams) Porter

After reading the recent story in GC&M News about the history of the Maleny Police Station, I wanted to clarify some of the details that I am aware of and the following is a brief history of how it all came about, taken from my father's memoirs and what I know.

My father was stationed at Maryborough in 1944, when he and my mother married. On return from his leave he was instructed to go to Landsborough Police Station, a two-man station with Sgt 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Mawn in charge.

The police vehicle was a BSA motorcycle and side-car. "We had to take in Maleny, Conondale, part of Kenilworth, Beerwah, Peachester, Glass House Mountains and Beerburum; all in our area

with very few bitumen roads."

Saturday morning was the chosen day for one of the officers, usually father, to ride up to Maleny to renew car regos, issue licences (drivers), write permits, etc, for ammunition and explosives. Business was conducted in a spare office of Stephen Porter & Co, Auctioneers. A clerk of petty sessions from Caboolture would come twice a week to conduct court sessions. The magistrate came from Gympie.

Being on duty at the Maleny Show, day and night, was another job for the boys at Landsborough. Police from all over were called in for duty.

I was born in 1946 and my sister 1949 at Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital. In 1946 The Royal National Show (EKKA) resumed after the end of WW2.

I can still see my father going off in the train and waving to him as the train left Landsborough.

The house we were living in then was the high-set house that used to be beside the Shire Council Chambers (now the museum). The house is no more, replaced by a low brick one where Slim Moroney lives.

In 1947 the Police Department purchased some motor vehicles from the Defence Department.

Landsborough and Nambour got Jeeps, 4WD and left hand drive, which were much better for travelling the areas in all weathers.

When Sgt in Charge Mawn was promoted to Sgt 2/c, he was transferred. Sgt 2/c Askin took over.



Pamela & Jeanette at Landsborough

In 1952 the Police Department bought a house in Maple Street, Maleny.

On June 1 1952, Constable T. Luge was sent to take over until a permanent man could be stationed here. Applications were called for and my father was chosen. He took up office on September 1, 1952 as a Senior Constable.

His form of transport here in Maleny was back to a BSA motorcycle and side-car, a 250cc model this time.

In 1953 we had a bad cyclone which did a lot of damage to houses and shops.

It burst one of the galvanized iron water tanks that was up on very high stumps at the back of the house. My father's office was the front half of the closed in verandah section on the town side of the house. The car garage was where part of the present day office is or was.



Senior Constable Tom Williams & Pamela ready for Maleny Show

The jail was transported here on a truck all the way from another place. I do remember the name 'Red Hill' being said.

There were never any really bad people put in the jail in my father's time; mainly the odd inebriated person who needed to sleep off the drink or a 'swaggy' down on his luck. Father would give them a good feed and bunk them down for a night. My sister and I were not allowed to play in there. Anyway, it was too scary.



Maleny Police Station 1955 on the left side of the residence. Later the garage was converted into the Police Station

Down the back of the house, all the way to where Bicentennial Lane now is, (it was a creek once) had obviously been a chook run. Father fixed the fence and we had chooks and a couple of ducks and a vegetable garden.

In 1955, my mother was very sick all year with many hospital admissions. In January 1956 she was taken seriously ill while we were on holidays at Hervey Bay. She passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1956.

So, my father had no option but to pack us up and move up to Maryborough to our grandparents' place.

Joe Spooner was the policeman who took over from father.

Well, that is the end of my story, however I did spend the May school holidays here with a friend in 1957, as well as having a one-day trip here in 1962; and then in 1965 came here when I started going out with my husband and have permanently lived here since 1967 when we married.

I would like my bit of history of the police station to be published, whenever, for the benefit of those people who live here now and are interested in such things.



Maleny Police Station 1955 on the left side of the residence.

**Mrs Pamela Porter  
Maleny**