

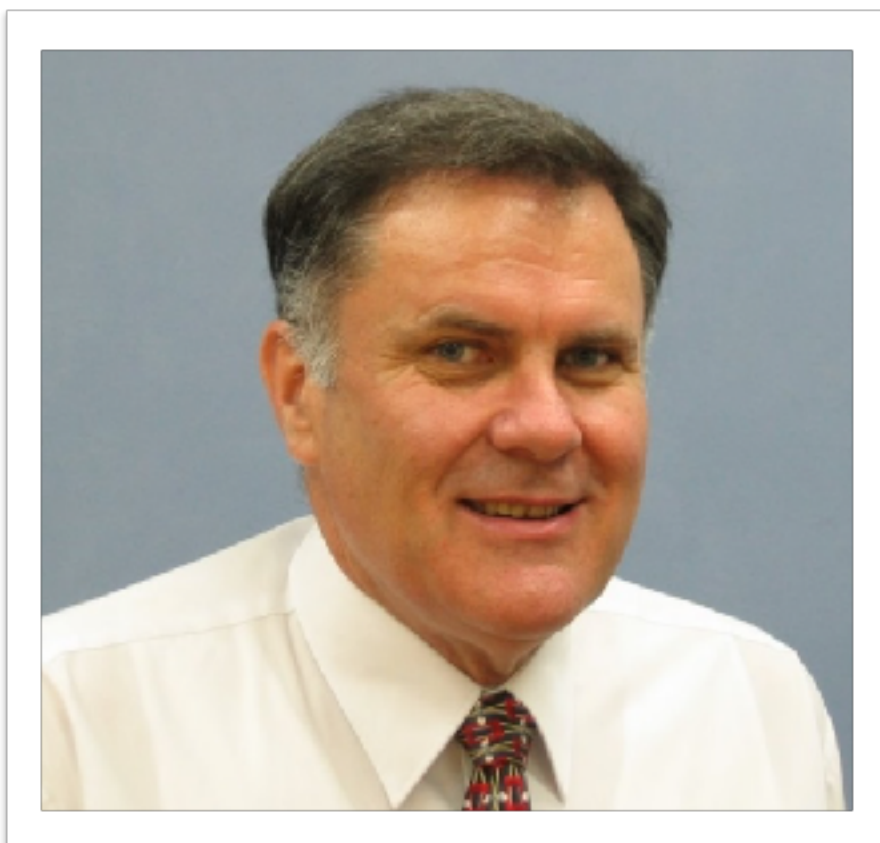
Maleny History Preservation And Restoration Society

HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

***WINSTON JOHNSTON INTERVIEWED BY INGA GREEN FOR THE BLACKALL RANGE
WORK FOR THE DOLE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT AT 'YOUR INSURANCE BROKER',
"CORAL HOUSE", CORAL STREET, MALENY ON THE 25-02-1999 AND 3-3-99***

WERE YOU BORN IN MALENY?

YES, I WAS BORN IN MALENY HOSPITAL IN 1952. WE LIVED AT WOOTHA AT THAT STAGE WHERE THE MACADAMIA ORCHARD ("MACFARMS) IS NOW. THE FIRST HOME I LIVED IN, THERE, WAS A HIGH SET TIMBER HOME, IT HAD THE CARS AND VEHICLES PARKED UNDERNEATH AND THE DOGS AND EVERYTHING USED TO SLEEP THERE THE LAUNDRY WAS UNDER THE HOME AND BACK IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS DRYERS, SO IT WAS FAIRLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAD SOMEWHERE UNDER THE HOUSE TO DRY CLOTHES, AS WELL AS IN



FRONT OF THE WOODEN FIREPLACE. IT SEEMED TO RAIN A LOT MORE WHEN I WAS A KID THAN IT DOES THESE DAYS. THAT WAS THE FIRST HOME. WHEN I WAS NINE WE MOVED TO MALENY - LANDSBOROUGH ROAD AND THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVED IS NOW OCCUPIED AS A CARAVAN PARK, IT WAS A REALLY BIG RAMBLING HOME, PROBABLY ABOUT 28 SQUARES. THEN I LEFT THERE TO GO AWAY, WORKING IN THE ANZ BANK AND CAME BACK TO NOT FAR FROM MY SECOND HOME, WHICH WAS WHERE THE CARAVAN PARK IS NOW. I HAVE LIVED THERE FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

WHAT WAS THE COUNTRYSIDE LIKE AROUND YOUR HOME?

I CAN REMEMBER KIKUYU HADN'T LONG BEEN IN MALENY. THE COLLARD FAMILY BROUGHT KIKUYU TO MALENY FROM SOUTH AFRICA. IT WAS SPREAD GRADUALLY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT, MAINLY THE WAY IT WAS SPREAD WAS PEOPLE USED TO GO AND CUT PIECES OFF IT, OFF THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, AND ALSO IN THE COW MANURE. THERE WAS A LOT OF BRACKEN, A LOT OF SNAKES, ENORMOUS NUMBER OF SNAKES, THERE WAS PASPALUM, NUTGRASS, VERY FEW TREES, BECAUSE MOST OF THE TREES WERE CLEARED. I SOMETIMES SMILE WHEN I TALK ABOUT HOW BEAUTIFUL

MALENY IS AND HOW MANY LOVELY TREES WE HAVE GOT HERE, WELL WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, IT WAS AS BARE AS A BABY'S BACKSIDE. THERE WERE VERY FEW TREES. A LOT OF GRAVEL ROADS, I SUPPOSE. MOST OF IT IS REGROWTH OR PLANTINGS. PLACES WHERE YOU NOW HAVE HOUSING ESTATES USED TO BE FARMS, BUT THERE WERE NO TREES ON THEM. AROUND MOST OF THE DAIRIES IN THE DISTRICT, INSTEAD OF TREES NATIVE TO THE AREA, THERE WERE THINGS LIKE PRIVET HEDGES AND ALSO CORAL TREES. CORAL TREES OVER THE YEARS, A LOT OF THEM HAVE EITHER DIED OUT OR BEEN DAMAGED BY STORMS OR BEEN CUT DOWN BECAUSE THEY'RE FAIRLY BRITTLE AND THEY DROP LIMBS. SOME FARMS USED TO HAVE HEDGES, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ACTUALLY CALLED THEM, BUT THERE WAS ONE WHICH WAS A PRICKLY HEDGE, IT GREW QUITE TALL, ABOUT 4 - 5 METRES HIGH AND IT USED TO

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GET LITTLE YELLOW BERRIES ON IT. THE OTHER SHRUB WAS A SILVER - LEAFED TYPE THING THAT GREW IN A HEDGE FORMAT ALONG THE FENCE LINE AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN 4 - 5 METRES HIGH. IN LATER YEARS WE HAVE SEEN ALONG ALL THE FENCE LINES WE'VE SEEN A LOT OF CAMPHOR LAUREL SPROUT FROM BIRD DROPPINGS. AS A YOUNG CHILD THERE WASN'T A LOT OF CAMPHOR LAUREL IN MALENY AND THEY'VE SPREAD - - - SOME OF THE TREES THAT WERE PLANTED AT THE SHOWGROUNDS AND PLACES LIKE THAT, IT'S SPREAD FROM THERE.

THERE WEREN'T A LOT OF TREES NATIVE TO THE AREA, CONSIDERING IT WAS ALL COVERED IN VERY DENSE SCRUB UP HERE, WITH A COUPLE OF EXCEPTIONS, LIKE AROUND NEAR THE SHOWGROUNDS IN MAX GRAHAM'S PROPERTY AND PROBABLY MARY CAIRNCROSS PARK..... THERE'S NOT MUCH OF THE REMNANT SCRUB LEFT ACTUALLY. THERE'S ANOTHER LITTLE PATCH OUT WOOTHAM ROAD AT RAY DALEY'S TOO, BUT APART FROM THAT, THERE'S NOTHING.

Where did you go to school?

I STARTED AT MALENY PRIMARY SCHOOL. I WENT RIGHT THROUGH TO YEAR TEN THERE AND A COUPLE OF YEARS BEFORE I WENT TO YEAR TEN, THEY ALSO INCLUDED THE SENIOR YEAR, PRIOR TO THAT IF YOU WANTED TO DO SENIOR YOU HAD TO GO TO NAMBOUR AND STAY DOWN THERE BECAUSE THE TRAINS WEREN'T ALL THAT GOOD.

What type of a school was it?

IT WAS A BIT OF A BULLY SCHOOL SO ... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN 1958 THAT I STARTED AT MALENY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND I THINK IT WAS THE YEAR BEFORE, 1957, THAT THEY SHIFTED THE WHOLE SCHOOL FROM CEDAR STREET TO WHERE THE PRIMARY SCHOOL IS TODAY. IT WAS A HIGH-SET TIMBER SCHOOL, IT WAS NOT BUILT IN UNDERNEATH AS IT IS TODAY AND IT WAS REALLY COLD. WHEN IT RAINED, GOT SLEETING COLD RAIN IT WAS REALLY COLD UNDERNEATH THE SCHOOL, GRADUALLY THEY STARTED TO ENCLOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF IT, TO PROVIDE SOME PROTECTION FOR THE STUDENTS. WE USED TO EAT OUR LUNCHES UNDERNEATH THE SCHOOL, IT HAD SEATING AND EVERYBODY HAD TO COME DOWN AT BIG LUNCH AND LITTLE LUNCH AND YOU WOULD SIT DOWN AND EAT YOUR LUNCH AND THEN AS SOON AS THE BELL WENT FOR YOU TO GO OUT AND PLAY, YOU WENT OUT AND PLAYED. IN THOSE DAYS WHEN SCHOOL'S WERE DEVELOPED THEY DIDN'T HAVE OVALS, THEY WAS JUST A SORT OF BARE PADDOCK AND THEY STUCK A SCHOOL IN THE MIDDLE, WE DIDN'T HAVE PUBLIC TOILETS, WE DIDN'T HAVE SEPTICS, THEY WERE JUST THE OLD OUTHUSES, SOME FUNNY THINGS HAPPENED WITH THOSE. THEN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

TOGETHER WITH THE COOPERATION OF RICKSON BURNETT AND DAVE HANKINSON, THEY WERE THE COUNCILLORS IN THOSE DAYS AND THEY HAD CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL, THE COUNCIL EQUIPMENT AND VARIOUS OTHER BITS OF EQUIPMENT WE USED TO PUT THE CURRENT OVALS IN.

Tell us about the clothes you wore everyday, to school:

GENERALLY YOU DIDN'T WEAR SHOES VERY MUCH, EXCEPT IN THE WINTER MONTHS WHEN IT WAS TOO COLD AND EVEN THEN THEY WERE NOT VERY GOOD SHOES OR BOOTS, WHEN I TALK ABOUT BOOTS I MEAN KNEE-BOOTS WITH WOOLLEN SOCKS. WE ALWAYS HAD A UNIFORM, WHICH WAS USUALLY GREY- GREY SHORTS, GREY SHIRT AND WHEN YOU GOT TO HIGH SCHOOL YOU HAD TO

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WEAR A TIE AND A HAT, LONG SOCKS AND SHOES IN HIGH SCHOOL. IN THE EARLY STAGES THAT WAS BASICALLY IT, YOU USUALLY ONLY HAD TWO OR THREE SETS OF SCHOOL CLOTHES SO IF YOU GOT THEM WET, YOU GOT A CUFF UNDER THE EAR WHEN YOU GOT HOME.

Where were your clothes bought, or how were they made and by whom?

THEY WERE MOSTLY BOUGHT FROM THE DRAPERY. THE GIRLS MOSTLY HAD THEIR DRESSES MADE BUT THE BOYS MOSTLY HAD BOUGHT SHORTS AND SHIRTS. THE SHIRTS WERE EITHER COTTON OR NYLON, PEOPLE OF MY GENERATION WILL REMEMBER THE HORRIBLE NYLON SHIRTS WE USED TO WEAR, THEY WERE ALMOST LIKE SEERSUCKER IN SOME WAYS, A MINIATURE VERSION OF THE SEERSUCKER AND THEY WEREN'T VERY NICE BUT THEY WERE EASY TO KEEP, YOU CERTAINLY DIDN'T HAVE TO IRON OR PRESS THEM, JUST LET THEM DRY.

What do remember about the Union Church or any other Church?

DURING MY TIME THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN MALENY. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS REBUILT WHEN I WAS A YOUNG CHILD SO I WAS PROBABLY THEN EIGHT OR SO. WE THEN HAD THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WHICH IS STILL THERE OPPOSITE WHERE THE OLD SCHOOL USED TO BE (Cedar Street, Maleny) THE BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW THE NAKED VICAR RESTAURANT. THE METHODIST CHURCH WAS AROUND ON THE CORNER OF CORAL AND MYRTLE STREETS, WHICH IS NOW OCCUPIED AS A CLOTHING MANUFACTURER. THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND WAS OPPOSITE THE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHICH IS NOW AN ART AND CRAFT CENTRE. THERE WAS THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AT WITTA, WHICH IS STILL THE LUTHERAN CHURCH, THEY WERE PROBABLY THE ONLY CHURCHES WE HAD IN TOWN IN THE YEARS I WAS GROWING UP.

Tell us what you wore to church:

YOUR SUNDAY BEST, EITHER SHORTS AND A GOOD WHITE SHIRT OR LONG TROUSERS, YOU ALWAYS WORE SHOES AND SOCKS AND AT A FAIRLY YOUNG AGE YOU HAD TO WEAR A TIE. YOU HAD TO HAVE A BATH ON SATURDAY NIGHT OR SUNDAY MORNING AND YOU HAD YOUR HAIR SLICKED DOWN, THINGS LIKE THAT. YOU WENT ALONG NEAT AND TIDY, COULDN'T BE SEEN IN CHURCH WITHOUT BEING NEAT, CLEAN AND TIDY. THE OLDER GIRLS WORE GLOVES AND A HAT, THE YOUNGER GIRLS DIDN'T HAVE TO, BUT THEY ALWAYS WORE A NICE ,AT LEAST KNEE LENGTH DRESS, USUALLY A DRESS TIGHT AT THE WAIST OR A BLOUSE AND SKIRT, WITH AN ELASTICISED SKIRT. I CAN REMEMBER AS A YOUNG FELLOW, I CAN REMEMBER I WAS ABOUT TEN AT THE

TIME, WE USED TO GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL. YOUR PARENTS WOULD DROP YOU OFF AT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THEN CHURCH STARTED ABOUT HALF AN HOUR LATER AND TOWARDS THE END OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, THERE WAS ABOUT HALF AN HOUR OF THE SERVICE LEFT, YOU COULD EITHER GO WITH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER TO CHURCH OR THE YOUNGER ONES WERE ALLOWED TO PLAY OUTSIDE. I GOT INTO ENORMOUS TROUBLE ONCE FOR TAKING MY WATER PISTOL AND SQUIRTING IT THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE CHURCH AND WETTING ALL THE LADIES AND PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH, BUT IT'S ALL HARMLESS FUN. MRS FRANK WOODS, THAT'S MARGARET WOOD'S MUM, FLORENCE WOODS, SHE WAS ONE OF MY EARLY TEACHERS AT SUNDAY SCHOOL, AS WAS ISABELLA BRYCE, BECAUSE WE WENT TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. THERE WAS MRS LINDY, LATER ON BETTY DIEFENBACH

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AND SOMETIMES SOME OF THE SENIOR GIRLS, THE GIRLS WHO WERE 14 OR 15 WOULD HELP. I HAVE BEEN TUTORED BY MISS BRYCE, HER SISTER, PHYLLIS, USED TO PLAY THE ORGAN IN THE CHURCH AND SOMETIMES ISABELLA WOULDN'T BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL, HER SISTER WOULD HAVE ANOTHER DUTY IN THE CHURCH AND ISABELLA WOULD PLAY THE ORGAN. FROM WHEN I WAS TWELVE TO AROUND ABOUT SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD I BELONGED TO A CHURCH GROUP WHICH WAS CALLED 'PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION' (PFA) THAT'S WHERE I MET MY WIFE ACTUALLY, SHE CAME WITH ONE OF THE GIRLS THAT WENT TO CHURCH WITH ME, SHE WAS AT TEACHERS COLLEGE AND THIS GIRL WAS ALSO AT TEACHERS COLLEGE AND SHE CAME HOME FOR THE WEEKEND AND I MET HER ON A FRIDAY NIGHT AT ONE OF THE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. AT THAT STAGE THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MALENY WAS ALMOST BULGING AT THE SEAMS AND WE HAD A MINISTER CALLED THE REVEREND SYDNEY. HE WAS A ELDERLY GENTLEMAN. IT WAS HIS LAST CHURCH THAT HE WAS CARE TAKING, HE WAS A LOVELY MAN, HE WAS HERE FOR ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN YEARS. I CAN REMEMBER HE USED TO COME OUT TO OUR PROPERTY AND VISIT US, HE WOULD HAVE LUNCH WITH YOU AND HELP YOU IN THE DAIRY, THAT SORT OF THING. HE WAS ALWAYS KIND, GENTLE REALLY NICE AND HE DIDN'T STUFF RELIGION DOWN YOUR THROAT, PEOPLE LOVED HIM. HE LOST HIS WIFE MANY YEARS BEFORE AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR HE USED TO MAKE WOODEN TOYS AND ON CHRISTMAS MORNING HE WOULD GET UP OUT OF BED AT MIDNIGHT AND GO AROUND TOWN AND ALL THE ,WHAT WE CALL UNDER-PRIVILEGED TODAY BUT IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS JUST THE FAMILIES THAT WERE DOING IT TOUGH, WHAT HE WOULD DO WAS HE WOULD LEAVE ONE, TWO OR THREE PIECES OF WOODEN TOYS AT THE FRONT DOOR. IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER THEY WERE PRESBYTERIAN, CATHOLIC OR NO RELIGION, IF THEY NEEDED, HE MADE IT DURING THE YEAR AND DELIVERED IT, FOR A LONG TIME PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW WHO IT WAS, THAT'S THE SORT OF MAN HE WAS. I THINK THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MY GENERATION, WHO GREW UP IN MALENY LOVED HIM DEARLY, I CAN REMEMBER WHEN HE RETIRED THERE WAS A FUNCTION FOR HIM, HELD FOR HIM BY THE COMMUNITY ,NOT JUST BY THE CHURCH, BUT BY THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND IT WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY AND THERE WAS PROBABLY MORE PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH OF ALL DENOMINATIONS WHO CAME TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM, THAN PROBABLY PRESBYTERIAN BECAUSE THE PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY WAS PROBABLY ONLY NUMBERING IN THE COUPLE OF HUNDREDS.

[so you would have experienced the merging to United church in the 1970's ?-I.G]

YES, JUST BEFORE I WAS MARRIED THAT OCCURRED, SO WE SAW IT AND AS IS ALWAYS THE CASE WHEN YOU TRY TO MERGE CHURCHES OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS THERE'S ALWAYS THOSE THAT HOLD OUT AND THOSE THAT DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA AND THOSE WHO HAVE IDEOLOGICAL REASONS WHY IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN. FOR MOST OF THE YOUNGER PEOPLE TODAY WHO DON'T KNOW THE HISTORY OF IT ALL, IT DOESN'T MEAN AS MUCH AS WHAT IT DID TO THOSE PEOPLE IN THOSE DAYS.

Was there anyone who strongly influenced your life:

REVEREND SYDNEY, STRONGLY INFLUENCED MY LIFE, PEG BURNETT IS SOMEBODY WHO I HAVE ADMIRER GREATLY FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND I SUPPOSE SHE HASN'T AS MUCH INFLUENCED ME AS I HAVE ADMIRER HER AND

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SAID 'IF EVERYBODY WAS LIKE PEG THE WORLD WOULD BE A WONDERFUL PLACE.' HER EX-HUSBAND RICKSON WAS IN SOME WAYS VERY SUPPORTIVE OF ME WHEN I WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CALOUNDRA CITY COUNCIL. I ADMIRER HIM FROM THE POINT OF VIEW, AFTER SOME TWENTY ODD YEARS ON COUNCIL, HE WAS PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE ME TO REPLACE HIM AND NEVER ONCE DID HE SAY TO ME THAT I WAS IMPETUOUS, THAT I WAS SILLY OR THAT I HAD DONE SOMETHING OR THAT I WAS DOING SOMETHING - - - HE WOULD, IN HIS NICE WAY, TALK TO ME ABOUT CERTAIN ISSUES AND SAY 'WELL HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THIS' OR 'HAVE YOU THOUGHT THAT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS' AND IN HIS OWN QUIET SUBTLE WAY, HE MADE ME SEE REASON IN A LOT OF THINGS. ANOTHER MAN WHO I ADMIRER GREATLY AND WHO HAD A FAIR BIT OF INFLUENCE ON ME WAS DAVE HANKINSON. DAVE WAS VERY INFLUENTIAL IN THE COMMUNITY, HE WAS A COUNCILLOR FOR SOME TWENTY-THREE OR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, HE WAS A GREAT COMMUNITY WORKER AND I TRIED TO USE HIM AS AN EXAMPLE, BECAUSE I USED TO DO A LOT OF COMMUNITY WORK. HE WAS JUST A "MAN FOR MALENY" ALWAYS, HE CARED ABOUT THE PEOPLE, HE CARED ABOUT THE PLACE AND HE WAS VERY, VERY CAUTIOUS WITH THE DOLLAR SO I LEARNT A LOT OF THINGS FROM HIM. THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE INFLUENCED MY LIFE AND PARTICULARLY MY MOTHER AND ALSO MY FATHER AND MY UNCLE, I GREW UP IN A IRISH FAMILY, IRISH HERITAGE. ALTHOUGH I WAS BORN IN MALENY, MY PARENTS HAD ONLY COME TO MALENY IN 1948 AND I SUPPOSE WE HAD THE FAMILY VALUES OF THE IRISH, WHERE FAMILY IS IMPORTANT, YOU FIGHT AND YOU CARRY ON BUT WHEN IT ALL COMES DOWN TO IT, BLOOD'S THICKER THAN WATER. I LEARNT A LOT OF PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS OF MY LIFE FROM MY MOTHER, SHE HAD A LOT OF SAYINGS WHICH I OFTEN HAVE LIVED MY LIFE BY. MY FATHER WAS A HARD WORKING MAN, PROBABLY I LEARNT THINGS FROM HIM THAT FOR INSTANCE....HE GREW UP IN A GENERATION WHERE THE MAN DIDN'T SHOW LOVE AND AFFECTION OPENLY AND WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN AND A HALF AND I LEFT HOME TO GO AND WORK IN THE (KILCOY) ANZ BANK HE AND MY MOTHER TOOK ME OVER TO KILCOY TO STAY WITH THE LADY I WAS GOING TO LIVE WITH WHILE I WORKED OVER THERE AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I REALLY KNEW MY FATHER LOVED ME BECAUSE HE CRIED AND THAT'S THE FIRST TIME HE EVER TOLD ME HE LOVED ME AND I LEARNT FROM THAT, THAT I WAS ALWAYS GOING TO TELL MY CHILDREN HOW MUCH I LOVED THEM AND SHOW IT OPENLY TO THEM, SO THEY KNEW. THERE ARE THINGS IN LIFE THAT YOU FROM THE POSITIVES AND THIS ONE IS FROM THE NEGATIVES, IN TELLING THAT STORY ABOUT MY FATHER, I WOULDN'T LIKE ANYONE TO THINK THAT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT HIM OR THAT HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ME, IT WAS JUST THE ERA AND I JUST TELL IT AS

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU CAN LEARN THINGS FROM DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF LIFE. IN MY SCHOOL YEARS I ADMIRERD AND WAS INFLUENCED GREATLY BY A COUPLE OF TEACHERS; MR PAT CAROLL, WHO PROBABLY DID MORE TO SET ME ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW AS FAR AS THINKING ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING, THAN ANYONE ELSE. MR BERNIE CHILCOT WHO WAS MORE A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER THAN A PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER, HE WAS A MAN WHO SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, TAUGHT FITNESS PROGRAMS AND ----- I THOUGHT BOTH THOSE TEACHERS, MR CHILCOT AND MR CARROLL WERE BOTH FIRM BUT FAIR PEOPLE , WHEN I SAY FIRM I MEAN THEY WOULD GIVE YOU A GOOD FLOGGING IF YOU DID THE WRONG THING, BUT AT THE SAME TIME YOU KNEW THEY REALLY CARED ABOUT YOU AND EVEN THE KIDS THAT WERE

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ALWAYS IN TROUBLE THEY ALWAYS HAD A NICE WORD FOR THEM, ALWAYS KIND TO THEM AND ALWAYS GAVE THEM ANOTHER CHANCE. I KNEW SOME REAL CHARACTERS WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL TOO.

What happened when you left school, what did you do & how old were you?

WELL I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO ON AND DO MY SENIOR YEARS, WHEN I SAY I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT IF I WANTED TO GO ON I COULD BUT I KNEW----- THE FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME WAS DIFFICULT, THEY WEREN'T WONDERFUL YEARS. DAD WAS WORKING TWO JOBS, HE ALSO WAS STRUGGLING WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY IN RELATION TO HIS TRYING TO FIND ENOUGH MONEY BECAUSE OF MY MOTHER'S ILL HEALTH AND I KNEW THAT HE REALLY COULDN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANOTHER MOUTH IN THE HOUSE TO FEED. JOBS WERE VERY EASY TO FIND AND I STARTED WORK IN THE ANZ BANK IN KILCOY IN FEBRUARY 1967, SO THAT BASICALLY WAS THE COMMENCEMENT OF MY CAREER. I WAS THERE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS, I WENT ONTO RELIEVING STAFF WITH THE ANZ FOR TWELVE MONTHS, TO NEW GUINEA FOR TWO YEARS, RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA AND JOINED THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND JUST SORT OF PROGRESSED FROM BEING AN EMPLOYEE THROUGH TO STARTING UP MY OWN BUSINESS IN MALENY 20 YEARS AGO AND HERE I'VE BEEN EVER SINCE. I'VE ALSO BEEN FORTUNATE THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, AT A VERY YOUNG AGE I SUPPOSE WHEN I WAS ALMOST THIRTY, IN 1982, I WAS ELECTED AS A LANDSBOROUGH SHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION TWO, WHICH TOOK IN MALENY AND WENT OUT AS FAR AS JUST THIS SIDE OF THE 'CEMENT HILL' AT WITTA, TOOK IN BOOROOBIN, OVER TO MAROOCHY SHIRE BOUNDARY ON THE NORTHERN SIDE AND DOWN THE RANGE IT TOOK IN LANDSBOROUGH AND MOUNT MELLUM. I REPRESENTED THAT AREA FOR NINE YEARS, DURING THOSE YEARS I WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN LANDSBOROUGH SHIRE COUNCIL FOR SIX YEARS, I WAS CHAIRMAN OF TOURISM COMMITTEE FOR A COUPLE OF TERMS, I HAVE SERVED ON QUITE A LOT OF OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES, I WAS A MEMBER OF THE LANDSBOROUGH (CALOUNDRA) - MAROOCHY WATER SUPPLY BOARD, RIGHT FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BOARD THROUGH UNTIL AFTER CONSTRUCTION OF THE DAM AND THAT WAS A VERY INTERESTING PART OF MY LIFE, I WAS A MEMBER OF THE SUNSHINE COAST TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR FIVE YEARS AND I WAS ON THE MAROOCHY HOSPITAL BOARD FOR FIVE YEARS. SO AT A VERY YOUNG AGE I WAS FORTUNATE TO DO THINGS THAT MANY PEOPLE DON'T GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO UNTIL THEIR FORTIES OR FIFTIES, I LEARNT A LOT, MET SOME VERY INTERESTING PEOPLE, ACHIEVED A LOT.

What were some your experience in representing Division Two of Landsborough Shire Council (changed to Caloundra City Council in 1982)?

WHEN I CAME ON COUNCIL IN 1982, MALENY WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PLACE TO WHAT IT IS TODAY. NOT MANY YEARS PRIOR TO THAT, THE NEW ROAD UP THE RANGE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED AND ALSO THE BRUCE HIGHWAY HAD BEEN RECONSTRUCTED. SO YOU DIDN'T COME UP THROUGH BEERWAH AND LANDSBOROUGH AND THOSE SORT OF PLACES. AROUND THAT TIME, AND TO A LARGE EXTENT, PEOPLE STARTED TO DISCOVER MALENY AND THE HINTERLAND. PEOPLE STARTED TO COME UP HERE ON WEEKENDS AND ON DAY TRIPS FROM THE

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COAST WHEN THEY CAME TO CALOUNDRA, MAROOCHYDORE ETC. WORD HAD SPREAD FAIRLY WELL. UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS ALSO A TIME WHEN THE COUNCIL HAD ABSOLUTELY NO TOWN PLANNING, EVEN THEIR SUB-DIVISION BY-LAWS WERE VERY REGIMENTAL IN NATURE AND YOU COULD DRIVE A TRUCK THROUGH THEM. BASICALLY. SUB-DIVISION WAS OCCURRING ALMOST WITHOUT CONTROL. YES, YOU HAD TO PUT AN APPLICATION IN, BUT NONE EVER GOT KNOCKED BACK UNLESS IT WAS SUBJECT TO LANDSLIP OR SOMETHING. ROAD CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENTS WERE VERY MINIMAL. CERTAINLY EXTERNAL ROAD CONTRIBUTIONS WERE NON-EXISTENT. YOU MAY HAVE TO CONSTRUCT A ROAD IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT BUT EXTERNALLY, CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE ROAD LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT, THERE WAS NO CONTRIBUTION. PARKS CONTRIBUTIONS WERE FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50-) PER ALLOTMENT AND THERE WAS NO WATER AND SEWERAGE HEAD-WORKS. SO ALL OF THESE SORTS OF THINGS HAD CREATED A SITUATION WHERE WE HAD AN ENORMOUS NUMBER OF SUB-DIVISIONS THAT HAD ACTUALLY BEEN APPROVED AND THEN JUST AFTER I CAME ON COUNCIL, WE INTRODUCED AN INTERIM DEVELOPMENT BY-LAW, WHICH WAS A CONTROL ON DEVELOPMENT, BUT IT WASN'T MUCH OF A CONTROL ON SUB-DIVISION. SO BASICALLY IF YOU WANTED TO DO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL VENTURE OR MULTIPLE VENTURE OUTSIDE OF WHAT YOU WERE CURRENTLY DOING, YOU HAD TO APPLY FOR AN INTERIM TOWN PLANNING CONSENT. WHEN IT CAME TO SUB-DIVISION, IT DIDN'T CONTROL IT, THERE WAS ACTUALLY A SEPARATE SUB-DIVISION BY-LAW WHICH WE HAD TO BEEF UP. YOU CAN'T CHANGE SUB-DIVISION BY-LAWS OVERNIGHT, YOU CAN'T MAKE RADICAL TOTAL CHANGES OVERNIGHT, IT'S SOMETHING THAT PROGRESSES OVER THE YEARS AND OVER THOSE FIRST FEW YEARS WE 'COPPED A LOT OF FLACK' BECAUSE WE INTRODUCED THINGS LIKE HEAD-WORKS. WE UPGRADED THE PARKS CONTRIBUTION AND STARTED TAKING PARKLAND INSTEAD OF MONEY AND INCREASED THE ACTUAL MONEY AMOUNT. WE STARTED FORCING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EXTERNAL ROAD WORKS, WE STARTED FORCING DEVELOPERS TO PUT IN BITUMEN ROADS INSTEAD OF GRAVEL ROADS, WE KNOCKED BACK A LOT OF SUB-DIVISIONS AND BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF ALLOTMENTS THAT HERE, PRIOR TO 1982- 1983, THERE WAS AN OVER-SUPPLY ANYWAY, SO IT WASN'T TOO DIFFICULT TO ACTUALLY BRING SOME OF THOSE THINGS IN. THEN WE HAD TO ADDRESS A LOT OF OTHER ISSUES. THE TOWN PLANNING WAS GAZETTED IN ABOUT 1985, SO WE HAD AN INTERIM BY-LAW FOR THREE YEARS AND THEN WE HAD THE POWER THEN TO ADDRESS CERTAIN ISSUES. I CAN REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST INTRODUCED WATER AND SEWERAGE HEAD-WORKS, THEY WERE AROUND ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000-) PER ALLOTMENT, I THINK THEY ARE

ABOUT EIGHT TO TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,000-\$10,000) PER ALLOTMENT NOW. THE ATTITUDE WITH PEOPLE IN THOSE DAYS WAS 'YOU'RE TRYING TO STOP DEVELOPMENT, YOU'RE MAKING IT UNPROFITABLE FOR THE DEVELOPERS, YOU'RE MAKING IT UNPROFITABLE FOR PEOPLE TO CUT OFF A BLOCK ETC.

I NEVER REALLY SUBSCRIBED TO THAT THINKING, IN THAT I FELT THAT THE PEOPLE THAT OCCUPIED THE LAND AT THE TIME OF AN APPLICATION FOR SUB-DIVISION, BASICALLY ARE CARETAKERS OF THE LAND, THEY MAY OWN IT, BUT THEY REALLY ARE THE CARETAKERS OF IT FOR THE FUTURE. SO I NEVER BELIEVED OR SUBSCRIBED TO THAT THEORY THAT YOU MUST HAVE BY-LAWS WHICH ALLOW PEOPLE TO MERELY MAKE A PROFIT. I BELIEVE THAT YOU MUST

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HAVE BY-LAWS THAT ARE FAIR AND JUST AND REASONABLE AT THE TIME AND YOU NEED TO CONTROL DEVELOPMENT, SO THAT IT DOESN'T CONTROL YOU. BECAUSE IN MY EARLY YEARS IN COUNCIL I FOUND IT INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE TO INFRASTRUCTURE THAT HAD TO BE PROVIDED FOR PREVIOUS SUB-DIVISIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAD NO REAL INFRASTRUCTURE. WHEN I CAME TO COUNCIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE: IN MALENY THE ONLY KERB AND CHANNEL WAS IN BUNYA STREET, FROM THE (NOW OLD?) S.E.Q.E.B. DEPOT TO THE BRIDGE, IN MAPLE STREET FROM THE BRIDGE TO THE TOP GARAGE. THERE WAS SOME UP CEDAR STREET, UP PAST THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BUT IT WAS ONLY HALF OF THE STREET ON TWO SIDES AND ABOUT ANOTHER THIRD OF THE STREET, ON ONE SIDE. THERE WAS A LITTLE BIT IN TAMARIND STREET, TAMARIND STREET WENT FROM AROUND ABOUT THE HOSPITAL ALONG TO THE MASONIC LODGE, THEY HAD KERB AND CHANNEL THERE. THAT WAS THE ONLY KERB AND CHANNEL IN MALENY.

IN LANDSBOROUGH THE SITUATION WAS EVEN WORSE, THE ONLY KERB AND CHANNEL WAS A BIT ON MAYNARDS CORNER AND A BIT IN CRIBB STREET ALONG THE FRONT OF THE SHOPS AND HOTEL AND THE WAS ON BOTH SIDES AND THAT WAS IT. I WAS DETERMINED WHEN I GOT ON COUNCIL TO CHANGE A LOT OF THINGS AND MAKE A LOT OF THINGS HAPPEN. I WAS DETERMINED THAT BY THE TIME I HAD FINISHED ON COUNCIL THAT:

- ALL RURAL ROADS THAT REGULARLY HAD TRAFFIC ON THEM AND HAD SCHOOL BUSES ON THEM WOULD BE SEALED, IN MY DIVISION.
- THE MAJORITY OF THE STREETS, IN BOTH MALENY AND LANDSBOROUGH, WOULD BE KERB AND CHANNELLED AND THAT ALL STREETS WOULD BE BITUMENED.
- WE WERE GOING TO HAVE SOME PROPER PARK AND RECREATION AREAS AND THAT MARY CAIRNCROSS PARK WAS GOING TO BE LOOKED AFTER AND TREASURED, IN THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.
- THE SHOWGROUNDS IN MALENY WAS GOING TO BE REDEVELOPED, BECAUSE IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE EYESORE.
- WE WERE GOING TO FINISH THE SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR MALENY AND UPGRADE THE WATER SUPPLY, BECAUSE THE WATER SUPPLY IN MALENY WAS OVER TWENTY YEARSOLD, AND VERY BASIC IN THE WAY THAT IT WAS PUT TOGETHER. THE QUALITY OF WATER WAS QUITE POOR, IT HAD RECEIVED, I THINK, VERY RUDIMENTARY TREATMENT AND IT WAS A CONSTANT PROBLEM FOR PEOPLE IN THAT THERE IS A HIGH MAGANESE AND A HIGH IRON CONTENT IN THE WATER. SO, WHAT USED TO HAPPEN, IS THE STUFF USED TO BUILD UP IN THE PIPES BECAUSE IT WASN'T TREATED PROPERLY, SO IT WOULD GO THROUGH AND BUILD UP IN THE PIPES AND BIG PIECES OF SLUDGE

FROM TIME TO TIME WOULD COME LOOSE AND THE PEOPLE WOULD JUST RUIN THEIR WASHING ENTIRELY. OR YOU WOULD JUST TURN THE TAP ON AND IT WOULD POUR OUT WATER AND IT WOULD JUST BE BLACK, IT WAS LIKE MUD.

IN LANDSBOROUGH I WAS DETERMINED THAT THE RAILWAY TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY WOULD BE UPGRADED PROPERLY, OFTEN IT WOULD JUST BREAK DOWN AND PEOPLE WOULDN'T HAVE WATER FOR HOURS. AS WELL THE TREATMENT QUALITY WAS QUITE POOR AND IT WAS TO KEEP THE QUALITY OF THE WATER REASONABLE AS FAR AS BACTERIA CONTENT WAS CONCERNED, FROM MOOLOOLAH ALL THE WAY TO BEERBURRUM, THEY USED TO DOSE IT, VERY HEAVILY WITH CHLORINE AND THE pH CONTENT WAS SO HIGH IN THE RAILWAYS

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TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY AND IT WAS BRACKISH AND DIFFICULT TO DRINK. THE pH CONTENT WAS SO HIGH, IN CERTAIN AREAS, THAT THERE WERE LONG RUNS OF WATER PIPE WHICH WASN'T CIRCULAR IN NATURE, BECAUSE IT JUST WENT DOWN A ROAD FOR A KILOMETRE OR SO AND THERE WAS LOW USAGE IN THOSE AREAS, THE pH WOULD BUILD UP TO SUCH AN DEGREE, THAT SHOWER AND SHOWER BASINS WOULD ACTUALLY CORRODE, FROM USE OF THE WATER.

SO THEY WERE THE SORTS OF THINGS THAT I WAS DETERMINED TO RECTIFY, PARTICULARLY THE SEWING OF LANDSBOROUGH AND I THINK IN THE NINE YEARS THAT I SERVED ON COUNCIL, IN WAS FORTUNATE TO ACHIEVE ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THOSE, EXCEPT FOR THE SEWING OF LANDSBOROUGH. LANDSBOROUGH, PROBABLY MORE THAN ANY OTHER TOWN THAT I HAVE COME ACROSS, NEEDED SEWERAGE, BECAUSE IT'S GOT A VERY CLAY-TYPE SOIL, VERY LITTLE TOP SOIL AND IT'S QUITE FLAT. SO WHAT USED TO HAPPEN WAS BECAUSE OF THE HIGH RAINFALL, LANDSBOROUGH HAS A RAINFALL VERY SIMILAR TO MALENY, THE SEPTIC TRENCHES AND SULLAGE TRENCHES, DURING PERIODS OF HIGH RAINFALL, WOULD FILL WITH RAIN WATER, WHICH WOULD SOAK DOWN IN (THE SOIL) AND THERE WOULD BE NO CAPACITY WITHIN THE SOIL FOR THE SULLAGE OR SEPTIC WATER TO DRAIN AWAY AND IT USED TO JUST COME STRAIGHT TO THE SURFACE AND FLOAT AROUND PEOPLE'S BACKYARDS AND THERE WOULD BE MAGGOTS AND JUST ..STINK. THE THOUGHT THAT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT TYPE OF SITUATION JUST APPALLED ME. IT IS BEING PRESENTLY SEWERED AT THE PRESENT TIME, UNFORTUNATELY IT IS MANY YEARS AFTER IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE. THERE WAS A LOT OF DIFFICULTIES WITH SEWERING THE CITY. KAWANA HAD TO BE SEWERED BY THE PEOPLE, IN OTHER WORDS BY THE COUNCIL, AND MALENY HAD TO BE SEWERED. CALOUNDRA HAD TO BE SEWERED MANY YEARS AGO AND WE ALWAYS FOUGHT THE COASTAL COUNCILLORS, WHO DIDN'T WANT TO INCREASE THE SEWERAGE RATES TO PUT THE SEWERAGE INTO THE RAILWAY TOWN(LANDSBOROUGH) BECAUSE IT IS THE MOST COSTLY, AND UNFORTUNATELY UNTIL RECENT TIMES, WHEN THE HEALTH SITUATION HAS GOTTEN SO BAD THAT THEY HAVE HAD TO ADDRESS IT. THE COASTAL COUNCILLORS UNFORTUNATELY MANAGED TO DEFER IT BY ONE MECHANISM OR ANOTHER FOR MANY YEARS.

Where did the water come from before Barron Pocket Dam?

MALENY HAS ALWAYS DRAWN IT'S WATER FROM THE TWO WEIRS, IT DRAWS ACTUALLY FROM THE WEIR JUST NEAR THE SHOWGROUND, BUT IT HAS A STORAGE WEIR FURTHER UP IN THE NUT FARM. LANDSBOROUGH DREW ITS WATER (PRIOR TO

BAROON) FROM EWEN MADDOCK DAM AND THERE WAS A TREATMENT PLANT AT EWEN MADDOCK DAM, JUST NEAR MOOLOOLAH TURN OFF AT THE SPORTS GROUNDS THERE, AND I HAD TO FIGHT, TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RAILWAY TOWNS, WE HAD TO FIGHT THE COUNCIL OF THE DAY TO BE CONNECTED TO THE BAROON POCKET WATER SCHEME BECAUSE THEY SAID 'YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN WATER SUPPLY,' BUT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER WAS QUITE POOR AND IT WAS VERY BRACKISH AND IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DRINK ___ ___ IF YOU TAKE BRISBANE WATER, OR BUNDABERG WATER, IF YOU DRINK THEM STRAIGHT OUT OF THE TAP, THEY ARE QUITE UNPALATABLE, BUT WHEN YOU PUT THEM IN A CONTAINER AND PUT IT IN THE FRIDGE AND COOL IT DOWN, IT IS QUITE NICE TO DRINK. OUR WATER WAS SO BRACKISH, EVEN WHEN YOU COOLED IT IN THE FRIDGE AND DRANK IT

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COLD, IT WAS STILL TERRIBLE TO TASTE. CALOUNDRA USED TO DRAW THEIR WATER FROM WHAT YOU CALL A 'RING TANK', WHICH IS WEST OF CALOUNDRA TOWN AND THEY PUMPED IT OUT OF THE MOOLOOLAH RIVER, INTO THE 'RING TANK'. WE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH ALGAL-BLOOMS AND I CAN REMEMBER TIMES WHEN THE WATER USED TO TAKE ON A REALLY OILY FEEL TO IT LIKE IF YOU WASHED YOUR HANDS UNDER IT, IT FELT AS THOUGH YOU HAD AN OIL-SLICK ON YOU AND WHEN YOU TASTED IT, IT TASTED FOUL, BUT ALSO YOU FELT AS THOUGH YOU HAD A COATING OF OIL ON YOUR TONGUE AND THE INSIDE OF YOUR MOUTH AND THAT WAS - - - - - THE ALGAE, WHEN USED TO, WHEN THEY DOSED IT WITH ANOTHER CHEMICAL TO MAKE THE ALGAE FALL OUT, BECAUSE THE ALGAE'S TOXIC, AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE WATER, IT RELEASED AN OILY SUBSTANCE WHICH IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE ENTIRELY OUT OF THE WATER. SO ONCE AGAIN THE CALOUNDRA WATER SUPPLY WAS PROBABLY BUILT IN THE LATE 1960'S AND IT IS ONLY SINCE THE MID-1980'S THAT WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES IN CALOUNDRA CITY HAVE STARTED TO BE UPGRADED TO REASONABLE STANDARDS. I WAS ON THE COUNCIL DURING A PERIOD WHEN WE BUILT THE OCEAN OUTFALL FOR DISPOSAL OF EFFLUENT AND TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE LIKE COUNCILLOR'S CHAMPION, THE THEN MAYOR JACK BEAUSANG AND COUNCILLORS McCAW AND OTHERS, WE FOUGHT VIGOROUSLY TO ENSURE WE DIDN'T HAVE ANOTHER BONDI TYPE OUTLET AND THAT THE QUALITY OF THE EFFLUENT THAT WAS DISCHARGED THROUGH THAT OUTLET THAT FIRSTLY IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR POORLY TREATED EFFLUENT TO BE DISCHARGED THROUGH THAT AND SECONDLY THAT THE QUALITY OF THAT TREATMENT WOULD BE SO CLOSE TO TERTIARY STANDARD IN OTHER WORDS ALMOST DRINKABLE. THERE'S A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT POTABLE REUSE OF WATER AT THE PRESENT MOMENT..... ALMOST AT THAT STAGE, SO THAT WHEN IT WAS DISCHARGED IT WENT OUT AS A VERY CLEAR, WATER VERY LOW IN PHOSPHORUS AND OTHER CHEMICALS AND NITRATES, SO THAT IT WOULD NOT CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE SEABED, SEAGRASS BEDS ETC AND ALSO THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE REPEATS OF THE MOFFAT OUTFALL, WHERE RAW EXCRETA, ON BAD TIDES AND ROUGH SEAS, WOULD ACTUALLY GET WASHED UP ON THE BEACH. I'M VERY PROUD OF THE FACT, THAT DESPITE ALL THE CONCERN THAT WAS AROUND AT THE TIME, THAT THERE HAS NEVER ONCE BEEN A POOR REPORT OF THE OCEAN OUTFALL AT CALOUNDRA. IT ALSO SET AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA AS TO HOW TO BUILD AN OCEAN OUTFALL, WITHOUT DAMAGING THE ENVIRONMENT. I THINK IN A LOT OF WAYS IT'S SAD THAT THE STUFF IS PUT OUT THERE TO THE OCEAN, MY PHILOSOPHY IN RELATION TO A LOT OF THIS SORT OF STUFF IS THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE AND PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IF IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO

REUSE THEN WHY SHOULD WE PUT IT INTO THE ENVIRONMENT TO DEGRADE THE ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE TO GET OVER THIS PHOBIA THAT PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT REUSING EFFLUENT, UNFORTUNATELY THEY DO REUSE EFFLUENT AND THEY DON'T THINK ABOUT IT. LIKE FOR INSTANCE IF YOU TAKE THE PEOPLE OF MARYBOROUGH, BUT EVEN THE PEOPLE OF THE COAST THE PEOPLE OF THE SUNSHINE COAST ARE ACTUALLY CONSUMING MALENY EFFLUENT THAT HAS BEEN TREATED AND DISCHARGED INTO THE OBI AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE BAROON POCKET DAM, GOES THROUGH THEIR WATER, YOU GET FURTHER DOWN THE STREAM AND YOU HAVE GOT KENILWORTH THAT DISCHARGES AND OTHER LITTLE TOWNS, THEN GYMPIE DRAWS WATER OFF THE RIVER SO THEY ARE CONSUMING ALL OF THAT AGAIN

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AND THEN THEY DISCHARGE TO THE RIVER AND THEN IT GETS DOWN TO MARYBOROUGH, WITH ALL OF THE OTHER PLACES THAT HAVE DISCHARGED ALONG THE WAY. SO, IN ACTUAL FACT, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A PURELY CLEAN , CLEAR RIVER, FOR THE MARY (RIVER) ANYWAY. PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN MARYBOROUGH, CONSUMING WATER FROM THEIR BARRAGE, WHICH HAS BEEN DISCHARGED FROM QUITE A NUMBER OF EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANTS ALONG THE MARY (RIVER) AND WE NEVER HEAR TOO MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT IT, AND NOBODY HAS DIED FROM IT OR ANYTHING. SO IT'S SOMETHING THAT NEEDS A LOT OF EDUCATION AND PROBABLY BEFORE IT IS ACCEPTABLE, HOPEFULLY WE MIGHT EVEN FIND THAT DESALINATION OR SOMETHING IS A MORE AFFORDABLE SOLUTION TO OUR WATER CONCERNS, BECAUSE WE HAVE GOT AN ENORMOUS OCEAN RIGHT ON OUR DOOR STEP, WHERE MOST OF OUR POPULATION IS AND WE DON'T UTILISE THAT WATER FOR CONSUMPTION. THOSE SORTS OF THINGS NEED LOOKING INTO MORE, I KNOW THAT SOME COUNTRIES (THAT HAVE DESALINATION) ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT AND I KNOW MONEY REALLY IS NO OBJECT, AS FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED (OTHER COUNTRIES) IN THAT IF THEY DON'T DESALINATE WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO GET THE WATER FROM. I MEAN THEY CAN'T GET IT OUT OF THE SKY, THEY CAN'T PUMP IT FROM THE GROUND, SO THEY HAVE TO DESALINATE AND BECAUSE THEY ARE FAIRLY WEALTHY COUNTRIES, THEY DON'T HAVE THE SAME FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS AS A COUNTRY LIKE OURS.

What can you remember about having electricity in Maleny?

IT WAS FAIRLY RUDIMENTARY IN NATURE, WE HAD TWO STREETLIGHTS, THAT GIVES YOU AN IDEA. THE POWER SYSTEM USED TO GO OUT ON A REGULAR BASIS AND EVERYTIME YOU HAD A STORM, THE WHOLE DISTRICT WOULD BE WITHOUT POWER. MOST OF THE DAIRY FARMERS MILKED THEIR COWS EITHER BY HAND OR THEY HAD - - I CAN REMEMBER I WAS ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS OLD AND WE BOUGHT A DIESEL MOTOR, WHICH YOU USED TO HAVE TO START UP AND GET GOING AND THEN YOU PUT THE BELT ON TO THE MILKING MACHINES AND THEY WOULD RUN THE MACHINES AND WE WOULD PUT THAT ON ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK BECAUSE THE POWER WOULD DROP OUT. YOU WEREN'T MINDING THE SAME QUANTITY OF CATTLE THAT YOU ARE TODAY, SOMEBODY WHO WAS MILKING THIRTY TO FIFTY HEAD (OF CATTLE) WAS A BIG FARMER, TODAY THEY HAVE GOT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY TO TWO HUNDRED HEAD. POWER IN OUR HOMES - - YOU DIDN'T HAVE POWER FOR COOKING, YOU HAD A WOODEN STOVE, A COMBUSTION STOVE, IT ALSO PROVIDED HOT WATER OR YOU HAD A WOOD FIRE HEATER OUTSIDE OR A BOILER WHERE YOU BOIL UP THE WATER FOR THE

WASHING MACHINE AND FOR THE BATHS. WE DIDN'T HAVE A HOT WATER SYSTEM, THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS DRYERS OR ELECTRIC WASHING MACHINES, WE HAD MANUALLY OPERATED WRINGERS ON THE SIDE OF THE TUB, THE CLOTHES WERE BOILED, THERE WAS NO REFRIGERATOR THAT WAS ELECTRIC AND NO TV, BASICALLY ELECTRICITY WAS FOR LIGHTING OR FOR THE DAIRY FARMERS IT WAS RUNNING THEIR MILKING MACHINES AND THAT WAS IT. YOU DIDN'T HAVE REFRIGERATION IN THE DAIRIES OR VATS OR ANYTHING, YOU PUT THE MILK THROUGH A SEPARATOR AND CREAM WAS KEPT IN THE CREAM SHED, IT WAS INSULATED SO THAT IS WAS RELATIVELY COOL AND THE SKIN CAME OF FROM

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THE SEPARATOR AND WENT VIA PIPE TO OUR PIGGERY AND WAS FED TO THE PIGS OVER THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

What other significant changes have you seen in your lifetime?

TV : THE FIRST TV I EVER SAW WAS OUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOURS, THE GIBSONS, GEORGE GIBSON OWNED THE LOCAL APPLIANCE BUSINESS AND HE BOUGHT TV TO MALENY, SO WHEN I SAW MY FIRST TV AT THEIR PLACE, I THINK THE FIRST SHOW I SAW WAS THE "MICKEY MOUSE CLUB", I CAN STILL SING THE SONG. SO I SUPPOSE I WAS PROBABLY SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS OLD AT THAT STAGE. REFRIGERATORS WENT FROM A MEAT SAFE, WHICH WAS A SORT OF THING THAT YOU HUNG IN THE HOUSE WITH GAUZE ON THE OUTSIDE OF IT, TO AN ICEBANK, WHICH WAS JUST A BIG CONTAINER WITH A INTERNAL SECTION AND YOU PUT ICE IN ABOVE AND BELOW IT, WITH BAGS OVER IT, THAT KEPT YOUR THINGS FAIRLY COOL AND THE ICEMAN USED TO COME AROUND. THEN WE HAD KEROSENE REFRIGERATORS, WHICH HAD A TROUGH UNDERNEATH WITH KEROSENE IN IT AND A WICK, I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKED BUT IT USED TO KEEP IT COOL AND THEN ONTO THE VERY FIRST ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS, WHICH WERE QUITE LARGE THINGS WITH VERY SMALL COMPARTMENT INSIDE. THE OTHER THINGS I HAVE NOTICED MOST ARE THINGS LIKE THE SUPERMARKET, HOW WE GET SO MUCH PROCESSED AND MANUFACTURED FOOD TODAY. CHICKEN WAS A BIT OF A LUXURY, THE ONLY TIME YOU ATE CHICKEN WAS AT EASTER, SOMEBODY'S BIRTHDAY, MOTHER'S DAY OR CHRISTMAS USUALLY BECAUSE YOU KILLED OFF A COUPLE OF THE CHOOKS OR A ROOSTER THAT HAD SEEN THEIR DAY. WE ATE A LOT OF NATURAL HOME GROWN FOOD, VEGETABLES AND MEAT . . . BACON, BACK IN THOSE DAYS MY PARENTS AND THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOURS WOULD TAKE TURNS TO SEND A BACONER OFF TO THE FACTORY, HAVE IT KILLED, IT WOULD BE CURED WHICH TOOK SIX WEEKS AND THEN WE WOULD GET THE BACON BACK AND YOU WOULD CUT DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE BACK, SO THE NEIGHBOUR WOULD GET ONE SIDE AND YOU WOULD GET THE OTHER AND YOU STARTED AT THE BOTTOM AND YOU GRADUALLY CUT PIECES OFF, YOU HUNG IT UNDER THE HOUSE WITH A SACK ON, IT DIDN'T GO OFF, USED TO GET A BIT MOULDY SOMETIMES BUT YOU JUST CUT THE MOULD OFF. IT WAS SALTED, SMOKED, BEAUTIFUL BUT WAS VERY FATTY, BECAUSE IN THOSE DAYS THEY DIDN'T HAVE LEAN MEAT OR LEAN BACON, THE BACON WOULD BE USED FOR BOILING, FRYING, FLAVOURING, PARTICULARLY IN THE COOLER MONTHS YOU WOULD ALWAYS HAVE SOUP ON THE COMBUSTION STOVE, IT WENT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY, AND YOU JUST KEEP ON ADDING THINGS TO IT, SUCH AS POTATO SKINS AND ALL THE BITS OF LEFT-OVERS, PLUS THE BACON BONES, SPLIT PEAS ETC, SO YOU HAD BACON AND

SPLIT PEA SOUP. IT WAS ACTUALLY VERY NUTRITIOUS AND HEALTHY FOOD, THERE WERE VERY FEW CHEMICALS USED.

MOTOR CARS, VERY FEW FAMILIES HAD ANYTHING OTHER THAN A UTILITY, WHICH WAS BROUGHT PREDOMINANTLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING PRODUCE TO AND FROM THE PROPERTY, YOU COULDN'T REALLY AFFORD THE LUXURY OF A CAR. I SUPPOSE EDUCATION WAS ANOTHER THING, THE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE HAS IMPROVED GREATLY, CONVERSELY THE OPPORTUNITY FOR JOBS ARE NOT AS GREAT AS THEY USED TO, BUT IN MY PARENTS TIME AND IN LATER YEARS IN MY YOUTH, YOU GOT A JOB AND IT WAS JOB FOR LIFE BASICALLY, AND TODAY THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN, IF YOU CAN FIND A JOB YOU HANG ONTO IT FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN AND THAT'S ABOUT IT. I THINK

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COMPUTERS - - - - I USE THEM IN MY BUSINESS BECAUSE I HAVE TO.... PHONES, FAXES, PHOTOCOPIERS THEY MAKE BUSINESS CONVENIENT BUT ALSO BUSINESS TODAY IS CONDUCTED AT A MUCH FASTER PACE THAN IT USED TO BE AND SADLY IT'D PEOPLE THAT MISS OUT, BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENS IS AS YOU INTRODUCE MORE AND MORE TECHNOLOGY YOU DON'T NEED PEOPLE ON THE GROUND AS MUCH TO DO THE ACTUAL WRITING AND THE WORK THAT USED TO HAVE TO BE DONE. I THINK WE MAKE THINGS A LOT MORE COMPLEX TODAY, MAYBE BECAUSE WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REPORTS ETC. THE OTHER THING THAT HAS PROBABLY CHANGED A LOT - - THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN RAT-BAGS AND RUFFIANS AROUND AND CHARACTERS AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT DONE THE RIGHT THING, THE THING THAT HAS CHANGED TODAY IS THAT PEOPLE ARE A LOT DIFFERENT.... WHEN I WAS GROWING UP AND YOU MET SOMEBODY THAT YOU HAD NEVER MET BEFORE THE QUESTIONS THEY ASKED YOU WERE VERY PERSONAL QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS LIKE " WHERE DO YOU LIVE?" HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN YOUR FAMILY?, 'WHERE ARE YOU IN THE FAMILY? ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR MUM AND DAD, ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR HEALTH AND WHEN YOU PASSED SOMEBODY IN THE STREET AND THEY WOULD SAY "HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?" YOU WOULD TELL THEM HOW YOU WERE, YOU DIDN'T REPLY,' GOOD, HOW ARE YOU" AND THEN KEEP WALKING WITHOUT WAITING FOR A REPLY. TODAY WHEN YOU MEET NEW PEOPLE I OBSERVE THAT ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT THEY ASK YOU THESE DAYS IS, ' WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?' I THINK THAT PEOPLE ARE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, LESS INTERESTED IN 'YOU' THE REAL PERSON AND MORE INTERESTED IN THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. WHEREAS WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND WE WERE GROWING UP THERE WERE VERY FEW PEOPLE THAT YOU COULD SAY WERE WELL OFF, ALMOST ALL OF US WERE IN THE SAME BOAT, ALMOST ALL OF US WERE POOR, WELL-FED AND WORKED HARD. WE UNDERSTOOD THE RESPONSIBILITY A LOT MORE AND I THINK THAT'S THE SAME SORT OF THING THAT'S MISSING IN SOCIETY TODAY, IS THAT BECAUSE EVEN PEOPLE WHO ARE ON VERY FRUGAL MEANS THEY SEEM TO HAVE THE IDEA THEY ARE ENTITLED Y TO EVERYTHING, IT'S A SOCIETY THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED OURSELVES IN THE COMMUNITY, AUSTRALIA-WIDE AND PROBABLY WORLD WIDE, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFLUENCED A LOT BY WHAT HAPPENS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. I LAMENT THE FACT THAT PEOPLE TAKE LESS OF AN INTEREST IN THEIR FELLOW MAN TODAY AND ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR OWN SITUATION THAN THEY ARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

What do you remember about wireless and television in Maleny?

RECEPTION WAS OKAY AND WE USED TO, PROBABLY THREE OR FOUR NIGHTS A WEEK, PARTICULARLY ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY NIGHT LISTEN TO THE RADIO AND THERE USED TO BE AN OLD DANCE HALL TYPE THEME, A LOT OF COMEDY, I REMEMBER THE 'GOON SHOW' AND KENNETH HALL AND THOSE SORTS OF PEOPLE WITH THEIR COMEDY HALF HOURS AND YOU LIVED FOR THAT. ON SATURDAY NIGHT YOU ALWAYS HAD THE OLD DANCE HALL SHOW THAT PLAYED THE MUSIC FROM SOMEWHERE IN SYDNEY, IT USED TO BE . . . IT WAS AN ACTUAL REAL DANCE, THEY HAD THIS BAND AND THEY USED TO ACTUALLY PLAY DANCE, A LOT OF PEOPLE IF THEY HAD FUNCTIONS WOULD ACTUALLY DANCE TO IT, IT WAS VERY ENJOYABLE. THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE MY LOVE OF DANCING AROSE, BECAUSE WHEN I WAS ABOUT THIRTEEN OR FOURTEEN, ONE OF OUR NEIGHBOURS WAS AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN, WHO WAS SINGLE AND HE KNEW

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THAT I LOVED DANCING AND SO HE STARTED TAKING ME WITH HIM TO DANCES. WE WOULD GO TO PALMWOODS, BEERWAH, SHEEP STATION CREEK (WHICH IS OUT NEAR KILCOY), KILCOY, DELANEY'S CREEK (WHICH IS OVER NEAR WOODFORD), WOODFORD, MT MEE AND STANMORE. (STANMORE IS ON THE ROAD BETWEEN PEACHESTER AND WOODFORD. WE WOULD GO OVER THERE AND THERE WOULD BE A COUPLE OF HUNDRED PEOPLE ON A REAL GOOD NIGHT, A HUNDRED ON OTHER NIGHTS AND THEY WOULD HAVE A BAND AND THAT I THINK WAS THE SUM TOTAL OF MY SOCIAL LIFE FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS UNTIL I LEFT HOME. I CONTINUED GOING TO DANCES AFTER THAT AND I DEVELOPED A GREAT FONDNESS FOR THAT TYPE OF MUSIC, I'VE NEVER BEEN A PERSON WHO PLAYED A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, AND SO THAT'S MY RECOLLECTIONS OF IT.

MALENY TOWN - BUSINESSES, FACILITIES, LANDMARKS

What shops & businesses do you remember being in Maleny ?

WHEN I WAS QUITE YOUNG THERE WAS THE HOTEL AND BOXSELLS SALEYARDS, WHICH IN THOSE DAYS WAS OWNED BY THE PORTER'S AND GUY CUTHBISON WAS THE AUCTIONEER. THEN WE HAD THE ANK BANK AND THE E.S & A BANK, THERE WAS A DRY CLEANER WHERE WHEN THE E.S & A BANK MOVED OUT ACROSS TO WHERE WHICH IS NOW THE "FOOD GALLERY", THEY MOVED OUT OF THE PLACE WHERE GARY MYER'S HAS GOT HIS BUSINESS (NOW) AND THAT BECAME A DRY CLEANER, GEORGE AND BETTY DIEFENBACH ACTUALLY OWNED THAT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. WHERE THE 'BUSHMANS WAREHOUSE' IS THAT WAS A CAFE', WHERE THE CREDIT UNION IS THERE WAS A PRIVATE RESIDENCE - A MR BELL OWNED THAT. THE SUPERMARKET THAT WE KNOW TODAY, THE IGA, WAS ONLY A VERY SMALL BUILDING, IN FACT IT WAS TWO BUILDINGS, ONE PART OF IT WAS A HARDWARE SHOP AND THE OTHER PART WAS A GROCERY STORE. ACROSS THE ROAD WHERE THE HOT BREAD SHOP AND THE FRUIT SHOP IS, THAT WAS AUSTIN LEWINSKYS GARAGE, HE USED TO SELL AUSTIN CARS AND HE HAD A WRECKING YARD WHERE THE RIVERSIDE CENTRE CURRENTLY IS, WHERE THE BRIDGESTONE TYRE PLACE IS (ON MAPLE STREET) IS THE EARLY STAGES WAS LANDLE'S BLACKSMITH'S, AND THERE WAS ANOTHER BLACKSMITH AROUND OPPOSITE MY OFFICE (CORAL STREET), MR MEEKLE OWNED THAT. MR LANDLE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP ACTUALLY BECAME A WHEELRIGHTS SHOP OWNED BY A FELLOW CALLED HARVEY CARTER, WHO ALSO OWNED A REAL ESTATE OFFICE IN MALENY, THEN WHERE

'MAPLE THREE' AND 'WILD AT HEART' ARE, THEY WERE RESIDENCES. GOING UP THE STREET, WHERE 'HENZELLS' REAL ESTATE THROUGH TO THE 'DRAPERY', THOSE SHOPS THERE, THAT USED TO BE EUSTACE'S GROCERY STORE AND THEN LATER ON BILL ROSS TOOK THAT OVER AND HE TURNED IT INTO A DRAPERY BUSINESS, A VERY LARGE DRAPERY BUSINESS AND HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN BOUGHT BY RICHARD AND MARY COOKE, WHO ALSO OWNED THE SUPERMARKET ACROSS THE ROAD. THE MALENY BUTCHERY WAS A VERY SMELLY BUTCHER SHOP ACTUALLY, WHEN I WAS KID, I FORGET WHO USED TO OWN IT, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN JOBLINS OR SOMEBODY, AND AROUND BETWEEN THE CURRENT LIBRARY AND MY OFFICES WAS ANOTHER BUTCHER, WHICH SNOWY MACILLOP HAD FOR MANY YEARS. FURTHER UP THE STREET THERE WAS THE BOXSELLS BUILDING, WHICH USED TO BE WADDELLS, THE NEWSAGENT AND GROCERIES WERE IN THERE, THEN WHERE NAGY'S SHOP IS WAS CUTHBISON'S

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STORE AND ALSO THE AUCTIONEER AGENTS WERE THERE AND IN BETWEEN THOSE BUILDINGS THERE USED TO BE A MILK BAR. THEN THERE WAS THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHICH BURNT DOWN IN THE EARLY 1950'S AND WAS REBUILT ABOUT THE MID-1950'S. WHERE THE PHARMACY IS NOW, BEFORE THAT THERE SOME DOCTOR'S SURGERY'S THERE AND THE CHEMIST SHOP, BEFORE THAT, GOING WAY BACK, THERE USED TO BE A BAKERY THERE, PEG BURNETT'S PARENT'S USED TO OWN IT ACTUALLY. GOING FURTHER UP THE STREET, WE HAD THE NEWSAGENT, WHICH IS THERE NOW, UM IT USED TO BE OWNED BY A YOUNGSTER BY THE NAME OF WALLIE BURNETT, WHO WAS ALSO THE CHEMIST. I DON'T KNOW WHO OWNED IT BEFORE HIM BUT THE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED WERE THE STERMANS AND THE HAWKINS, AND VARIOUS OTHER PEOPLE. WHERE THE UP FRONT CLUB IS THERE WAS AN ELECTRICAL SHOP OWNED BY JACK SALLOWAY, HE WAS AN ELECTRICIAN AND THEN NEXT TO THAT IS THE BUILDING THAT DARCY'S AND THE MALENY CO-OP IS. I BOUGHT THAT ABOUT 1979 AND UPGRADED IT. IT USED TO HAVE RED CEDAR ON THE BUILDING, AND PRIOR TO THAT IT HAD AN IMITATION YELLOW TILE WHICH IS SOME SORT OF BURNING BOARD OR SOMETHING...HORRENDOUS, THOSE BLACK AND YELLOW TILES ON THE FRONT AND THAT USED TO BE IN THE EARLY STAGES, THERE WAS A CAFE AND A GROCERY STORE IN THERE WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY GEORGE DIXON'S PLASTER SHOP, AND THEN WHERE, THE OBI CENTRE USED TO BE A GARAGE AND THE MORE (?) TREE WAS UNDERNEATH, AND IT WAS FRITZ AND FREENERS WHEN I WAS A YOUNGSTER, THE NEXT BUILDING UP WAS OWNED BY THE MEALINGS AND IT WAS A PRODUCE AGENCY, TOM MALONE, WHO MARRIED ONE OF THE NIELEN GIRLS, USED TO RUN A BUSINESS OUT OF THERE AS WELL, AND THEN THE NEXT BUSINESS UP, WHICH IS NOW WELL I SUPPOSE THE RAINFOREST PLAZA, THAT USED TO BE A PLUMBERS WORKSHOP, A BIG PLUMBERS PLACE THERE, THE OTHER SIDE COMING DOWN, THERE WAS THE GUEST HOUSE, FURTHER UP COMING DOWN THERE WAS A TYRE PLACE THERE. YOU CAME DOWN, THERE WAS THE GUEST HOUSE, WATSONS GARAGE, THE PARK, THE EMERALDS BUILDING, WHICH IS NOW AN ART GALLERY, THE NEXT BUILDING WAS WHERE THE DENTISTS USED TO LIVE AND HE HAD HIS DENTAL BUILDING UNDERNEATH. MANY PAINFUL HOURS SPENT THERE, WITH HIS TREADALL DRILL, AND THEN YOU CAME FURTHER DOWN AND THERE WAS A SORT OF GAP, WHERE KEV NEILS'S GOT HIS PLACE NOW, THERE WAS A GAP THERE, AND THEN THERE WAS, WHERE PEACE OF GREEN IS NOW THERE WAS A CAFE THAT WAS OWNED BY THE MOORE'S, BY JOCK AND MAGGIE MOORE. JOCK MOORE WAS AS DEAF AS A POST AND SHE USED TO SHOUT AT HIM, AND

THEY USED TO COOK MEALS ON THE TOP OF AN OLD WOODEN STOVE. THE TOP OF THE STOVE WAS ALL SHINY, FROM THE MEALS BEING COOKED ON IT. THEY USED TO COOK STRAIGHT ON THE TOP OF THE STOVE. MALENY CO-OPERATIVE WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME THE CABOOLTURE CO-OPERATIVE AND THEN QUEENSCO, WHERE THE BIG IRON BUILDING IS NOW, THERE WAS A BIG PRODUCE BUILDING THERE, APART FROM THAT THERE WASN'T A LOT OF BUSINESS IN MALENY, MALENY HAS GONE THROUGH VARIOUS EVOLUTIONS, AND BASICALLY, AS THE POPULATION HAS GROWN, AND AS NEW PEOPLE HAVE DISCOVERED THE PLACE WE HAVE BECOME LIKE A TOURIST CENTRE, WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY, WE WERE JUST SORT OF A SUPPORT CENTRE FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT LIVED HERE, SO IT HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY, AND YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND IN MANY WAYS THE

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SUCCESS AND THE FAILURE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF MALENY HAVE CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Tell us about the Maleny Show:

WELL I COULD TALK FOREVER ABOUT THE MALENY SHOW, THE MALENY SHOW WAS ALWAYS A GOOD LITTLE SHOW. PROBABLY AROUND ABOUT 1973 ALL SHOWS WERE GOING THROUGH A PHASE OF BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS, PEOPLE WERE A LOT MORE MOBILE, PEOPLE STARTED TO BREED HORSES AND TO BECOME MORE CONSCIOUS OF DISPLAYING THINGS, CATTLE AND ALL THAT SORT OF STUFF, HORSES AND SHOW JUMPING AND HACKING AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING STARTED TO GROW - WOODCHOPPING AND ALL THE REST, MALENY SHOW WAS PROBABLY NO EXCEPTION IN THAT, WE HAD A SHOWGROUND THAT WAS REALLY QUITE SMALL, THROUGH LACK OF MONEY AND LACK OF SUPPORT I SUPPOSE. OVER MANY YEARS, BUILDINGS WHICH WERE ONCE VERY MAJESTIC WERE SORT OF AT THE END OF THEIR USEFUL LIFE, OR DRAMATICALLY IN NEED OF TOTAL RESTRUCTURE, AND I CAME ALONG AT THAT TIME, AND BECAME FAIRLY ACTIVE IN THE SHOW SOCIETY, MY FIRST SHOW MEETING, IN THE FIRST THREE FULL SHOW MEETINGS, IT STOOD OUT TO ME THAT, HERE WAS I, 21 AND I HAD JOINED THE SHOW SOCIETY, BECAUSE I COULD SEE THAT IT WAS A GOOD ORGANISATION WITH GOOD PEOPLE IN IT, BUT THE NEXT YOUNGEST PERSON WAS 43, AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEM WERE WELL INTO THERE 60'S AND 70'S AND I KNEW THAT, IF PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF DIDN'T FOLLOW ON FROM DAVE HANKINSON AND HIS BROTHER TED AND VARIOUS OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE ON THE COMMITTEE AT THAT STAGE, THAT THE SHOW WOULD ACTUALLY DISAPPEAR, I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A FONDNESS FOR THE SHOW, I WAS BORN ON A SHOWDAY, THE SHOW USED TO BE IN JULY, AND MY MOTHER USED TO ALWAYS TELL ME THAT ONE OF THE MCARTHY BOYS GOT DRUNK AT THE SHOW, AND WAS CROSSING THE... THERE USED TO BE A LOG AT THE BACK OF THE CREEK UP TO THE BACK OF THE FACTORY... AND HE WAS CROSSING OVER IT AND HE FELL OVER AND DROWNED, AND AS THE LAST BREATH WENT OUT OF MR MCARTHY THE FIRST BREATH CAME INTO WINSTON JOHNSTON. I SUPPOSE BECAUSE OF THAT AND BECAUSE OF WHAT MY MOTHER HAD TOLD ME ABOUT THAT, I PROBABLY HAD AN AFFINITY FOR THE SHOW, PROBABLY MORE THAN PEOPLE REALISED, AND WE COULD SEE THAT IT NEEDED A LOT, SO I SCOUTED AROUND AND GOT QUITE A FEW OF MY FRIENDS TO JOIN, PEOPLE THAT I KNEW WERE ACTIVE IN THE

COMMUNITY, AND GRADUALLY OVER THE YEARS, AS SOME OF THE OLDER PEOPLE PASSED ON THEIR WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE AND THEY WERE REPLACED WITH PEOPLE WITH YOUTH AND ENTHUSIASM, WHO DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU COULDN'T DO THINGS AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING, AND WE LEARNT A LOT AND WE DID A LOT AND WHEN I THINK BACK SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE DID WERE ACTUALLY QUITE UNBELIEVABLE REALLY, WE BUILT WITH VOLUNTARY LABOUR AND WHEN YOU THINK OF IT THAT'S A REALLY MAJOR PROJECT AND PEOPLE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY ON THAT, THE FUNDING OF IT WAS SOMETHING THAT PERHAPS I COULD TALK ABOUT SOME OTHER TIME.

IF YOU TRIED TO FUND IT IN THE WAY IT WAS FUNDED BACK IN THOSE DAYS, TODAY THERE WOULD BE ALL SORTS OF OBSTACLES PUT IN YOUR WAY. WE MADE THINGS BIGGER AND BETTER, AS DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED AROUND TOWN - - SOIL, FILL, ROCK, EVERYTHING BECAME AVAILABLE AND WE USED THAT TO FILL DEPRESSIONS, TO OPEN UP NEW AREAS, TO PUT IN PIPES AND DRAIN AREAS,

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IMPROVE THINGS WE PUT IN UNDERGROUND POWER, WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS VERY BASIC, IT USED TO BREAK DOWN EVERY SHOW AND WE HAD FIRES IN SWITCHBOARDS. WE PUT IN DRAINAGE, WE EXPANDED THE SHOWGROUND TO INCLUDE THE ADJOINING PROPERTY, WHICH WAS THE MORRIS' PROPERTY. WE REBUILT MOST OF THE BUILDINGS. WE TOTALLY REBUILT AND UPGRADED AND EXPANDED THE SHOW PAVILION, MADE IT FROM A TINY, DINGY AND DARK BUILDING, WITH THE CATERING FACILITIES UNDERNEATH WHICH HONESTLY HAD TO BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED AND I THINK THE LADIES THAT WORKED IN THAT ENVIRONMENT FOR SO MANY YEARS DESERVE SO MANY MEDALS, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE HOW THEY DID IT ... MRS EVANS, MRS HANKINSON, THOSE SORT OF LADIES AS WELL AS SOME OF THE CURRENT LADIES LIKE GERRY COLE AND ALL THEIR HELPERS, HOW THEY ACTUALLY PUT ON THE PRESENTATION OF FOOD THEY DID, WITHOUT PEOPLE DYING OF SOME TERRIBLE SICKNESS, HAS GOT ME BEAT. SHOW PEOPLE THE PEOPLE THAT ARE INVOLVED WITH THE MALENY SHOW ARE VERY KIND AND GIVING PEOPLE AND THEY ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE, THEY PROBABLY FORM WHAT I LOOSLEY REFER TO AS A LARGE PORTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MALENY. THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN THE BACKBONE OF MANY OF THE ORGANISATIONS OVER THE YEARS, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE MOST OR ALL OF THEIR LIFE AND ARE ALL IN THEIR FORTIES OR FIFTIES OR EIGHTIES. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO SAW MALENY CHANGE AND GROW AND BECOME WHAT IT IS TODAY, WITHOUT A LOT OF COMPLAINT, THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN, UNTIL RECENT TIMES ANYWAY, THE REAL BACKBONE OF THE MALENY AND IF YOU FELL ON HARD TIMES OR IF YOU NEEDED HELP OR THERE WAS A JOB THAT HAD TO BE DONE, THEY WERE THE PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS CAME AND DID IT. THEY WEREN'T ASKED, THEY JUST DID IT. THAT'S WHY I LOVE MALENY SO MUCH, IT'S NOT JUST HOW PRETTY A PLACE IT IS, IT'S NOT JUST THE GREENNESS OF IT OR HOW NICE A PLACE IT IS TO VISIT, IT'S THE PEOPLE THAT I HAVE KNOWN ALL MY LIFE WHO MAKE IT UP.

THE SHOW IS NOW BIG BUSINESS, IT'S PROBABLY ONE OF, IF NOT THE, OUTSTANDING RURAL SHOWS THAT'S NOT A CITY SHOW. THE QUALITY OF THE COMPETITION IN CATTLE, DAIRY AND BEEF, IN THE HORSES, WHETHER IT BE SHOWJUMPING, HACKING, LEAD CLASSES, IN ALL OF THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE SHOW IS SO HIGH AND IT'S

A GOOD RURAL SHOW FROM THE POINT OF VIEW THAT YOU CAN COME AND SEE MOST OF THE SAME QUALITY ANIMALS AND EXHIBITS THAT YOU SEE AT SAY, THE EXHIBITION (BRISBANE). MOST OF THE STALLS AT THE SHOW TO THIS VERY DAY ARE STILL RUN ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. PEOPLE GIVE OF THEIR TIME, THEY ACTUALLY PAY TO BECOME A SHOW MEMBER, TO COME AND WORK FOR TWO DAYS AND A LOT OF THEM COME TO WORK A WEEK BEFORE AND THE DAY AFTER, TO CLEAN UP, SO THAT IS THE TYPE OF PEOPLE THEY ARE. I SUPPOSE MALENY IS LIKE THAT IN MANY WAYS AND I HAVE SO MANY NEW PEOPLE SAY TO ME THINGS LIKE, ' HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY FOR A COMMUNITY THE SIZE OF MALENY, HAVE SO MANY NEW FACILITIES AND SO MANY HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES, LIKE A HOSPITAL, FIRE STATION, WE'VE GOT POLICE, SES, BUSHFIRE BRIGADE, WE'VE GOT A GOOD SHOW PAVILION, SPORTING FACILITIES, A SWIMMING POOL, A LIBRARY, WE'VE GOT HALLS, GOOD QUALITY CHURCHES NOT CHURCHES FALLING DOWN AND DETERIORATING, ALL OF THOSE SORTS OF THINGS WE HAVE AND TO BE HONEST THE ONLY REASON WHY WE HAVE THEM IN SO MANY WAYS IS BECAUSE MALENY'S ARE CAN-DO PEOPLE AND MOST OF THOSE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN BUILT BY VOLUNTARY LABOUR OR HAVE HAD

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A SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY INPUT IN RELATION TO THE FUNDING OR THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT. THE UNITING CHURCH TODAY WAS BUILT BY VOLUNTARY LABOUR, FUNDS WERE RAISED FOR MATERIALS AND IT WAS BUILT WITH VOLUNTARY LABOUR. PEOPLE LIKE THE BRYCE FAMILY, WHO GAVE THEIR ASSETS TO THE CHURCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EROWAL RETIREMENT VILLAGE, NOT EVERY COMMUNITY HAS PEOPLE THAT ARE THAT BENEVOLENT AND WOULD DO SO MUCH. PEOPLE LIKE LLOYD AND SHIRLEY LARNEY, WHO HAVE, IN MANY WAYS BEEN THE BACKBONE OF SEEING THE VISION THAT THE BRYCE GIRLS HAD AND PUTTING IT IN PLACE AND MAKING IT HAPPEN, TOGETHER WITH A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE, BECAUSE NOBODY CAN DO THINGS ON THEIR OWN. THEY HAVE MADE IT HAPPEN AND WE NOW HAVE A RETIREMENT VILLAGE AND AGED CARE NURSING, EVERYTHING THAT MANY TOWNS MUCH LARGER THAN US ARE STILL STRUGGLING TO HAVE. THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, A LOT OF THAT WAS BUILT WITH VOLUNTARY LABOUR, SAME WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH AND I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BUT I'M SURE THERE WAS A FAIR COMMUNITY INPUT THERE, BECAUSE THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF OUR COMMUNITY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN VERY STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR CHURCH. THE COMMUNITY CENTRE HAS, FROM TIMES TO TIMES, HAD IT'S UPS AND DOWNS, LIKE THE RSL, BUT WHEN YOU HAVE A LOOK AT THEM TODAY, YES THEY ARE OLD BUILDINGS, BUT YOU CAN SEE THEY ARE LOVED FOR AND CARED FOR AND THEY ARE BUILDINGS THAT YOU CAN BE PROUD OF.

AROUND ABOUT 1992 OR 1993, THERE WAS A CHANGE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SHOWGROUND FACILITY, IN THAT PRIOR TO THAT DATE THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR HAD MANAGED THE FACILITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE USER GROUPS, PREDOMINANTLY THE 'SHOW SOCIETY'. IN 1992 OR 1993, THE CALOUNDRA CITY COUNCIL DECIDED TO PUT A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN, WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GROUPS THAT USE THE SHOWGROUNDS. THE DECISIONS ARE MADE COLLECTIVELY AND A LUMP SUM IN THE VICINITY OF \$40,000 PER ANNUM IS GRANTED TO THAT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE BY THE COUNCIL AND OUT OF THAT THEY (THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE) HAVE TO PAY WATER AND SEWERAGE RATES, INSURANCE PREMIUMS ON ALL THE FACILITIES, GENERAL MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, JUST FOR UPKEEP. AROUND 1989, INSTEAD OF THE GROUNDS BEING MAINTAINED ON A WEEKLY

OR MONTHLY BASIS BY VOLUNTEERS, A CARETAKER WAS ALSO EMPLOYED FOR THE GROUND AND THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF THEM OVER THE YEARS SINCE THEN. THE CARETAKER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF THE GROUNDS AS FAR AS MOWING AND MINOR REPAIRS ARE CONCERNED. THE CARETAKER, IN MOST INSTANCES, HAS LIVED ON THE GROUND IN A CARAVAN, BUT OF RECENT TIMES THE CARETAKER HAS LIVED EXTERNALLY TO THE GROUNDS.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE VARIOUS BUILDINGS ON THE GROUNDS:

STARTING AS YOU COME IN THE FRONT GATE, ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE THERE IS A FACILITY WHICH WAS BUILT AND IS USED BY THE "MALENY PLAYERS".

DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU, AS YOU COME IN THE FRONT GATE, IS A BUILDING WHICH WAS BUILT BY THE 'ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP' AND THEY KEEP IT MAINTAINED, BUT IT BELONGS TO THE CITY, ALTHOUGH THEY (ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP) HAVE A LEASE AND EXCLUSIVE USE OVER THAT AREA.

ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE, AS YOU COME IN THE FRONT GATE, IS THE 'S.E.S PAVILION AND CATTLE PAVILION' AND OUTSIDE OF THE SHOW PERIOD, THAT

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BUILDING IS KEPT CLEAN AND MAINTAINED BY THE 'MALENY S.E.S' AND 'MALENY BUSHFIRE BRIGADE', IT IS ALSO LET OUT TO VARIOUS GROUPS ON OCCASIONS, FOR PARTIES AND FUNCTIONS. THE CATTLE STALLS WERE RENOVATED THE SAME TIME AS THE MAIN PAVILION, THEY ARE MANAGED AND LOOKED AFTER BY THE 'SHOW SOCIETY'.

AS YOU GO DOWN TOWARDS THE CREEK AND SWIMMING HOLE, ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE THERE IS A TOILET BLOCK, WHICH IS MANAGED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. BEHIND THAT THERE IS A SKATE BOWL THAT THE COUNCIL HAS PUT A FAIR BIT OF MONEY INTO AND THAT IS A COMMUNITY FACILITY.

A LITTLE BIT FURTHER ALONG THE RIGHT HAND SIDE THERE IS A LITTLE SHED WHICH IS USED FOR THE CRICKETERS DURING THE CRICKET SEASON AND THE 'SHOW SOCIETY' DURING THE SHOW.

ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE THERE IS ANOTHER SHED WHERE THE CARETAKER OFTEN USED TO PUT HIS CARAVAN NEXT TO, THAT IS A 'SHOW SOCIETY' BUILDING AND IT'S USED FOR STORAGE, BUT AT SHOW TIME IT IS USED AS A POULTRY PAVILION.

THEN THERE IS THE MAIN PAVILION, THAT IS MANAGED BY THE 'SHOW SOCIETY' AND THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE BOOKINGS ARE USUALLY HANDLED BY A REPRESENTATIVE ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE 'SHOW SOCIETY'.

THEN AREAS SUCH AS THE MAIN OVAL AND THE WOODCHOP AREA AND THE 'AUB CORK' OVAL, THE FENCES ARE ALL MAINTAINED BY THE SHOW SOCIETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

THE CRICKET PITCHES, DURING CRICKET SEASON, THE CRICKETER'S HAVE A LEASE, PARTICULARLY ON THE TURF WICKET, BUT ON BOTH OVALS AND THE TURF WICKET IS MAINTAINED BY THE 'MALENY CRICKET CLUB'. OUTSIDE OF CRICKET SEASON, THOSE OVALS ARE USED FOR SOCCER.

FURTHER ALONG, WHERE WE HAVE SIDE SHOW ALLEY, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF STALLS THERE, WHICH THE CRICKETERS AND FOOTBALLERS USE AS DRESSING SHEDS, BUT THEY WERE BUILT BY THE SHOW SOCIETY. THEN WE HAVE THE TENNIS COURTS WHICH ARE UNDER LEASE TO THE 'MALENY AND DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION', AND THEY ARE TOTALLY OWNED, CONTROLLED, CONSTRUCTED AND MAINTAINED BY THE TENNIS CLUB.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MAIN "DAVE HANKINSON" OVAL

THERE ARE TWO OVALS, ONE CALLED THE "DAVE HANKINSON" OVAL, IS NAMED AFTER LOCAL EX-COUNCILLOR DAVE HANKINSON, WHO WAS ALSO A VERY ACTIVE PERSON IN THE MALENY SHOW SOCIETY AND IN THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY. THE SECOND OVAL IS NAMED AFTER AUBREY CORK, HE WAS A GENTLEMAN WHO WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED WITH CRICKET, HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE MALENY CRICKET ASSOCIATION FOR A LONG TIME. HIS SONS COLIN CORK, ROBERT CORK AND KEN CORK STILL LIVE IN THE DISTRICT, IN FACT ROBERT CORK IS FAIRLY INVOLVED IN THE CROCKET CLUB THESE DAYS AND HIS SONS PLAY CRICKET AS WELL.

ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE GROUND, OF THE MAIN OVAL, THERE IS A SHOW SOCIETY OFFICE, WHICH IS A TWO-STOREY BUILDING. UPSTAIRS IS THE SECRETARY'S ROOM AND DOWNSTAIRS IS THE STORAGE AREA, NEXT TO THAT IS A TOILET, WHICH IS A PUBLIC FACILITY. THAT SHOW SECRETARY'S OFFICE WAS PAID FOR BY THE MALENY SHOW SOCIETY AND WAS BUILT AT THE SAME TIME AS RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADING OF THE MAIN PAVILION.

THE NEXT BUILDING IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE ' HORSE STALL', IT'S NOT CALLED THAT BECAUSE IT'S USED FOR HOLDING HORSES, IT'S CALLED THE

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'HORSE STALL' BECAUSE THE MALENY PONY CLUB, TOGETHER WITH THE SHOW SOCIETY, HAD A FAIR BIT TO DO WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF IT, ON FACT THE SHOW SOCIETY GENERALLY BUILT IT. THE PONY CLUB USES IT AS CLUBROOMS AND BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE NOMINATIONS USED TO BE TAKEN FOR THE HORSE EVENTS AT THE MALENY SHOW, IT WAS CALLED THE ' HORSE STALL', BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT SOLD FOOD AND GENERALLY THE ROTARY CLUB HAVE CENTRED OUT OF THAT BUILDING AT SHOW-TIME.

THE NEXT BUILDING ALONG IS AN IRON ON STEEL STRUCTURE, WHICH IS USED AT SHOW-TIME AS A BAR AND THE REST OF THE YEAR , IT IS USED BY THE APEX CLUB. THAT BUILDING WAS BUILT BY THE 'APEXIANS' AND I THINK IT WAS FUNDED EITHER TOTALLY BY THE APEXIANS OR PARTLY BY THEM AND PARTLY BY THE SHOWGROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

ON OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD THAT GOES THROUGH THAT AREA, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF AREAS. ONE WHICH IS USED UNDER LEASE BY THE MALENY CROQUET CLUB, WHICH WAS SET UP AROUND 1992 OR 1993. THE NEXT BUILDING ALONG IS A SET OF STABLES WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY A FELLOW CALLED GRAHAM YOUNG ON NORTH MALENY ROAD. GRAHAM WAS A GREAT HORSEMAN AND HE HAD THOSE STABLES OUT THERE. HIS DAUGHTER WAS A VERY HIGHLY RECOGNISED HACK AND GALLOWAY RIDER, SHE WON THE ' SUPREME CHAMPION HORSE UNDER SADDLE' ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS AT THE BRISBANE ROYAL AND WHEN GRAHAM SOLD HIS FARM HE ALSO SOLD US, FOR A VERY NOMINAL AMOUNT, A COUPLE OF THOUSAND DOLLARS, THOSE STABLES AND THEY WERE REMOVED BY SAL LARSEN, HOUSE REMOVALS TO THE GROUND, HE DID IT FOR A FAIRLY NOMINAL AMOUNT AS A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SHOW SOCIETY AND THE SHOW SOCIETY MEMBERS ACTUALLY PUT IT DOWN ONTO THE GROUND AND PUT THE FITTINGS AND FOUNDATIONS IN, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. 'AS YOU GO DOWN ONTO THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE SHOWGROUND, THAT FARM USED TO BELONG TO THE NORRIS FAMILY AND IT HAD A KIWI ORCHARD ON IT, IT ALSO HAD A LOT OF SWAMP IN THAT PROPERTY AND WHEN THE COUNCIL ACQUIRED IT , WE ORGANISED FOR THE COUNCIL DOZER TO COME AND WE DOZED FOR WEEKS. THERE WAS A LARGE AREA, A COUPLE OF RIDGES THAT WENT THROUGH IT THAT HAD A LOT OF STONE AND ROCK IN IT. PLUS AROUND THAT TIME THERE WAS A LOT OF WORK BEING

DONE AROUND TOWN, AS WELL AS SOME SEWERAGE WORK, THEY HAVE HAD EXTENSIONS AND A LOT OF THE FILL CAME FROM THOSE SORTS OF WORK PROJECTS. AS WELL AS ROAD WIDENINGS ETC AND WE DID A AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF FILLING, OF THE SWAMP, THROUGH THAT AREA AND PUSHING THE ROCKS INTO THE SWAMP AND RUNNING OVER IT WITH THE DOZER TO COMPACT IT. THOSE SORTS OF AREAS ARE NOW USED BY THE PONY CLUB, THE LIGHTHORSE BRIGADE, THE SHOW SOCIETY HAS OPEN-AIR STABLES THERE FOR THE SHOW-JUMPERS. IT'S ALSO USED BY THE CRICKETER'S NOW AND THE SOCCER CLUB, DURING THEIR SEASONS AND THE CRICKET CLUB ARE CURRENTLY PUTTING IN A NEW CONCRETE WICKET IN THAT AREA.

THERE IS A BUILDING WHICH HAS GOT CONCRETE WALLS AND AN IRON ROOF, THAT'S USED AS CLUBROOMS FOR THE SOCCER CLUB AND ALSO THE PONY CLUB USE THAT AREA AS A CLUBROOM. THAT BUILDING WAS BUILT BY THE NORRIS FAMILY AND IT WAS ACTUALLY WHERE THEY USED TO LIVE ON THAT PARCEL OF LAND. IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THAT BUILDING IS A PIECE OF REMNANT FOREST WHICH, WHEN I WAS ON COUNCIL IN THE LATE 1980'S, WE ORGANISED FOR THAT AREA TO BE SURVEYED AND ZONED AS A PRESERVATION AREA, SO

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THAT VIRTUALLY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEBODY TO ACTUALLY COME ALONG AND PUSH IT DOWN AND PUT ANYTHING ON IT.

A COUPLE OF INTERESTING THINGS:

AS WE WERE BUILDING VARIOUS STRUCTURES AND DOING A LOT EARTHWORKS AT THE SHOWGROUND, I REMEMBER US COMING ACROSS AN AREA WHERE THERE WAS LOGS, HOLLOW LOGS UNDER THE ROAD AND THOSE HOLLOW LOGS WERE ACTUALLY USED AS PIPES AND THEY HAD BEEN THERE FOR CERTAINLY TOWARDS THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY, MAYBE MORE. THEY WERE STILL IN QUITE GOOD PRESERVED CONDITION FOR MOST OF THEIR LENGTH AND IT WAS A GIT OF A TRAGEDY THAT THEY JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO CARRY THE WATER ANYMORE. SO THEY WERE ACTUALLY TAKEN UP AND THE WHOLE AREA WAS PIPED. AS A RESULT OF THAT WE HAD A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EARLIEST DAYS AT THE MALENY SHOWGROUNDS AND IT ACTUALLY USED TO HAVE A RACE TRACK ON IT, WHICH THEY USED TO STAND WHERE THE PAVILION IS NOW AND YOU COULD ACTUALLY SEE THE WHOLE OF THE RACETRACK AS IT WENT AROUND THE GROUNDS. AT ONE STAGE OR ANOTHER IT'S BEEN USED, AFTER A FASHION, FOR OTHER SPORTS, SUCH AS PEOPLE HAVE PLAYED GOLF DOWN THERE, BUT IT WAS NEVER A REGISTERED GOLF COURSE, IT'S BASICALLY A VERY HIGHLY USED FACILITY AND A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE LONG TERM GOAL OF THE COUNCIL AND PREVIOUS COUNCILLORS, CURRENT COUNCILLORS AND THE SHOWGROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS TO ACTUALLY EXTEND THE SHOWGROUNDS ALONG ALL THE FLATS TO THE EAST OF THE SHOWGROUND, HEADING UP TOWARDS LAWYER STREET... THERE'S A STREET ACTUALLY THAT COMES IN BESIDE THE OLD S.E.Q.E.B DEPOT, OFF BUNYA STREET, THAT'S CALLED CUDGERIE STREET AND THAT IS, FOR ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) AN UNFORMED BUT GAZETTED ROAD AND IT FINISHES WITHIN ABOUT FIFTY METRES (50m) OF THE SHOWGROUND BOUNDARY. ALL OF THE LAND ON THE CREEK SIDE OF THAT ROAD, OF THAT STREET, WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME PARKLAND, BECAUSE IT FLOODS AND WHEN THAT LAND IS SOME DAY DEVELOPED FOR RESIDENTIAL AREAS, GOING BACK UP THE SLOPE, TOWARDS THE HIGH SCHOOL, ALL THOSE LOW LYING AREAS WILL BE TAKEN AS PARKS CONTRIBUTIONS AND THAT WILL BECOME PART OF

THE SHOWGROUND COMPLEX AND WILL ACTUALLY PROVIDE A LINK BETWEEN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HOPEFULLY THROUGH SOME WALKING PATHS UP TOWARDS THE HIGH SCHOOL, AS PART OF THAT WHOLE DEVELOPMENT AND LINKING THE SHOWGROUND TO THE TOWN, NOT ONLY PHYSICALLY BUT ACTUALLY LINKING IT AS A PART OF THE COMMUNITY AREA WHERE PEOPLE CAN WALK.

BEHIND THE TENNIS COURTS THERE IS ALSO A BRIDGE WHICH THE ROTARY CLUB BUILT, A MAN WHO HAD A LOT TO DO WITH QUITE A BIT OF THE ENGINEERING OF VARIOUS PROJECTS WAS TOM MOODY. WHO LIVES IN TAMARIND ST; HE'S QUITE AN ELDERLY MAN, VERY INTERESTING MAN, HE ACTUALLY FLEW FIGHTER PILOTS FOR THE BRITISH IN WORLD WAR TWO. SO HE'S A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER, AT ONE STAGE HE WORKED AS AN ENGINEER FOR THE WORLD BANK AND HE HELPED US WITH A LOT OF THE DESIGNS AND SUPERVISION ON A LOT OF THESE PROJECTS..... THAT BRIDGE THAT GOES ACROSS THE CREEK NOW CONNECTS UP THE CONCRETE WALKWAY ALONG THE CREEK JOINING UP TO THE SCOUT HUT, THAT WAS BUILT BY BARUNG LANDCARE AND IT PROVIDES A LINKAGE TO THE TOWN. WHEN I WAS A YOUNG FELLOW, THERE USED TO BE WHAT WE CALL A 'SPIDER LOG' ACROSS

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BEHIND THE TENNIS COURTS AND YOU WALKED ACROSS THIS BIG LOG, WHICH WAS ABOUT 1.2metres (FOUR FEET [4FT]) IN DIAMETER, IT HAD A FLAT SURFACE CUT ON THE TOP OF IT AND THAT WAS FELLED ACROSS THE CREEK AND YOU USED TO BE ABLE TO WALK ACROSS THAT AND UP THE BACK OF QUEENSCO AND COME OUT UP THERE AND A LOT OF PEOPLE USED TO GO THE SHOWGROUNDS VIA THAT.

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF PLANTING WHICH WAS DONE BY BARUNG, THAT WAS ONE OF THEIR FIRST PROJECTS IN MALENY AND IT IS NOW REALLY STARTING TO ESTABLISH AND REALLY WELL.

NEAR THE SKATE BOWL, THERE IS A SWIMMING HOLE, WHICH FROM AROUND 1960 TO 1994 OR 1995 THERE WAS A DIVING BOARD, WHICH WAS PUT IN BY THE MALENY ROTARY CLUB AND ACTUALLY , THE SWIMMING HOLE ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS DURING DROUGHT, WAS CLEANED OUT BY THE ROTARY CLUB AND A FELLOW CALLED NOEL KELLEHER, WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN ROTARY, AND HE HELPED WITH THE CLEANING OF THAT. HE USED TO GET HIS (BULL)DOZER INTO THE CREEK, WHEN THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO WATER IN IT, AND ACTUALLY DOZE ALL OF THE ROCK AND RUBBISH OUT OF IT AND CLEAN IT UP.

SOMETHING THAT NOT MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE AWARE OF, IS THAT GRANT ROBERTS, WHO LIVES IN CORAL ST; HE HAS, OR DID FOR MORE YEARS THAN I CAN REMEMBER, GO DOWN AND MAINTAIN THAT AREA AND MAKE SURE THE DIVING BOARD WAS SAFE AND IF KIDS WERE PLAYING UP, HE'D TALK TO THE POLICE ABOUT IT AND IF HE WANTED ME TO DO THINGS, IN MY CAPACITY AS SHOW SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND LOCAL COUNCILLOR.

WHERE THERE CURRENTLY IS A TOILET BLOCK THERE USED TO BE AN OLD BUILDING, WHICH WE CALLED THE 'DRESSING SHEDS' AND IT WAS A BUILDING ABOUT EIGHT METRES LONG AND TWO AND A HALF METRES WIDE .

(8m long X 2.5m wide) IT WAS WEATHERBOARD WITH AN IRON ROOF AND IT WAS JUST THAT, IT USED TO BE USED FOR PEOPLE WHO WANTED IT HAD TWO SECTIONS IN IT, A LADIES AND A GENTS, THERE WAS NO TOILETS, BUT YOU USED TO BE ABLE TO THERE AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, SO YOU COULD HAVE A SWIM AT THE SWIMMING HOLE, THAT WAS BEFORE WE HAD A SWIMMING POOL IN TOWN. MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT GENERATION LEARNT TO SWIM AT THAT SWIMMING HOLE. WHEN I WAS ON COUNCIL,

WE HAD SOME YOUNGSTERS, WHO WENT DOWN THERE ONE TIME AND THE ACTUALLY STARTED TO WRECK THE PLACE. THEY HAD A BIT OF A 'BOOZE PARTY' DOWN ON THE GROUND THERE AND THEY TORE DOWN SOME OF THE TIMBER OFF THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AND USED IT FOR FIREWOOD. YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE BECAUSE TODAY THEY ARE FAIRLY RESPECTABLE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, I WON'T TELL YOU WHO THEY ARE. LES FAWKES (THEN MALENY POLICE OFFICER) AND I REALISED THIS HAD HAPPENED AND WE HAD A TALK WITH GRANT ROBERTS, WE HAD A FAIR IDEA WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED, SO LES LINED THESE YOUNG FELLOWS UP AND WE HAD A BIT OF CHAT TO THEM AND ONE OF THEM CONFESSED. NEXT THING THEY ALL CONFESSED, SO LES SAID TO ME, 'WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH THESE YOUNG BUGGERS, DO YOU WANT TO HAVE THEM CHARGED OR WHAT?' AND I SAID, 'WELL LOOK, THEY'RE NOT BAD KIDS, I CAN UNDERSTAND THEY HAD A FAIR BIT TO DRINK AND THEY PROBABLY DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY WERE DOING, HOW CONTRITE DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?' AND HE SAID, 'OH, THEY ARE FAIRLY WORRIED,' SO I SAID, '

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WELL HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A TALK TO THEM.' SO WE HAD A TALK UP AT THE POLICE STATION AND I SAID TO THEM, 'WHAT TO YOU FELLOWS THINK SHOULD BE DONE TO YOU,' AND THEY SAID, 'WE'LL DO ANYTHING COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON, WE JUST DON'T WANT MUM AND DAD TO KNOW ABOUT IT AND WE DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL ETC,' AND I SAID, 'WELL HOW ABOUT YOU REPAIR IT.' THEY SAID YES, SO OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKETS THEY SAVED UP FOR A FEW WEEKS AND THEY GOT SOME SECOND HAND TIMBER FROM ME, BECAUSE THE SHOW SOCIETY WAS PULLING DOWN SOME OTHER BUILDINGS, AND THEY NAILED IT ALL UP AND PUT IT ALL TOGETHER AND DID QUITE A GOOD JOB AND I SAID TO THEM, 'THANKS FOR DOING THAT FELLOWS.' A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER THEY CAME TO ME AND SAID, 'MR JOHNSTON, WOULD YOU HAVE ANY MONEY TO BUT SOME PAINT, BECAUSE WE WOULD LIKE TO PAINT THE BUILDING.' I KNEW THE BUILDING WAS GOING TO BE PULLED DOWN ABOUT TWELVE (12) MONTHS LATER AND I THOUGHT WELL, THIS IS A LESSON THEY SHOULD LEARN. SO I WENT TO THE PAINT SHOP AND I SAID TO THE PAINT BLOKE, 'LISTEN, HAVE YOU GOT AN OLD TIN OF PAINT THAT WE COULD USE,' AND I TOLD HIM WHY, HE GAVE ME A COUPLE OF OLD TINS OF PAINT. SO WE GAVE THESE KIDS THESE OLD PAINT BRUSHES AND OLD TINS OF PAINT AND THEY PAINTED THE WHOLE THING AND DID IT ALL UP. I THINK IT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE BEST LESSONS THEY LEARNT AND I LEARNT A LOT ABOUT HUMAN NATURE AND A LOT ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT MAKES THEM TICK AND HOW YOU GET THEM ON SIDE.

ONE OF THE GREAT SPIN-OFFS OF THAT AND OF SO MUCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE FACILITIES AT HE SHOWGROUND, IS THAT SOMETIME LATER SOME OTHER KIDS WERE DOWN IN THE GROUNDS THERE AND THEY STARTED SMASHING BOTTLES AND THEY HAD A BIT TO DRINK AND THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT LIGHTING A FIRE AND PULLING SOME BOARDS OFF THE BUILDING AND A COUPLE OF THE BOYS CAME ALONG THAT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PREVIOUS TIME AND APPARENTLY THEY GAVE THESE YOUNG BLOKES A BIT OF A FLOGGING AND TOLD THEM THAT WAS THEIR BUILDING AND DON'T DARE TOUCH IT. (LAUGHS) AND THAT'S ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, IS THAT WHEN PEOPLE HAVE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THAT THEMSELVES, IS THAT THEY FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE OWNERSHIP AND IT'S THEIRS AND I THINK THAT IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT IS MISSING QUITE OFTEN IN RELATION TO SOME TOWNS, IS THAT THE FACILITIES ARE

PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL REALLY IS NOT PEOPLE AND AS A RESULT THERE IS NO REAL OWNERSHIP. WHEREAS AT THE SHOWGROUND ALMOST EVERY FACILITY THAT IS THERE HAS BEEN BUILT BY PEOPLE, SOMETIMES AT GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICE AND TIME, FINANCES AND EFFORT AND THEY FEEL AS THOUGH IT IS THEIR FACILITY AND WOE BETIDE ANYBODY THAT TRIES TO DO ANYTHING TO DESTROY OR WRECK IT.

What do you remember about the local dances, socials and the Pictures:

I USED TO GO TO THE PICTURES EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT UP UNTIL I WAS ABOUT 10. THEY WERE ON EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. THERE USED TO BE BANKS OF SEATS AND THEY USED TO FLIP UP. DOWN THE FRONT THERE WERE HESSIAN SEATS WHERE ALL THE YOUNG BOYS AND YOUNG GIRLS USED TO HAVE THEIR CUDDLES. THERE WAS A FELLOW CALLED GORDON SALL WHO USED TO HELP IN THE PICTURES. IF GORDY CAME UP AND FLASHED HIS

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FLASHLIGHT AT YOU, YOU KNEW YOU WERE IN TROUBLE. I CAN REMEMBER IN 1956 TO 1960, SOMEWHERE IN THAT RANGE, I DON'T REMEMBER THE EXACT YEAR, BUT EVERY WEEK WE HAD A JERRY LEWIS AND DEAN MARTIN MOVIE AND THEY WENT ON FOR MONTHS. THEN THEY HAD THE "TEN COMMANDMENTS". WHICH WAS ONE OF THE FIRST EPIC FILMS AND IT WAS SHOWN OVER 3 SATURDAY NIGHTS. THEY SHOWED A BOT OF IT EACH SATURDAY NIGHT. THERE WERE "TOM AND JERRY" CARTOONS AND WE USED TO HAVE THE "NEWS REELS" AND THAT WAS HOW WE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE NEWS OF THE WORLD. THEY USED TO HAVE THE SATURDAY NIGHT NEWSREELS WHICH WERE ALWAYS ON AFTER THE CARTOONS AND THEN THEY WOULD GO INTO THE MAIN MOVIE. THE MOVIES HAD AN INTERVAL HALF WAY THROUGH TOO AND YOU WENT OUT TO CUTHBERTSON'S CAFÉ, WHERE NAGY;S ARE NOW, AND YOU BOUGHT YOUR ICE CREAM. YOU USED TO BE ABLE TO BUY A TEN PACK OF CIGARETTES – NOWADAYS THEY SELL THEM IN 40'S AND 50'S. BACK IN THOSE DAYS THEY HAD PACKS OF 20'S AND 10'S AND THE 10'S WERE THE ONES WE USED TO BUY. YOU WOULD HAVE A COUPLE OF FAGS AND HIDE THEM UNDER THE PICTURE THEATRE UNTIL NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT AND GET THEM OUT AGAIN...BIG ADVENTURE.

THE DANCES... THERE USED TO BE DANCES ON ALL THE TIME. THE APEX CLUB FOR MANY YEARS HAD A TROPICAL BALL. THE SHOW SOCIETY HAD A BALL ON AND THERE WERE A WHOLE HOST OF BALLS THAT USED TO BE ON WEEK AFTER WEEK DURING THE WINTER MONTHS. THE LADIES USE3D TO REALLY DRESS THEMSELVES UP REALLY WELL. THE MEN WOULD BE... THEY WOULD GO OUT AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WOULD WEAR THEIR SUIT. THERE WASN'T A LOT OF LICENSED BALLS BACK IN THOSE DAYS. EVERYBODY STILL DRANK BUT YOU WENT OUT THE BACK, OR DOWN TO YOUR CAR OR WHEREVER IT WAS, AND HAD A COUPLE OF TALLIES. THERE YOU WOULD POLISH THEM OFF, THEN WHIP IN FOR A COUPLE MORE DANCES AND WHIP OUT AND HAVE ANOTHER TALLIE. THE FELLAS WOULD GET AROUND IN A GROUP AND HAVE A FEW DRINKS TOGETHER. DANCES USED TO GO ON TILL DAWN A LOT OF THEM. AFTER THE ONES THAT WENT UNTIL DAWN, YOU GOT INTO YOUR CAR OR YOUR HORSE AND BUGGY OR WHATEVER AND WENT HOME AND MILKED THE COWS. SO YOU DIDN'T GO TO BED... THERE WAS NO POINT.

Can you tell us what Maleny was like during the War years of 1939-1945?

NO, BECAUSE I WAS BORN IN 1952, I REALLY KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT IT, ONLY A FEW STORIES AND I THINK THERE ARE MANY OTHERS – PEG BURNETT, PHIL RUDDLE WHO

LIVED HERE DURING THAT ERA WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO RECALL. I NEVER CEASE TO BE FASCINATED TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT THEIR LIVES AND THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO THEM. FOR INSTANCE, DESPITE BEING TO WAR AND BEING IN BORNEO AND HAVING UNSPEAKABLE THINGS DONE TO THEM AND THEIR FELLOW PRISONERS, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET ON WITH THEIR LIVES AND BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE AND BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER PEOPLE.

What natural disasters do you remember in the area

THE FIRST FLOOD I CAN REMEMBER, IT WAS AROUND 1956 OR 1957, WE HAD A FARM OUT ON WOOTHA ROAD WHERE MAC FARMS IS NOW. OUR PIGGERY WAS DOWN BESIDE THE CREEK. IT'S ONE OF MY VERY EARLIEST RECOLLECTIONS BECAUSE WE HAD 14 INCHES (35.56CM) OF RAIN OVERNIGHT AND A LOT OF IT FELL

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INTO THE UPPER REACHES OF THE OBI OBI CATCHMENT. I CAN STILL REMEMBER MY DAD AND MY UNCLE TYING THEMSELVES WITH ROPES TO THE TREES ON THE FLAT NEAR THE PIGGERY AND ALLOWING THE STREAM TO TAKE THEM TO THE PIGGERY. THEY HAD A SLEDGE HAMMER EACH IN THEIR HANDS AND THEY STARTED BASHING THE BACK OUT OF THE PIGS' PENS BECAUSE THE PIGS WERE BEING PUSHED UP. THE WATER WAS PUSHING THEM UP AGAINST THE BACK OF THE PENS AND THEY WERE STARTING TO GET A BIT TIRED AND THEY WOULD HAVE DROWNED. I CAN STILL REMEMBER ALL THESE PIGS GETTING LOOSE. WE HAD 130 PIGS AND THEY WERE GETTING LOOSE AND GOING DOWN THE STREAM WITH LOGS GOING OVER THE TOP OF THEM AND S CREAMING AND CARRYING ON. THE AMAZING PART WAS THAT WITHIN 4 HOURS, ALL BUT 2 OF THE PIGS HAD RETURNED. I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN.

CYCLONES... MALENY'S BEEN FORTUNATE THAT IT HAS NEVER REALLY HAD

CYCLONES HIT IT. WE'VE HAD A FEW CYCLONIC INFLUENCES. I CAN STILL REMEMBER BEING VERY MUCH INVOLVED WITH THE MALENY ROTARY CLUB AND WE HAD A BIG GERMAN FESTIVAL ON ONE SATURDAY NIGHT. AT THE LAST MINUTE THE CYCLONE CAME IN AND IT WAS SO MISERABLE THERE WAS ONLY ABOUT 4 PEOPLE AND A COUPLE OF ROTARIANS THAT TURNED UP.

THERE HAS BEEN THE ODD TORNADO THAT HAS COME THROUGH THE AREA. ONE CAME THROUGH AND TOOK OFF PHIL RUDDLE'S ROOD AND DEMOLISHED A HOUSE THAT DR SCOTT PHIPPS WAS RENOVATING OUT AT REESEVILLE.

AROUND ABOUT THE 1960'S THERE WAS AN AERIAL FERTILISER FELLOW (CROPDUSTER) WHO CRASHED HIS PLANE INTO CYRIL AND PHYLLIS WATERS' HOUSE OUR AT MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD. BASICALLY THEY ARE THE MAJOR THINGS THAT I CAN REMEMBER. MALENY'S BEEN FORTUNATE IN THAT IT'S NEVER HAD HORRENDOUS BUSH FIRES, HORRENDOUS DROUGHT OR HORRENDOUS FLOODS, NO REAL CYCLONES OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. WE DO GET HIGH RAINFALL AND WE DO GET TIMES WHEN LIFE GETS A BIT DIFFICULT, BUT NOTHING LIKE SOME AREAS.

Can you relate any funny stories or incidents you remember happening about yourself or somebody else in the district

I REMEMBER HOW POLICING USED TO BE DONE IN YEARS GONE BY. IT WAS QUITE A GOOD WAY OF DOING IT I FELT... AS A YOUNGSTER, I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH 2 BOYS, PETER AND PAUL SPOONER. THEIR FATHER WAS THE LOCAL CONSTABLE, JOE SPOONER. THEY WERE TWINS. THEY WERE THE SAME AGE AS ME. ON THE VERY LAST GUY FAWKES NIGHT THAT WE HAD, THE SPOONER BOYS AND I DECIDED WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A PRANK ON THIS LAST NIGHT. WE WENT AND BOUGHT 6 TUPENNY BUNGERS, WHICH WAS A SHILLING, AND PUT A BIT OF TWINE AROUND THEM. WE GOT THE WICKS AND WE PUT THEM TOGETHER AND TIED THEM TOGETHER. THEN WE PUT THEM IN THE POLICE STATION LETTER BOX AND LIT IT AND HEADED OFF DOWN THE STREET. WE GOT TO WHERE THE MALENY SEAFOOD AND FLORIST ARE NOW, AND THAT BUILDING USED TO BE MALENY'S PRODUCE AGENCY OR NEALLY'S PRODUCE AGENCY, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH. AS WE SCOOTED DOWN THERE THE LETTER BOX WENT OFF – BANG! JOE SPOONER STEPPED OUT FROM THE RECESSED DOORWAY AND GRABBED THE 3 OF US. HE SAID “WHAT HAVE YOU BOYS BEEN DOING?” AND WE WERE SORT OF ASHEN FACED AND HE KNEW WE'D BLOWN UP SOMETHING UP AT THE POLICE STATION. SO HE TOOK US UP THERE. HE SAID “IS THIS YOUR HANDIWORK?” AND WE ALL

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CONFESSED TO IT. WHAT HE DID WAS HE TOOK US DOWN TO THE CELL AT THE BACK OF THE POLICE STATION. THE CELLS ARE STILL THERE ACTUALLY. THERE'S ONLY ONE CELL AND IT HAS A BIG HEAVY DOOR ON IT, AN ENORMOUS GREAT BOLT THAT YOU DRAW ACROSS AND IT'S AS DARK AS THE INSIDE OF A COW AND JUST AS HORRENDOUS A PLACE. HE PUT US IN THERE AND CLOSED THE DOOR AND PULLED THE BOLT ACROSS AND HE SAID - “YOU FELLOWS WILL COOL OFF FOR A WHILE IN THERE”. HE WENT DOWN THE STREET AND I SUPPOSE WE MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT 8 OR 9 AT THE TIME, SO WE THOUGHT WE WERE INCARCERATED FOR GOOD. JOE SPOONER RAN INTO MY DAD DOWN THE STREET AND SAID “SAM, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WINSTON IS?”, AND DAD SAID “WELL, NO ACTUALLY, I DON'T BUT OBVIOUSLY YOU MUST OR OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T BE ASKING ME.” HE SAID “WELL SAM, IF YOU'RE GOING OVER TO THE PUB FOR A DRINK, DON'T BOTHER LEAVING BEFORE CLOSING TIME BECAUSE WINSTON'S UP IN THE JAIL WITH MY 2 BOYS. THEY BLEW UP THE POLICE LETTER BOX AND I WANT TO TEACH THEM A LESSON.” HE SAID “WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GO HOME, GO UP TO THE STATION, GO DOWN THE BACK AND LET THE 3 OF THEM OUT AND TAKE YOUR SON HOME”, WHICH DAD DULY DID. ABOUT HALF PAST TEN HE ROLLED UP AND LET US OUT AND I WAS NEVER SO THANKFUL TO SEE ANOTHER HUMAN BEING IN MY LIFE.

I CAN REMEMBER A COUPLE OF OTHER FRIENDS... ONE OF THEM IS QUITE A SUBSTANTIAL CLIENT OF MINE NOW... WHO HAD A BIT OF A LARK AND THERE COMING HOME FROM ONE OF THE DANCES. THEY WERE COMING THROUGH LANDSBOROUGH ON THEIR WAY TO MALENY AND THEY DECIDED THEY WOULD PULL OUT A NUMBER OF THE GUIDE POSTS AND PUT THEM IN THE BACK OF ONE OF THE FELLOW'S UTES. WHEN THEY HAD A UTE LOAD, THEY TOOK THEM BACK DOWN AND STACKED THEM NEATLY IN A PILE – A COUPLE OF HUNDRED OF THEM I THINK – PACKED THEM NEATLY IN A PILE OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT LANDSBOROUGH. THE SERGEANT OF POLICE IN THOSE DAYS WAS SERGEANT COLLINS AND HE WAS ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL, ONE OF 13 KIDS, AND HE SORT OF KNEW A LOT ABOUT POLICING, AND HE FOUND OUT WHO DID IT. SO HE LINED THESE 2 BLOKES UP AND SAID TO THEM “RIGHT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.” SO THEY SPENT THE NEXT WEEKEND PUTTING

THEM ALL BACK IN AGAIN. THAT WAS THE WAY THE POLICING WAS DONE AND PEOPLE WERE CONTROLLED.

THERE ARE A WHOLE HOST OF THOSE SORT OF STORIES BUT IT'S A BIT DIFFICULT TO ACTUALLY TELL THEM WITHOUT IDENTIFYING WHO SOME OF THE PEOPLE ARE, AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM. I THINK A LOT OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED BACK IN THOSE DAYS WERE FAIRLY HARMLESS IN NATURE AND THEY WEREN'T INTENTIONALLY MALICIOUS, EVEN OUR BLOWING UP OF THE LETTER BOX WAS NOT REALLY MALICIOUS – IT WAS JUST A PRANK.

Can you tell us about any characters" or "hard cases" you remember in Maleny

I REMEMBER ABOUT JIM DOYLE, WHEN I WAS A KID MY DAD WOULD GO TO THE PUB SOMETIMES..... JIM DOYLE HAS BEEN IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY SHOOTING BUFFALO AND CROCODILES AND HE WAS A "WILD MAN FROM BORNEO", FOR A YOUNG KID MY AGE AND FOR PEOPLE LIKE MY FATHER, WHO HAVE LIVED A FAIRLY SHELTERED BUT HARD-WORKING LIFE, BUT HERE WAS THIS MAN, A GREAT ORATOR, TOLD ALL THESE STORIES AND RECITED ALL THIS WONDERFUL POETRY AND I USED TO STAND WITH MY ARMS FOLDED AT THE HOTEL WINDOW TO THE MAIN BAR AND THE WINDOW WOULD BE OPEN AND I

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WOULD JUST LISTEN FOR HOURS TO JIM DOYLE RECITE HIS POETRY AND HIS STORIES, A LOT OF IT WAS A STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION, JUST A LITTLE BIT. HE WAS REALLY SUCH A CHARACTER, HE LIVED THAT WHOLE LIFE OUT IN THE COMMUNITY, HE REALLY WAS THE "WILD MAN FROM BORNEO" AS FAR AS MALENY WAS CONCERNED. THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE LIKE THAT LIKE SOME OF THE OLD BULLOCKIES, BECAUSE THEY LIVED SUCH A DIFFERENT, VERY HARD AND FRUGAL LIFE, MANY OF THEM WERE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD GREAT INTELLECT, AS FAR AS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES WERE CONCERNED, BUT THEIR LOT IN LIFE WAS NOT TO BE AN ACADEMIC OR TO BE A PROFESSIONAL PERSON, THEIR LOT IN LIFE WAS TO FOLLOW DAD, OR TO EKE OUT A LIVING ON THE LAND OR AS A BULLOCKY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT STILL DIDN'T STOP THEM FROM DREAMING OR IMAGINING AND THEY WERE REALLY INTERESTING PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO AND TO TALK TO. THEY HAD A WAY OF PUTTING THINGS WHICH, HONESTLY, WE TODAY DON'T USE OUR IMAGINATION IN THE SAME WAY. I SUPPOSE IF YOU WERE DRIVING A BULLOCK TEAM ALL THE WAY FROM CONONDALE FOREST TO THE RAILHEAD AT LANDSBOROUGH, AND BACK AGAIN, THE TIME THAT IT TOOK YOU AND THE EFFORT, YOU HAD A LOT OF TIME TO REMINISCE AND THINK ABOUT LIFE AND PHILOSOPHISE AND PRACTICE YOUR RHETORIC. I SUPPOSE YOU DIDN'T SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE EITHER SO IF YOU TALKED OUT ALOUD PEOPLE DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE MAD. SO THAT WAS THE RELEASE FOR A LOT OF THEM. THEIR CREATIVITY WAS THEIR IMAGINATION. LIKE A LITTLE CHILD THEY IMAGINED A LOT OF THESE THINGS AND THEY DREAMED AND THEY TOLD YOU ABOUT THEM AND THEY WERE SO CREATIVE. SADLY A LOT OF THOSE PEOPLE, BECAUSE LIFE WAS FAIRLY HARD AND MUNDANE, A LOT OF THEM SAW GOING TO WAR- PARTICULARLY IN THE SECOND

WORLD WAR- A LOT OF THEM SAW GOING TO WAR AS AN ADVENTURE, WHEREAS TODAY WE KNOW IT'S A TRAGEDY. BUT THEY SAW IT AS AN ADVENTURE AND THEY WILLINGLY WENT AND GAVE OF THEIR LIVES. SOME OF THEM CAME BACK, AND THEY HAD BEEN THROUGH SUCH ORDEALS THAT THEY (I SUPPOSE THE BEST WAY OF PUTTING IT ...) THEY WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE. THEY CHANGED SO MUCH AND THEY DIDN'T TALK AND THEY DIDN'T WANT TO USE THEIR IMAGINATIONS ANYMORE BECAUSE WHEN THEY USED THEIR IMAGINATION THE THING THAT WAS FOREMOST IN THEIR MIND WAS ALL THIS TERROR - TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE THINGS THEY SAW, DONE AND HAD DONE TO THEM ,AND THEY HAD TO DO... THE PAIN AND MISERY AND SUFFERING AND THE LOSS OF PEOPLE THAT WERE SO DEAR TO THEM. THEY CAME BACK CHANGED PEOPLE. YET DESPITE ALL THAT, SOME PEOPLE I HAVE BEEN CLOSE TO THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, ON OCCASIONS, PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A LOT IN WAR, THEY CAME BACK AND THEY STILL WERE AND STILL ARE TODAY THE MOST MAGNIFICENT PEOPLE, PEOPLE LIKE NEV HEADING AND PHIL RUDDLE TO NAME A FEW.

Tell us about the CWA, RSL and/or any other organisations you have been/are a member of:

THE CWA, MY MOTHER BELONGED TO THE CWA, IT WAS I THINK THE ORGANISATION, TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCHES, THAT HELD THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO A LARGE EXTENT, BECAUSE THE HEART OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WERE THE WOMEN AND IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO COME TO TOWN. THE CWA MEETINGS USED TO BE ON A SUNDAY, 'SALE DAY',

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WHICH MEANT THAT THE MEN COULD GO TO THE SALE (CATTLE) AND THE WOMEN COULD GO TO THE CWA MEETINGS. THERE ARE MANY LADIES, MRS EVANS, MRS HANKINSON, WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR THE CWA ORGANISATION, NOT JUST ONE MRS HANKINSON, THERE WERE A COUPLE OF THEM. ONE OF MY EARLIEST RECOLLECTIONS IS, SITTING ON JOAN KING'S KNEE (BECAUSE) SHE USED TO PLAY SANTA, AND JOAN WAS SANTA FOR MORE YEARS THAN PROBABLY ANYBODY ELSE HAS EVER BEEN SANTA, SHE WAS A REALLY GOOD SANTA. THE CWA LADIES, THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE, THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN... PREDOMINANTLY THE STRONG WORKERS IN THE CWA WERE THE LADIES WHO BELONGED TO SOME OF THE PIONEERING FAMILIES AND MAINLY THE DAIRY FARMER'S WIVES, BUT VARIOUS PEOPLE, LIKE JOAN WHITEHOUSE AND OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN THE HEART AND SOUL OF THAT ORGANISATION AND EVEN TODAY, WHILST IT IS A VERY SMALL ORGANISATION, COMPARED TO WHAT IT USED TO BE...BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER OUTINGS AND AVENUES FOR PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES TODAY, EVEN TODAY THE CWA STILL PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART. IF YOU TRY TO DO SOMETHING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE THAT DOESN'T MEET WITH THE GOOD WISHES OF THE CWA LADIES, WELL YOU (HAVE) GIT A FAIR FIGHT ON YOUR HANDS. FOR THOSE LADIES WHO USED TO BE BASICALLY THE CORE OF THE CWA, THEY NOW HAVE 'MERRYMAKERS', MUCH MORE INVOLVEMENT WITH CHURCH GROUPS AND SO MANY OTHER REALLY IMPORTANT ORGANISATIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY, THE REASON WHY WE HAVE SO MANY OF THOSE TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS, I THINK IS, BECAUSE THE SORT OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE COME TO LIVE HERE ARE OFTEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME HERE FOR A LIFESTLYE REASON, THEY HAVE COME HERE BECAUSE THEY LOVE THE PLACE, THEY LIKE THE LOOK OF IT, THEY LOVE THE PEOPLE. THEY LIKE THE FACT THAT WE ARE A CAN-DO SOCIETY, E DON'T WHINGE ABOUT THE FACT THAT IF ONLY

COUNCIL WOULD DO THIS, IF ONLY THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO THAT, WE ACTUALLY GET IN AND DO THINGS AND I THINK THAT IN MANY CASES, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT, WHEN WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH ROUTES LIKE THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNCIL FOR HELP OR ASSISTANCE IT HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING AND WE HAVE OFTEN GOT FACILITIES WELL BEFORE OTHER COMMUNITIES OUR SIZE.

A COUPLE OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE HAD A FAIR INFLUENCE ON OUR COMMUNITY, FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW:

JACK BEAUSANG: HE WAS OUR SHIRE CHAIRMAN FOR TWENTY (20) ODD YEARS, HE CAME FROM CONONDALE AND MALENY WAS THE TOWN WHERE HE AND HIS FAMILY DID THEIR SHOPPING. JACK HAD A VERY STRONG INFLUENCE IN HELPING WITH SOME OF THE FACILITIES.

I HAVE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED ABOUT OUR COUNCILLORS, ONE, OR TWO OF THEM I HAVE NOT MENTIONED BEFORE ARE:

FRANK GARRETS, HE WAS OUR COUNCILLOR. HE CAME ON WHEN DAVE HANKINSON DIED AROUND ABOUT 1979 OR 1980. FRANK WAS COUNCILLOR FOR WITTA AND CONONDALE AREA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT PERIOD HE WAS COUNCILLOR FROM, I THINK IT WAS SIX OR NINE YEARS AND FRANK WAS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE MALENY TENNIS ASSOCIATION FOR MANY YEARS AND I USED TO ADMIRE THE FACT THAT WHEN HE WAS IN HIS SEVENTIES, HE WOULD STILL BE DOWN THERE, MAINTAINING THOSE CLAY COURTS EVERY WEEK. HE

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WOULD WATER THEM, RAKE THEM AND BROOM THEM, ROLL THEM AND DO ALL THE LINE MARKING, I KNOW HIS GREAT LOVE WAS TENNIS, BUT HE DID IT ALSO TO KEEP FIT AND BECAUSE HE HAD A REAL INTEREST IN THE COMMUNITY.

FRANK DID SO MUCH FOR THE COMMUNITY BEHIND THE SCENES THAT PEOPLE NEVER KNEW MUCH ABOUT. HE WAS ONE OF THE EARLIER AMBULANCE BEARERS, VOLUNTARY OF COURSE, INVOLVED WITH THE FIRE BRIGADE, INVOLVED WITH THE KINDERGARTEN, CHURCHES, COMMUNITY CENTRE, MASONIC LODGE, THE P & C's, SCHOOL BUS COMMITTEES AND THE LIST GOES ON. HE WAS A LIFE MEMBER OF APEX AND A REALLY ACTIVE APEXIAN, HE'S A MAN WHO NEVER TOOK MANY LEADING ROLES AS FAR AS PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OR TREASURER OF ORGANISATIONS WERE CONCERNED, BUT HE PUT HIS SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL AND DID AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK IN THIS COMMUNITY. ANOTHER MAN, SELWIN CARBERY, REPRESENTED THE WITTA AND CONONDALE AREA FOR TWENTY ODD YEARS ON COUNCIL. HE WAS VERY ACTIVE IN HIS COMMUNITY AND WHENEVER THERE WAS SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE FOR THIS DISTRICT, SELWIN WAS ALWAYS BEHIND IT. JACK THORN

WE WERE ALSO FORTUNATE IN THIS AREA TO HAVE THE SUBSEQUENT PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND MIKE AHERN, AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR OUR AREA IN STATE PARLIAMENT. MIKE WAS A CONONDALE BOY, WHEN HE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO COUNCIL, THEY CALLED HIM THE 'CONONDALE KID'. HE WAS THE SON OF JACK AHERN AND JACK WAS A GREAT MOVER AND SHAKER IN THE 'COUNTRY PARTY' AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN THE 'NATIONAL PARTY'. MIKE IN HIS MID-TWENTIES WAS ELECTED TO REPLACE SIR FRANCIS NICKLIN, WHO WAS THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND AT ONE STAGE. MIKE WENT ON TO BECOME THE MEMBER FOR LANDSBOROUGH AND THE

MEMBER FOR LANDSBOROUGH (MP) IN THOSE DAYS REPRESENTED CALOUNDRA, AS WELL AS THE RAILWAY TOWNS AND UP INTO THE HINTERLAND. SUBSEQUENTLY, MIKE BECAME PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND AND OF CALOUNDRA AND HE WAS FOLLOWED BY JOAN SHELDON, WHO (JOAN SHELDON) SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME THE DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND, SO I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY OTHER ELECTORATE IN QUEENSLAND, OTHER THAN CALOUNDRA AND PREVIOUSLY THE LANDSBOROUGH ELECTORATE, HAS BEEN REPRESENTED BY TWO PREMIERS AND A DEPUTY PREMIER.

MIKE WAS VERY ACTIVE IN MAKING SURE WE GOT GOOD EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE HIGH SCHOOL WAS BUILT AND I HAD SOMEWHAT TO DO WITH THAT, IN THAT I WAS THE STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL, AND HE ALSO MADE SURE, TOGETHER WITH SIR WALTER BURNETT, THAT WE HAD A NEW HOSPITAL BUILT. I THINK THAT TODAY, IF WE WERE TO TRY AND BUILD A NEW HOSPITAL IN MALENY, BASED ON OUR POPULATION, IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT SUCCEED IN GETTING FUNDING.

What do you remember of the Maleny Folk Festival:

I HAVE HAD A LONG HISTORY WITH THE MALENY FOLK FESTIVAL. ABOUT TWELVE MONTHS BEFORE THE FIRST FOLK FESTIVAL, A FELLOW CAME TO SEE ME IN MY CAPACITY AS SHOW PRESIDENT AND ALSO AS SHIRE COUNCILLOR, WITH THIS IDEA OF HAVING A FOLK FESTIVAL, HIS NAME WAS BILL HAURITZ. BILL AND I TALKED A FAIR BIT ABOUT THE WHOLE CONCEPT, THERE WAS QUITE A DEAL OF CONCERN IN THE COMMUNITY WHEN IT WAS FIRST FLOATED, BECAUSE WELL,

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NOBODY WANTED THOSE 'BLOODY HIPPIES', THAT WAS WHAT THEY CALLED THEM. I DIDN'T FEEL THAT WAY, I TOOK A BIT OF A GAMBLE ON IT. THE REASON I TOOK A GAMBLE ON THE WHOLE THING WAS BECAUSE BILL HAURITZ WAS SO COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT AND TO MAKING IT WORK.... NEITHER BILL NOR MYSELF EVER DREAMED IT WOULD GROW INTO WHAT IT DID....BUT HE WAS SO COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF A QUEENSLAND FOLK FESTIVAL, A MALENY FOLK FESTIVAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY A FOLK FESTIVAL MUSEUM AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING THAT SURROUNDS IT, THAT TO GET IT OFF THE GROUND HE WAS PREPARED TO MORTGAGE HIS OWN HOME TO PROVIDE THE FINANCE TO RUN IT AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, AT THE TIME, THIS MAN IS EITHER A LUNATIC OR HE IS VERY FAR-SEEING AND HE IS REALLY COMMITTED TO THIS AND HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT WORK. I COULD SEE THAT BILL HAD THE ARTISTIC SKILL AND THE CONTACTS TO ACTUALLY MAKE IT HAPPEN, SO I BACKED HIM AND WE RENTED THE SHOWGROUNDS TO THEM AND THE REST IS BASICALLY HISTORY. IT WENT ON FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH AND EVENTUALLY, EVEN BILL ADMITS, IT OUTGREW THE FACILITY THAT WE HAD, THE MALENY SHOWGROUNDS. THE SHEER VOLUME OF PEOPLE, TO BRING THEM IN ON AN SMALL COMMUNITY LIKE OURS AND WHILST IT WAS REALLY A VERY ENTERTAINING THING FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, MANY PEOPLE FOUND IT INTRUSIVE, THEY FOUND THAT THERE WAS JUST TOO MANY PEOPLE AND IT WAS PART OF THE CHANGE OF THE REGION AND THE CHANGE OF PEOPLE, THE CHANGE OF THINKING IN THE AREA AND SADLY IT MOVED AWAY FROM MALENY ITSELF AND IS NOW KNOWN AS THE WOODFORD-MALENY FOLK FESTIVAL. PERSONALLY, I THINK WE LOST A GREAT OPPORTUNITY BY LOSING THE FOLK FESTIVAL TO WOODFORD, ALTHOUGH I THINK THAT SITE WHERE IT IS NOW IS PROBABLY BETTER SUITED TO THE FACILITY AND THE FUTURE OF IT AND TO THE

GROWTH OF THAT IT WILL NEED. IT'S ALSO CLIMATICALLY BETTER SUITED IN THAT OVER WOODFORD, STANMORE AREA THEY DON'T GET THE SAME RAINFALL... YOU CAN HAVE SHOWERS OR HEAVY RAIN ON THE COAST HERE AND HAVE NONE OVER THERE, SO FOR THE TYPE OF EVENT IT IS, IT'S PROBABLY BETTER SUITED THAT IT'S OUT THERE. IT HAS NOW ESTABLISHED ITS NAME, IT HAS ESTABLISHED ITS REPUTATION AND BASICALLY WHEREVER YOU PUT IT PEOPLE WILL GO TO IT NOW. IN MANY WAYS IT HELPED PUT MALENY ON THE MAP, PARTICULARLY FOR THE ARTIST AND INTELLECTUAL PEOPLE. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THAT ATTEND THE FESTIVAL AS AND STILL DO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL, ARE PEOPLE OF HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION, OF THEM TWO, THREE OR FOUR DEGREES. THEY GO TO THE FESTIVAL TO EXPLORE NEW MUSIC, NEW WAYS OF THINKING, HAVE A BIT OF FUN, RELAX AND THEY DRESS DOWN AND YOU LOOK AT THEM, OFTEN YOU THINK 'WHAT A MOB OF HOBO'S; BUT IN ACTUAL FACT WHEN YOU TALK TO THEM THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEM ARE PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE. THEY ARE JUST ON HOLIDAYS AND HAVING A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO RELAX, VERY NICE PEOPLE.

I THINK THAT THE CULTURE IT BROUGHT TO THE AREA WAS JUST BEYOND VALUE. THE ADVERTISING THAT IT BOUGHT AND THE AWARENESS OF MALENY, IS SOMETHING THAT.... YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO A LONG WAY TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE PROVIDED US WITH THE SAME KICK-A-LONG.

PRIOR TO THE FOLK FESTIVAL, PRETTY WELL EVERYONE KNEW WHERE MONTVILLE WAS ... YOU WOULD BE IN BRISBANE AND PEOPLE WOULD SAY "WHERE ARE YOU FROM?" AND WHEN YOU REPLIED MALENY, THEY WOULD SAY, 'MALENY, WHERE IS THAT?' AND YOU WOULD SAY 'UP IN THE SUNSHINE COAST,

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BEHIND IN THE HINTERLAND,' AND THEY WOULD SAY, 'NEAR MONTVILLE SOMEWHERE OR NEAR NOOSA SOMEWHERE?' NOWADAYS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU GO IN AUSTRALIA, IF PEOPLE ASK YOU WHERE YOU COME FROM AND YOU SAY MALENY THEY SAY 'OH YES, ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL UP THERE.' SO MANY PEOPLE COME HERE AND ALMOST EVERYBODY KNOWS WHERE IT IS.

Have you been to the folk festival:

I HAVE ONLY MISSED ABOUT TWO OR THREE OF THEM.

Do you attach any stories with local landmarks

IN THE EARLY DAYS THE STREETS WERE NAMED AFTER THE NATURAL TIMBERS THAT WERE FOUND HERE, FIG, MYRTLE, CORAL, BEECH, BUNYA ETC, OF LATER YEARS WE HAVE SORT OF RUN OUT OF STREETS THAT CAN FOLLOW FROM THAT AND I HAVE NOTICED THERE ARE A FEW STREETS THAT ARE POPPING UP NOW, THINGS LIKE AZALEA COURT ETC, WHICH IS A BIT SAD IN ONE WAY.

CENTENARY DRIVE WAS BUILT IN THE CENTENARY OF MALENY
BI-CENTENNIAL DRIVE WAS BUILT WITH FUNDING FROM THE BI-CENTENARY COMMITTEE FOR AUSTRALIA'S BI-CENTENARY.

WHEN I GREW UP, I DIDN'T KNOW TEAK STREET WAS TEAK ST, I ALWAYS CALLED IT 'POST OFFICE HILL', BECAUSE THE POST OFFICE WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF IT.

THERE IS A LOT OF HILLS AROUND, DONOVAN'S KNOB, HOWELL'S KNOB, MOST OF THOSE ARE NAMED AFTER INDIVIDUALS.

SOAPY HILL, RASPBERRY HILL ALL THOSE SORTS OF HILLS, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY THEY CALL THEM WHAT THEY DO.

THE CEMENT HILL AT WITTA WAS BUILT, I THINK AROUND ABOUT THE WAR YEARS OR JUST AFTER, IT WAS BUILT IN CEMENT BECAUSE IT WAS SO DIFFICULT TO GET UP AND DOWN . SOME OF THE OTHER LANDMARKS THAT ARE AROUND:
OUT ON BALMORAL ROAD, WHERE THE BALMORAL LOOKOUT IS, FROM WHEN I WAS A VERY YOUNG CHILD THROUGH TO AROUND ABOUT THE LATE 1980's, THERE USED TO BE , WHAT WE CALLED A 'LONG-DROP', THE TOILETS THERE USED TO ACTUALLY SIT ON THE BOX IN THE TOILETS AND THEY HAD HOLES DRILLED UNDERNEATH THEM AND IT WAS DOWN ABOUT TEN (10) METRES. THEY USED TO JUST COMPOST, WHAT EVER YOU DID JUST COMPOSTED AWAY. THEY BECAME RATHER UNSANITARY TYPE PLACES AND THAT WAS THE WAY YOU USED TO DEAL WITH HUMAN WASTE IN THOSE DAYS AND THEY HAVE DONE AWAY WITH I REMEMBER AS A YOUNGSTER WE USED TO GO TO THE SHOW AND THE TOILETS WERE JUST A BIT OF HESSIAN AROUND IT, THE MEN'S URINAL DIDN'T EXIST, IT WAS JUST SORT OF UP AGAINST THE HESSIAN. THE LADIES USUALLY HAD IT BETTER THAN THE MEN, BUT EVEN THOSE WERE VERY PRIMITIVE. I REMEMBER ONE OF THE THINGS WHEN I TOOK OVER AS MALENY SHOW PRESIDENT, DAVE HANKINSON ALWAYS USED TO ORGANISE HAT THE LAVIES BE SERVICED AT THE SHOW, HE MADE SURE THAT HUNTER BROTHERS, WHO WERE THE CONTRACTORS FOR TOILET PANS, THEY WOULD COME AND MAKE SURE THERE WAS PLENTY OF TOILET PANS FOR THE SHOW. BACK IN THOSE DAYS, EVEN THOUGH I WAS SHOW PRESIDENT, IT WAS MY JOB TO CLEAN THEM.

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What do you like about Maleny today?

There's lots of things I like about Maleny, I things Maleny's a better place because of change.
The people - whilst we're a very diverse community - to day they are less closed as a community.

I left home at 15 and a half to work in the ANZ Bank at Kilcoy and my mother was in the ANZ Bank in Maleny. and she heard two ladies talking, one said to the other, " I see young Winston Johnstone's got a job in the ANZ Bank in Kilcoy, and the other one said " Johnstone's, which family are they". The second lady said "You know, they're the new Irish family that live at Wootha, now that would have been in 1967, My parents came to Maleny in 1948, so that was 19 years and they were still the new Irish family that lived at Wootha, now that would have bee in 1967.

My parents came to Maleny in 1948 so that was 19 years and, they were still the new Irish family that lived at Wootha!.

Today you're welcomed in the community from day one if you want to make the effort. We have an enormous range of community activities, community interest groups. We have incredibly good shopping facilities, we've got a beautiful climate, a very attractive town.

Today you're welcomed in the community from day one, if you want to make the effort. We have incredibly good shopping facilities, we've got a beautiful climate, a very attractive town.

We have pretty well got everything going for us. Look, we're not perfect, there's not many places that are better. and the people I think, our diversity is one of our strengths. We have today people from all different political leanings, all different ideologies.

We certainly don't have the same mix of race as you have in places like Melbourne for example, but despite that people of other races who have come to live in Maleny and I have talked to them on occasions, have always said to me that they have always felt welcomed.

I think sometimes when you read the "Range News" you get the impression that we're a bit elitist, you get the impression sometimes that some people are a bit "holier than thou". I think that what it really does is prove that they are a thinking community and that we have all sorts of different opinions and people have the right to have an opinion.

Just like people have the right to tell them that they don't know what there talking about, but I think we do it as a general rule, we do it fairly well and I think there is a crossing over now of the different groupings in the community.

When people of what you refer to as the "After hate persuasion" when they discovered Maleny and come to live here, they like the one's who lived here prior to them were very narrow in their attitudes and perspective's and their outlook on life and I think through living here and mixing with others, all side have become a lot more tolerant of each other and a lot more understanding that, well there are other ways of looking at things.

I think that has made our community so much stronger, the fact that most of the people who come to live here, do so because of the Maleny life-style decisions, it means that the vast majority of people who do come to live here have made an intelligent, thought through decision and because we're not a low socio-economic income group, because to buy into Maleny is quiet expensive.

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It probably also reflects that there are a lot of doer's who actually come to people who have had career's or who had been in business and a lot of them are well educated ect. So we probably benefit from the combined intelligence of a lot of people as well as actual arts and craft abilities is just enormous.

What about the changes in Maleny:-

I think it would have been nice if we had, had controlled development earlier than it was done, but that's all historic and we learn from our mistakes. I think we're probably well down the road to making sure a lot of those mistakes are rectified to a large extent.

I would like to see a lot more greening of the area, people talk about the Green Hills Trust and groups such as that, to me green hills are not just rolling grass hills they can be timbered and with beautiful trees or it doesn't even have to be beautiful trees, just lots of trees. I'd like to see more emphasis put on clearing out what I call "noxious" weeds, that have entered into the area, it's good to see Barung becoming more active in that area. Camphor Laurels in their latter part of their life can be most magnificent beautiful trees, but they are an awful pest in the area. Privet the narrow leaf Privet in particular have become quite a pest in the area. Mist Weed needs to be controlled, in some of the districts around Maleny.

Rats Tail is starting to become established. As a grass it is horrendous grass to have and their needs to be a lot more in controlling some of those what I call "Weeds" and replanting them with trees that are all native to the area.

I think its proven over the years that that's better to have that type of native species----An interest storing in relation to that is when we were building the Baroon Pocket Dam probably something that not many people are aware of actually there was a particular species of Blackbutt in the Baroon Pocket area that was a slightly different variation to what was found in most other areas. So what we did was in conjunction with Ashley Sewell who is working for the Forestry department, we had harvested the Black Butt trees when they came into seed and along with other gums, the bunyas and various other trees that were native to that valley and we harvested all the seed off them over a couple of years. and grew seedlings from those and then when the dam was built we planted about 135,000 trees around the edges of the dam on the land that the Water board had acquired.

That is something that I am very proud of because It is something I pushed very hard to make sure it would happen. Because I think that a lake with just open grassland around it doesn't do much for me and in addition to that there is the pressure to let cattle in on it. Where you have cattle that adjoin a dam for town water supply you finish up with a nutrient problem, so I pushed fairly heavily to make sure that area was treed and planted so that eventually it became a like a bit of Forrest. and scrub all the way around the dam.

Unfortunately due to some fires and various other reasons, certain sections of it haven't survived and I hope that sometime in the not too distant future the Waterboard together with a group like Barung, will actually sow and replant a lot of those area's that the seedlings failed in.

What do you think about the future for Maleny and future generations?

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I think that Maleny is going to become a much more sort after area to live, I feel that sub-division is going to be controlled fairly stringently. The population hopefully will not more than double in the Maleny district, I think that there needs to be a population ceiling put on and throughout my life I have been making sure that my voice is heard in trying to keep that as being a population ceiling.

What will probably happen is that land values will increase even more dramatically than they have of recent years and Maleny will probably become a bit more like Montville as far as the people that come and live here in some way will probably be older and middle aged people and not so many young people which is sad in a way, but it's just the way that there's going to go.

Young families cant afford to live here, there is not enough work for them live and unless they are prepared to make a lifestyle change decision, then you'll find that young people and young families will generally live in more urban areas of the coast and forward towards Brisbane.

I think that we'll see a lot more greening of the area, I think perhaps even more cultural diversity and I think that perhaps what might happen in the future is some of the community groups that we've got might start getting together a bit more and we might see---I think there's probably more community organisation of all types and descriptions in Maleny than I have ever come across and I think that more and more they might start to bring together and may be amalgamate some of their purposes.

It will always be I feel, an outspoken community, one which perhaps will be in the future at the fore front of bringing about change in peoples thinking, change in environment ECT. There is a lot more enviro awareness now today than there used to be, I think that that's soir's, to change even and I foresee that things like septic, which are almost uncontrolled in particularly the Baroon catchment are, I think that in the next couple of years we'll see those being policed fairly rigorously and so they should be. We're going to see a lot more concern about water quality as well as degradation of the land planting up of steep slopes which previously have been denuded and they are now under threat of land slips ECT.

I think our business community will remain strong and prosperous, we won't ever be a major centre but we will I think maintain our position as a business centre for the rural area along the top of the plateau, that Montville, Mapleton,, Maleny, Witta, Conondale and down towards Landsborough a bit.

I think we will maintain our strength as a sporting community, we have always been a very strong sporting community.

Is there anything further you would like to add?

Well it's important that as much of this type of work is done as possible because what we have found is quite often people come into the community and they say why do we do this and its these not some historical record as to what, why things aren't the way some people would like them to be and what the history of an area is than what happens is things get changed sometimes without thought of what has happened and who done what before. Basically, what I'm getting at is there is a need to respect the history of the area, there's a need to respect the people that were here before us,

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and there's a need to make sure that we don't make the same mistakes again. The only way we can do that is to have a very strong historical record of what has been before, because that helps us in our decision making, it helps people understand why the road is in a particular location or a building is being continuously maintained.

It also helps you understand why some of the older people and long term residents get upset when people want to make change. So just like the people who have been there a long time they have to expect that when new people come, you have to accept change. and what we should do is select the better things and discard the things that are not of benefit

to us. Thus the people who come here to live, the new ones should respect the better things of what has happened in the past and to understand why things are the way they are. So I commend you and the groups like the Historical Society and I hope you get another grant and continue the good work.

RE: Experience as a councillor

I understand why certain decisions were made because I was part of making the decisions. I mean from my own personal perspective if I had a failing sometimes from a community service point of view and my councillor P.O.V., it was because sometimes I didn't take people on the same journey that I was going through in relation to the decision making process. I learned a lot from that subsequently, where people would say to me 'Winston, we didn't realise you didn't do this or that you automatically made sure our

road was graded every year etc and I was there to do in possession of the information that I had in front of me and I realise now that you need to tell people what you're doing and why your doing it.

Its not beating your own chest, its so that they understand sometimes how difficult it is to achieve some of those things and they also understand the reasoning of it.

BAROON POCKET DAM

The Baroon Pocket dam, up until the early 90's was the only major civil project in this country since the WWII that was constructed substantially below budget. The actual budget was \$52 million dollars and it was built for \$39 million and that was done despite the fact that property owners were well compensated and despite the fact that we built to stage 2 it was just the whole series of coincidences and thoughtful process, resulted in that occurring, together with very competitive contract tendering climate at that stage.

There was very little work for major civil projects and we were fortunate to get firms to tender in many cases either at cost or just below cost, just to keep their men together and their plant and equipment working, while they were waiting for other projects to come on.

As well as the fact that we were very fortunate in things like Baroon Pocket Tunnel, from the dam intake tower to the (Water) treatment plant by relocating the outlet point 200 to 300 metres to the south we actually saved a million dollars in Shot Bolting and concrete lining of the tunnel, because we struck a different form of rock formation and we didn't have to do it

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When we were putting the spillway in prior to the work starting on the spillway, there was a suggestion that we do some drilling to the north of where it (the spillway) was proposed and by shifting the spillway 50 metres or so we actually struck a much higher ridge of rock, which meant that 14 metres of concrete we were able to do away, we were able to build a wall to stage 2 right from the beginning and the spillway right from the beginning from stage 2.

The further thing that happened was quite by chance we found that there was a very large deposit of basalt, some of the densest basalt rock that the mines department have ever found right in the floor of the dam so it meant that we didn't have to bring the rock from outside, all of the rock in the dame wall and the clay came out of the actual dam floor itself, which not only meant that we were able to save money but also we were able to dig the dam deeper.

There's a couple of stories that got around about the dam filling so quickly that vehicles were trapped in the dam etc, but it never happened.

The dam was well and truly completed only by about 2 or 3 weeks, then we had an absolutely torrential downpour and the thing filled virtually over night. which as a construction authority engineers P.O.V. and our boards (Waterboards) P.O.V., it was rather worrying because it was clay - core rock wall dam and its designed for the water level to gradually increase and the clay to absorb the moisture and gradually expand. Because it was filled up in a matter of a week, the pressure that was put on the wall

was enormous and there was no opportunity for it to gradually soak into the core but it stayed stable and there's no problems.

When we were building the tunnel for the water tunnel (for the water from the intake tower to the treatment plant.) a big sheet of rock came down and hit a fellow on the head and he was very badly injured. From that I found out that "World Standard of Construction funnels" is that for every 1 cm:1.2 people are actually killed in tunnel construction and that was just something I picked up over that incident.

When we drilled through and blasted that tunnel they started at both ends and they had to meet in the middle and the day they had to meet in the middle we knew down to the hour when it was supposed to happen. There were a lot of nervous people, the engineers were sick with worry because to build a tunnel over a couple of kilometres from two ends, no matter how good your figures are people can make mistakes. Something that not many people understand or even realise is that when you're a funnel, you actually have to make some small alteration or some small adjustment for the curvature of the earth and whenever they breakthrough there was a great jubilation because it was right within about 1/2 an inch of being in the right spot.

End of interview transcript

Thank you very much for being part of this project to record and preserve Maleny's heritage.

Inga Green



Winston & Helen