

## THE YEAR IS 1953 (The Beginning)

*Here we have the first reference to a Floral Carpet, just one of many. This is where the story of the Maleny District Horticultural Society and Maleny Garden Club Inc. begins.*

Unfortunately we have been unable to locate any photos of this, the original Floral Carpet for the Maleny and Districts Horticultural Society

### **OFFICE BEARERS            elected at AGM September 1952 to serve until AGM September 1953**

President	Mr A .Lockwood (Confirmed from the initial meeting in 1952)
Vice President	Mrs W. Bergann (Newly elected)
Secretary	Mr R.C. Burnett (Confirmed from the initial meeting in 1952)
Treasurer	Mr A Webster (Newly elected)

### **Meetings and Recorded Events**

Olga Webster recalls the fierce hailstorm sweeping through the area which affected Alan Lockwood (among others), ruining his dahlia blooms. The rain, wind and hail were a catalyst that brought Alan Lockwood, Rick and Peggy Burnett together to set the scene for the centrepiece of future Autumn Fairs being the Floral Carpet.

Alan Lockwood. Must have been one of those men who truly believe that it is an ill wind that blows nobody some good because the wind and the rain that destroyed his dahlia blooms gave rise to the idea to make a floral carpet, so the three of them (Alan, Rixon and Peggy) set to work. There can be no doubt Peggy had the idea and the menfolk did as they were told! Olga tells us that Rixon got several sheets of corrugated iron into the lounge and they laid out a floral carpet using the dahlia blooms.

The BOM records rainfall of 1042.9mm in February 1953 and a further 376.6 mm in March. (That's nearly 1420mm or 1.5 m of rain in 2 months. The **Nambour Chronical and North Coast Advertiser (NC&NCA)**, dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 1953, notes the Landsborough Councillors paying tribute to the voluntary workers who cleared numerous landslides on the area west of the Maleny Range road. The Range Road was reopened, the old road having been put to good use. The road was closed for about 3 weeks after removing. Hundreds of tons of earth and only reopened in the middle of March. The good folk of Maleny weren't about to let a bit of rain dampen their spirits and they got on with what they had planned.

**FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup>** the Society had put an article in the Nambour Chronical and North Coast Advertiser confirming:

*There were 64 present at the February meeting of the Maleny and District Horticultural Society, held at the residence of Mr and Mrs W. Bergann, Witta. Arrangements were made to hold a Dahlia Show on March 26<sup>th</sup>. One of the main attractions will be a floral carpet to consist solely of dahlias.*

### **MARCH**

The Nambour Chronical and North Coast Advertiser, dated 13<sup>th</sup> March, notes that **a meeting was held in the home of Mr and Mrs Waddell. With 40 members present, an interesting lecture was given by Mr A. Lockwood on the type and standard of flowers for judging. Officials appointed or the CWA Dahlia Show are: Judge: Mrs Laidlaw (Gympie); Chief Steward: Mrs R. Burnett (Maleny).**

Another meeting took place at the CWA and the Nambour Chronical and North Coast Advertiser notes **Consideration was given to the holding of the Dahlia Show on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The Maleny District Horticultural Society advised it would provide a floral carpet composed of dahlias.**

#### **APRIL**

The Nambour Chronical and North Coast Advertiser follows up the Dahlia Show in a report dated **April 9<sup>th</sup>** under the heading Dahlia Carpet and Flower Show Maleny Horticultural Society.

**Sponsored by the Maleny Horticultural Society and assisted by the CWA and Auxiliary members, the Dahlia Show and fete on Friday last was most successful. Highlight of the show was the dahlia carpet in the centre of the hall. All entries were a credit to exhibitors. Nett proceeds £95/15/-**

The Nambour Chronical and North Coast Advertiser dated **17<sup>th</sup>** April notes the results of the Maleny Flower Show

**Staged by the Maleny and District Horticultural Society the flower show provided a magnificent array of exhibits which won the full admiration of patrons. The nett proceeds (£60/-/-) were placed to the Maleny Branch CWA fund. The arrangement and form of exhibition were highlights of display and a large number of home gardeners and floral designers were represented in the various sections. The border of pennies around a floral carpet contributed to a sum of £3/-/-**