

# Community Information and Agreements

## Maleny Eco Village, QLD

All Eco Village Australia (EVA) communities adhere to the EVA 'Vision and Values'. This document further outlines Maleny Eco Village agreements. Some of these are not negotiable, and some can be renegotiated as new members join. As you enter into this community, please discuss points of difference before you agree.

## I. Basic Information

Maleny Eco Village  
live@ecovillages.au  
<https://www.ecovillages.au>



Before the repair of the sharehouse

## II. About Us

Maleny Eco Village (MEV) is a small, intentional eco-community that supports sustainable living, personal growth, and authentic connection. We have a carbon footprint of just 6% of the average Australian. We have applied to receive charitable status, as we take care of our environment in a unique and effective way - humans on a small footprint care for country.

Located in Maleny, Queensland, our 3.5-acre property blends permaculture principles, simple living, and shared resources to promote resilience and low-carbon living.

It was established in 2019.

### Community Keywords

Community, sharing (resources, lives, stories, skills), intentional, sustainable, participation, permaculture, fresh food, teamwork, simplicity, robust, resilience, space, safe, frugal, abundant, art, music, vibrant, beautiful, healthy, design, outdoors, energy efficient, minimalism, low-footprint, living lightly, humanity, enjoyment, fun, healing, meaning, peace, trust, support, love, vulnerability, biodiversity.

### Maleny

Maleny has a rich history, from First Nations bunya festivals to its evolution as a hub for artists and environmentalists. Maleny has a strong alternative/creative, environmentally-aware and socially progressive population - boasting more artists per km<sup>2</sup> than anywhere else in Australia.

Maleny is the 'co-op capital' of the southern hemisphere'. There are over 160 groups and co-ops including, dance, community music, art, performance, theatre, festivals, circus, sports, choirs, fix it cafe, environmental, political, advocacy, spiritual and action groups. We encourage our residents to support Maleny's creative and green heart by joining and supporting these groups and events.

Schools, hospitals, medical centres, and public transport are accessible in Maleny. Gardener's Falls, Kondallilla falls, Baroon Pocket Dam, Australia Zoo, national parks, the great walk, Glass House Mountains and more are all within 20 minutes' drive.

Maleny is the wettest town in the Sunshine Coast hinterland (Rainy Maleny, or Ma-rainy!). averaging 1800mm a year.



fungi everywhere here!

Our property is just a 5-minute walk to the Maleny township.

### About the property

We are on a north facing block (perfect for growing food and living) featuring a heart-shaped dam and wetlands in the centre.

A thriving, biodiverse ecosystem of native plants, rainforest trees, and wildlife, including bandicoots, possums, frogs, and over 80 bird species,. Weeds grow fast in the sub-tropics, and this land needs a lot of care after being cleared for dairy 150 years ago.



Spring in the Maleny Eco Village

## III. Housing

MEV currently offers a variety of housing options:

### Weekly Rent (per person)

- Private room or cabin: \$250.
- Dormitory style / shared sleeping (>3 people) \$200.
- Permanent Van Site (<10sq metres). \$150.
- Temporary Van/Tent Site for travellers \$100.

All bills included. In the interest of living lightly, we have very little storage facilities.

### Other costs

- \$30 per week for food kitty.
- \$250 once off payment for Community Living Fund for long-term residents (for Non-Violent Communication training, conflict resolution, and community-building)
- Residents who reach 18 months tenure pay a membership fee to become a full member.

### Housing Model

We use the Eco Villages Australia 'Collective Stewardship' model. No one

owns the land or buildings as all residents rent. The rent pays back loans and operating costs.



Small communities are life-giving

## IV. Residents

MEV can accommodate approximately 10 residents at any given time. At this time we cannot support children.

We encourage those who are community-minded, committed to their own personal growth, good communicators, willing to contribute to shared projects, and interested in cohabiting with like-minded individuals in a supportive, sustainable environment.

We are an inclusive, body-positive community open to all, including ENM and LGBTI+ individuals.

The community is generally unable to host individuals with uncontrolled negative addictions (e.g., substance abuse, gambling).

We encourage visitors and travellers to stay. They normally come to us through workaway or Worldpackers websites.

## V. Governance

### Leadership & Decision-Making

We operate under a Sociocratic and modified consensus model, where decision-making is collaborative and transparent.

The land is held by a non-profit, so it will be held in perpetuity for nature and community - no one is making capital gain from your effort!

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Compulsory **weekly resident meetings** (usually Mondays) are an opportunity to share updates, plan projects, have difficult conversations if needed and discuss community needs.

**Conflict Resolution:** We practice Non-Violent Communication (NVC), with all residents trained in this model

## VI. Economics

This community is not a commune as we don't share income and assets.

Past residents have been engaged in full-time, part time, employment, not employed or retirement, however our aim is to build a life that requires less money and more connection and fun as we work together.

Maleny has work opportunities for residents in hospitality, cleaning, handy-person, and yard maintenance, however, there is potential to start a 'social enterprise', that some residents could work for an average of a day a week and then you stay at the community for free - if that's what is needed.

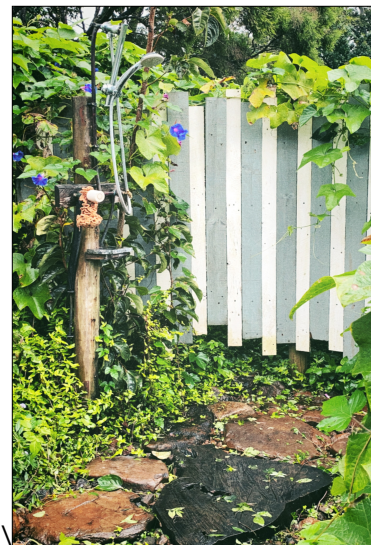


Shared meals are the best

All residents are volunteers, and we work together to make our home as amazing as possible. No one counts your hours, we freely give and we expect each resident to only give what they are prepared to give.

We are interested in embedding other economic models such as **Gift economy** ("Sacred Economics" by Charles Eisenstein, '**Contributionism**' by Michael Tellinger, and

"**Rainbow Gathering**" and **permaculture** to our daily life.



Hot outdoor shower at MEV

## VII. Community Sustainability Practices

### Energy, Food, Water, Transportation

We are serious about being sustainable. To keep our consumption low we measure our energy use. We continue to develop and experiment with technologies to bring that down even further. We have been 'net zero' since we began.

#### **Energy**

Low-voltage solar energy powers lighting while we have experimented with biogas which reduces reliance on LPG for cooking. Future plans include expanding solar power generation by introducing a DC micro-grid to eliminate reliance on grid energy.

We use electric tools to minimise fossil fuel use.

Our food production approach embraces 'wild gardening,' focusing on eating what the land naturally provides. This includes an emphasis on horticulture, perennials, and permaculture design, supported by syntropic beds. We maintain organic practices, avoiding



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chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides.

Additionally, we glean, forage, and swap food with friends and neighbours, incorporating reclaimed food sources into our diet.

A meat and dairy-free diet also helps with electricity use (refrigeration doesn't need to be as cold).



e-bikes for fun and shopping

### **Water use**

We have two water sources, the dam (spring fed 3000 kilolitre) and town water. We use design and behaviour change, to keep water use down and look to improve on our methods.

### **Plastic free living**

We are almost single-use plastic free. We grow our own food, buy in bulk to minimise packaging and don't buy food or drink that comes in plastic packaging. Homemade products (e.g., pasta, bread, tofu, kimchi, plant milk, herbs etc) help minimise plastic use.

We also avoid owning and purchasing plastic items; preferring wooden and metal materials.

### **Composting**

We compost all organic waste, turning it into valuable soil for our gardens. This helps us maintain a closed-loop system that nurtures the land - no

organic material leaves the property.

We buy second-hand items where possible and repair or re-purpose rather than buying new. We are serious about minimising normal consumer spending.

### **Use of animals in production of food**

We have bees from a local farmer who maintains the hives. We prefer no animals used in food productions, but open as long as no harm occurs.

### **Transport**

We have e-bikes which are available for residents and friends. Residents are encouraged, but not required to share vehicles.

We prioritise walking and public transport and discourage air and road travel as much as possible. Cars are kept to the extremities of the property, to allow the 'village green' to be kept for humans and animals

In the future, we could purchase an EV to share.



Work parties are a lot of fun!

## **VIII. Lifestyle**

### **Facilities, Diet, Health, Education, Spirituality**

#### **The rhythm of community**

The daily weekly is determined by our residents. We start with a shared breakfast - often "Mo-Po" (Morning porridge) and our second shared meal is in the evening.

'Focus day', is when we get together and work on common

projects - it never feels like work when we work together!



Bob the baby Possum

When the community is in the middle of a building project, we may set aside another day as well.

After our shared meals, we often play games, massage, movie nights, and other offerings.

There is plenty of time for your own pursuits, employment and rest. We do encourage residents to lean into a less income - more time lifestyle.

Work parties and open days provide a monthly rhythm, where, on a Saturday, we throw the community open to visitors for a tour, working bee, a meal and a workshop in the afternoon.

Maleny, unlike most of QLD, has defined 4 seasons, and we enjoy flowing with the yearly rhythm of nature and life.

### **Food**

We maintain a vegan diet with a focus on two simple, nutritious meals a day. It's not compulsory to attend all shared meals, however we have a cooking roster and a culture of shared meals, which soon becomes a precious part of how we live.

We eat simply and restrict packaged and processed foods and sugar.

If residents or visitors are gluten free, or have other dietary requirements, we are happy to accommodate.

Sometimes residents cook non-vegan elements for themselves.

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The food kitty will feed you well, but personal food can be purchased individually (make sure to name it!)

We have agreed to have no alcohol, smoking or drugs on site.



The dam before the forest grew

### **Shared facilities.**

We have community living space, outdoor BBQ area, hot outdoor shower, dining area, workshop, laundry, workshop, garden beds and emerging food forest, dam, and lovely shaded microclimates for quiet reflection. We share tools, office space and kitchen equipment.

We strive for a low infrastructure lifestyle, but building projects like a hot tub or other luxuries may be welcome.

Dishes in the sink usually cause problem in communities :), so communal spaces, especially kitchens, must remain clean and orderly. Personal items are not to be left in communal areas.

### **Tech**

High-speed NBN is available, with plans to upgrade internal Wi-Fi and network infrastructure. Telstra provides reliable mobile coverage. We try and limit tech in shared spaces, including amplified music.



Building a stone wall with friends

### **Health & Wellness**

The community prioritises a healthy lifestyle, encouraging residents to practise and share skills like massage therapy and yoga. Mental well-being is supported through social connection and play.

### **Chemicals**

Chemical pesticides, herbicides, and artificial fragrances are avoided. All cleaning products and soaps need to be eco-friendly and non-toxic.

### **Spirituality**

While not a spiritual community, some may see aspects of eco-spirituality in our practices.

### **Minimalism**

Minimalism underpins our eco-aesthetic. Personal belongings and storage are limited to individual rooms, with some shared storage in a community shed. The community favours fewer traditional Western furnishings and embraces a ground-level living approach, promoting movement and simplicity.

### **Pets**

Domestic animal ownership is not permitted to prioritise wildlife.

We have tried to give you a little picture of what life is like at the Maleny Eco Village. No doubt you will have queries and concerns. The best way to taste is to come and visit, or have a trial. There is nothing quite like living ones values!