



Speak Up Now committee members along with Malcolm Baker who built the bench. From left, Ian Demack, Sherryl Gregory, Malcolm Baker, Val France, Greg Williams, Barb Jones, Linda McElrea and Ann Koenig.

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Another Red bench to help stop domestic & family violence

HAVE you noticed any red benches popping up in your neighbourhood? On the last day of winter, Maleny's fourth red bench was unveiled at Maleny's Pioneer Village.

Red benches are an initiative of the Red Rose Foundation, an organisation that aims to eliminate domestic or family violence-related deaths. Plaques on the benches remind us that domestic violence is preventable if we all play our part, and are a conversation starter.

The Speak Up Now Stop Domestic and Family Violence group in Maleny has facilitated red benches in Maleny and the Pioneer Village bench is the most recent. They also persuaded Council to install four bright red benches across the Coast.

The Pioneer Village red bench was designed and built by Malcom Baker from the Maleny Men's Shed, and unveiled by him, along with Snr Sgt Kate Teasdale, Officer in Charge of the Queensland Police Service Domestic and Family Violence Unit on the Sunshine Coast.

Sgt Teasdale spoke briefly about the crucial

role of the community being involved with the police to reduce the impact of domestic violence.

Uniting Church minister Liena Hoffman then reiterated the importance of Community, Communication, and Caritas (compassion) and asked us to reflect on the legacies left to us, and the legacy we might leave.

Maleny Cultural and Historical Society President Ray Stewart reminded us that "any man who hits a woman is a coward".

The Speak Up Now Stop Domestic and Family Violence group in Maleny is a collaboration of the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre, Rotary Club of Maleny, and Zonta Blackall Range, and it aims to raise awareness of domestic and family violence with the hope that the whole community will speak up and help to reduce it.

► Maleny's Pioneer Village is shared by the Maleny Men's Shed, Blackall Range Horseless Carriage Club & the Pioneer Ukulele Club. It is open to the public Tuesdays & Saturdays from 9-4pm.