



2025
BOARD NOMINEE PROFILES
46th Annual General Meeting
Maple Street Co-operative Society Limited

Philip Brown

My Background

Born and bred in SE Qld, I have worked at senior levels in the Australian Public Service in Canberra, predominantly in social policy areas. I have led national initiatives in social security, First Nations, early childhood, disability employment and ageing. I have a keen interest in social justice, community development, promoting better food, and in arts and the natural environment. I moved to North Maleny in April 2025, and, having settled, am keen to contribute to the community

My Contribution

I hope that I can bring a broad skill set to the Co-Op Board, including experiences in implementation, policy, evaluation, compliance, data analysis, and organisational capacity building. I am a team player, respect the views of others, and always seek to be a constructive collaborator. I have good strategic skills, but can readily absorb and dive into detail. I still work part time, but am flexible, and can contribute at and between board meetings



Sia Carlyon

My Background:

I bring over a decade of community leadership and advocacy to governance roles. Currently completing a Master of Psychotherapy (2025), I hold qualifications in holistic counselling and remedial therapies. I have served as Director and Chair of the Women's Community Aid Association (2022–2023) within a collective structure. My background in trauma-informed counselling, community education, facilitation, and holistic wellness has equipped me with collaborative decision-making skills and a strong grounding in consensus-based governance and community needs.

My Contribution:

I bring board and community leadership experience alongside a passion for holistic wellbeing, healthy food, and non-toxic environments. With a background in holistic health and psychotherapy, I value the connection between food, wellness, and community, and I'm committed to supporting Maple Street Co-op's ethical and sustainable vision.



Penelope (Nep) Tod

My Background:

I worked for many years as a Social Worker in Brisbane with Indigenous and marginalised homeless families in a community housing organization. I moved to Maleny in 2004 permanently (though had been visiting for a few years before that) and decided on a career change, going back to Uni and getting an accounting degree. I have been working as an accountant and contract manager for a not-for-profit environmental organization from my home office for the past 15 years or so.

My Contribution

My accounting skills may be useful to the Board in reading and understanding financial reports. As a manager of staff in my previous social work role and currently in the leadership team in my current job, I have skills and experience in HR. I have held voluntary positions on various committees/boards. My whole career has been working in not-for-profit organizations so although there may not be full cross-over with Co-op regulations, I do have experience working with legislative requirements.



Jonathan Waites

My Background

Hello. I grew up on a family property in western NSW. After managing it for eleven years I moved, with my wife Dianne and our daughters Dominique and Sinead, to Maleny 29 years ago. We were after opportunities for alternative education and community living. We have been fortunate in achieving both ambitions - our girls attended the Ananda Marga River School and we have lived at Frogs Hollow for 28 years.

My Contribution

I have been a member of Maple St Co-op (three years serving as a director) and other community organisations since arriving in Maleny. I worked for Barung Landcare for 15 years as Project Officer covering a number of roles. I have been an active resident of Frogs Hollow (Manduka Cooperative) and for the last ten years fulfilled the role of treasurer. I am well grounded in co-operative principles and have an appreciation for the responsibilities and intricacies of community membership.

