



STANDING WITH MUSICIANS: WHY WE LEFT SPOTIFY



Recently, it emerged that Spotify co-founder and CEO Daniel Ek has significantly increased his investment in, and is now Chair of, Helsing—a European AI defence weaponry technology company. His venture capital firm, Prima Materia, led a €600 million funding round (over 1 billion AUD) for the company, which develops military AI systems.

Spotify already has a long-standing track record of underpaying artists. Musicians typically earn between \$0.003 and \$0.005 per stream on the platform. To make just \$100, an artist would need 25,000 to 33,000 streams, a far cry from the 7–10 CD sales it would usually take to earn the same amount. This model continues to undermine the sustainability of a musical career.

In addition, Spotify has faced increasing criticism for allowing AI-generated music, some of which impersonates real musicians without their consent. In recent cases, AI albums were uploaded under the names of real artists, and Spotify took weeks to respond and remove the content. The platform still does not require AI-generated music to be labeled, meaning listeners may not know whether they're supporting a human artist or an AI model.

Many artists have begun boycotting Spotify, removing their catalogues from the platform in protest. Their reasons align with ours: concern over arms investments, unfair artist compensation, and questionable AI use.

WHAT WE'RE DOING INSTEAD

For these reasons, the Co-op has canceled our Spotify subscription and is now trialling Tidal, which pays artists a higher rate—around \$0.013 per stream. We're also exploring other ethical alternatives and are open to suggestions.

Since switching to digital music in 2020, we've been an APRA license holder, using a system that recognises and reports the music we play—ensuring Australian musicians receive royalties directly when we play their music.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT MUSICIANS

Streaming alone isn't enough to pay musicians a living wage. We encourage our community to:

- Buy tickets to live gigs
- Purchase merch and records
- Support local venues and independent labels
- Become a member of our Maleny Arts Co-op to help keep the arts thriving in our community

Let's stand for a music ecosystem that is ethical, fair, and artist-driven—not AI-driven.

Remember to grab a ticket to Maleny Music Festival which is on from Fri, 7 Nov - Sun, 9 Nov
www.malenymusicfestival.com

We pay our respects to the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi people of this Country, and to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge that our Co-op stands on land that was never ceded. We honour the profound wisdom, the deep sustainability and connection to land since time immemorial.

MEET THE CO-OP MEMBER LISA MCDONALD



I came to Maleny in 1998 to house-sit my Uncle's place for 2 months - and I'm still here. I quickly became a regular shopper and member of the Maple Street Co-op. In those early years, I was awe-struck by the creativity that radiated throughout the town. Live music was abundant, and the infamous 'UpFront Club' (part of the then much smaller Co-op) was a hub! And in those days, I was a budding singer/songwriter. A lot has changed since then!

There is something precious about being a part of a 'co-operative', and Maleny has a strong tradition with this kind of social enterprise. The Co-op offers me a sense of community, familiarity, sustainability, reliability... where I can make healthy and ethical choices for myself, the community and the planet.

I value all fairtrade and ethically sourced products, my favourites are the bulk package free products, goats milk yoghurt, and the locally grown produce. I greatly appreciate that it's offered at a reasonable price, supports local growers, and the health benefits for community members is immeasurable.

I like to regard the Co-op as the heart of the town, in terms of its capacity to nurture, co-operative ethos, longevity, and its central location. In recent years, seeing the Co-op go through an extensive renovation and expansion was exciting.

Observing the next generation of young people competently and confidently step into significant roles and responsibilities within the Co-op is heartening, and testimony to both the Co-op's and the community's ability to nurture the generations.

Two of the 'kids' I taught at the River School many moons ago - namely, Charlotte and Mita, are fine examples of this - and that warms my heart and makes me smile!

I am always impressed by and grateful for the friendly, helpful, knowledgeable customer service in the Co-op. Additionally, to have qualified naturopaths available to support customers with healthy dietary choices and alternative medicines is a fantastic service!

As an educator, I've had many wonderful jobs locally, nationally, and internationally. I've been connected with the River School ever since I arrived in Maleny. I LOVE that school! I left the RS in 2012 to explore other education related opportunities. In 2014, I started teaching young people from refugee backgrounds in the detention centre on Nauru. This was a life-changing experience. In 2016, I was a part of a small group of Maleny-ites who decided to form a local refugee support group. Welcome to Maleny Refugee Advocacy Group (W2M) is now in its 9th year! Thanks to the ongoing support of the Maleny community and businesses like the Co-op, W2M has helped hundreds of people in refugee situations in Australia and throughout the world. The social ethics of W2M align deeply with the Co-op's. You might see a couple of the W2M team occasionally out front of the Co-op, selling raffle tickets and promoting upcoming fundraising events - and you might be lucky to win a gift voucher generously donated to a W2M raffle by and for the Co-op.

W2M's last gig for 2025 will be hosting a stall at the Maleny Music Weekend from the 7th-9th of November. Do come and say hello! Make sure to keep an eye out for events W2M will host throughout 2026!

FROM MY DINGO SOUL TO YOUR HEARTS 1/2

You have no idea what you do to me
With your traps, your guns and your 1080
You think you have a need to control,
But every Yuugi (Dingo) you kill is a knife in my soul

They are my Totem – a part of me,
A part of my Spirit – of my Country,
I weep for you that you don't understand,
That to kill off its creatures is to kill Sacred Land

You have lost your connection – it's plain to see.
When the zeros in your bank account are viewed
as beauty
& 'Ka-Ching' is the tune that makes you groove,
But let me tell you of the music to which I move ...

All my life, my white skin's masked a soul which is black,
I can't breathe in your world of nature attack,
'Dadirri' – 'Deep listening' – I have done all my years,
Where your heart and your soul are your guiding ears.

You hear deep-through the Dreaming – the heartbeat of Earth
And you know that only what's eternal has any real worth.
So, sit on the Mother and breathe deep with Her,
Then ask Her what really matters – and She will assure...

That at the end of your days, your piles of cash,
Will mean about as much as your body of ash,
Who and what you loved and who and what loved you

And if you gave this life your best shot will be ALL
that rings true

So please open your hearts, your minds and your soul

And please loosen your grip on your need to control

Please let my totem and my ancestors live and rest in peace
You have NO right to kill for power or profit increase.

Please listen with Heart to the howl of my friends
And feel the Ancient wisdom and healing their pure heart extends

They have burrowed a den into the very depths of me,

And I thank the Creator and beg you – PLEASE let them be.

by Michelle Griffiths - AKA Aunty Dingo and co-op member.

Find 2/2 in the November newsletter.



AGM REMINDER!

Our 46th AGM is coming up on October 29th and we're excited to see host our members for what should be a lovely community event. As 2025 marks the international year of co-ops, the theme being 'co-ops build a better world', we're excited to celebrate the Maple Street Co-op with our community.

Our AGM registration will start at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start and will be held in the Verandah room in the back of the Community Centre, catering provided, and drinks will be available to purchase from the bar.

THANKS MALENY COMMUNITY!

Last month, we wrote an article asking for help in finding affordable, secure housing for some of our team members. We are pleased to say that our community responded and two of our co-op staff will be moving in soon! We've also had members reach out to us who are also looking for a place to call home. If you are in a position to help, we may be able to put you in touch with people looking. Email Charlotte at shopmanager@maplestreet.coop

NEW LOCO LOVE 5 PACKS

Everyone's favourite choccies are now available to buy in 5 packs. Chewy Caramel, Hazelnut Butter Praline, Peanut Butter Caramel and Butter Caramel Pecan all in store now!



NEW FOR THE CO-OP - INIKA ORGANIC SKINCARE AND MAKEUP RANGES, NOW AVAILABLE IN STORE.



The world's first Plastic Neutral makeup brand, commitment to Certified Organic, Cruelty-Free, Halal, and Vegan values, and products that are formulated with nourishing botanicals. Full makeup and skincare ranges now available. All stock is kept behind the counter, ask staff for assistance or if there's any gift with purchases!



Maple Street Co-operative Society Ltd
37 Maple Street, Maleny Qld 4552
Phone: 07 5494 2088

✉ sales@maplestreet.coop
🌐 www.maplestreet.coop
📘 fb.com/maplestreetcoop
📷 [@maplestreetcoop](https://www.instagram.com/maplestreetcoop)