

# Maleny Marches against Domestic Violence

by Lisa Blainey-Lewin

On Thursday 14th May 2015 at 11.30am over a hundred people assembled at Tesch Park, Maleny. Rallying against Domestic Violence, the community event organised by Maleny Neighbourhood Centre was a stirring sight. Many of the crowd carried banners and all came together listening to speakers and reflecting on the powerfully moving

circle of purple crosses, one for each person who lost their life this year as a result of domestic violence.

Dr Bob Jacobs of The Parenting Centre said, "It's gratifying to see it becoming more public. For many years domestic violence especially coercive, controlling behaviours that are just as real as physical violence have not been spoken about."

"This is a systemic problem in our

society and obviously we want to empower people to speak up. We also need to look around and see how we behave to those less powerful than us; parents and teachers have a huge opportunity to role model and identify other ways of behaviour. If we want the world to be different we have to change the way we are doing things."

Stef Arlidge from Maleny's Sweet Chilli Choir taught those gathered at

the event a walking song she adapted from a peace activist's peace tune. The words "One step at a time, we will respect and harmony at home" were sung up Maple Street as the crowd marched from Tesch Park to Colin James, finishing at Maleny Neighbourhood Centre for a community lunch.

Images Courtesy of Kathy Pike

