

Bernard CHILCOTT

Former Teacher 1958 – 1966

It was Christmas holidays, 1957. We were about to go on a picnic at the Oasis when the postman delivered an unexpected letter: 'You are transferred to Maleny State School.'

Maleny! Where was that? As it was only one week before school started we quickly consulted the atlas and wasted no time getting under way to investigate our new appointment.

As we drove up the winding Landsborough Range, I remember remarking, 'they must keep goats up here!' But when we opened out at the top of the range, we were greeted with a view that almost took our breath away; a plateau of rolling, verdant plains as far as the eye could see, similar to the Mullumbimby area where we had lived previously. **Mr. Vince Keliher** was the only teacher in town and was only biding his time to take up a new appointment. We informed Vince of our need to rent a house and reminded him of the short time available. Vince explained that he knew of no houses to rent in town, but he took us out to meet **Jackie Donavon** at Witta, a dairy farmer who had a vacant farmhouse. The house suited us fine and we spent an enjoyable twelve months until we were able to purchase **Norm Ingold's** house in town, the following year. **Peter** was in grade four, **Terry** was in grade two and **Nerrilyn** was too young to attend school. What an enjoyable eight years followed. We acquired a milking cow, separated the milk, made our own butter, raised calves, started a garden, raised poultry and totally enjoyed our new country life. In retrospect, I can say our nine years in Maleny were very happy ones. At the end of 1966, our family circumstances had changed. Peter had completed Senior and was ready for University. Terry had completed Junior, an ideal time to change. Nerrilyn had completed Primary and was ready for High School. But we have never forgotten our time in Maleny and the friendships that were enjoyed there. In fact, we have taken every opportunity to keep the pleasant memories alive, since. We have enjoyed several anniversaries, such as the Girl Guides, State School anniversaries and various class reunions. Peter was asked recently where he was from – his answer! "Maleny." Nerrilyn has expressed the desire to go back to Maleny to live. When the children were planning our surprise fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, there was only one place to have it – Maleny!



Margaret & Bernard



Above: Terry, Nerrilyn & Peter Chilcott

"The Ambassadors" Frank Skene, Joan Humber, Bernard & Terry Chilcott, Peter Chilcott, Eddie Humber, George Cassels

