

# The COLLARD Family

by Stan, Robert and Reg COLLARD

Both Maternal **A.C.K & A. Cooke** and Paternal Grandparents came to Maleny as dairy farmers in the early 1900s.

Paternal grandfather **Alfred Collard** purchased "*Cedar Park*" from **J.D. Gay** circa 1919 and farmed there and it's there that we grew up. Significantly he brought 8 runners of *KiKuYu* grass with him and thus began Maleny's and the Dairy Industry's long association with what became known by those with gardens or cultivations as "Collard's Curse," however it helped the farmers survive many a dry period.

Both sets of Grandparents were very involved in the Dairy Industry and community activities and I guess that some of it has rubbed off, as all three of us have been involved in various activities at various levels.

On the Collard side, our father **W.A. (Bill) Collard** was a director for many years and Chairman for a while of the "Butter Factory" as the Dairy Association was known. He was also Chairman of the "Show Society" for a while, Chairman of the School of Arts Committee that rebuilt the now Community Hall after the disastrous fire of 1951 and chairman of the School Committee (now P & C) at the time that the Maleny State School became a High Top and was moved from Cedar Street to its present site as well as being involved in, and a local preacher for, the Methodist Church. He would also pick up local children in the farm "ute" and take them to the Sunday School of which he was Superintendent.

What do we remember of school days? I suppose the first thing was playing with a lot of other "kids." We didn't travel a lot as it was expensive even if your family owned a vehicle. Dairy farming wasn't a lucrative pursuit and there was a lot of constant work to maintain a farm and herd of cows. Then through World War II and afterwards there was petrol rationing. During the War parents had dug slit trenches under the Camphor Laurel trees at the school (by hand, no backhoes then) and we practiced evacuating the school and into the trenches at 10.00am of a Monday morning. The school had a hand operated air raid siren that the Scholarship class boys operated and a steam or electric one was also installed at the "Factory." School transport was either - walk, ride a bike if you could and had one, or ride a horse. Yes the schools had horse paddocks then. I could ride a horse long before I could ride a bike. The first school buses were actually cream lorrie's with planks to sit on placed across the back. School discipline was strict and "the cane" was used on a regular basis. No use complaining when you got home as the parents took the side of the teacher!

Other things were, never wearing shoes to school and learning to swim in school classes in the swimming hole in the Obi Obi Creek beside the Showgrounds and the large military convoys that travelled past the farm and would sometimes, (with permission) bivouac in farmer's paddocks overnight.

It has been said that Education is what happens to you when you leave school but you have to have a good grounding to avail yourself of opportunities as they present themselves and I am sure that the Maleny State School provided that.