

## John Swain King 1926 - 2009

**John Swain King** was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1926. He was born in the home he lived in all his life on Kings Lane and passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

John's father **Robert King**, moved from the Illawara district in 1905 and was responsible for naming the district of Curramore, as this was the area he first purchased land, near Maleny. Robert King came "for the good grass that grew here" and he brought his cattle all the way to Maleny from 'Jambaroo', which was the name of his property in the Illawara, south of Sydney.

As a boy, John rode his horse across neighbours' paddocks, now known as Dickson Avenue, to attend Maleny Primary School, which was situated opposite the Presbyterian Church. He would unsaddle his horse and leave it in the paddock to graze while he spent time learning in class. At the end of the day he'd ride home to help with milking the cows. There were 95 to 100 children at the school by the time he left to go to High School in Brisbane.



John aged 10 years

Many changes had occurred over his lifetime from only having kerosene lights progressing to gaslights and finally in 1954 Maleny was connected to the electricity grid. Earlier in 1944 power was supplied to the sawmill at Witta. As a young boy John's passion was to become an electrician, however his responsibility to take over the farm prevailed.

John had great memories of going to school in Maleny. He went to High School at the Brisbane Boys College at Toowong. When asked in the last year of his life in 2008, "*Did you like going to school in Brisbane more than Maleny?*" John answered "*Not really, well Maleny was home so I wanted to come back home, what you know very well you begin to like.*"

After a long courtship John married the love of his life **Joan Smith**. They lived together for 43 years as an important part of Malenys' community. Joan King was a teacher aide at the Maleny Primary School at Bunya Street for around 20 years.

*(Compiled by Lou and Mick Walsh and segments retrieved from recorded interviews in 2008).*



**Joan King – teacher aide for 20 years at Maleny Primary**