

## Desley (Neilen) Malone



I was born at the Soldier's Memorial Hospital in Maleny in 1942, the third child for **Henry & Nellie Neilen** and eventually one of 8. My parents were dairy farmers at the time, our farm "*Highlands*" was at Balmoral, where the Balmoral Lookout is today. When a toddler, my father put on a share farmer and our family shifted to Eagles Nest. My father bought a truck and started a carrying business. My triplet brothers **Tom, Dick & Harry** were born when living here and we later shifted to the corner of Balmoral & Landsborough/Maleny Roads which became my family home and transport depot for 40 years.

I started school at the Maleny Primary School in Cedar St in 1947. When I started High School in 1957, my class started at the new High School in Bunya Street. Yrs 11 & 12 were unavailable in Maleny, so I was sent to boarding school at *Fairholme* in Toowoomba. From there I was accepted into the Teachers' Training College at Kelvin Grove (now QUT) and I graduated as a teacher in 1962. I started teaching at Birkdale, then Ingham and I married **Tom Malone** at the end of the school year in 1964. I taught at Toobanna, Halifax, East Ayr, Nambour and eventually in 1969 I was transferred to the Maleny Primary School. I had 5 years off when my children **Peter & Andrea** were little, and returned to full time teaching in 1976. I retired in 1998 and became a Golden Graduate of QUT in 2012.

I had many happy years teaching classes from Yrs 4 to 6 at the Maleny Primary School. I took Peter & Andrea to school every day, I taught them, and before they had completed their secondary education, the new High School had opened up on the top of Bunya St.

In 1986 Tom & I sold our family home and built a new home on a smaller block not far from our old home. We've had many overseas trips to various countries, have a caravan and we've been "grey nomads" for many years. We've "done the wallaby" and we help with various community organisations. I've published several family histories and organised many reunions.

We've 6 grandkids, aged from 7 to 18. Three are living in Maleny and attended the Maleny PS. Only my youngest, Harrison, is at the school now. I've "grandkid sat" for years, volunteer regularly in their classrooms and ferry them hither & thither.

I started school in Maleny in 1947 and retired as a teacher in 1998. I'm still there every week. I've been involved with the Maleny Primary School for over 60 years.

I've been very blessed!!