

The McKINNON Family

by Gordon McKinnon

The McKinnon family came to Maleny in 1933 for **Malcolm**, our father's truck driving job, transporting timber from Hornibrook's Conondale sawmill for building the new bridge from Sandgate to Redcliffe. Many years previously, our mother **Sylvia**, had spent school holidays with her relatives (Rees family) in the area known now as Reesville.

In 1940 Malcolm transported the two large guns to the fort site being built on north Bribie Island. My older brothers **Allan** and **Keith** and sister **Audrey** attended the primary school. I was born Christmas 1939 in Maleny Hospital. Allan started as an apprentice baker, cutting it short to enlist in the army in 1943. In 1946 Keith commenced a carpentry trade and worked on building "Wilson's Garage" at the top end of Maple Street.

My school days started in 1946, walking up the steep Miva Street to the old school site. A Secondary Department was prepared for 1954 and I attended the first year of the Maleny High School. I became an apprentice carpenter and in 1957 was working on shifting the school from Cedar Street to the current Primary School site. Malcolm started working a Tesch Bros. Sawmill in the early 1940's and stayed there until retirement approximately 1964. He then bought the non-operating soft drink factory, successfully reviving it (now Tyre & Mechanical workshop beside RSL). He sold it to the Howard family before moving to Nambour in 1969.

I left Maleny in 1960, eventually settling in Caloundra and returned here in 2002.



Abt. 1944 Malcolm McKinnon driving Tesch Bro's Reo truck. Audrey (Blandford) McKinnon aged 16 standing beside the truck. Still the same Newsagent. McLean's Café burnt down with the School of Arts in 1951. Café site is now the Pharmacy.