

McLEAN'S CAFÉ AND BAKERY 1916-1951

Maple Street , next door (western side) of the present day Community Centre.



In 1912 **Andrew McLean** was employed by Tytherleighs Drapery so that they could cater for the clothing needs of the Witta residents. He did his rounds on horse back. He returned to Fassifern in 1914 and married **Frances Jane Wiley**. Returning to Maleny they built their home "Fassifern", 10 Cedar Street. Andrew continued working for Tytherleighs. In 1916 the McLeans purchased Vetter's Bakery and after adding the top storey this became their home and business. When the local farmers were visiting town, there was nowhere for them to have a cup of tea. Frances realised this need, and thus McLeans Café and Bakery was established. An efficient refrigeration system was installed which enabled the café to offer ice-creams, soft drinks, milkshakes, small goods, fruit and vegetables as well as a wide variety of baked goods and wedding and birthday cakes. **Rita** and **Judy** remember well the catering for functions such as weddings (held on the top veranda), Anzac Day in the School of Arts and an annual cricket match between the local team (dressed as women) and a visiting Brisbane Lodge team.

Phyllis Hankinson and **Gladys Sallaway**, sisters of Frances, worked in the café. Phyllis remarked of how hard they worked and how busy they were, but it was fun. On one occasion they ran out of food but Andy refused to close the door. Picture nights were particularly busy as the cream carriers would place wooden seats in the backs of their trucks and bring patrons from the surrounding areas (Conondale, Wootha, Balmoral, ...) to the pictures. The doors were always open. People sat around playing cards, listening to music and the Ashes being played in England. The McLeans were a very hospitable family with room for one more at the dinner table. During this busy time the family raised 8 children – **Peg, Bill, Clare, Rita, Bob, Ian, Judy** and **Peter**.

In 1940 Andrew and Frances retired to Caloundra. They kept ownership of the building and leased the business to **E.S. Milliner** and in 1949 to **Kosnos Freeleagus**. Unfortunately the 1951 fire destroyed the café and the School of Arts. The vacant block of land was purchased by **Wally Burnett**.



Back Row L-R: Clare, Robert (Bob)
Margaret (Peg) – later Peg Burnett.

Front Row L-R: Rita, Andrew (Andy),
Judith, Frances & Oliver (Bill).