

Barry McNamara

former Secondary School Teacher 1975 - 1992

I transferred from Indooroopilly High to commence in Maleny in 1975. My introduction to the school – a lanky **Ian Jennings** striding along the verandah singing 'Rocky Mountain High' at the top of his voice!

What struck me and my children, was the lack of formality. The size of the population meant that most teachers knew most students (and their parents) reasonably well. And there was a high level of interaction. Friday night was family night at the Maleny Hotel and Bowls Club. That was the occasion for a get-together and maybe a quiet word.

Another example of the informality was the Christmas class picnic. 'Load 'em on a bus (which we drove), head to King's Beach..... see you at lunch time for a barbie!' Then home in time for the school bus – no regional directives, no reams of compliance forms. I feel sorry for teachers now at the mercy of entrenched bureaucracy. Staff cohesion was fostered by shared activity outside of school hours eg. teacher's tennis team, swimming pool concerts etc.

The students in general were open, friendly, country kids with few affectations and lots of enthusiasm (which manifested in various ways). I see many of them on a fairly regular basis and am delighted with the school's end product. All in all, I found Maleny to be a breath of fresh air after escaping the concrete jungle of big city schooling.



L – R: Greg Harrison, Barry McNamara, Vince Carbery, Barry Garson, Greg Cox & Ian Beddow performing at the Swimming Pool Concert. These fundraising concerts were hilarious.