

The Parer Family

Dr. Tony Parer's family was well respected in Maleny especially as Dr. Tony served as resident at the Maleny Hospital for 21 years until 1952. They lived next door to the Hospital which was where the Ambulance Station now stands. He delivered virtually all the children who were born in the district in that time, as he was the sole doctor in Maleny and the then developing areas of Caloundra, Landsborough, Conondale and Witta.



Dr Tony with his car outside Doctor's residence in Bean Street

His children, **Judith**, Michael (**Mick**) and **Denise** were educated at the 'Top School' until they left to attend boarding schools in Brisbane. Judith & Denise both followed their father's footsteps in the medical profession training as nursing sisters at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane. Michael became RAAF Wing Commander, leading the renowned 1960's '*Black Diamonds*' aerobatic team of Sabre jets which flew many demonstration flights around Australia. In the family tradition, he followed his aviator Uncle, **Ray Parer**, who slowly flew his de Havilland 'PD' in the air race from England to Australia in 1920. Tony and **Peg Parer** were stalwarts of the Maleny community, raising money for the financing of the Community Hall and developing healthy diets among the residents. This included collecting fish during his Friday medical rounds in Caloundra, blowing the horn as he arrived up the hill for customers (including Catholics) to collect as he drove through town to the present site of the church at the top of Maple Street. The family were not left out of helping to keep the community healthy! When a young patient balked at the mere thought of receiving an injection, Dr. Tony was known to use his children as guinea pigs to demonstrate that it didn't hurt.

The Parer Family also played host to the myriad of cousins visiting from Brisbane for a trip to the country, many of these events were recorded by Tony's cousin, Academy Award winning photographer, **Damien Parer**, during his visits to Maleny during the war, where he caught up with his sister, **Doreen Owen** and family. The Parer family, both immediate and extended, appreciate the welcome and support afforded to them during their time here, as well as the tribute given to them with the naming of the *Dr. Tony Parer Park* in Bean Street opposite the Hospital.



Parer cousins and local children with Damien Parer - War Photographer, on car with them. Damien's partner with Peg Parer and Mary Sheil.