

Memories of School in Maleny (1934 – 1940)

by Grace Lohning (nee Alcorn)

Starting school at the age of 6, my parents decided I was too young to ride to school on my own so I doubled on my sister's pony, for a year or so. Our dairy farm was about 5 klm from the school and it would take ½ hr or so. This twice daily event I considered the best part of the day as we joined up with other riders from Reesville along the way and had the best fun racing the ponies home and keeping out of the way of the huge noisy timber trucks, which roared past making our ponies really nervous. Neighbouring farmers would let us take a shortcut through their paddocks and we had to make sure we carefully closed all those gates!

After getting home we would have a hearty snack of bread and jam (or cake if we were lucky) and then outside to do our jobs - rounding up the calves and shutting them up for the night, feeding the chooks and collecting the eggs, picking up milk from the dairy etc. and then inside for homework and helping Mum. Maleny School in those years had a Head Teacher and 2 or 3 other teachers. In the mornings we lined up in our class groups and saluted the flag. We sometimes had our fingernails inspected. The Headmaster would address the students and then we marched up the stairs into our classrooms. On the whole, I enjoyed school, remembering one or two really good teacher's such as **Miss. Kingsford** and **Mr. Mogridge**.

There was a tennis court and a large sports area with a cricket pitch and lots of grass and trees. At the front of the school, facing Cedar Street, a large formal garden was laid out with lawns and shrubs and a beautiful rose garden. This was out of bounds to the students. Sometimes a few children would be chosen to work in the garden. I'm not sure whether this was a privilege or punishment! A lot of sport was played – tennis, basketball, netball, cricket, football and vigoro. We girls also did eurhythmics, an enjoyable combination of exercise and dance. All the ponies were kept during the day in a special yard down the back of the playing area and it was hard luck if your pony was hard to catch!



1. Back - Frank Woods, Ross Dawson, Keith Winning, Rex Allen-Waters, Viv Winning, John King, Allan McKinnon, Milton Alcorn, Les Bunney, Merv Lemass
2. Gwen Skerman, Rae Grigor, Dolly Perrott, Mary McCarthy, Dora Crammeri, Lily Gould, Jean Lemass
3. Audrey Allen-Waters, June Porter, Mary Cash, Betty Trail, Brenda Daly, Judith McLean, Iris Grigor, **Grace Alcorn**, Jean Wolfenden, Olive Rapp
4. Front - Ralph Green, Lionel Duble, Bill Allen-Waters, Raymond Richardson, Jim Porter, Elliott Alcorn, Frank Jacklin, Len Myles