

## **Biography of William (Bill) Robert Cogzell**

Born 20 June 1907 – Brisbane Died 2002 - Brisbane

As a youngster Bill lived in a small early Queenslander style timber home at Kelvin Grove not far from the early Teachers' Training College. The family then moved to Taringa where he attended the state school.

He commenced work as an apprentice wooden ship builder and after one year transferred to an apprentice cabinet maker with Trittons, a firm well known for the manufacture and retail sales of fine quality wooden hand-made and polished furniture. He was also involved in the manufacture of piano cabinets and cabinetry for early cars.

He met and married Dorothy Buxton formerly from Rockhampton in 1937. They had two sons, Graham 1938 and Ronald 1941.

With a strong trade background, after WW2 he was invited and graduated as a teacher from Teachers' Training College as a Manual Arts Teacher specialising in woodwork, metalwork and trade drawing. The introduction of the teaching of this subject was relatively new at that time. Around 1948 Bill received his first posting which was to Nambour State School and students were drawn from small schools surrounding Nambour. In 1949 Bill



Manual Training & Domestic Science Building at the back of the Maleny School grounds in Cedar St

was transferred to Maleny State School to introduce Manual Arts to Maleny and surrounding district's schools. These included Kenilworth, Conondale, Montville, Peachester, and even Caboolture. Pupils would travel by train to Landsborough, then by Watson's bus to the old Maleny school. Many also rode on elevated seats in the back of cream trucks which were used on a daily basis to and from the Maleny butter factory.

At the end of the term 1953, Bill was transferred to Ithaca State School, Bardonia, from whence he was transferred to many Brisbane schools, including Beenleigh, Eagle Junction and Sandgate. In addition, he opened Manual Training departments at Toowong State School and The Gap High School. An additional School was The Fortitude Valley Opportunity School where the Manual Arts was eventually abandoned after several incidents involving challenged students as it was considered and deemed too dangerous to expose them to grindstones, hammers, punches, chisels and other sharp tools.

Bill finished his long career and association with the Education Dept at The Gap in the 1970s. Bill and Dorothy lived in the family home in Ashgrove from 1953 till the late 1990s. Eventually, both needed care and spent their remaining years at Sandgate Masonic Homes. They are survived by their sons Graham and Ronald.



Bill Cogzell at the Gap High School