

Don and Gerry Cole

Donald Cole, born in 1915, was third of 7 children to **Tom** and **Ann (Simpson) Cole**, the children of some of the first settlers on the Maleny range. Don attended Blackall Range (Wootha) and Booroobin Schools. The teacher often confused Don with his older brother **Bill**, he was better at Maths than Bill so one year he went into Grade 5 instead of Grade 4. They rode horses to and from school. The horses were left to graze in the horse paddock during the day. Before and after school the boys had to milk the cows and chop firewood. He finished school at the equivalent of Grade 9. Don fought and



was wounded in New Guinea in WW2. He was a PMG/Telecom linesman in Maleny for over 30 years.

In 1953, Don married **Geraldine Grubb**, nurse and midwife from New Zealand, after a whirlwind romance. Gerry thought he was a pretty good bloke as he kept their date even though Maleny had had 45 inches of rain.

They were both heavily involved in the Maleny community. Don in the RSL, Legacy, Bowls Club, Scouts and whatever Gerry needed him to do. Gerry became involved in the Show Society (46 years), Women's Auxiliary, Senior Citizens, Girl Guides, Endeavour Foundation, School Tuckshop and P & C. They both helped in running RSL Bingo for 18 years, Meals on Wheels, Maleny Merry Makers and the Historical Society.

One of the things Gerry was most proud of was helping set-up a Kindergarten in Maleny and subsequently the building of the first preschool centre in 1965.

Don and Gerry had two children **Donald** and **Anne** who are very proud to have been educated in Maleny.



Donald & Anne Cole