

The Howard Family

- **Eric Howard** born Mudgee NSW 17 May 1905
- **Ethel Woods** born Killarney Qld 1906

The Howard and Woods families moved to Tuchekoi Queensland during 1923. This being where Eric and Ethel met and love blossomed. They married at Pomona in 1927. Starting their married life and family together as share farmers at Tuchekoi and then Kin Kin.

Horace, Lillian, Harold, Wes and **Betty** joined the family during these years. In August 1940 the family decided to move to Maleny hoping for better and easier working conditions. The move was no easy task being war years with food and fuel rations in place. All travel was to be by rail to conserve fuel, however, Eric and Ethel hired a truck with a gas producer fuelled by coal. They had to travel via Kenilworth, with horse and sulky and Horace 12 years, riding another horse. Share farming at Baroon Pocket where the dam is today. Horace, Lil, Harold and Wes attended North Maleny School, walking up the hills from the pocket to school. Horace pushed his bike to school so he could ride down the hills home. **Colin** was born in 1942. The family moved to "*Bonnie View*" Est. A.A. Alcorn Witta Road in 1943 and share farmed for 18 years. **Lois** was born in 1948 and completed the Howard Family. Harold, Wes, Betty, Colin and Lois attended Maleny State School on the hill. Lois was the only one to start school on the hill and finish at the present primary school site, which was primary/secondary education.



**Harold, Horace, Betty, Wes, Lil, Colin & Ted
Lois, Eric & Ethel in 1951 before Horace went to serve in the Korean War**

Eric and Ethel purchased Cummins property where this hard working couple spent their final years. *Howard Lane* was named in their honour.

48 SUNSHINE
hours
MAGAZINE

HERITAGE

The settlement that scattered

● by STAN TUTT

MEMORIES of the Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement are flung like grain in the history of the Sunshine Coast and the timbers of its houses, halls and hospital serve still in unexpected places.

Babies born in the Beerburrum District Hospital, which was on the foothill of Beerburrum Mountain behind Alec Morrison's Garage, now have grandchildren of their own.

Patrons of the RSL Club in Caboolture stand close to timber from the Twin View RSL Hall, a mellow wooden link between two world wars as recollected by George Bishop in 1979.

In the early 1920s Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement extended south towards Six Mile Creek and Elimbah into Caboolture Shire.

The Lands Department of the day set aside about two hectares on the Twin View Road, some three to five miles west of Elimbah.

The land was cleared by the settlers and the millable timber was hauled into Elimbah by Holt Brothers. It was milled and provided building material for the Twin View Hall.

Gradually the roll call of World War 1 ex-servicemen dwindled until, it is reported, the RSL committee had to put hats on empty chairs to make up a quorum for a meeting.

Then World War 2 provided reinforcements.

The Twin View Hall stood and served where it was built until in late 1949 the Forestry Department advised that clearing was planned and unless the hall was removed by December 31, it would be lost to the RSL.

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● ABOVE: The home of Eric and Ethel Howard, Maleny Road, as it is today. Part of the house came from Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement.

● From Facing Page

To meet the crisis, Bishop Brothers dismantled the old hall and stacked the material on land belonging to Ernest Henry Bishop, while George Bishop paid the men as his contribution to the hall.

Finally the hall was rebuilt in Caboolture at a total cost of 640 pounds (\$1280).

It continues to serve.

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The report of Mr G. B. Brooks, Director of Agriculture, 1922-23, contains this significant paragraph.

“An undertaking of some importance was the placing of some ninety unemployed families as tobacco growers on the abandoned pineapple farms of Beerburrum”.

After almost five decades the story of another building from Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement emerges, warm and human.

On September 24, 1981, Eric Howard of Maleny, who told of his present home, linked to the history of the scattered settlement of Beerburrum.

In the early 1920s Alan (A. A.) Comyns moved his house from Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement, Six Mile Creek area, having concluded that the land where it was sited “was not the place to grow pineapples”.

He moved to a sub-division of the original Portion 98, Parish of Maleny to grow citrus and pineapples on the rich upland soil.

On August 19, 1959, Eric and Ethel Howard moved into the house linked with history. They “finished up with macadamia nuts”.

The land still grows the native Queensland nut, known as bauple to the Aborigines.

A grown up family has fond memories of the comfortable home at Maleny, with its warm wooden walls linked with our history.