

The KELEHER Family

by Warren Keleher

My father **Ron** completed primary school (Year 7) at Wootha State School. I remember him talking about travelling to Fortitude Valley to sit for his Scholarship exam. A scary adventure for a country kid, in the early 1930's. It is of interest to me that Dad belongs to the **McCarthy - Grigor** family tree, and it was at **Joe McCarthy's** property on Mountain View Road that Wootha State School (originally called Blackall Range School) was built in 1886. McCarthy was a prominent pioneer in the area and probably had a major influence on the establishment of the school. It was moved twice, and in 1900, Wootha State School settled on a property very close to Dad's home at **Mary Keleher's** (Grigor) farm. Maleny State School (originally called Maleny Township State School) opened on 22nd April, 1913, so Wootha State School was the first school to open in the Maleny area. My mother **Ann** finished her schooling at Year 5 in Kin Kin before her family moved to the Maleny district to settle on a property at Booroobin. Dad finished the last 15 years of his working life as an ambulance bearer in Maleny. He loved the town and knew everybody. After he died in 1989, Mum moved to live at Caloundra with her sister Pauline.



Graham, Wayne and Brendan all married with children and grand-children, have spent most of their lives in Brisbane as the Director of the Australian Academy of Martial Arts, truck-driver and policeman respectively. **Lorene**, also married with grandkids has lived all her married life in Canberra. I made the decision in 1961 to complete my schooling at Nambour High School. From there I went to Teacher's College and a career in Education, the highlight of which would be two years as Principal of Nambour High in 1995-6. Since retiring in August 2004, I went back to school to get a qualification which now enables me to practise as a Remedial and Sports Masseur, in Palmwoods. Along the way, I married **Jan** and we have three children. I look back at my time in Maleny feeling fortunate. My circumstances as a child provided a simple, optimistic, naive but confident view of the world. I was capable at sports and this led to competing on weekends, with and against adults in cricket and tennis as a 13 year old. I have been forever grateful for the support and encouragement given to me in those formative years. I have no doubt that I was able to make the successful transition into adulthood, a career parenthood due to, in no small part, the nurturing relationships by my family and the Maleny community in the 1950's-60's. **Graham, Wayne, Lorene, Brendan and Warren** all passed through Maleny State School completing Junior (Year 10) at the High Top.

