

# The LOUIS Family

Our family arrived in Maleny from Newcastle NSW in August 1950. **Eric** had moved off his Darling Downs farm in 1935 at the height of the Great Depression to find work with BHP in Newcastle where he and **Phyllis** spent 15 years raising their three daughters, **Joan, Beryl** and **Marie**.

In mid 1950 he bought a dairy farm at Bridge Creek, Maleny and the family moved to a very different lifestyle. The farm had no electricity, no motor vehicle and milking was done by hand. Phyllis had never lived on a farm (born in Brisbane and growing up in Toowoomba) so she and we three girls had no idea of what country life was all about. We all soon learned, but for Phyllis this was a steep learning curve.

For Beryl (11) and Marie (8) this transition from city to country was a great adventure. With no school bus servicing Bridge Creek we learned to ride horses and rode to school every day. Eric built the farm up into a very successful dairy farm, breeding jersey cows and improving the herd. Extensive home improvements and home generated electricity made life a little easier for Phyllis and soon Eric had bought a second farm to develop at Wootha.

- **Joan** became a nurse, training at Royal Brisbane Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital. She married a local farmer, **Noel Thomas** and lived in Maleny for a further 15 years.
- **Beryl** worked in the ES&A Bank in Maleny from 1956 – 1960, then transferred to the ES&A Head Office in Brisbane for another 2 years before marrying High School teacher, **Arnold Wolff** who had been teaching in Maleny in 1958/59.
- **Marie** joined the Navy in 1960 and served for 3 years at HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Harman and HMAS Penguin, before marrying a Naval Officer, **Colin Stewart** in 1963.

Eric and Phyllis were very involved in the Maleny Community as Presidents of the Maleny Show Society, Maleny Bowls Club and Eric was in the Masonic Lodge. Eric passed away in 1978 and Phyllis in 1990.



1949 - Eric, Joan, Beryl, Marie & Phyllis Louis



Marie, Beryl & Joan