

Bob OTTAWAY

Principal of Maleny Primary
1987 – 1994

Bob Ottaway was Principal of Maleny State Primary School from 1987 until his retirement to Tin Can Bay in 1994. Bob's first year in Maleny happened to coincide with the School's 75th anniversary celebrations and was also the year Maleny State High School opened.

In what would be a shock for most young teachers and parents of today, Bob started teaching as a fresh faced 16 year old straight out of Teacher's College. Some of his classes contained upwards of 50 students. Bob's first appointment was at Pittsworth, with schools at Queen Mary Falls, Kyoomba (where the classroom was a shearing shed), Toogoolawah and Ipswich followed. From Ipswich Bob's trek around this great State continued with his young family in tow. Wife, **Pam**, children **Bob Jnr** and **Roxanne (Corkin)** became adept at the pack up and move every year or two.



Bob first became a Principal in 1975 being appointed at Gumlu State School where he taught the entire school population of in excess of 35 students, ranging from Years 1 – 7. Moves to Croydon, North Eton (outside Mackay), Middlemount, Innisfail, Clermont and finally to Maleny followed.

Bob's one lament at becoming a Principal was the office work that took him away from the reason he became a teacher, which was to teach kids. So, it was with great enjoyment that in retirement Bob undertook regular supply teaching at Tin Can Bay State School and to his surprise he particularly enjoyed his weekly role with the Year 1 students.

Sadly, Bob passed away unexpectedly in 2001. Bob's wife Pam still lives in Tin Can Bay, where she can be found on the golf course virtually every second day of the week. His son, Bob resides with his family in Townsville and daughter Roxanne Corkin lives in Maleny. Two of Bob's grandchildren, **Jonty** and **Tallis Corkin** currently attend Maleny State Primary School.