

# Memories of School by Shirley (Svenson) Larney

We came to live in Maleny in 1941. I was nine and my brother **Russell Svenson** was seven. We attended Maleny State School when it was situated in what is now called Cedar Street. There were three classrooms. The guide Hut and Kindergarten now occupy the area. In the front of the Kindergarten a lovely garden grew. A horse paddock was fenced off and was behind the Headmaster's residence. The house is still standing. Many children rode horses to school. I think the school hours were 8.30am - 3.30pm.

The Headmaster was **Mr Fred Matthies**, quite a violent man. He certainly would not have lasted in today's society. Mr Smith followed, a truly gentle man. **Mr Mogridge, Miss Pollard and Miss Coultis** were staff. Miss Coultis is the aunt of David Coultis, one time a policeman in Maleny. Trenches were dug under the camphor laurel trees lining Cedar Street as a wartime precaution. I remember once we all had to take shelter as apparently a "strange plane" was sighted overhead. Search lights crisscrossed the night sky too.

**Arbour Day** - a tree planting ceremony was always held. One year the Cuthbertson children planted the tree as their father Guy, was a Prisoner of War. Thankfully he returned safely. Once again the tree was a camphor laurel. At that time the trees growing behind the Guide Hut had seats around where lunch was eaten. No tuckshop in those days, mostly dry old sandwiches! Mrs Pat Daley supplied hot water for the staff morning tea and lunch breaks. Special girls were given the task of visiting her home to collect same. The house is on the eastern side of the old school site. Maleny was extremely wet and cold during the winter months, plus much fog. The classrooms had pot belly stoves, which helped as not all children had shoes those days. Also, corn sacks helped to keep one's head and shoulders dry. Parade was held each morning when we saluted the flag as it was being raised. The flag was taken down each afternoon and was never allowed to drag on the ground!

**Breakup Day** - was always a highlight, knowing holidays were about to happen and it was a happy day with many parents attending. Games were played and always a shared lunch. I can vividly remember watermelon being very much enjoyed. I have no recollection of school photos being taken. I expect this being due to the war years. I left school mid 1945 which was the middle of Grade 7 and I went to boarding school. Russell continued and completed Seventh grade.

## Back –

Helen (Mear) Elliott  
Peter Magee  
Alex Body  
Joan (Smith) King  
Mal Freeman  
Grace (Sallaway) Todd Bruce Youngbutt

## Front –

Miriam (Freeman) Boxsell  
**Shirley (Svenson) Larney**  
Shirley (Metcalf) Craig  
Jean (Porter) Harwood  
Val (Lawley) Beausang

