

The Spooner Family

by Michael J Spooner

My Dad **Joe Spooner**, was the 'local cop' in Maleny for many years and by all reports did a very fine job. He was popular with the locals and was also a great Father and mentor to his family and others. Our family moved to Maleny on or around 1956 - 57, from my father's previous posting in Toogoolawah. I was enrolled at the "Old Top School" under headmaster, **Bert Hughes**. I completed my education in 1964 at Junior Level. I then went to Brisbane to do a mechanical apprenticeship with an earthmoving contractor. What a culture shock from Maleny High School to Brisbane, virtually overnight.



Joe Spooner with the Olympic Torch relay in Landsborough

My family moved to Brisbane in 1966 on my father's transfer with the Queensland Police Force. My school days in Maleny are always spoken about when I catch up with old friends whom I keep in regular contact. We recall days when we had some of the greatest times of our growing up lives. We had safety, freedom and a great family life. We had respect for our teachers and elders alike. I still have regular contact with my grade 8 scholarship teacher, **Mr. Pat Carroll** and we always speak of our days in Maleny.

Both my parents passed away in 2002. Both were very fine parents and very fine people. They are very sadly missed by all of the family including my brothers **Peter** and **Paul** and sister **Sharyn**, who also attended school in Maleny. I have two sons, **Shaun** 31 yrs, married with three children and **Dominic** 29 yrs and still single. They both work and live in Brisbane. I still live in Brisbane and am semi-retired. I still work casually for a friend who has a fuel cartage contract. I enjoy doing "something" as it gives me some form of exercise and keeps my mind active. I have been involved in the fuel cartage industry for the last 39 years. I will always regard Maleny as 'home', even though I am not a 'true local'.



Michael, Sharyn, Peter & Paul outside Moffat's Garage in 1957. The twins first day at school.