

The WEBSTER Family

After the death of **Charles Webster** his wife **Julia** left Mackay and came to Maleny. The 'Charles Webster Estate' purchased already cleared land from **Sampson Brown**, for Julia's sons **Eric** and **Alan Newell Webster** to farm. This was around 1905. Julia re-married a **Mr W.R.O. Hill** and lived for some time on part of the property now known as "*Dixonfield*" (known to us in 2013 as 'The Macadamia Nut Farm' at Wootha, and now includes the properties of Eric Webster, Mears and Johnston). Eric dairy farmed his portion, conducted a real estate and money lending business and with his wife **Nancy** had children **Charles, Dudley** and **Eulie**, who attended nearby Wootha School before going to boarding school.

Alan Newell Webster called his portion of the farm "*Yaralla*" and started dairying in 1908. He married **Kate Gillham** and their four children, **Cecile, Marjorie, Daphne** and **Alan Wheeler** all attended Wootha School before leaving to attend boarding schools in Brisbane and Toowoomba. After the unexpected death of his father from leukaemia in 1940, Alan Wheeler returned to "*Yaralla*", leaving his Veterinary Science studies at University of Qld to continue dairy farming. The property won awards for various agricultural pursuits over the years. Alan was very involved in community affairs having a leadership role in the Horticultural Society, Community Centre, Maleny Butter Factory, Tennis, the Anglican Church, Country/National Party and Maleny State School. His involvement with the School P & C commenced in 1951 - was chairman for the formation and opening of the Secondary Dept in 1954, opening of the School at the Bunya Street site in 1959, the Jubilee Celebrations in 1963 and until the end 1965. **Alan** married **Olga Nothling** of Curramore, and their children **Ken, Rodney** and **Ruth** attended Maleny State School. Ken and Ruth attended boarding schools in Brisbane. Ken continued his studies at Gatton College where he completed a Diploma in Animal Husbandry before returning to work on "*Yaralla*".

Ken married **Robyn Lawley** and they live in the "Old Wootha School Teacher's House". There they raised their children **Alison, Mark** and **Peter**, who attended Maleny State and High Schools with all still living and working here in Maleny. Alison completed a B.Ed and after working away returned to Maleny and married **Marcus Bussey** and their son **Dante** attends the Maleny River School. Mark is a carpenter and also very involved in his parents Dairy Farm. Peter is a carpenter and married **Gemma Bennett**. Their sons **Kye** and **Clae** are currently attending Maleny State and Maleny High.

Rodney completed his schooling at Maleny High, before beginning his banking career with the local E.S.& A. Bank then worked in many locations throughout SE Qld working his way to Regional Manager before purchasing and running his own Post Office until his retirement. He has 4 children.

Ruth also started work at Maleny E.S.& A. Bank. After marrying **Stephen Carter** lived many years in Gympie while they owned and conducted a Transport Business and raised their 2 children. They now live and work in the Kenilworth area.



Ken & Robyn Webster
(nee Lawley) with their
family.