

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

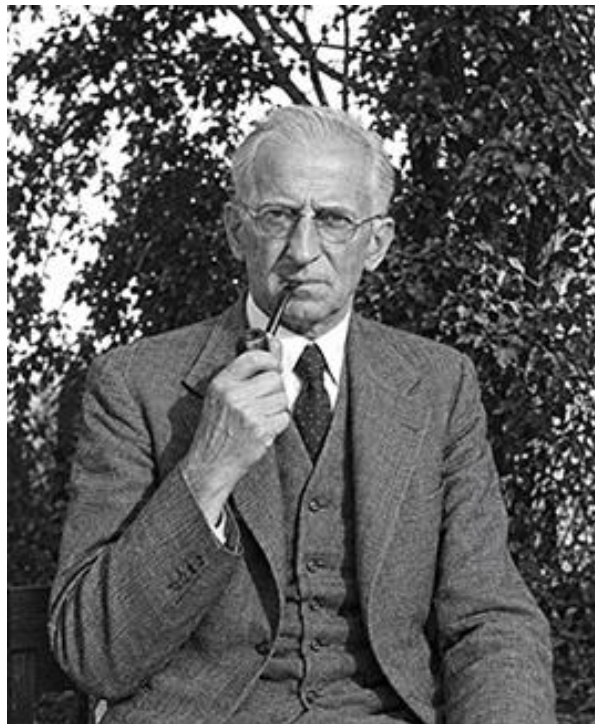
Historical accounts from the Buderim – Mooloolaba area

Number 44 - September 2026.

Helene Cronin OAM and Dr Bill Lavarack

The colony of Queensland, established on 10 December 1859, passed its first Education Act in 1860. This enabled the government to provide for the education of all children from six to twelve years of age. The Board of General Education appointed its first Inspector of Schools in 1863, and he was followed by over 400 men — and later women — to inspect schools and teachers to guarantee conformity and efficiency. In 1875, education became a ministerial responsibility and the Department of Public Instruction was established. Teachers never seemed to enjoy a friendly working relationship with inspectors, and with the establishment of the Queensland Teachers Union, hostility increased. Eventually, in 1989, the Inspector of Schools position was abolished.

Buderim Mountain “Butterfly Man”



Head Teacher, Buderim Mountain State School, February 1911 to March 1920

Reginald George Barlett - Ancestry Image.

Reginald George Barlett was born in Brisbane, Queensland, on 23 December 1885. He died on February 4, 1962, in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, at the age of 76. His father, **Frederick George Bartlett** was born in 1861 in Swansea, Glamorgan, Wales. As a young father he was admitted to the Brisbane Hospital on 16 December and died on 29 December, 1891, at the age of 30, and was buried in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Funeral Notice.

FUNERAL NOTICE.—The Friends of Mr. **FREDERICK GEORGE BARTLETT**, deceased, are respectfully invited to attend his Funeral, to move from his late residence, Hope street, South Brisbane, **TO-MORROW (Wednesday) AFTERNOON**, at 3 o'clock, for Toowong Cemetery. **JOHN HISLOP** (successor to J. & J. Hislop), Undertaker, Queen street; Wickham street, Valley; and at Woolloongabba.

The Telegraph (Brisbane), 29 December 1891.

Frederick married Jane Hood on December 7, 1884, in Queensland, Australia. Frederick and Jane had four children, **George Reginald Bartlett** 1885-1962, Emeline Mabel Bartlett 1888-1977, Bertram Frederick Bartlett 1889-1889, Henry Norman Bartlett 1890 – 1969.

In 1886, they owned a property in Petrie Terrace, Brisbane and a grocery store in Caxton Street but were trading insolvent. He sold his assets to Mr. W. Logan.

1905 On 1st July 1905, **Reginald George Bartlett** completed his apprenticeship and passed the necessary examination as a pupil teacher.

Department of Public Instruction,
Brisbane, 13th December, 1905.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve that the following Pupil Teachers of the Fourth Class, who have successfully completed their apprenticeship and passed the necessary examination at the end of their course of training, be classified as of Class III., Division 3, as from the 1st July, 1905.

A. H. BARLOW.

James Stanley Forbes Bartlett
Reginald George Bartlett

Government Gazette, Queensland

The "Government Gazette" reported in 1906 that Reginald had transferred to the position of assistant teacher in the State School for boys at Kelvin Grove Road.

1908 The Governor-in-Council approved the transfer of State school teacher, **Reginald George Bartlett**, from assistant teacher Kelvin Grove Road (B) to assistant teacher Mount Perry. **Mr. Bartlett**, was presented by his fellow teachers at the Kelvin Grove State School with a travelling bag as a token of their esteem.

MOUNT PERRY - SERIOUS MISHAP

Mr. Bartlett, who arrived from Brisbane a few months ago to take up the position of assistant teacher at the Mount Perry' State school, has met with a serious mishap. He had been invalided for some days with rheumatics, but feeling' better essayed to chop a piece of wood to light the fire for the evening meal, he and a friend being "batchers," when a stick flew up, catching him in the eye, as a result of which it is feared he will lose his sight. Dr. Wallace was in attendance and ordered the removal of the patient to Brisbane, to be placed under the treatment of an eye specialist. *Bundaberg Mail & Burnett Advertise, Thur. 16 July 1908, page 2*

Word has been received by Mr McNamee, head teacher, that **Mr. Bartlett** an inmate of the St. Alexander private hospital, Brisbane is improving, and that he will not lose his eye, as was at first, feared. Friends will be pleased to learn that **Mr. Bartlett** will probably be able to return here and take up his school duties again in four weeks-time. *Bundaberg Mail & Burnett Advertiser (Qld), Saturday 25 July 1908, page 3*

The Bundaberg Mail & Burnett Advertiser, reported on 22 August 1908 that although the surgeon specialist who treated **Mr. Bartlett**, was hopeful of saving the sight of his injured eye, the news received by Mr. McNamee, head teacher of the State school, is of much less reassuring. It is now feared that the sight will be altogether lost to one eye. The return of **Mr. Bartlett** to school duties will be much delayed.

Information has been received that the worst fears in regard to the recent accident which befell Mr Bartlett have been realised, and that in order to save the sight to one eye the injured optic must be removed. The operation will be performed by D. Gibson on 9 September. **Mr. Bartlett**, during the short period, he held the position of assistant teacher in the Mt. Perry State School, became very popular and the unfortunate termination of a simple accident has occasioned much regret.

In October 1908, assistant teacher **Mr. Reg. Bartlett** returned to his duties at Mount Perry having lost one eye, as the result of his unfortunate accident.

It was with much regret that the transfer of Mr. Reg Bartlett from the position of assistant in the Mount Perry School to the charge of the Rosedale School was received by the scholars and parents alike. Mr. Bartlett has coined high encomium during his tenure of office in Mt. Perry and his departure is looked upon as a distinct loss. Under his charge the pupils have made high proficiency, and it was due to his initiation that the school ambulance class was formed in which such a high stage of efficiency has been attained as to call forth the highest eulogy. **Mr. Bartlett** was a good Citizen, and he takes with him the kindly wishes of one and all. He leaves for the scene of his future labors in November 1909.

1909 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - TRANSFERS - The transfer and appointment in the Department of Public Instruction approved Reginald George Bartlett, from assistant teacher, **Mount. Perry, to head teacher, Rosedale.** *The Telegraph (Brisbane), 11 November 1909.*

SCHOOL. After lunch, I strolled over to the school, where I was courteously received by the teacher, **Mr. R. Bartlett**, had a look around the grounds, and heard the children sing a couple of pieces. That the minds of these, children, cut off as they are, from the sharpening influences of town life, have lost nothing by that deprivation is evident to anyone with ordinary powers of observation and deduction. The teacher has apparently realised that the path of learning is much smoother when pupils are led, half-unknowingly, perhaps, instead of being driven. Interest in their school—of

successful educational methods— is fostered by such aids as a flower garden for each child to look after, interesting and instructive pictures on the walls, and kindly supervision and help in recreation. When these boys and girls grow-up they will realise that they have to thank their teacher for having made their schooldays more pleasant than many children have to look back to, and for having lightened for them the dark way of the "three Rs" that they might pass through it as pleasantly as possible. *Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser*, 27 August 1910, page 8.

MARRIAGE BARTLETT – DAY

On December 20th 1910, Miss Fanny Isabel Day, of Brisbane, youngest daughter of the late Edward Day married Mr. Reginald George Bartlett, of Brisbane, eldest son of late F. G. Bartlett at Lyeullin, Eagle Junction. *Queensland Figaro*, 19 January 1911.



Wedding of Fanny Isabel Day & Reginald George Bartlett.
Images: Ancestry

Fanny Isabel Bartlett.

1911 In January 1911, Mr. Reg. Bartlett received notice, that the Education Department had approved his transfer from **Head Teacher Rosedale** to **Head Teacher Buderim Mountain**.

Department of Public Instruction,
Brisbane, 17th February, 1911.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the following transfers of Teachers in the Service of the Department of Public Instruction, viz. :—

Names.	Position.	Names of Schools.	
		From—	To—
Reginald George Bartlett	Head Teacher ...	Russdale	... Buderim Mountain

The *Queenslander* reported on 12 August, 1911, that the schoolmaster, **Mr. Bartlett**, is laying out gardens and experimental plots in connection with the school, and the School Committee is cordially assisting him.

His credentials for agricultural education and experimentation were quickly established when he authored a bulletin on banana culture for the Agricultural Department that year.

With an interest in agriculture, **Bartlett** began a program of experimental planting at the school to teach the children farming techniques with a focus on finding suitable crops for the district. In 1913, this work was commended by the Under Secretary of Education, J. D. Story, who highlighted the school's focus on fruit cultivation. Reg became an enthusiastic horticulturist at the Buderim School giving the children an agricultural education.



Teacher, **Reginald Bartlett** with children from the Buderim Mountain State School.

Image: Buderim Historical Society No.116.

In 1912, **Bartlett** shared first place in the department's agriculture competition, with School Inspector Oliver Radcliffe commenting on the quality work in irrigation, practical illustrations of theory of agriculture and keen interest aroused in the pupils.

STATE SCHOOL GARDENS - LIST OF AWARDS - Prizes for 1911, in connection with school gardens made by the Education Department. List of successful schools and their teachers, the first, second, and third prizes being of the value of £4, £2, and £1: Brisbane-Gympie.

1 st	Buderim Mountain	R. G. Bartlett
2 nd	Eumundi	Geo. H. Cooke
3 rd	Woombye	J. T. Wilson

The Queenslander, 23 March 1912.

THE GOVERNOR AT BUDERIM MOUNTAIN – On Monday afternoon his Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady MacGregor, and attended by Captain Foxton, paid a visit to Buderim Mountain. The school children, who were lined up on the road gave hearty cheers for the party, and Lady MacGregor was presented with a bouquet of beautiful wild flowers by Miss Doris Bate, one of the senior girls. The visitors were shown over the extensive experimental plot at the school by the master Mr. R. G. Bartlett. His Excellency was greatly interested in the experiments in banana manuring, and asked the boys numerous questions relative to this work. Lady MacGregor expressed her appreciation of the fine vegetable beds. The keen interest shown by his Excellency and Lady MacGregor will doubtless stimulate the pupils to even greater effort in their work. *The Brisbane Courier*, 21 September 1912.

The Matron has received from Mr. R. G. Bartlett (head master of the Buderim State School) 51 dozen bananas. These were grown at an experimental farm by the children of the school, and the pupils kindly wished the fruits of their labour to be given to the sick children. *Brisbane Courier (Qld, Friday 8 November 1912, page 9.*

BUDERIM MOUNTAIN TRAMWAY

—
OFFICIAL OPENING
FRIDAY, 18th JUNE, 1915

A Public Holiday

The arrival of the train at the terminus was greeted with cheers by some 300 residents. A squad of children from the local school, under the direction of the head teacher **Reginald G. Bartlett**, welcomed the party.

Little Misses Phyllis Irwin and Mary Brandt held the white ribbon when the Minister drove the engine in connection with the opening ceremony.

THE BILLYCAN FUND – Christmas “Boxes” for Soldiers.

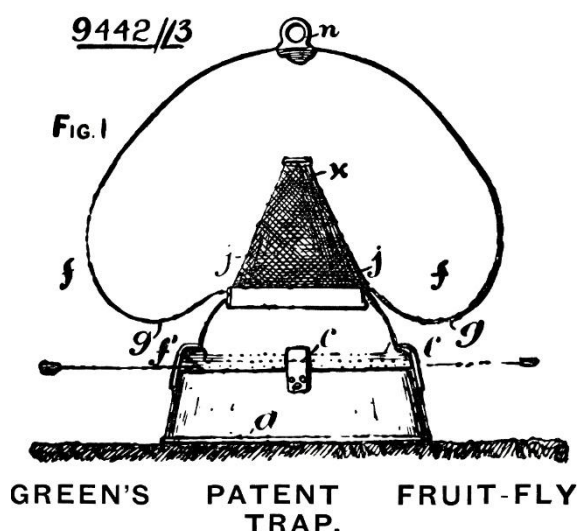
Although some thousands of billies have then disposed of and ordered to be filled, orders will still have to come to enable each Queensland soldier to get one at Christmas. Between 10,000 and 12,000 is a big order, but the committee are quite confident that their great undertaking is going to be successfully accomplished. Schools are sending orders and donations which shows that the young folks are anxious to take part in sending Christmas “billies”. The following letter came on Saturday morning from **Mr R. G Bartlett, State school, Buderim Mountain**. The pupils of this school have by vote decided to donate their Christmas prize money this year to the ‘Billycan’ fund with the thought that their little self-denial will give a little Christmas cheer to the brave defenders at the front. I, therefore, enclose cheque for £4, this sum being obtained by the sale of bananas grown by the boys on the school plot. A dozen scholars are also collecting for the fund, and the amount obtained will be forwarded to you. The scholars desire to have the following message in the billies – “A Merry Christmas and best wishes for good luck, from Buderim scholars 1915.”

Brisbane Courier, Monday 4 October 1915, page 8

In 1915, **Bartlett** gained first place again in the department's agriculture competition, with School Inspector Alexander Mutch this time commending the experimental plots of fruit, principally bananas and pineapples.

In April 1916, **Bartlett** along with Lane from Yandina and Wilson from Woombye were among the fifteen teachers to attend the milk and cream testing course at Nambour, this was the second such course, the first having been at Beaudesert seven months earlier. All three passed the theoretical examination set by the Agriculture Department on 22 July that year.

Bartlett openly theorised the approach taken by the Agricultural Department in attempting to control Queensland fruit fly was based on a false assumption. He believed the fruit fly, like the silkworm moth, did not feed, and that its sole business is to lay eggs and then die. Tests he had conducted with a Greens fruit fly trap in a field of Valencia oranges had demonstrated the efficiency of orange juice as a lure. Although Bartlett's solution was not the answer to controlling the Queensland fruit fly it did however demonstrate a level of scientific understanding equal to the leading knowledge of the day.



The Green's trap was a simple construction, consisting solely of a small glass dome to which is attached an enamel base, which holds the liquid. The fly enters the trap at an angle between the dome and the base and is trapped.

Interestingly, almost one hundred years later, the problem of finding a lure-trap for female fruit flies is still the subject of investigation and the most successful so far is a lure developed in 1943 called May's orange-ammonia lure. Experiments conducted as part of the Rural School scheme and supported through findings empowered the educators. This allowed them the authority to disseminate this knowledge to the local community and beyond; and permitted them to challenge the current paradigms being offered by the Agriculture Department experts. Through these actions the Rural Schools, and staff like **Bartlett**, significantly contributed to the agricultural success of Queensland primary producers.

BIRTH - On 31st October, 1916 at St. Mary's Private Hospital, Maryborough, to Mr. and **Mrs. Reg. Bartlett**, Buderim Mountain – a daughter Winifred Regina Bartlett.
The Queenslander, 18 November 1916.

1917 THE BARTLETT CASE - Woombye Show

Among the cased citrus fruit, were several (from different growers) lots packed in the **new Bartlett case**. Its main feature is its square end-pieces, which as well as the middle partition, are of a single piece of wood 10 inches by 10 inches. The top, bottom, and side slats are also all of the one measurement, and a superficial foot less wood is needed for the case and 18 nails less than the ordinary case. Its capacity is the same as the ordinary bushel case, but the two spaces for fruit are practically cubical, thus making the most of the room at disposal, besides giving a much more open area for the packer's hands and arms to operate in. A more even pack is possible, and fruit is less

liable to be damaged from excessive pressure such as is unavoidable in the flatter cases. Better ventilation, as well as a better view of the fruit within, and it matters not which side, or top or bottom, is opened. The shape, practically a pair of cubes, renders handling more convenient. In our opinion, **Mr. Bartlett** (who is well known as head teacher of the Buderim State School) is to be congratulated on having introduced to fruit packers a decidedly good new idea, possessed of still other advantages besides those we have mentioned. *Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser*, 29 June 1917.

Mr. A. H. Benson has reported favourably on the case, and has recommended the Agriculture Department to legalise the Bartlett case as a standard bushel case for Queensland. He is also ascertaining whether the other states of the Commonwealth are prepared to do the same.

REG. G. BARTLETT.
Buderim Mt., 16/7/1917.
P.S.—Six cases will be on view in the Buderim exhibit at Brisbane Exhibition, so that growers may inspect. R.G.B.

Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser, 27 July 1917

Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade

In July 1917, the Brisbane Committee approved the opening of a QATB Honorary Centre at Buderim with **Mr. Reginald Bartlett** as Honorary Bearer in charge. On 10 October 1918, **Mr. Bartlett** asked the Brisbane Committee to pay him an honorarium for services rendered. That committee decided to have its Chairperson and Superintendent investigate the matter and, if **Mr. Bartlett** proved to be entitled to an honorarium, the amount of £5 would be paid to him. *History of the Queensland Ambulance compiled by Ernie Bradley, 1999, 2nd edition 2021*

BUDERIM - FIRST AID

The lecture on first aid given by our local school master, **Mr. Bartlett**, continue to be well attended, between thirty and forty being present on some occasions. It is hoped to hold an examination for certificates shortly. *Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser*, 14 December 1917.



1917 – Heritage Library, M180207.

BIRTH - On Sunday, 17 November, 1918 at "Lycullia," Buderim Mountain, to Mr. and Mrs. Reg. G. Bartlett a daughter (Aileen Peace). Dr. Malaher and nurse Pole-Hore in attendance.
The Brisbane Courier, 23 November 1918.

Dr Arthur E. Malaher was the first medical practitioner in Nambour. He initially conducted consultations in a room at the Royal Hotel in Currie Street. In 1904, he moved to his residence and surgery, 'Viti Levu', located in Petrie Creek Road (renamed Howard Street), where he established a hospital. In 1910, the hospital relocated to Arundel Avenue and renamed 'Bungalow'. Dr Malaher held the position of Medical Officer for the Maroochy Shire Council and it was in that capacity he selected the location for the Nambour Hospital buildings in the early 1920s. He left Nambour in the early 1930s for Mt Tamborine and died in 1948.

CONFERENCES OF THE HEAD TEACHERS OF THE LINKED-UP SCHOOLS

The first meeting of the head teachers for the linked-up schools concluded with several agreements. It was determined if the program was to be a viable prospect there should be one excursion per month, February to November, to a linked school during the first year. The agreed schedule was; 3 trips to Woombye and Yandina; and 2 trips to Buderim Mountain and Mapleton.

The cost of transport to the latter schools, along with the necessity to provide a fare guarantee to the tramway operators, contributed to the reduced number of excursions proposed for these schools. The fare guarantee also necessitated having as many travellers on these journeys as possible to minimise the cost per head. For this reason, the trips to Buderim and Mapleton were opened up to the senior classes of the other linked schools as well as parents wishing to observe the agricultural experiments. The added benefit of this was a faster means of disseminating the new knowledge to the farming community through the 'societal' association. The second agreement was that each school would participate in a program to supply produce from their gardens and orchards to the domestic classes at the Rural School and each of the head teachers provided details of the current crops they were experimenting with or involved in growing.

The details of how the linked scheme would operate, and a summary of the scheme outlined and recommended to the department for approval. Whilst outlining the role for each school, in the scheme, the linked schools were referred to as 'district schools' and Nambour as the 'central school'. This was a clear indication of the common acceptance that Nambour Rural School would be operating as a central school for the purpose of agricultural education. This terminology continued throughout the departmental correspondence demonstrating this was also the accepted position of the department. It was agreed the linked-up scheme would officially begin on 1 May, 1917. This day would also mark the first excursion and Buderim Mountain State School would be the location.

Free rail passes were made available to all 'bono fide pupils taking part in the excursions' as well as the head teachers wishing to attend. Members of the community wanting to participate in the excursions would pay one shilling for the tram trip and the department would make up any shortfall needed to meet the required guaranteed fare. However, it was acknowledged the cost for the two trips to both Buderim and Mapleton would not exceed £16 in total.

EXCURSIONS BUDERIM MOUNTAIN STATE SCHOOL

The first excursion of the Rural School took place on 15 May 1917, a fortnight after it was originally planned owing to extremely wet weather. One hundred and thirty pupils attended; seventy from Nambour; forty from Woombye and ten from both Yandina and Mapleton. In addition, eighty parents and community members accompanied the children on the excursion.

Two extra carriages were provided by the Railway Department for the train trip from Nambour to Palmwoods, where the group boarded the tramway at 10.30 am and arrived in Buderim forty-five minutes later. An excursion to Buderim would have been nearly impossible only two years earlier with access only possible via private car or on the back of fruit-wagons. The opening of the tramway in June 1915 provided easy access to the mountain, facilitating a close association between Buderim Mountain State School and the Rural School.

When they arrived at the school, **Bartlett** addressed the visitors before the girls split into groups and toured the school's orchards and supplied with gifts of oranges to take home. The boys took a short lunch and were then 'marched into school' and given an 'interesting and instructive lesson' on the detection and treatment of citrus pests as well as plant foods and banana cultivation. The boys then copied down blackboard notes that had been prepared in advance and once finished they were allowed to view a classroom agricultural exhibit before they all assembled outside at the school plot. Here the boys were given practical demonstrations of the theory just learned. They mixed and applied a variety of fertilizers to bananas. They then located and identified a number of pests affecting the citrus and applied the correct treatment to eradicate the pest. The pupils checked the orchard's moth traps and practiced pruning the trees.

The tram sounded a warning whistle at 2.30pm and the group started the eleven-mile trip back to Nambour. They were back at Palmwoods by 3.45pm; unfortunately, there was a two hour wait at Palmwoods station on the return trip due to the goods train being delayed. This was a problem that would impact on the Rural School more than just this time. On the whole though, the first excursion was well attended and a success. The Rural School boys were encouraged to write an essay on the day with the best effort rewarded with a 'fine bunch of bananas' donated by **Bartlett**.

Through 1918 there were only two excursions to the linked schools. The trip to Mapleton on 12 September was attended by fifty-eight pupils, three teachers and twenty adults from the community. On 18 October forty-four pupils and four teachers travelled to Buderim Mountain for lectures and practical tasks on banana culture set by **Bartlett**. After the lessons Bartlett provided the pupils with a large number of suckers to plant in Nambour's experimental portion of Buderim's agricultural plot.



Figure 0.7. Pupils of Linked up Schools assembled at Buderim Mt. S. School' QSA, Item Id. 16780.



Table I. The linked up schools showing the variety of produce they were growing or experimenting with March 1917.

Plant	Woombye	Buderim	Yandina	Mapleton
Orange	X	X	X	X
Mandarin	X	X	X	X
Cumquat	-	-	-	-
Pineapple	X	X	X	X
Banana	X	X	-	X
Grapes	-	X	X	-
Strawberries	-	X	X	X
Coffee	-	X	-	-
Potatoes	-	-	X	X
Tomatoes	-	X	X	X
Pear (Cooking)	X	-	X	-
Vegetables	-	X	X	X
Red Cabbage	-	X	-	-
Passion fruit	-	X	X	-
Rosella	-	X	X	-
Apple	X	-	-	-
Persimmon	-	-	-	-
Plum	-	-	-	-
Peach	-	-	-	-
Ginger	-	X	-	-
Paw paw	X	X	-	-

“BUDEEREE BUDERIM.”

A VISIT BY THE AD. MEN.

The First Convention of Australasian Advertising Men was held from September 2 to 6, 1918, at the Hotel Daniell in Brisbane, Australia.

A perfect day was the unanimous verdict of a party of about 60 members of the Advertising Men's Convention, their wives, and sweethearts who, by arrangement with the Railway Commissioner, travelled by the McKean motor car to Palmwoods en-route to Buderim Mountain. The car was entirely new to the visitors, who greatly enjoyed its smooth running and the uninterrupted views of the grand scenery afforded through the fine circular windows, with which the saloon is equipped

The journey from Palmwoods to Buderim on the miniature tram line was delightful and on arrival at Buderim school the visitors were welcomed by the residents. A huge bank of tropical fruits was a revelation. These had all been brought by the school children and were distributed among the visitors. The visitors were driven to various points of interest in the district. On returning to Buderim the school children lined the platform and cheered as the train steamed out. A special word of praise is due to **Mr. Bartlett** for organising the arrangements at Buderim.

The Brisbane Courier, 6 September 1918.

TWEED FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

MR. R. G. **BARTLETT**, of **Buderim** Mountain, will **LECTURE** on **Banana Culture**:

TERRANORA.—Marks' Hall, **THURSDAY**, 19th, 8 p.m.

MURWILLUMBAH.—Imperial Hall, **SATURDAY** 21st, 11 a.m.

A big attendance is requested.

F. W. STUART,
Secretary.

864

WEED EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS - A PRACTICAL SCHEME

At present on the Tweed is **Mr. R. Bartlett**, who has been appointed by the Government to conduct manuring experiments in the banana industry in this district.

Interviewed. **Mr. Bartlett** had much useful information to place before the grower and all interested, in the cultivation of the fruit, not only in the matter of the manuring experiment, but in all phase of its culture. He has had a wide experience in the industry, having lived for the greater part of his life at Buderim Mountain, one of the largest banana growing centres in Queensland, and in that time has always been deeply interested in banana culture.

At the time of leaving Queensland, he was fruit editor of the *Farmers' Gazette* and has written a handbook containing most of what there is to know on cavendish banana growing. Although not an appointed official of the Agricultural Department, his advice was consistently sought by practical farmers in that locality on all matters relating to the manuring or general growing of bananas. **Mr. Bartlett's** experience would be of invaluable service to the growers in this district. *Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser*, 28 November 1919.

Bartlett left teaching late in 1919 to take up the position of Assistant Instructor of Banana Culture for NSW; a position based at Tweed Heads. In October of that year, he toured the Southern parts of Queensland with Buderim his last call. The purpose of Bartlett's trip was to purchase seventy thousand banana suckers to be used in expanding the existing Tweed plantations. **Bartlett** held that the only thing restricting a highly profitable crop was the existence of the disease, 'bunchy top', which was causing 'a great deal of havoc to many of the plantations. After inspecting Queensland properties **Bartlett** was convinced the State was free of this disease and what many thought was bunchy top was in reality what Bartlett termed 'choke throat' and was a reaction of the plant to a dry season the previous year. **Bartlett's** knowledge, especially of bananas, was aided through his time as head teacher at Buderim Mountain and the experiments he conducted there.

APPOINTMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

"Vine and Vegetation Diseases and Fruit Pests Act, 1912," and "Fruit Cases Act, 1912."

IT is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the appointment of

Mr. **Reginald George Bartlett** as an Inspector under the provisions of the "Vine and Vegetation Diseases and Fruit Pests Act, 1912," and the "Fruit Cases Act, 1912."

A. G. F. JAMES.

Government Gazette, 9 Jan 1920.

[1434] Department of Agriculture,
Sydney, 27th August, 1921.

**VINE AND VEGETATION DISEASES AND FRUIT
PESTS ACT, 1912, AND FRUIT CASES ACT,
1912.**

IT is hereby notified, for public information, that the following persons have been appointed to act temporarily as Inspectors under the provisions of the abovementioned Acts:—

Alder, James,
Bartlett, Reginald George.

Government Gazette, 2 Sept 1921.

NEW INVENTION

Mr. R. G. Bartlett, at one time head teacher of Buderim State School, but now assistant instruction of banana culture in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture has patented a gouge, or pruning knife, for the purpose of pruning or de-suckering banana stools. *The Daily Mail (Brisbane)*, 2 August 1922.

Reg returned to teaching in 1923, no longer contributing to the Rural Schools.

TRANSFERS OF TEACHERS - The following transfers of State school teachers were announced at the Department of Public Instruction yesterday—**Reginald G. Bartlett**, from Assistant Teacher Bulimba to Head Teacher, Tambourine North. *The Queenslander*, 22 December 1923.

North Tamborine Mountain had about 30 scholars enrolled.

Reg and his family returned to the Sunshine Coast for holidays

1931 MOOLOOLABA – Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett and Mrs. Day (Tamborine) have taken “Myora”, for their stay. *Nambour Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser*, 2 January 1931. “Myora” was owned by Mrs. G. Histed.

1935 MOOLOOLABA – **Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Bartlett** and family (Tambourine), have taken a house on the river for twenty-seven weeks holiday. *Nambour Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser*, 28 June 1935.

Reginald Bartlett spent eight months holidaying at Mooloolaba. He had taken extended leave from his teaching position at North Tambourine.

Sends Butterflies To Churchill

Thirteen choice specimens of Queensland butterflies will leave Brisbane soon consigned to Mr. Winston Churchill. Some time ago **Mr. Reg G. Bartlett**, head teacher of North Tamborine School and one of Australia’s foremost butterfly experts, read that Mr. Churchill hoped to devote more time to his butterfly hobby. An ardent admirer of Mr. Churchill, **Mr. Bartlett** sent an airgraph letter, conveying birthday greetings, and mentioned that he was forwarding the butterflies.

The Daily News (Perth), 19 January 1946.

DEATH - Fanny Isabel Bartlett, of Tamborine, wife of **Reginald George Bartlett** died on 13 December 1948.

To build up his stocks for exchange with collectors all over the world **Mr Bartlett** is constantly hunting for specimens with his butterfly net. His magnificent collection is kept in a dark room, as continuous strong light destroys the flamboyant and colouring of the specimens.

Many years ago, a Queensland schoolteacher lectured his class on butterflies and “got the Bug.” He laughs at the conception of a butterfly man as an eccentric with a large fishing net. Nowadays butterfly catching is scientific – the grubs are taken and bred out.

Busy among his collection of butterflies, **Mr. R. G. Bartlett**, headmaster of the North Tamborine State School, began his collection to stimulate his class’s interest in foreign countries and to “quicken his students’ interest in geography.” He said he had never bought or sold butterflies, but had built his collection entirely by exchange with other countries.

A 63 year old school teacher, from North Tamborine is in Melbourne exhibiting his butterfly collection to schools. He is **Mr. Reginald Bartlett**, who has 2000 butterflies under “glass”. *The Courier Mail*, 4 April 1949.



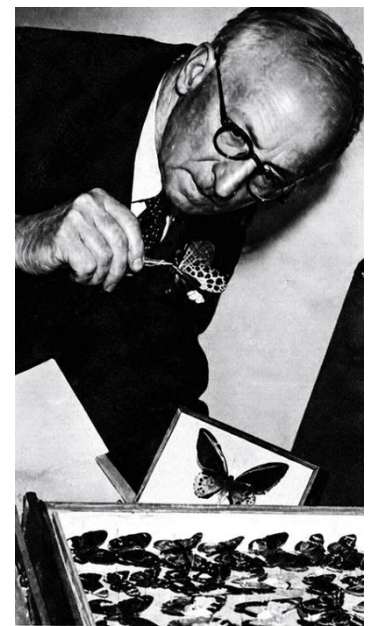
1951 Expert on Butterflies Retires from Teaching

Queensland's "Butterfly Man." **Mr. R. G. Bartlett**, has received notice of his retirement from the Education Department after half a century of school teaching.

He now lives at Southport where, in conjunction with the local ambulance he is displaying his collection of 6.000 butterflies, moths, humming birds, and birds of paradise. For more than thirty years he was an honorary ambulance bearer.

In 1900 Mr Bartlett was appointed pupil teacher at the old Normal School in Edward Street. Later he was assistant at Kelvin Grove and Mt. Perry and became head teacher at Rosedale, Buderim and Tamborine North, where he remained for 26 years.

He interrupted his long career as teacher for four years when he became banana expert for the N.S.W. Government and fruit editor of the "Farm Bulletin and Farmers' Gazette."



MR BARTLETT examining one of his specimens.

For more than 30 years **Mr. Bartlett** was honorary ambulance bearer at Brisbane. Mt. Perry, Rosedale, Buderim. Tamborine and Southport. *Brisbane Telegraph (Qld)*, Wednesday 10 January 1951, page 23.

Throughout the greater part of his life, **Reginald** made the collecting of butterflies his hobby

Don't catch, just hatch – Catching butterflies with a net is out of fashion.

The thing to do is collect the eggs and hatch them out under laboratory conditions. World authority Reg G. Bartlett said yesterday that scientific breeding was in favour with collectors because “test tube” butterflies were invariably superior to natural specimens. They had no wing damage and were not faded by the sun.

Since 1934 Mr. Bartlett has sent more than 10,000 Queensland butterflies overseas on an exchange basis with enthusiasts in Britain the United States, Poland, Nigeria, India, Japan, and Costa Rica. *Sunday Mail, 11 Feb. 1951.*

Mountain “Butterfly Man”

The Australian Women's Weekly, 2 January 1952.

A country schoolteacher in Queensland, who has been exchanging butterflies with collectors abroad for 17 years, has made Australian butterflies known in many countries and has gained fame for himself among fellow naturalists in many countries, *By Sara Stramberg, staff reporter.*

He is **Mr. Reg Bartlett**, of Labrador, near Southport, Queensland, known to his neighbors and to the children of the district as The Butterfly Man. His collection of 6000 butterflies is considered by some to be the best in the Southern Hemisphere, and said to be second only to that of Baron Rothschild. But while the Baron employs staff to collect and mount specimens which are housed at the Natural History Museum he has established at Tring, Hertfordshire, **Mr. Bartlett** has done all the work for himself.

Mr. Bartlett began collecting in 1934 when he was headmaster at Tamborine school, Tamborine Mountain, and hit upon the scheme of exchanging butterflies with collectors abroad to enliven geography from lessons and help teach natural history. He selected names naturalists' directory of the world, and sent out a circular letter asking for specimens in exchange for Australian types. "We were swamped with replies," **Mr. Bartlett** told me. "The children eagerly traced the course of the letters and competed for stamps from the envelopes." **Mr. Bartlett** is still popular with juvenile collectors of foreign stamps at Labrador, where he is assistant at the local school. He retired from teaching two years ago, but he missed the children, and after the death of his wife applied for a temporary position as an assistant at Labrador. His methods of teaching nature study are also appreciated by children of to-day, and the *Periwinkle Nature Club* he has established is most successful. The club has a secret call sign only known to members often greet **Mr. Bartlett** as he cycles along the country roads in the district. After 17 years his butterfly collection is widely known, and he has some amusing letters from foreign correspondents.

Butterflies bring fame to country teacher



Mr Bartlett mounts butterflies in his hatchery, a caravan which has been fitted out as a work room in the garden of his home. Looking on is Russell Keen, son of Lionel N. Keen, who took the photographs on these pages. Butterflies from the Bartlett collection are on show at the bathing pavilion at Southport and at the nearby Surfers' Paradise Hotel.



George Reginald Bartlett with his Emperor Moths.

BARTLETT'S BUTTERFLIES FAMOUS!

The Queen accepted on behalf of Prince Charles and Princess Anne, a choice collection of butterflies presented by well-known naturalist **Mr. Reginald Bartlett**. The butterflies selected for the Royal children were mounted in a red cedar case specially made by the Forestry Department. Mr. Bartlett has received an acknowledgment of the gift from the Queen's private secretary. *Brisbane Telegraph, 15 March 1954.*

DEATH

Reginald Bartlett died on 4 February 1962 in Brisbane, Queensland, at the age of 76.

Children:	1916 - 1996	Winifred Regina Bartlett
	1918 - 1938	Aileen Isabel Peace Bartlett
	1922	Cecil Bartlett
	1923 - 1999	George Edward (Ted) Bartlett – Buried in Buderim
	1927 - 2009	Norman Desmond Bartlett

Further Reading

THE RURAL SCHOOL EXPERIMENT: CREATING A QUEENSLAND YEOMAN

Tony James Brady BSocSc Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy Division of Research and Commercialisation Queensland University of Technology 12 June 2013

The Rise and Demise of the Inspector of Schools in Queensland
Geoffrey James Swan O.A.M. FACE B.Ed., M.Ed. Administration, M.Ed.Studies,
Ph.D. University of Queensland