

Geology

The Blackall Range was formed over 200 million years of constant interaction by volcanoes and water which left behind a mass of hills, valleys and waterfalls. Mapleton has extensive areas of red basalt soil, the result of volcanic activity south west of Maleny between 31 and 27 million years ago. The red soils are clearly visible throughout the Village and along Flaxton Drive.

There are grey cracking clays and grey decomposed sandstone soils which resulted from volcanic action to the north.

Timber Industry

Much of the Blackall Range was gazetted as a timber reserve in 1882. Mapleton National Park was originally two timber reserves which were managed separately as hardwood forests. They were selectively logged until the mid 1990s. The original timber cutters searched for red cedar (*Toona ciliata*), beech (*Gmelina leichhardtii*), hoop (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) and bunya pine. The timber industry was vital for the survival of the early Village (note Sawmills over page). Timber came from blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), brush box (*Lophostemon confertus*), flooded gum/rose gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*), grey gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*), red stringybark (*Eucalyptus resinifera*), mountain turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) and iron bark and bloodwood species. There is still some evidence of cross-cut saw and springboard harvesting in the forest. Magnificent stands of blackbutt exist in Mapleton National Park.

Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) grew extensively on the Blackall Range. Aborigines from surrounding areas gathered for feasts of roasted bunya nuts. Bunya pines grow in the school grounds in Obi Obi Road and in front of Mapleton Hall. Specimens can be observed as you travel west along Obi Obi Road towards Kenilworth and east towards Nambour.



'Memories of Old Mapleton' Artist Keith Blake

Mapleton is a picturesque village on the northern end of the scenic Blackall Range, 402m above sea level in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

The Blackall Range was named in 1874 after Sir Samuel Blackall, Governor of Queensland.

Brothers William and Thomas Smith from Redland Bay were pioneers of the area, walking west from Nambour and selecting land in 1889. More settlers and their families arrived, clearing land for farming and cutting timber.

The small settlement was known originally as Blackall Range, then as Lutonvale. In 1894 at the suggestion of William Smith the area was officially named Mapleton. He had read about 'a pretty little place on top of a hill named Mapleton in England'.

Mapleton quickly became a leading citrus growing area, reaching peak production in the early 1900s. There was a timber industry and sawmills. By the 1930s the citrus industry had collapsed due to the Depression and insect infestation, and Mapleton farming changed to dairying, pineapples and small crops. By the 21st century, tourism and niche farming had become important industries.



Proudly supported by Sunshine Coast Council's Grant Program

**Mapleton and District
Community Association**
www.mapletonqueensland.com

Mapleton



A beautiful place to walk, relax and enjoy the outstanding views.

This brochure presents history, things to do and organisations of interest.



Front image: Lillyponds Photographer: Nita C Lester



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Flora varies from the native to the exotic garden species. The different seasons embrace native orchids, fungi, rare flowering shrubs and fruiting trees.

Flora and Fauna

Mapleton boasts numerous fauna species including echidna, wallaby, reptile, amphibian, birds and invertebrates. Many can be sighted while sitting quietly at The Lillyponds, walking the village or the national parks.

Mapleton National Park Day Use Area.

Kureelpa Falls is in a spectacular gorge of the South Maroochy River. The falls can be sighted on the 8.5km Kureelpa Falls circuit walk from the Mapleton National Park Day Use Area.

Baxter Creek Falls is on a short sidewalk from the Great Walk near a metal suspension bridge crossing or Suses Pocket Road (2km) off Obi Obi Road.



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Gheerulla Falls is on the Great Walk and can also be accessed from Delicia Road. Gheerulla is a contraction of the words *kira nulla* of the Waka people and means 'dry or empty creek'.

Kondallia Falls is part of Skene Creek and falls 90m from a popular swimming hole. Kondallia is aboriginal for 'pushing water'. The falls can be seen on the Great Walk and can also be accessed from Kondallia Falls Road. Picnic Creek Circuit (1.7km) leads to the swimming hole and the Kondallia Falls Circuit (4.7km) winds its way below and crosses Skene Creek on a suspension bridge.

Mapleton National Park, Flaxton, began as a small recreation reserve in 1906, was gazetted as a National Park in 1945 and has been extended many times. Skene Creek and Obi Obi Creek flow through the Park. Picnic facilities and toilets are situated at the Kondallia Falls Road entrance and at Narrows Road which leads to the northern edge of Lake Baroon, Montville. A 12km walking track connects the two entrances. Flaxton Walkers backpackers campsite is in this park.

There are 85km of horse riding trails, a 26km trail bike track and two backpackers campsites, Ubaee and Thilba Thilba. The Day Use Area has picnic facilities and toilets. The park can be accessed from Mapleton, Yandina, and from the Eumundi/Kenilworth Road.

Mapleton National Park, formerly Mapleton and Cooloolabin (Timber) Reserves, covers 10,426ha and was gazetted as a National Park on World Environment Day 5 June 2011. It contains about half of the Great Walk. Several shorter walks including the Turpentine Trail (7.8km return), Piccabeen Circuit (6.7km) and Kureelpa Falls (8.5km) start from the Day Use Area. A short Pillularis Forest Walk (400m return) starts from Leafy Lane trailhead. The Linda Garrett Circuit (700m return) and Gheerulla Falls (2.5km return) are accessed from Delicia Road.

Mapleton Falls, originally called Baroon Falls is where Pencil Creek drops 120m to join Obi Obi Creek, which joins the Mary River. The cliffs are black basalt and tessellated rocks can be seen. In 1917, Thomas Smith built a 160 foot (50m) flying fox that suspended a cage above the falls. This was taken down in the 1920s. A spike remains in a tree near the lookout platform which is wheelchair accessible. Extensive views of the Obi Obi Valley, eucalypts and bunyas can be enjoyed. The Falls car park, picnic tables and toilets are at the end of Mapleton Falls Road.

Mapleton Falls National Park, covering 26ha, became a recreation reserve in 1893 and a National Park in 1975. The 1.3km Wompoop Circuit walk starts from the lookout and winds through eucalypts and rainforest. Peregrine falcon may be sighted. The park can be accessed from Mapleton Falls Road and Daymar Road (foot only).

Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk Towering bunyas, rushing waterfalls and rugged, scarred landscapes are some of the natural wonders to be discovered on this 58km walk. There are several walks from two to seven hours. The Great Walk map can be purchased from the Mapleton Information Centre.

Great Walk, National Parks, Walks, Waterfalls
www.npsr.qld.gov.au