

**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  
2021

# Mapleton

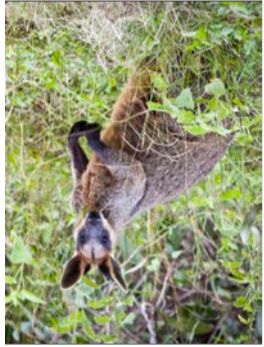


A beautiful place to walk, relax and enjoy the outstanding views.

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



Front image: Lillyponds Photographer: Nita C Lester



NCL



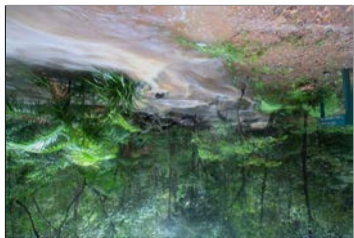
GH

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

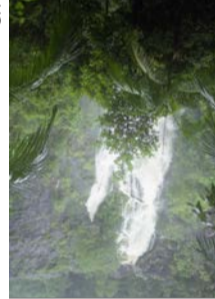
**Flora and Fauna**

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

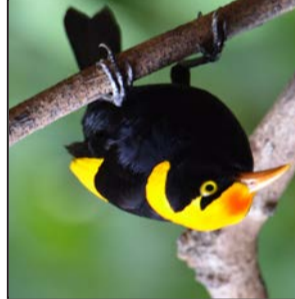
**Baxter Creek Falls** is on a short sidewalk from the Great Walk near a metal suspension bridge crossing Baxter Creek. Access is from Flaxton Mill Road (2km) or Suses Pocket Road (2km) off Obi Obi Road.



GH



GH



AM

**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.

**Kondallia 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), Picabeen 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.



GH



**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 tree near the lookout platform which is wheelchair accessible. Extensive views of Obi Obi Valley 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 Maleny and Kenilworth Visitor Centres.

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

**1 Mapleton Tavern**  
Mapleton's landmark hotel was built for William Rosser in 1909. It was officially opened in January 1910 as the Ocean View Hotel. There is a collection of historical photographs on the walls inside the tavern. The views to the coast from the verandah are spectacular. [f](#)



**2 Mapleton RSL Memorial Park (Soldier's Park)**  
Until the 1960s this park was part of Delicia Road. A stone memorial, positioned under a magnificent Kauri pine (*Agathis robusta*), records the names of all service personnel from the village and its surrounds, who died as a result of war service. Three memorial services are conducted each year. The stone cairn in the middle of Flaxton Drive dates from 1958.

**3 Mapleton State School** (Provisional School No. 878) opened here on 17 July 1899 on land originally selected by William Rosser. Fifteen students attended with teacher Lizzie Fitzgerald. The first building and furniture had been made by the local community. Local pit sawn beech was extensively used in the construction. The building doubled as a community facility. The original school was demolished in 1908 and replaced with a Department of Education two-room structure, which is still in use today.

**4 Mapleton School Astronomical Observatory**, which has been operating since 2004, is the structure with a small dome that is located in the school grounds. It was built after 12 months of community fund raising. Courses and public open nights are held monthly. [www.mapletonobservatory.com.au](http://www.mapletonobservatory.com.au) [f](#)

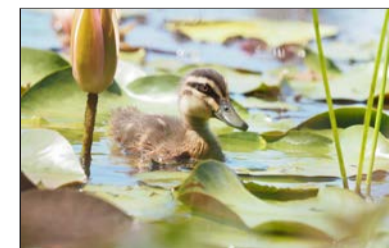


**5 The Range Community Kindergarten** began in 1986 in the Mapleton Hall as a 'pack away' centre. In 1991, thanks to long term community fundraising, the kindergarten was relocated here. [www.rangekindy.qld.edu.au](http://www.rangekindy.qld.edu.au) [f](#)

**6 Footbridge** connects Wilga and Wandoo Courts across Baxter Creek which flows from The Lilyponds into Obi Obi Creek and into the Mary River near Kenilworth. A short walk down stream along the west side arrives at a little waterfall flowing over tessellated rocks.



**7 Queensland Conference and Camping Centre (QCCC)**  
Queensland Baptists established this facility on a former dairy farm. It was opened by Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen in 1983, who arrived in her Kingswood with speciality pumpkin scones. Originally a family holiday centre, it is now Queensland's busiest Outdoor Education Centre hosting 30,000 guests annually. QCCC is the area's largest employer. CHILD SAFE FACILITY: NO PUBLIC ACCESS [www.qccc.org.au](http://www.qccc.org.au) [f](#)



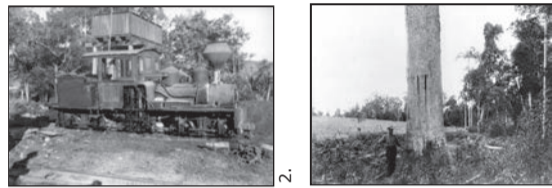
**8 Mapleton Rural Fire Brigade** began in the 1970s with equipment stored around the district at members' homes. Stage one of the current shed was built in 1986 and there have been several extensions since. New members welcome, contact 0499 883 019. [f](#)

**9 Community Hall and Sports Ground**  
William Rosser donated over three acres (1.3ha) of land for a public hall and sports ground. The original hall opened in 1910 but burnt down in 1915. The present hall, which was opened in July 1916, has been extended on the eastern side several times. There are historical photographs and honour boards inside the hall. Plaques on trees and rocks around the grounds commemorate pioneers of the district. [www.mapletonhall.org](http://www.mapletonhall.org) [f](#)

**10 The Old School House (TOSH)** was initially in the school grounds near the present car park. Head Teacher Francis Watt, first occupant, started his eight year residence in April 1917. It was relocated here in 1997 and now operates as a RangeCare Op Shop.



**11 Sawmills**  
Over the years, Mapleton has had a hardwood mill and at least three fruit case mills. The hardwood mill, located behind TOSH between Delicia Road and Emu Walk, had several owners and was operating as Thurecht's Sawmill when it closed in 1972. The mill's steam whistle was a well known feature of town life, serving as the town's 'time keeper'.



**12 Delicia Road** was named after Alfred Delisser who surveyed the original road along the eastern side of the Blackall Range in 1883-84. Delisser's name was misspelt. His brother Edmund was the surveyor who named the Nullarbor Plain in 1866.

**13 Mapleton Pharmacy**  
The building dates from 1924 and has been a bakery, private home, a fish and chip shop, and a building designer's office. The pharmacy relocated here in 2009.

**15 The Lilyponds** (formerly 'The Swamp') is on land selected by David Williams in 1892. Many people owned the wetland before Ernie Setterfield in 1970. After improving the area by planting several types of waterlilies, he donated over four acres (1.8ha) to the Maroochy Shire. The Lilyponds Park was officially opened by the Queensland Governor, Sir Walter Campbell in November 1988 as part of Mapleton's Centenary Celebrations. A children's play ground, skatebowl, fitness station, electric barbecues, picnic tables and toilets are in the park.



**Former Tram Track (1915-44)** For 29 years a small tram/train, pulled by *Mapleton* or *Dulong*, did a 34km round trip on a '2 foot' track to Nambour. It operated six days a week. The driveway into The Lilyponds runs roughly along the old tram line and in 2015 a memorial was erected to celebrate its centenary. The track continued where TOSH now stands and west along Obi Obi Road. A spur line ran east along Obi Obi Road stopping between the Tavern and the current shops. A composite engine, the *Shay*, can be seen at the Nambour and District Historical Museum. [www.nambourmuseum.org.au](http://www.nambourmuseum.org.au) [f](#)

**16 Technitherm** (down Shay Lane) is the only liquid-in-glass thermometer manufacturer in Australia. The second generation family business was established in Melbourne in 1945 and moved to Mapleton in 1977. There are no factory tours. [www.technitherm.com.au](http://www.technitherm.com.au)

**17 The 2/7th Australian Cavalry Regiment**  
During World War II, large numbers of troops trained and camped around Mapleton and other areas on the Sunshine Coast. The hall and sports ground were requisitioned by the army.

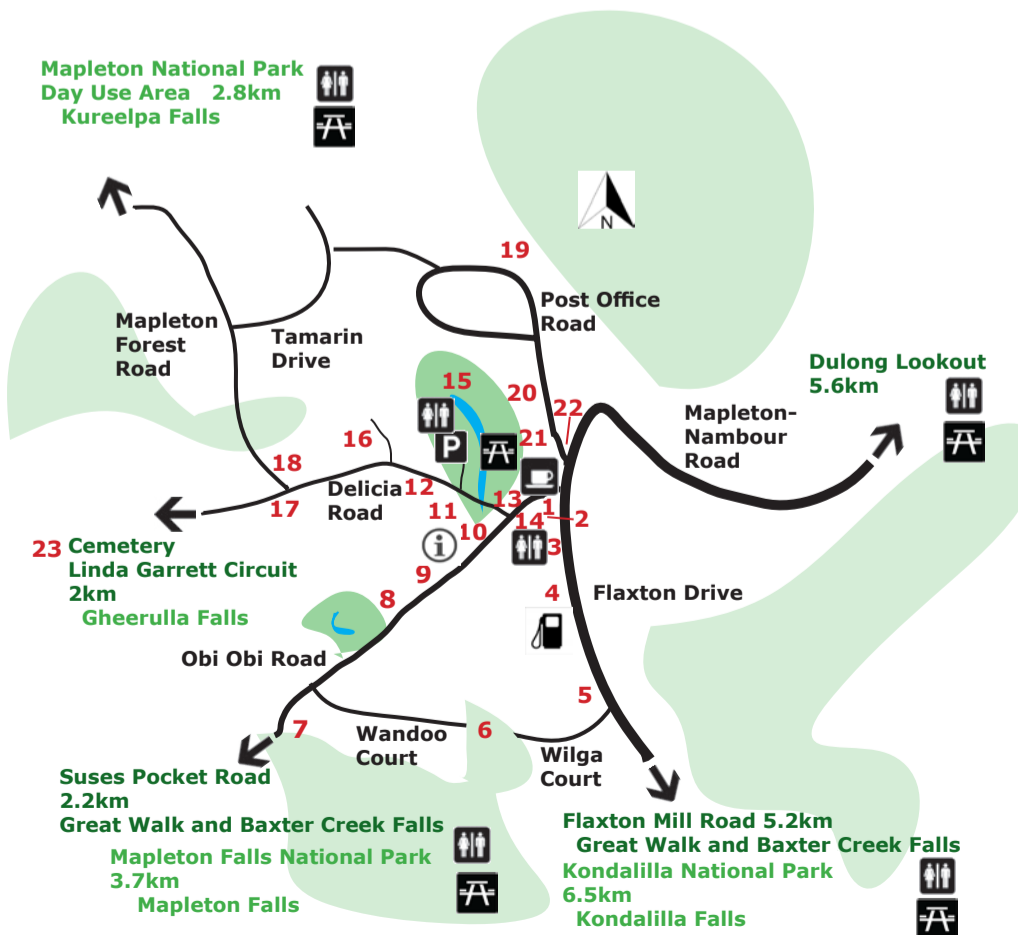
1. Mapleton Town Band playing in front of the Ocean View Hotel, Mapleton, 1910

2. Locomotive in front of the water tank in the tramway yard, 1940

3. Mapleton property, ca 1910

4. Mapleton Tramway locomotive, ca 1942

**14 Mapleton Community Library**  
began in 1985 as part of the Maroochy Shire Library. A fire destroyed the building and all contents in 1992. Local council decided not to reopen so the community banded together and in 1993 the new community library opened here, staffed by volunteers, with a collection of over 11,000 resources. Within are photographic displays, local art and the original typewriter used by author Eleanor Dark. Outside is the Shay Chair constructed by the Men's Shed. [www.mapletoncommunitylibrary.com](http://www.mapletoncommunitylibrary.com) [f](#)



**18 Mapleton Forestry Office/Men's Shed**  
The forestry barracks (three rooms and a kitchen) was originally built in 1947-48 at the current Mapleton National Park Day Use Area. In 1967 the building was relocated here and the garage/office added later. The Mapleton Men's Shed moved into these buildings in June 2015 and converted them to a facility for local men. There is a Forestry Museum displaying tools and equipment used in the timber industry. This facility can be viewed by private arrangement, contact 07 5294 6541 [www.mapletonmensed.org.au](http://www.mapletonmensed.org.au)

**19 Number 40 Post Office Road** is one of the oldest buildings in Mapleton and was built by William Smith. He selected 160 acres (64.7ha) on 2 May 1890. The original home was said to be a 'superior gentleman's residence'. Extensive citrus orchards surrounded the property. This is a private home with no public access.

**20 The Post Office** opened here on 7 July 1949. The first official Post Master, Harold Cordery, had to supply the building which also housed the telephone exchange. Previously, postal services had operated out of various properties and the general store.

**21 Mapleton Bowls Club**  
After an initial meeting in March 1946 land was acquired from Karl Ensbey and play eventually started with five rinks in 1949. In 1972, Ernie Setterfield donated additional land and the green was extended to eight rinks in 1978. The present club house opened in 1985. [f](#)

**22 Smith Memorial Park** commemorates the pioneer Smith family (William, Thomas, Amy). It was dedicated in October 1983. Note the red cedar (*Toona ciliata*).

**23 Mapleton Cemetery** occupies five acres (2ha) of land on Delicia Road opposite Linda Garrett Circuit in Mapleton National Park. Emma Smith, mother of pioneers William, Thomas and Amy, was the first burial in 1891.