

# William Landsborough

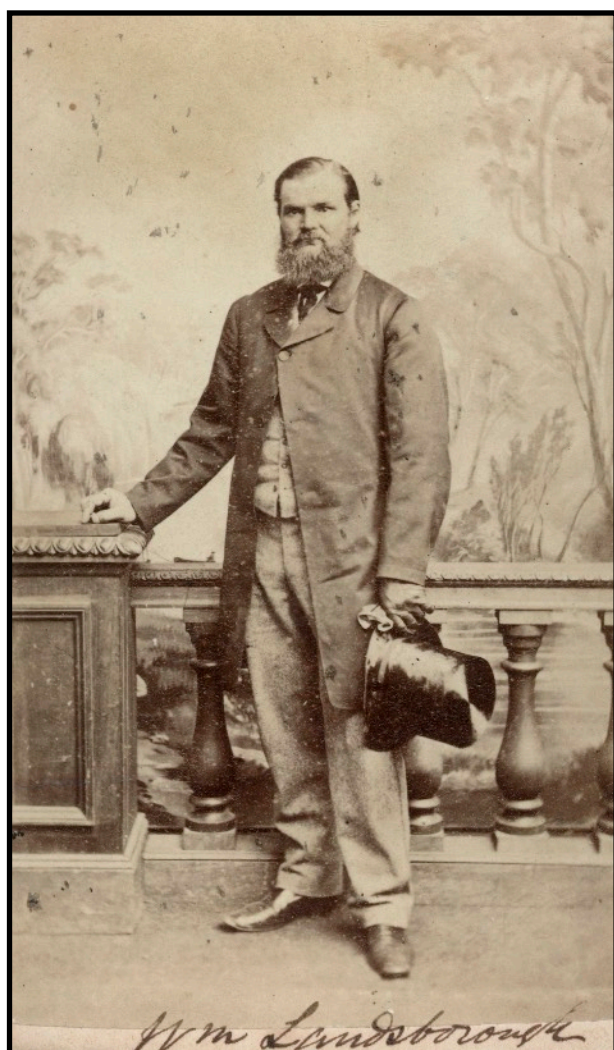
1825 -1866

William Landsborough is well known for leading the Qld search party in 1861 for explorers, Burke and Wills. He then became the first European to complete a north-south crossing of Australia. Born on 21 February 1825 in Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland, Landsborough emigrated to Australia as a young man. Over his life, he was a pastoralist, gold miner, government employee, and Member of the Qld Parliament.

In 1872, he climbed the base of Mount Coonowrin (one of the Glasshouse Mts) and, in 1884, visited the Blackall Range. On this trip, he took his wife, stepdaughter, three daughters, and two men. Setting out from Caloundra with ten horses, provisions and blankets, the group spent two nights camping on the range. The first night near Bald Knob, the second where the Maleny township now stands. One of their party noted how difficult it was to make their way through the dense scrub.

Two years later in 1886, William Landsborough died on his property at Caloundra. His body was re-interred in Brisbane's Toowong Cemetery in 1913.

The town of Mellum Creek was renamed Landsborough in his honour.



Collated by Desley Malone  
Maleny Historical Memories  
February 2025