

Origin of the name of The Parish of Maleny and Town of Maleny, including the Locality of Obi Obi Creek and The Blackall Range

Preamble

There are many claims regarding the origin of the name Maleny. Popular belief is that the Balfour brothers (John & R) named the Parish of Maleny or the locality of Maleny Mountain after Malleny House built in 1589, Malleny Gardens and Malleny Mills at Balerno, south west of Edinburgh, Scotland. This naming supposedly took place when they passed through the “**Wide Bay Range**” area before setting up Colinton Station Run, Moreton District in 1841/2. Other reports say that the Balfour’s first used Conondale Station Run. This Conondale Station Run would be close to “**Maleny Mountain**” the area now known as Walli Mountain. There is also some belief that they named Maleny Mountain while they were surveying for the firm Baring Brothers & Co. Others have suggested that a member of a surveying party was surnamed Maleny and that the licenced surveyor used his surname Maleny to establish the Parish of Maleny.

There is no Primary Source to support any of these claims.

It is however acknowledged that Malleny House, Malleny Gardens and Malleny Mills Balerno are around seven plus kilometres from Colinton in Scotland where the Balfour brothers came from.

Throughout this document where possible Primary Source Documents are used to support the origin of Maleny Mountain, Parish of Maleny, Maleny Plateau, Maleny Post Office, other Receiving Offices, Postal Districts and Post Offices, Maleny Township, the Selected Locality of Obi Obi Creek, The Blackall Range, Blackall Range Township and Blackall Range Postal District.

1. Maleny Mountain

The *Surveyor General’s Office Brisbane (SGOB) Map 31st May 1866, Survey of the Upper Portions of The Mary River – WB 3986* dated 2nd May 1865 by Licenced Surveyor W. B. Wilson shows Maleny Mountain just south east of Kenilworth, Queensland. This mountain is on the western side of Obi Obi Creek just before it joins the Mary River. This Mountain is no longer known as Maleny Mountain but now called Walli Mountain. It is just West of Walli State Forest

and north of Maleny National Park. This Mountain is not where the present day Maleny Township exists but is 35.7 kms north west of Maleny. There is no reference on the 1866 Survey Map of the Parish of Maleny.

2. Parish of Maleny

The **Crown Lands Alienation Act** asserted on 28th February 1868, amended the laws relating to the alienation of Crown Lands. All previous acts were repealed. *The new Crown Lands Alienation Act was enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty Victoriae Reginae No. 46. "Anno tricesimo primo"* (in the 31st year of her reign) *by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament.*

Clause 20 of the act *enables the Governor in Council with the advice of the Executive Council to divide any county already existing to be created into parishes where such parishes are not already defined and may distinguish such parishes by names and proclaim the same.*

One such Parish was the Parish of Maleny, County of March.

The first surveys on the southern end of the Blackall Range were selected in 1878 in the locality of Obi Obi Creek (now Maleny). The first of these was by Isaac Hudson Burgess of Portion 98, 790 acres with an Application date of 12th November 1878 and Selection date of 5th December 1879. The survey took place on 5th December 1879 catalogue number was M37 1301 and later as M33 1179.

Station Run Map – Wide Bay Sheet No. 3 of September 1871 SGOB compiled by T. S. Bailey, lith (sic) by H. W. Fox, Queensland State Archives (QSA) **file No. LAN/AG59**. Shown on this map is the Parish of Maroochy and Parish of Mooloolah. Both of these are on the eastern or ocean side of The Blackall Range. Also shown on this map is the Gympie and Jimna Goldfields. Obi Obi Creek is shown on this map but Parish of Maleny or Maleny Mountain does not appear.

The SGOB Map of 31st May 1866, of the Upper Portions of The Mary River – WB 3986 dated 2nd May 1865 by Licenced Surveyor W. B. Wilson does not make reference to the Parish of Maleny.

An **SGOB 40 chain map of 1891, QSA, AG2 Sheet 14** shows the Parish of Maleny.

In his report of 17th March 1884 of **Survey Road 2210 The Blackall Range and Approaches** the Licenced Government Surveyor Alfred Delisser spells Maleny as Meleney.

Maleny Plateau

Early 20th century land sales refer to the Southern end of The Blackall Range as The Maleny Plateau. A 1912 “**Dixon Farms Estate**” sales brochure advertises: The Garden of the Famous Blackall Range and “**Right in the Heart of the Famous Maleny Plateau.**” Auctioneers for the sale of 18 Magnificent Farms and 48 Choice Township Allotments were Currie, Buchanan & Co. Ltd. of Queen St. Brisbane. The Auction took place at Maleny Hotel on 27th November 1912. The Farms and Allotments were part of Portions 1282 & 1283.

An earlier sales brochure of C.1908 advertised 43 Township allotments that were part of Portion 1282. The Sales Representative was E. Lawley, Maleny, Blackall Range. By 1912 thirteen of these allotments were sold.

3. Maleny Post Office

Mail Service No. 373 commenced in 1890. Pugh's Almanacs of 1896&7 describes the first Official Mail Service No. 373 from Mellum Creek (Landsborough) to Blackall Range (Maleny) commencing in 1890 and going via Coochin Creek (Beerwah), Peach Trees (Peachester) and McCarthy's (Wootha) to Maleny sometimes called Blackall Range. This record is the first mention of Maleny for a Postal Service and therefore Maleny as a Town or locality.

Maleny, March Co. (County) *Wide Bay dist.* (district); *post office appears in the Post Office Directory (POD) of 1892/3, 1893, 1894/5, 1895/6, 1896/7, 1897/9, 1900 etc.*

McCarthy's, Canning Co. (County) appears in the 1892/3 POD as a *post.* (postal) *Dist.* (District) *Only.*

4. Other Receiving Offices, Postal Districts and Post Offices

There were a number of Receiving Offices (RO's), Postal Districts and Post Offices in and around Maleny.

McCarthy's Canning Co. (County) appears in the 1892/3 POD as a *post.* (postal) *Dist.* (District) *Only.* and again in 1893 with *Jos. McCarthy as Postmaster.* Then in 1894/5 POD as a *rec, off.* (RO) and in 1895/6 *McCarthy Joseph, labourer, McCarthy's.* In 1896/7, 1897/8 POD as McCarthy's, *Moreton dist.* (district) in 1897/9 POD with *Mrs. Joseph McCarthy as Postmistress* and also in 1900. In the 1901 POD it shows *McCarthy's see Maleny.*

Glenferna RO 1907 map on Portion 98 (was selected by Isaac Hudson Burgess).

Thyne's RO 1913/15 map on Portion 98.

Teutoburg RO, Blackall Range 1894/5, 1896/7 *Moreton dist.* (district) *Carl Thiedecker* as *Receiving Officer*, 1897/8 Postmaster: Miss Alice Vandreiche, 1900 *Wide Bay dist.* (district) etc to 1915 and in 1916/17 changed to **Witta**.

Witta Post and Telegraph Office (PTO) is shown on Portion 111V of 1938 map as *B. J. Nothling*.

Wootha RO (Samson Brown) Portion 1322, 1913 map.

Interestingly The **Blackall Range Provisional School No. 511** was opened on 18th October 1886 at McCarthy's (Wootha).

5. Maleny Township

Lands Department records of 1952 or Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) now **Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (including Water, Land and Mineral)** state: "*There is no Government Town of Maleny. The Town has arisen as a result of real property subdivision of portions 1264, 1271 & 1282, Parish of Maleny. Extensive subdivisions began in 1908.*" Subdivision of portion 1282 commenced in C.1908, E. Lawley, Maleny was the agent. Further subdivisions 1282 & 1283 were advertised in 1912 by Currie, Buchanan & Co. Ltd. of Queen St. Brisbane. Portion 1264 was subdivided around the same time. By 1924 the subdivision of Portion 1264 became known as the "**Wyper Estate.**"

6. The Locality of Obi Obi Creek

Surveys of the First Selections on The Blackall Range were all done as **Obi Obi Creek**, Parish of Maleny. The applications were, in date order:

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Portion 98 | 790 acres | Isaac H Burgess | 12 th November 1878 |
| • Portion 1221 | 640 acres | Joseph McCarthy | 14 th March 1879 |
| • Portion 1257 | 157 acres | Joseph Eyles | 17 th January 1880 |
| • Portion 1263 | 280 acres | Jas D Campbell | 5 th March 1880 |
| • Portion 1262 | 500 acres | John D Campbell | 5 th March 1880 |
| • Portion 1264 | 160 acres | Francis Dunlop | 9 th March 1880 |
| • Portion 1322 | 330 acres | Sampson Brown | 21 st March 1880 |
| • Portion 1270 | 336 acres | William Simpson | 10 th May 1880 |
| • Portion 1271 | 640 acres | Charles W Walker | 18 th May 1880 |
| • Portion 1346 | 315 acres | William A Grigor | 23 rd June 1880 |
| • Portion 1276 | 160 acres | John Hankinson | 6 th July 1880 |
| • Portion 1282 | 315 acres | John Pitt | 17 th August 1880 |
| • Portion 1283 | 1885 acres | Lawrence Graves | 26 th August 1880 |
| • Portion 1303 | 40 acres | John D Campbell | 15 th December 1880 |

On 9th March 1880, Francis Dunlop (II) made application for Portion 1264, 160 acres Parish of Maleny. The selection was approved on 12th June 1880, Catalogue # W39 833.

This land is on the south side of Obi Obi Creek, where the Maleny Hotel, R.S.L., Primary and High Schools are now located.

Portion 113, 160 acres has been left off the above list because it does not border Obi Obi Creek.

The Queenslander, Saturday 1st May 1880, page 569 states:

HOMESTEAD. – Accepted: F. (Francis II) Dunlop, 160a., **Obi Obi Creek**

This confirms that the land was applied for, selected, approved and accepted as the location of Obi Obi Creek. This was Portion 1264, Parish of Maleny. Shown in the same article is: J. D. Campbell, 320a., **Obi Obi Creek**, being the sum of Portions 1263, 280 acres and 1303, 40 acres, Parish of Maleny.

The above information verifies that the First Selections in the Maleny area were surveyed in the name of **Obi Obi Creek** and not Maleny or Blackall Range.

Rev. Joseph Tainton, (author of unpublished manuscript **Marutchi**), also confirms this. *The first Selections of 1878 on “The Range” were done in the name of Obi Obi Creek*, not Maleny - extract from Rev. Joseph Tainton letter to **Maleny Centenary Committee** 21st November 1977.

An **SGOB 40 chain map of 1891 QSA, AG2 Sheet 14** does not show Blackall Range Township or Maleny Township on it. However, it does show subdivisions of First Selectors along the banks of **Obi Obi Creek** in the Parish of Maleny.

Whilst the first selections in the “Maleny area” were as **Obi Obi Creek**, Parish of Maleny, there were two other Parishes that were part of the wider Maleny area. These selections were in the Parish of Durundur and the Parish of Mooloolah.

7. The Blackall Range

In the 1840's The Blackall Range was then known as the Wide Bay Range. **Station Run Map – Wide Bay Sheet No. 3 of September 1871 SGOB** compiled by T. S. Bailey, lith (sic) by H. W. Fox, **QSA file No. LAN/AG59**. The Station Runs shown on this map are: North Kenilworth, Kenilworth, Imbil, Yabba, Cambroon and Conondale (sic). These runs were to later become the Parish of Maleny and Parish of Conondale.

The Parish of Maroochy and Parish of Mooloolah are shown on this 1871 map. Both of these are on the eastern or ocean side of The Blackall Range. Also shown on this 1871 map are the Gympie and Jimna Goldfields. Obi Obi Creek is shown on this 1871 map, but Parish of Maleny or Maleny Mountain does not appear. Significantly, The Blackall Range is shown on this 1871 map, which means that the commonly held view that Licenced Government Surveyor C. S. Bradbury named The Blackall Range in 1874 is incorrect.

Samuel Wensley Blackall was Governor of Queensland from 14th August 1868 to 2nd January 1871 when he died in office.

It is likely that the 1871 map compiler T. S. Bailey named The Blackall Range in memory of Governor Blackall on this map of September 1871.

8. Blackall Range Township

The **Queensland Government Gazette Volume XLIII No. 51, page 840, ref. 88-2649-SG** of Saturday 10th March 1888 gives details of the original township reservation but not as “**Maleny Township**” but as “***Blackall Range Township.***” The proclamation date was 5th March 1888. The Gazette states:

THE BRISBANE LAND AGENT'S DISTRICT.

Reserve for Township Purposes

88-2649-SG.

Blackall Range

County of March, parish of Maleny. Area – 160 acres.

Commencing at the north-east corner of Agricultural Farm No. 503, and bounded thence on the south by that selection bearing west forty chains; on the west by a line bearing north forty chains; on the north by a line bearing east forty chains; and on the east by a line bearing south forty chains to the point of commencement.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Southport, this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, and in the fifty-first year of Her Majesty's reign.

By Command, HENRY JORDAN.

God Save the Queen !

9. Blackall Range Postal District.

Interestingly *Joseph McCarthy* appears in the 1889 POD as a selector *Blackall Range*.

Post Office historical records list a *Receiving Office (RO) opened at Blackall Range (Maleny) on 1st January 1889*.

Pugh's Almanac of 1896&7 describes *the first Official Mail Service No. 373 from Mellum Creek (Landsborough) to Blackall Range (Maleny) commencing in 1890 and going via Coochin Creek (Beerwah), Peach Trees (Peachester) and McCarthy's (Wootha) to Maleny sometimes called Blackall Range*.

The Post Office Directory of 1889/1891 records the first and only mention of *Blackall Range (Postal District, but no township) Canning Co. (County) Moreton Dist. (District)*.

This later became the *Maleny, March Co. (County) Wide Bay dist. (district); post office, POD 1892/3, 1893, 1894/5, 1895/6, 1896/7, 1897/9, 1900 etc*.

Summary

There is no conclusive evidence of how the Town of Maleny was named. The possible link of the Balfour Brothers association with Maleny House could be the origin of Maleny. However, they arrived around 38 years before the First Selections took place in the Parish of Maleny in 1878.

A more likely source of origin is: *The 1890 Postal Service from Mellum Creek (Landsborough) to Blackall Range Township via Coochin Creek (Beerwah), Peach Trees (Peachester) and McCarthy's (Wootha) to Maleny, sometimes called Blackall Range*. This is a Post Office Government statement that **"Blackall Range Township"** was named **"Maleny"** by The Post Master General's (PMG) Department. The PMG or Post Office often named a town or even changed the name of a town if another already existed.

So, where did the name Maleny come from?

Perhaps it was derived from the Parish of Maleny or Maleny Mountain and these possibly originated from the Balfour Brothers.

The first subdivisions of the **"Blackall Range Township"** occurred C.1908 and 1912. By these dates the Town is clearly known as Maleny. It was never Gazetted by the Government.