Placenames Australia

ANPS

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PLACENAMES SURVEY

Australia on the Map – 200 Years Ago

On 14 November 1804 Matthew Flinders carefully sealed the packet containing his newly completed chart which tracked his circumnavigation of Australia. A ship stood ready off the island of Mauritius, where Flinders was held prisoner of war, waiting for a favourable tide before sailing for London.

On 14 November 2004 the Governor-General, Michael Jeffery, hosted a reception at Yarralumla to mark the bicentenary of that event in Matthew Flinders' life.

Why the celebration? We are so comfortable with the name that our nation now bears that it's easy to forget that, if it weren't for Matthew Flinders, we might not be called Australia at all. The 1804 chart that he so carefully drew on Mauritius was clearly labelled *Australia or Terra Australis*. The continent had previously been referred to as New Holland or Terra Australis, and parts had been labelled New South Wales and Van Diemens Land. But until Flinders' innovative step, no map of the continent had borne the title *Australia*.

Flinders had arrived on the island of Mauritius in December 1803, on the way home to Britain. Unfortunately, war had broken out

Governor-General Michael Jeffery and Bill Fairbanks share a cup of tea. Photo David Blair

between France and England, and Flinders was to spend the next six years there in detention, despite his eagerness to get back to London with the news of his discoveries. All he could do was to prepare the chart of his circumnavigation, and have it sent back to his patron, Sir Joseph Banks, in London.

Yet for nearly all of its 200 years, the map has missed out on the public acclaim it deserves, because Banks and the Admiralty completely lost interest in Flinders during his imprisonment – so much so that when Flinders did finally return to England in 1810, he discovered that Banks had not even bothered to unpack the chart.

Over the next four years until his untimely death, Flinders laboured to write up the account of his journeys and to supervise the engraving of his charts. By the time the revised chart of his circumnavigation was published in 1814, the authorities had forced him to change the title to "Terra Australis or Australia". In other words, *Australia* was now only a sub-title. When NSW Governor Lachlan Macquarie received Flinders' chart in 1817, however, he preferred *Australia* over *Terra Australis* and used it in the colony. By 1824 the Admiralty had finally accepted the continent should be

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International Training Course in Toponymy

Graduation ceremony. Flavia Hodges, Helen Kerfoot, Tony Kelly & Paul Harcombe

A training course concerned primarily with technical aspects of toponymy was attended in October by 14 participants from Australasia, South-East Asia, and the South Pacific. The course was held at the Centre for Professional Development, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, and organised jointly by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy at Macquarie University and the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales. Sponsorship was also received for some of the course costs from the Intergovernmental Committee for Surveying and Mapping, an Australian federal body, and for the airfares of some overseas participants from the United Nations Statistics Division.

A wide variety of toponymic topics were covered during the two weeks of the course, with presentations, exercises, and hands-on experience of data processing, plus a practical fieldwork exercise in nearby Perthville. Presenters included David Blair, Flavia Hodges and Jan Tent of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy (and Australian National Placenames Survey); Paul Harcombe, Glenn Jones and Greg Windsor of the NSW Department of Lands; and guests Helen Kerfoot, Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and Ferjan Ormeling, Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.

Other presenters and contributors to panel discussions were drawn from the staff of several Australasian nomenclature authorities: Stuart Duncan, Secretary to the Place Names

Fieldwork in Perthville. Helen Kerfoot, Maria Vassallo & Davina Sickerdick

Committee of the Northern Territory; Brian Goodchild, Secretary to the Geographic Names Board of Western Australia and Chair of the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia; John Parker, former Surveyor General and Registrar of Geographic Names for Victoria; Bill Watt, Secretary to the Geographical Names Advisory Committee of South Australia; and Rowland Woods, former advisor to the New Zealand Geographic Board.

A centrepiece of the course was a full meeting of the NSW Geographical Names Board, which participants attended as observers after a briefing on the work of the

Board and the issues to be discussed. They also joined a meeting of the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia – the umbrella organisation for the naming authorities of Australia and New Zealand – held in conjunction with the course.

At the end of a busy fortnight, the course graduates each received a certificate from the NSW Minister for Lands, the Hon. Tony Kelly. They all reported that, although intense, the experience had been very enjoyable, and that one of the most valuable aspects was the opportunity to share knowledge with counterparts in other jurisdictions having different backgrounds and expertise.

THE ANPS TEAM WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR READERS THE BEST FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Update on the ANPS Victorian State Committee

The Victorian Committee recently advertised the activities of the ANPS in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's newsletter, asking for interested historical societies to be a part of a pilot study, which will introduce participants to the ANPS data collection sheets and electronic spreadsheets and help to ensure that they are easy for all ANPS Research Friends to use.

To date, over 30 historical societies in Victoria have signed up to be participants in the pilot study. It is expected that the pilot study will continue for 12 months, to ensure that all aspects of the data forms are tested.

The Victorian Committee members have each been assigned coordination areas of Victoria. As such, the committee members will be directly responsible for overseeing the data collection processes within their area. This method of coordination will ensure that historical societies do not "double-up" on their collection of placenames information. In addition, it also means that societies which are collecting placenames information on a

thematic basis (eg Cornish placenames) can collect this information from around the state, as long as each coordinator is aware of this and advises other historical societies.

Each historical society has been advised that they should collate their research material every two months (perhaps at their society meetings) and go over any problems they had with the datasheets and/or the collection of the historical material. The historical societies are then encouraged to pass on the collated material to their coordinator, and discuss any research problems with them directly. The coordinator will then bring the information to the next committee meeting, where the whole committee can go over the data, and try to resolve any problems.

The Victorian Committee is eagerly anticipating the pilot study, and is looking forward to updating *Placenames Australia* subscribers of developments.

Laura Kostanski,
Secretary of the Victorian Committee, ANPS

officially known as Australia. In the meantime, the 1804 version of the chart languished in the archive of the British Hydrographic Office, forgotten and available only on microfiche – until Sydney enthusiast Bill Fairbanks discovered it because of his involvement with the re-enactment of Flinders' circumnavigation in 2002-03. He had 34 high-quality copies of the chart made, and resolved that all State parliaments in Australia should be presented with their own copy.

The reception at Yarralumla on the morning of 14 November 2004 marked the bicentenary of that symbolic act of Matthew Flinders, and a large number of guests, including ANPS Director David Blair, were there to honour the occasion. Royal Historical Society of Victoria president Professor Weston Bate gave the main address, and noted Flinders' determination to have the continent officially known as Australia.

"He liked the way it rolled off the tongue," Professor Bate said. Prof Bate said the use of the name was an important step in the development of a national identity.

"There was an enlargement of identity beyond the parochialism of individual colonies. *Australia* had the flavour of future greatness."

Governor-General Michael Jeffery praised Flinders' achievements in accurately charting our coastlines, and recalled how some of his charts were used until quite recently by our Defence Forces. "In his charts and particularly in his naming of our continent on this 1804 map, Flinders has left us a permanent record of his achievement."

The Governor-General praised the enthusiasm and determination of Bill Fairbanks in making the nation aware of this Flinders legacy.

One of Bill's 34 facsimile copies of the 1804 chart now resides in the ANPS office at Macquarie University.

David Blair ANPS Director

French Names in Australia

Overseas visitors are often curious about the many French names on our coastline, especially in Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania.

Between the 16th and 19th centuries, France was not only attempting to expand its trading routes into the Indian and Pacific oceans, but was also eager to find out more about the legendary southern continent, vaguely drawn as *Terra Australis Incognita* on many old maps. In fact, many French expeditions ventured into southern seas, contributing enormously to scientific knowledge about the Indian-Pacific regions, in anthropology, botany, zoology, astronomy, geography and geology.

French interest in the antipodes had begun as early as 1504, when Binot **Paulmier de Gonneville** apparently brought back from southern seas an 'Indian' prince named Essomericq. Because all charts were lost in a shipwreck, Essomericq could not be taken back to his homeland and he is believed to have married into the Gonneville family and stayed in France.

Whatever its location, the mysterious *Terre de Gonneville* lured many generations of French navigators since that time. Jean-Baptiste **Bouvet de Lozier** was sent in 1738 by the French East Indies Company to investigate the commercial potential of the southern seas and discovered Bouvet Island; however he reported that it was too cold a region to be useful to the company.

Louis-Antoine de **Bougainville**, whose name appeared at various locations in the Pacific during his 1766-69 circumnavigation of the world, was the first known Frenchman to come perilously close to the Great Barrier Reef and a reef east of Cooktown bears his name. And while exploring commercial possibilities in the Pacific region, Jean-

Joseph-Antoine Raymond Bruni d'Entrecasteaux

François-Marie de **Surville** drowned off the coast of Peru in 1770.

Jacques-Joseph **Marion Dufresne** was the first Frenchman to visit the south-east of Tasmania during his 1770-72 expedition. Unfortunately he was killed shortly afterwards in June 1772, in north-eastern New Zealand, while repairing his vessels.

Yves-Joseph de **Kerguelen de Trémarec** led another expedition to the southern Indian Ocean in 1771-72 and returned triumphantly to France, claiming discovery of *La France Australe*; in fact he had merely found several southern islands, including the Kerguelen group.

However, Louis-François-Marie **Aleno de Saint-Aloüarn**, Kerguelen's second-in-command, separated from his commander during a storm, did stake a claim for France in Shark Bay (Western Australia), where 226 years later two French coins and a bottle were discovered in 1998.

French names abound along Australia's seaboard. Even in Sydney, settled in 1788 by the British, there is a suburb, a road and a museum named after the Count of **La Pérouse**. He had explored many parts of the northern and southern Pacific Ocean, before sailing into Botany Bay shortly after the arrival of the First Fleet. Despite bitter rivalry between England and France at that time, Governor Phillip allowed the French ships to be repaired and restocked and sent copies of La Pérouse's charts back to Europe. This was fortunate, as both of his vessels were shipwrecked shortly afterwards.

In fact, the disappearance of the La Pérouse Expedition was responsible for the majority of the French names in Australia. In 1791, Joseph-Antoine Raymond **Bruni d'Entrecasteaux** (pictured),was dispatched by the new revolutionary government to search for La Pérouse. Although d'Entrecasteaux found no trace of La Pérouse, that mystery was solved 39 years later by an Irish captain, Peter Dillon, who found traces of wreckage on the reefs of Vanikoro Island, east of the Solomon Islands.

D'Entrecasteaux named several locations along the southern coast of Australia,

including Esperance and the Archipelago of the Recherche, before twice visiting south-eastern Tasmania, in 1792 and 1793. Huon de **Kermadec**, d'Entrecasteaux's second-in-command, is recalled at many locations, as are various crew members and d'Entrecasteaux himself.

However, it was the expedition by Nicolas **Baudin** (pictured) between 1800-04, which was responsible for most of the French names, many of which recall officers of his expedition and famous French scientists and philosophers. Napoleon Bonaparte's family, army officers, or his victories in the battles he waged in Europe also feature. In fact the French names in Australia form a fascinating record of pre- and post-Revolutionary French history and are a rich source of inspiration for Social Studies and French teachers.

Moreover, Baudin and his second-in-command, Emmanuel **Hamelin**, were responsible for thousands of significant scientific discoveries, and for charting vast sections of the Australian coastline. It is only recently that the enormous collection of drawings and specimens they took back is finally being catalogued by the Museum of Natural History, at Le Havre in France.

Louis-Claude de **Freycinet**, a young officer during the Baudin Expedition, led his own expedition between 1817-20, accompanied by his young wife **Rose de Freycinet,** who was secreted on board just before departure, dressed as a sailor. There is a Cape Rose in Shark Bay in her memory; and she became the first of several European women who circumnavigated the world in that period to write of her adventures. During the arduous voyage, which included a shipwreck on the bleak and blustery Falkland Islands, Rose wrote a lively and informative journal. This has recently been translated into English under the title *A Woman of Courage*. It reveals

many fascinating glimpses of the social mores of the places visited, including those of the young colony of Sydney.

Other French captains such as Louis-Isidore **Duperrey,** Hyacinthe de **Bougainville** (the son of Louis-Antoine), Jules **Dumont d'Urville,** Abel **Dupetit-Thouars,** Jean-Baptiste **Cécille** and Cyrille **Laplace** also visited Australia at various times until the

Nicolas Baudin

1840s. It is generally believed that it was because of the constant stream of curious French visitors that the British authorities finally decided to establish a presence on the western side of the continent.

The French still harboured hopes of pursuing Saint-Aloüarn's 1772 territorial claim and had been hatching plans to establish a convict colony in the south-west. Until that time the British Government had not officially claimed the territory west of the 135th degree of eastern longitude, which runs roughly down the middle of South Australia.

However, Major Lockyer's arrival on the *Amity* in December 1826, at the site of present-day Albany, frustrated French plans. The French Nanto-Bordelaise Company later established a settlement on the South Island of New Zealand in 1840 – and the British apparently raised their flag just before the weary colonists sailed into beautiful Akaroa Harbour.

There has been much speculation about why France missed so many opportunities to establish colonies on the western side of the 'new' continent of Australia. The turbulence of post-Revolutionary France and Napoleon's obsessive preoccupation with wars throughout Europe probably made distant ventures seem far too complex. And the various Restoration governments in France between 1814-1830 were too busy restoring peace and stabilising the economy to establish colonies in southern climes.

Nevertheless, France's significant and wide-ranging scientific contributions to Australia are now being recognised and acknowledged, both in this country and in France. And the hundreds of French names on our shores are a fascinating legacy of voyages of two centuries ago.

Noelene Bloomfield

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*Noelene Bloomfield was a Senior Lecturer in French Studies at The University of Western Australia for 34 years and travelled widely in France. She is now a Research Fellow at UWA, recently publishing a bi-lingual CD-ROM entitled **A French Australia? Almost**! Noelene has also produced a video called **French Exploration of the Australian Coast** in both French and English. She can be contacted via* nbloomf@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

The Grampians/Gariwerd and Churchill/Hazelwood North Debates

As part of my Masters research at the University of Ballarat, and under the principal supervision of Dr Ian Clark (Chair, ANPS Victorian State Committee), and the co-supervision of Dr Stephen Legg, I'm undertaking study into the levels of attachment people feel towards names and the causes of placename attachment. To date, most geographers have tended to focus on the levels of attachment people feel towards places, incorporating placenames as symbols of the places. Through my research to date, I believe that the levels of attachment people feel towards places and placenames are separate constructs.

As part of my studies into placename identity and attachment, I'm focusing on the specific phenomena of the Grampians/Gariwerd and the Churchill/Hazelwood North debates in Victoria. The public debates that ensued from the Government's decision to name a new

town in the area of Hazelwood North as Churchill; and the process of recognising Indigenous placenames in the Grampians National Park, testify to the fact that people are attached to placenames.

My research is aimed at understanding all aspects of the placename debates, so that in the future we can all understand the determinants of placename attachment. It is hoped that in 2005 I will be undertaking oral history interviews with people who were involved in the Grampians and Churchill debates. I will keep *Placenames Australia* readers updated on any developments, so look out for articles in future editions.

Laura Kostanski,
Masters by Research student
University of Ballarat, Victoria.

The use of the name Québec in Australia

D erived from the Micmac language word for 'strait' – *gepeg* – the name Québec refers to the point on the St. Lawrence River where explorer Samuel de Champlain (1567-1635) founded the city in 1608. The name also refers to a vast territory of 1 667 441 km², where 7.5 million inhabitants live today.

To date I have also identified fifteen places in Australia which bear the name of the first French city of the Americas. My investigation was supplemented by research undertaken in Australia with local, state and federal government bodies and other groups dedicated to the study of local history (see acknowledgements below).

Australia shares with Québec a past which contributed to the construction of certain common historical realities. Both colonised by Great Britain, each still has tangible evidence, by way of street and placenames, of the heritage which binds them to the Anglo-Saxon geopolitical sphere of influence. Relations between Québec and Australia have been maintained for more than 165 years and are mainly economic in nature.

Quebec Avenue

In the suburb of Clapham, south of Adelaide, there is a *Quebec Avenue*, which was created out of the allotment initiated by the Development Adelaide company in 1927. During a trip around the world, the founder of the company, John David Roche, had visited Canada and his positive impressions influenced him at the time of the creation of

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this neighbourhood, as evidenced by streets with such names as Alberta, Calgary, Frontenac, Ontario, Ottawa, Quebec, Toronto and Vancouver. The company created in 1922 is still in operation and in the hands of the Roche family.

At Corio in Victoria, a small residential and industrial district of

Geelong to the southwest of Melbourne, *Quebec Avenue* exists as part of a toponymic set based on names of North American entities such as Idaho, Michigan, Ontario, Dearborn and Detroit. The previous names of this avenue were *French* and *Granjean*, which explains the choice of *Quebec Avenue* for an artery which serves a residential area, a park and a commercial space.

In New South Wales, a *Quebec Avenue* has existed since at least July 29, 1929 in Killara, a suburb in the north of Sydney. We have not found a compelling justification for this name.

In the Camp Hill suburb of Brisbane we also find a *Quebec Avenue*. The district was established in the 1880s, and the avenue was created at that time. This *Quebec Avenue* is a cul-de-sac bordered by twenty properties.

Quebec Drive

In South Australia, the suburb of Para Hills, northeast of Adelaide, has a *Quebec Drive*. There is no known reason for the choice of this name in 1979, when this tract of land was subdivided to accommodate about thirty new houses. The neighbouring street names do not form part of a precise set of themes. Para Hills was developed in the early 1960s to accommodate English immigrants. Usually city practice has it that street names are chosen by the developers, often according to a topic.

Quebec Road

In Swan, a municipality to the northeast of Perth, a *Quebec Road* first appeared in the suburb of Woodbridge in August 1896. It was so named by Josceline Amherst (1846-1900), an influential political character, who subdivided this area. A descendant of Jeffrey Amherst (1717-1797), Baron of Holmesdale and of Montreal, who was commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America between 1758 and 1764, Josceline Amherst found inspiration in the family history to name arteries of this residential zone. Thus one can also find near *Quebec Road*: *Amherst Road, Archer Road, Chatham Road, Devon Road, Holmesdale Road, Montreal Road, Pitt Street* and *Plymouth Street*.

In the same State, in Tonebridge, a small locality in the county of Manjimup to the southeast of Perth, there is also a *Quebec Road*. This forest road, which skirts an abandoned gravel quarry and goes through a forest of jarrah (*eucalyptus marginata),* is used intermittently. The name, made official in 1974, was chosen by the Western Australia Forests Department, following the suggestion of a former department officer whose radio call sign was *Mike Quebec*, a name derived from the international radio operator's alphabet. Formerly known by the name of *South Road*, this artery was informally named *Quebec Road* between 1964 and 1971.

Since 1928, a *Quebec Road* has existed in the suburb of Ryde in the north of Sydney. This name is part of a thematic set derived from important battles in world history. The street name commemorates the battle which took place in Québec in 1759 and the attack of winter 1775-1776, when the revolutionary troops of the United States tried to conquer the Old City.

Quebec Street

Since 1841, a *Quebec Street* has been part of the historic district of Port Adelaide Enfield, a municipality in the northwest of Adelaide. A few years ago, students at Flinders University carried out archaeological excavations on this street. Their objective was to learn more about the

Aerial view of Old Québec. Photo: Jean-François Bergeron ©2001 Office du tourisme et des congrès de la Communauté urbaine de Québec

activities of the first working-class families who lived during the 19th century in this harbour zone abounding in small wooden cottages. In the west the street is bordered by residences, while at its opposite end the commercial function is dominant, in particular around the pedestrian part of the artery which has the name *Quebec Mall*. Still in Port Adelaide Enfield, there is also a very short *Quebec Street* located in the industrial suburb of Wingfield. Because of a fire which destroyed the oldest files of the municipality, there is no information which would make it possible to identify the dates when these street names became official. However, the name was presumably allotted to commemorate the triumph of the British army at the battle of Québec. In Port Enfield Adelaide, several streets recall major British military successes.

In Goolwa North, near Victor Harbor in South Australia, a *Quebec Street* was created in 1854. In the surrounding area there are streets named according to a set of themes of North American cities, including *Boston Street*, *New Orleans Street*, *New York Road* and *Washington Street*. Goolwa is a resort town, once known as 'the Australian New Orleans'; it benefited a long time from its maritime position as a commercial asset, until the advent in the middle of the 19th century of the first Australian public railway, which linked Goolwa to Victor Harbour.

In Toongabbie, a suburb near Blacktown in the west of Sydney, a *Quebec Street* stands next to streets named after Boston, Buffalo, Orleans, Valencia, Valparaiso, Vancouver and Ottawa. Moreover, the street is next to *Valencia Park*. In all likelihood, this suggests an effort to commemorate major cities of the Americas. This street name was adopted officially in September 1970.

In Cunjurong Point, a locality in the municipality of Shoalhaven, 215 kilometres south of Sydney, a *Quebec Street* was established in 1973 on Crown land released for residential use. The name is part of a thematic set centered around North American cities and territories: one also finds nearby streets named after Alaska, Alberta, Calgary and Ottawa. A score of properties are located on this street.

Quebec Reserve

Created on July 27, 1984, *Quebec Reserve* is a small urban park at the southern end of Lane Cove National Park near Sydney. Its name is inspired by the nearby *Quebec Road* mentioned earlier.

Quebec Parish

In Queensland, there is a civil parish named *Quebec*. This semiarid territory is located in Diamantina Shire Council, near the border of Queensland and South Australia. The origin of its name is unknown.

From the fifteen locations studied, it is possible to conclude that the name Quebec often forms part of a thematic set of names referring to Canadian or North American cities, or commemorating British military victories around the world.

Although one can find in Québec street names celebrating Australian cities, such as *rue Brisbane* (Brisbane Street) in Hudson, a municipality

on the south shore of Montréal, Australia is not commemorated by a geographical name. But fortunately Québec has a *Lac du Koala* (Koala Lake) and four *Lac (du) Kangourou* (Kangaroo Lake)!

Richard Leclerc, Ph.D., Independent Researcher (Sillery, Québec)

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The Dangers of Taking Placenames at Face Value. Some Examples from Tasmania

There are many placenames in Australia that can easily be misinterpreted, and it is dangerous to assume the meaning behind any placename without researching its history. In this article Wayne Smith gives some salutary and amusing examples from Tasmania.

NAMES WITH DOUBLE MEANINGS

Skull Rock at Binalong Bay was named after the skeleton of a whale that once lay nearby. It would be easy to assume that the rock was shaped like a human skull.

In 1798 Flinders saw a prominent rocky outcrop at present day Stanley on the north-west coast and he called it Circular Head as he thought that it resembled a round Christmas pudding from his vantage point at sea. However, the outcrop is locally known as The Nut (as it resembles the shape of a walnut when viewed from the nearby beach).

Grey Mountain was named after the British Prime Minister Earl Grey and not from its colour. Similarly Brown Mountain was named after a member of a surveying party. Hill Street at Geeveston runs up a hill but it was named after local landowner Richard Hill.

Blackmans Bay south of Hobart was named after a James Blackman who occupied land here in the 1820s whilst Blackman Bay near Dunalley was so named by Tasman in 1642 because of the presence of Aboriginal people.

A distant shot of the reclining Sleeping Beauty — Photo Wayne Smith

Masons Cove at Port Arthur was named after stone masons and not a man named Mason.

Buffalos Beach on Flinders Island was named after the nickname of resident Fred 'Buffalo' Holt whilst Buffalo Plains on Ben Lomond were named after a breed of Indian cattle imported by John Batman (later a co-founder of Melbourne).

Giddy Avenue in New Norfolk was named after a man called Giddy rather than being placed in an area of giddy height. Battery Bay on Flinders Island was named after the presence of rounded water-worn pyrites rocks coated with iron that resemble cannon balls.

Piping Lane near Devonport was named after a Tasmanian racehorse that won the Hobart Cup and the Melbourne Cup in 1972 and does not signify the lane is built over a pipe track. Similarly, Beer Street was named after a horse that won the Melbourne Cup. The street unfortunately does not lead one to a brewery.

MOUNTAINOUS CONFUSION

Mountain ranges create a different kind of uncertainty when peaks are given two or more names when viewed from different perspectives. A good example of this is part of the Wellington Range that is known as Sleeping Beauty (range) when viewed from the Huon Valley (i.e. south side) as several peaks of the range combine to resemble the profile of a woman lying on her back. The 'face' of this unique mountain clearly shows hair, eyes, nose, lips, chin and neck of a person and it was once thought bear a striking resemblance to the face of Queen Victoria. This is probably the reason why the nearby town of Ranelagh was originally called Victoria c.1840.

The same mountain range when seen from the Derwent Valley side does not have a collective range name but the various peaks are called Collins Bonnet (the face), Trestle Mountain (the breast), and Mount Marian, Mount Charles and Mount Patrick as part of the woman's torso. This obviously confuses interstate visitors as they are uncertain whether they have climbed Collins Bonnet or the 'face' of Sleeping Beauty, or Trestle Mountain or the breast of Sleeping Beauty. I am not sure that many women would be flattered if they were told that their breast resembled a trestle!

Even historians have misquoted the true origins of placenames. For example Mount Nelson in Hobart was named by Governor Macquarie in 1811 after the recently deceased British war hero Horatio Nelson, but a plaque on the summit incorrectly asserts that it was named after the ship Lady Nelson.

Similarly the two-humped Mount Dromedary near New Norfolk is often quoted as being named by Macquarie in 1811 after the SS Dromedary on which he sailed to New South Wales. However, the name of the mountain is obviously descriptive of its shape and was referred to in the Reverend Knopwood's journal of 12 April, 1806, four years before Macquarie arrived in Australia. Therefore, the naming of the mountain had nothing to do with Macquarie or his ship.

The distinctive silhouette of Sleeping Beauty's 'face' — Photo Wayne Smith.

The Hobart suburb of Mount Stuart was named after Mount Stuart Road that led to the suburb. The road itself was named in 1837 by Surveyor General George Frankland after a friend with a peculiar name – Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone (1779-1859), one-time Governor of Bombay. However, some archival records erroneously suggest that the road was named after the barque Mountstuart Elphinstone (611 tons), that first visited Hobart on 17 May,1845, nine years after the road was named.

CRISIS IN IDENTITY

Many places in Tasmania have an identity crisis – none more so than Mount Wellington, the prominent mountain that dominates Hobart. Even before European settlement, the mountain had several Indigenous names given by the various language groups that could see it. Some of these names have been recorded as Pooranattere, Unghanyahletta, Go.nun.ye, Bur.nang.ye and Gur.nang.ye. Following the arrival of Europeans the mountain was given many different names, including Flat Mountain (Bligh 1788), Table Hill (Bligh 1792), Montagne du Plateau (d'Entrecasteaux 1793), Skiddaw (Hayes 1793), Table Mountain (Bass and Flinders 1798), Platform Mountain (Peron 1802), Table Mountain again (Governor Collins 1804), and Mount Collins (Captain Rhodes 14 November, 1804). It eventually received its present appellation of Mount Wellington by 1824. The mountain honours the Duke of Wellington, a British war hero and prominent politician. There have been several attempts to give the mountain an official name of Indigenous origin in preference to retaining the European name. However, to date it has been difficult to decide which of the several recorded names should be chosen.

The Hobart suburb of Lindisfarne also endured an identity crisis in its early years. It was first known as Hobermans Bay or Oglemans Bay (both apparently named after the same person). The area was later named Prices Bay (after an early resident John Price) and became Lindisferne in the 1840s (after Lindisferne House, where Price lived). A major housing development occurred in 1892 and the developers named their subdivision Beltana. However, this name was often con-fused with nearby Bellerive so the suburb was renamed Lindisfarne in 1903 (the incorrect earlier spelling of Lindisferne being abandoned). The suburb is named after Lindisfarne Island (or Holy Island), in Northumberland, England, which is a sacred isle located close to Berwick-on-Tweed.

Another striking example of confused identity is the most southern settlement in Tasmania on the shores of Recherche Bay, Cockle Creek. It was originally called Ramsgate in the 1830s and this name remained on maps until just recently despite the fact that the general area was known generically as Recherche Bay even though it included the now tiny or abandoned timber towns of Lune River, Moss Glen, Leprena, and Catamaran. When the timber industry declined in the early 1900s the area became a remote fishing port. As the population declined, the majority of houses and shacks disappeared and now it is difficult for visitors to know where one town starts and another starts. A few shacks are dotted around the bay, the main collection being at Cockle Creek marking the entry point for the spectacular South Coast Track. Although these abandoned townships still remain on current maps the area is now usually referred to as Cockle Creek or Recherche Bay.

CONFUSING MISNOMERS

Badger Head on the north coast was not named after the wombats that were commonly called 'badgers' by early settlers. It was named after Charlotte Badger, an escaped convict. Perhaps they found her here?

Asbestos Range nearby was named by Flinders in 1798 for its whitish colour. However, this was a misnomer as there are no traces of asbestos there. Because of the bad reputation of asbestos as regards health, the name of the Asbestos National Park here has recently been changed to Narawntapu (pronounced Nah-rown-tah-poo). This word is purportedly the Indigenous name for nearby Badger Head. However, a thorough search of early Aboriginal dictionaries reveals no trace of this word. According to other sources the native name for this area is Panatana. Was this national park incorrectly renamed?

Auk Point near Port Arthur was named after an extinct bird resembling a penguin, although the reason for this is not known.

The name of the tiny hamlet of Ballroom is an altered form of the earlier name The Bull-run.

Westringa Road at Fern Tree, a mountain suburb of Hobart, was originally named after the wildflower Westringia. As the local council misspelled the signpost as Westringa, the incorrect name prevailed. Now people ask where Ringa is, thinking that the name means 'West Ringa'.

A local wag erected a street sign titled Rue de Remarks ('rude remarks' when pronounced quickly) in the Hobart suburb Lindisfarne. This amusing sign was quickly dismantled by the local council.

ANPS Research Friend

Long ago and far away from my present home in Rockhampton, Queensland, I completed my primary education at a small one-teacher school at Drik Drik on the Glenelg River in south-western Victoria. There we were incorrectly taught that the Aboriginal people were a dying race, but also told that Drik Drik was a local Indigenous name meaning 'much stone'.[1] Drik Drik comprised only three buildings – two churches and the school, all built from local stone. There were also in the surrounding district about half a dozen farm houses built from the same local limestone or 'bluestone'. From that time to the present, I have been interested in Aboriginal placenames.

Lorna McDonald

Much later I lived in a New South Wales township called Bribbaree, brought into existence by the arrival of the railway in (I think) the 1920s. Bribbaree was central to other small centres also bearing much older Aboriginal placenames. These were given in the early days of pastoral settlement on the south-west slopes: Bimbi, Quandialla, Caragabal, Morangarel, Tubbul and Thuddungra. My husband, a clergyman, held services in all these places, but when I asked their meanings, nobody could tell me. It was not until we moved to Bourke that I had the opportunity to meet Aboriginal people and learn about their cultures, including the fish traps at Brewarrinna and the cave paintings at Gundabooka.

Much later again, after almost twelve years in Sydney, we made our

home in Rockhampton. My first post-graduate work (University of Queensland) involved the history of early land settlement in central Queensland. On being commissioned by Rockhampton City Council to research and write the history of the city and district, I determined that I would begin with the Indigenous people and include a chapter on frontier warfare. On seeking guidelines from the Department of Anthropology my mentor wrote, "Thank goodness, at last, a history that does not begin with Captain Cook".

During research I discovered more Aboriginal placenames in central Queensland. Although aware that these were European interpretations of Indigenous words, I hoped that when time permitted I could research them more fully. Sixteen books later (1981 – 2003) it was time to volunteer as an ANPS Research Friend, collecting evidence from various early sources, so that it can undergo linguistic analysis and be interpreted by local Aboriginal communities.

And so from the naming of Drik Drik and its stone in Victoria, to central Queensland nam̄es such as Dululu, my childhood interest ĩn names truly belonging to this land has never abated – just been deflected by raising a family, working for a PhD in history, then researching and writing history and biography for publication. I enjoy research into Aboriginal placenames but still have much to learn.

Lorna McDonald, OAM, BA, PhD (UQ 1986),
Hon. D. Litt (CQU 2000)

[1] *Terrick Terrick near Pyramid Hill gets its name from Wembawemba/ Perepaperepa* **terik** *'gravel'; Drik Drik 'limestome' in far south-west Victoria, just north of the Lower Glenelg National Park, is probably a cognate word.* Luise Hercus. Is it Really a Placename? In L. Hercus, F. Hodges and J. Simpson, eds, *The Land is a Map: placenames of Indigenous origin in Australia*, p69. Canberra: Pandanus Books in association with Pacific Linguistics, 2002. (Ed).

On the WEB

http://southseas.nla.gov.au

South Seas is an online information resource for the history of European voyaging and cross-cultural encounters in the Pacific between 1760 and 1800. It offers the full text of the holograph manuscript of James Cook's Endeavour Journal held by the National Library of Australia, together with the full texts of the journals kept by Joseph Banks and Sydney Parkinson on the voyage; the text of all three volumes of John Hawkesworth's *Account of the Voyages undertaken...in the Southern Hemisphere...*(1773); explanatory commentaries, short articles and reflective essays in the South Companion; and the complete text of the 1780 edition of William Falconer's *Dictionary of the Marine*.

South Seas has also been designed to facilitate discovery of historical images and rare maps relating to eighteenth-century voyaging in Australian and Pacific seas held by the National Library of Australia's collections. This first phase of South Seas also contains online editions of several important works illustrative of Indigenous Pacific cultures before and during the years between 1760 and 1800. In later phases of South Seas the site will build upon research over the past decade that has sought to redress the failure of earlier scholarship to appreciate the true extent to which Indigenous agency shaped European perceptions of the peoples of Oceania.

MEMBERS OF THE ANPS NSW/ACT STATE COMMITTEE --

David Blair, Flavia Hodges and Susan Poetsch from Macquarie University; Greg Windsor from the NSW Geographical Names Board; and Jaky Troy and Michael Walsh from the NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre -- have continued the program of placenames workshops with Aboriginal communities. We rounded off the 2004 series with two events in the Sydney region, visiting Blackheath on 9 November and Nowra on 16-17 November. *Pictured from the Nowra workshop are one of the local organisers Ashley Reid and language teacher Sally Leslie.*

National and State Parks

All the clues reveal the name of a National/State Park (disregard spelling),

e.g. (NSW) Not as hot; *colloquially* – wonderful, great … Coolah Tops

1. (Qld) Cut glass; a harsh, squeaking sound

2. (Qld) Mouth of a volcano; large inland sheets of water

3. (Qld) Departed

4. (Qld) Hades; final venue of a golf ball; to eat greedily

5. (WA) Front piece of a cap; the heir to the UK throne

6. (WA) Major airport (and river) in Ireland

7. (WA) Short, sleeveless cloak; barren and parched

8. (WA) Get on a horse; the first Roman emperor

9. (NSW) Hairless; 1950s/60s pop music

10. (NSW) The last drink before bedtime

11. (NSW) A fellow; pronged cutlery; watercourse

12. (NSW) Houses the bishop's throne; big stone

13. (NSW) Male monarchs; aircraft

14. (NSW) Spoil taken from an enemy in war; and another lot

15. (Vic) Relating to any lofty mountain

16. (Vic) Sir Winston (1874-1965)

17. (Vic) He may have been great, but couldn't bake

18. (Vic) The chair of the head of those circular table nobles

19. (SA) Little Polly's large ovens

20. (SA) Type of ham; chains of mountains

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Answers: 1. Crystal Creek 2. Crater Lakes 3. Goneaway 4. Hell Hole Gorge 5. Peak Charles 6. Shannon 7. Cape Arid 8. Mount Augustus 9. Bald Rock 10. Nightcap 11. Guy Fawkes River 12. Cathedral Rock 13. Kings Plains 14. Booti Booti 15. Alpine 16. Churchill 17. Alfred 18. Arthurs Seat 19. Flinders Ranges 20. Gammon Ranges

Contributions

Contributions for *Placenames Australia* are welcome. Closing dates for submissions are:

31 January for the March issue	31 July for the September issue
30 April for the June issue	31 October for the December issue.

Please send all contributions to the Editor, Susan Poetsch, at the address below. Electronic submissions are preferred, and photographic or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.

Mailing List and Volunteer Research

If you'd like to receive the ANPS newsletter and/or receive information about how to become a Research Friend of the ANPS, please complete the form below and send by post or fax; or email the details to:

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