Could *Bessia* turn into *Jessie?*

If you visit Melville Island you may find a stream which your map labels the *Jessie River*. And if you then turn to the Northern Territory Place Names Register for an explanation of its name and its history, this is what you'll discover:

> The Master of the 'waijer' under the command of Martin Van Delft in May 1705 visited a wide river, but of salt [sic] and was recorded as the Bessia River. Subsequent cartographic editions of the Melville Island map sheet show the above river as the 'Jessie River'.
>
> http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/placenames/view.jsp?id=13886

What does the second sentence mean? That 'Jessie' is derived from 'Bessia'? Or that 'Jessie' has no connection to 'Bessia' but just happens to be a bit similar?

I am not at all convinced by the first possibility, for several reasons. Firstly, I find it difficult to acknowledge that 'Jessie' [ˈdʒɛsi] bears enough phonetic or phonological resemblance to 'Bessia' [ˈbɛsiə]. They are simply too dissimilar. Quite apart from the different initial consonants, the early form is a three-syllable word and the later has only two syllables. Such a reduction is not very common, even if we concede that words do become garbled when converted from one language to another. Of course you could well argue that the spelling or handwriting of *Bessia* could have been misread or misinterpreted as *Jessie*, because there are numerous cases of such name confusions (e.g. *Dinnings Land < Duyning land < Duynig-Duynigh land*. See Tent, 2016; 2017).

Google Maps, ©2024

But there is a good reason why this is highly unlikely.

The reason is simply that the 'Bessia' name does not occur on any known map, but is only mentioned in an obscure report written shortly after the voyage, and subsequently only mentioned in three 19th century references that discuss the expedition (*viz*. van Dijk, 1859; Major, 2010 [1859]; and Leupe, 1868—two of which are in Dutch)[1]. The route by which a later garbled version may have been produced is therefore hard to imagine.

So if 'Jessie' is not a later distorted version of 'Bessia', where did each independent form come from?

From the Editor

There's a strong sense of international connections for our placenames in this issue, I feel. Jan Tent's lead article leans heavily on his Dutch language expertise, and his article (page 8) on Mia Mia takes us across the Tasman to New Zealand. And who knew that, toponymically speaking, New Zealand almost became a New Ireland (page 5)?

As well as a list of 'Greats' in Queensland (Feedback, below), Michele Lang has collected a number of hypocoristic names from that State: you'll find that article on page 11.

Finally, a new regular feature starts in this issue. Our peripatetic colleague Joshua Nash makes notes from his wanderings, under the title of *Toponymist on the Loose*—see page 7.

David Blair
<editor@anps.org.au>

Feedback

More on those 'double names'

We'd remarked previously that one-syllable 'double names' (such as *Curl Curl*) never got shortened, but those with two-syllable names (*Wagga Wagga*, for instance) often did. **Greg Ryan** (Albury Historical) notes that *Colac Colac* does it differently: 'locals refer to it as Clack Clack, so it has been reduced to two syllables across two words'. Greg also returned to the topic of hypocoristic names, and confessed that he'd forgotten to tell us that Lavington, his home base, is known as 'Lavi'.

'Great' names

We reported that our Database has over 200 examples of Australian placenames beginning with 'Great'. Our Queensland researcher **Michele Lang** has supplied a list of 19 'Greats' from her home State (thereby confirming its Texas-like quality, in our view). Strangely, Michele says, the Great Artesian Basin doesn't appear in the Queensland register, even though it covers 22% of Australia's land base, with over 2/3 of it in Queensland. We can confirm that it's not listed anywhere as a formal toponym, not even in the Composite Gazetteer of Australia; strange, considering that the relevant government departments treat the feature as theirs and use the toponym as if it's a formal name.

Burnt Yards

Our September article on Burnt Yards (NSW) called up memories from several of our readers. **Chris Woods** (West Hobart) had relatives there; and **Gabrielle Wheeler** (Charleville Historical) stayed there 'as a pre-teen kid ... in an old house with a ceiling that collapsed under the weight of brawling possums'. Gabrielle's email, as it happened, raised the question of how Charleville (QLD) got its name—we'll turn to that matter in our next issue, perhaps—and our correspondence mentioned river crossings over the Warrego River. Such features are historically important, we realised; unfortunately we also realised that, after a recent revision of our feature catalogue, *crossings/fords* were no longer a recognised ANPS feature type. A quick revisit to said catalogue has restored this very useful feature code!

Puzzle answers - (from page 12)

1. Cook
2. Captains Flat
3. Doctors Point
4. Tailor Bay
5. Whalers Cove
6. Soldiers Point
7. Surgeons Lookout
8. Sergeants Creek
9. Butchers Hills
10. Mason Cove
11. Mount Carpenter
12. Gardners Bay
13. Sawyers Valley
14. Tinkers Lookout
15. Bakers Beach
16. Deacon Creek
17. Coopers Plains
18. Farmers Point
19. Draper Patch
20. Millers Point

...Could *Bessia* turn into *Jessie?*

Bessia

The name *Bessia* derives from the 1705 voyage of exploration undertaken by Maerten van Delft under the auspices of the *VOC* (*Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie* 'United Dutch East India Company'). Van Delft and his three ships (the *Vossenbosch*, the *Waijer*, and the *Nova Hollandia*) spent about three months surveying the north coasts of Bathurst and Melville Islands, the Cobourg Peninsula, and the west coast of Croker Island. The expedition was plagued with bad weather, lack of adequate provisions and sickness. Van Delft was forced to turn back to Batavia at Croker Island, he himself dying on the return journey.[2]

Unfortunately, van Delft's journal is no longer extant, nor are those kept by the skippers of the other vessels. However, a transcript of a report given to two Councillors of the *VOC* (Swaardecroon and Chastelijn) by the survivors of the expedition still exists. It is from this account that we have some detail of the expedition and its findings. In 1868, an anonymous manuscript chart (dated 1705) of the expedition was discovered in the National Archives in The Hague (Anon, 1705). It is, most likely, the original chart made on the voyage. It is very detailed in its outlines of the coastlines explored and provides detailed coastal depth soundings. It also records 41 names (excluding 10 topographic descriptors) bestowed on various islands, headlands and bays, etc. The report to the *VOC* lists 18 toponyms bestowed on the voyage, 10 of which do not appear on the 1705 manuscript chart. Hence, a total of 51 toponyms were bestowed. There were eight instances where a geographic feature was given two distinct names—either in the report or on the chart.

It is not surprising that none of van Delft's toponyms have survived, given his chart was not discovered until 163 years later. By then, Flinders and P. P. King had surveyed those coastlines and had left their own toponymic signatures on most of the prominent geographic features. Their toponyms are thus found on maps of today. It is true the *VOC* report was available during this period, but without reference to an accompanying chart, it is virtually impossible to assign any precise location to any of the report's toponyms.

One of the names appearing in the *VOC* report is that of *Bessia*-rivier. The report describes it as the river leading inland from *Tijgers*-[hoek] and Wolven-hoek (*Fortuyns Hoek* and *Schrale Hoek* respectively on the 1705 chart), and was so named by the skipper of the chaloupe *Waijer*, Andries Rooseboom. The river is unnamed on the 1705 chart (see Figure 1). The report states:

> De tweede inbocht na *Roosebooms*-baij […], vertoont zich als een wijde rivier, doch zout; en wijl daarin niets van opmerking is ontmoet, zal men daarvan alleen het journaal van den Schipper op 12 Maij laten spreken, sijnde in dat van den Gezaghebber op de chialoup Waijer bekent met de naam van *Bessia*-rivier […] (Swaardecroon & Chastelijn, 1856 [1705], p. 199).
>
> ('The second bay after *Roosebooms Bay* […], presents itself as a wide river, though salty; and since nothing of importance was met there, only the Skipper's journal entry of 12 May will convey, being in the journal of the Master of the chaloupe Waijer, that it is known by the name of *Bessia River* […]'

Figure 1. *Section of* Kaart van Hollandia-Nova, nader ontdeckt, Anno 1705. *(Anon. 1705) showing the unnamed* Bessia-*rivier.*

The meaning or origin of Rooseboom's so-called *Bessia*-rivier is unknown, but is possibly an eponymous toponym—perhaps after a crew member. I suggest this because just over one-third of the expedition's 51 toponyms are eponymous, many of which are indeed named after crew members. And *Bessia* is a Dutch family name which, although not common, can easily be found in historical records.

...Could *Bessia* turn into *Jessie?*

Jessie

If *Jessie River* appeared independently at a much later date, how did that come about? By all accounts it stems from the early 1900s, bestowed by the Cooper brothers, Robert Joel (Joe) (Figure 2) and George Henry (Harry), timber getters and buffalo hunters on the Cobourg Peninsula and Melville Island during the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

Figure 2. Robert Joel (Joe) Cooper in 1912. (Source: NLA PIC/7459/131 LOC Album 1017. http://nla.gov.au/nla. obj-146760801/view)

The German anatomist and evolutionist Prof. Hermann Klaatsch (1907, p.12) was probably the first person to record the connection between the brothers and the name:[3]

> After sailing all night the cutter arrived about midday on Sunday at Lethbridge Bay, at the mouth of an uncharted river, which has been named by the Coopers the Jessie River (27).
>
> (27) Government report, 1905, p. 22.— "… Although there appears to be an abundance of fresh water on both islands, no rivers were observed to open out on either the north, south, or west coasts." But on the map a "Johnston River" is marked opening in Brenton Bay. We did not proceed so far eastwards, and the Johnston River is not identical with the Jessie River, the origin of which is in the very centre of the island. This river, geographically undescribed, ought to be termed by a definite name, for which I would suggest that of Cooper River.

The appendix of Klaatsch's report also contains a manuscript chart showing the track of his visit to Bathurst and Melville Islands, and shows the Jessie River (Figure 3, circled in yellow). This is in all likelihood the first map depicting the river with this name. Unfortunately, I have not been able to discover the motivation for the name *Jessie*. As we have said, it is hardly conceivable that the Cooper brothers had ever heard of *Bessia*, or had read Major, let alone had misinterpreted *Bessia* as *Jessie*.

Ambiguity resolved; mystery partially solved.

Jan Tent

Endnotes

[1] Although Leupe reviews both the 1705 chart and the Swaardecroon and Chastelijn report and the toponyms bestowed, he never mentions Bessia-rivier.

[2] For a full account of the 1705 van Delft expedition and the toponyms bestowed, see Tent, 2019.

[3] However, the *Northern Territory Times and Gazette*, Friday 5 October 1906, p. 2, contains a report on Klaatsch's visit to Melville Island and also mentions the Coopers' naming of the river. 2019. *https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/4343868?searchTerm=Klaatsch &searchLimits=l-australian=y|||l-availability=y|||sortby=dateAsc*

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Anon. (1705). *Kaart van Hollandia-Nova, nader ontdeckt, Anno 1705, door het fluitschip Vossenbosch, de chaloup Wajer en de Phantialling Nova-Hollandia, den 2 Maart van Timor vertrocken.* Kaartcollectie Buitenland Leupe. The Hague: Nationaal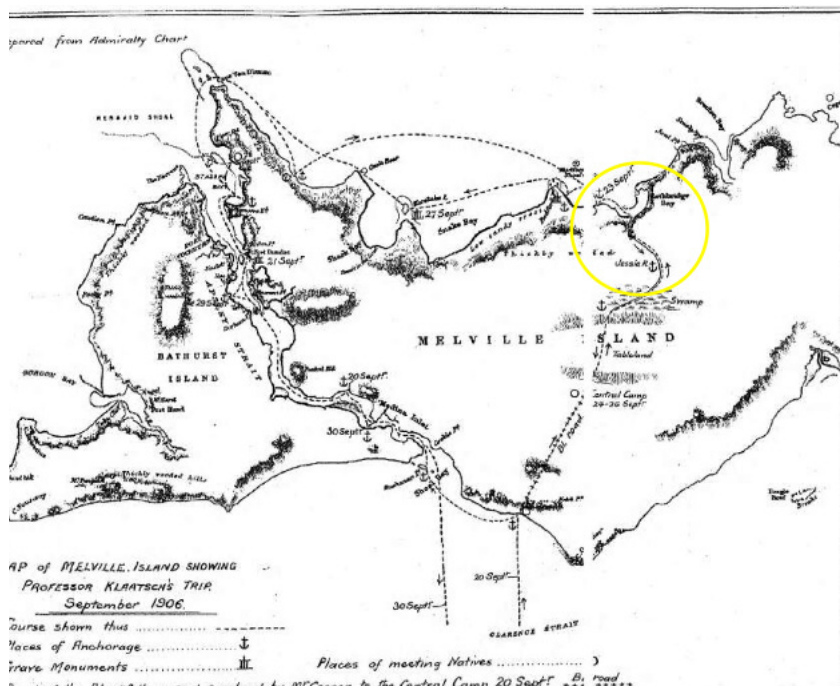 Archief, MS Kaart No. 500. Manuscript Groot 1.00-0.73 EL. *http://proxy.handle.net/10648/af997cf0-d0b4-102d-bcf8-003048976d84*

Figure 3. Section of Plate XVIII showing Jessie River, circled. (Klaatsch, 1907, p. 34)

A Hibernian New Zealand?

The Heritage New Zealand / Pouhere Taonga monthly newsletter, *Heritage this Month* (October 2024), contains an article by John O'Hare on why an 1841 map of New Zealand is reminiscent of a map of Ireland.

The map represents a brief period of the country's history when the North Island, South Island and Stewart Island had alternative Irish names, viz. *New Ulster*, *New Munster* and *New Leinster* respectively. It was published by SPCK [Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge] – the oldest Anglican mission organisation in the world, established in 1698.

And whose idea was it to superimpose the names of three Irish provinces onto the map of New Zealand? It was none other than William Hobson, the first Governor of NZ and author of the Treaty of Waitangi. Heritage New Zealand Collections Advisor, Belinda Maingay, explains:

> After the signing of Te Tiriti [Treaty of Waitangi] in 1840, New Zealand was separated from the colony of New South Wales the following year and established as a colony in its own right. The Royal Charter of 1840 stated that the Northern, Middle and Stewart's Island 'shall henceforward be designated and known respectively as New Ulster, New Munster and New Leinster.' […] New Ulster was reduced in size to the area north of Taranaki, while New Munster expanded to include the bottom half of the North Island as well as its original South Island territory. It never really made sense, and after just six years the names were ditched in favour of the North Island, the Middle Island and Stewart Island. In 1907, however, the Middle Island was officially renamed South Island at the command of the then Minister for Lands who declared that the 'South Island will be adhered to in all cases' – and that was that.

Jan Tent

...References (continued)

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Joe Rocks Road...

In our previous issue the Editor asked, 'Who was Joe Rocks?' The question arose because of the existence of a road by this name, *Joe Rocks Road*, at the top of the Lake George escarpment near Bungendore and Wamboin, NSW.

We had an intriguing response from Julian Woods, who reported that his father had taught at Hornsby (NSW) with a friend who, he was sure, was called 'Joe Rocks'. Thanks, Julian; but it still does leave us with the question 'Who was the Joe Rocks that apparently had such influence down Bungendore way?' When the people who live on properties along Joe Rocks Road or in the area were asked if they knew, not one of them could suggest an answer.

I live in the vicinity of Joe Rocks Road (hereafter JRR, as it is known locally), and I've explored this tantalising toponym. Spoiler: the 'Joe Rocks' name for the area long preceded the construction of JRR by the landowner, Bill Ryan, in 1982. The road's name was not gazetted until 1998.[1]

Joe Rocks Paddock and Joe Rocks Paddock South

JRR is on land that was part of the locally-famous pastoral property 'Turalla Estate', established in the mid-1820s by the prominent Sydney ships' master and businessman, Captain Richard Brooks (1765?-1833).[2] The land that eventually included JRR passed through various hands until it was sub-divided and auctioned at the Federal Hall (now the War Memorial Hall), Bungendore, on 29 October 1938.[3] Lot 6 was South Joe Rocks Paddock '… of about 160 acres. Fenced on 3 sides. Watered by creeks.' Lot 7 was Joe Rocks Paddock '… of about 450 acres. Netted with the exception of small length. Watered by creeks. Lightly timbered.' Both paddocks were purchased by Curtis Taylor, the manager of 'Turalla', for £4/10/0 per acre. A map showing the boundaries of the paddocks is at the National Library of Australia,[4] and can be accessed here.

But that does not help us in identifying the etymology of 'Joe Rocks'.

Rhyming slang?

One local speculation is that 'Joe Rocks' is rhyming slang for 'fox', a typical denizen of the area, but I have been unable to locate this usage in reference sources. However,

Joe Rocks Road, near Bungendore and Wamboin in the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA (photo: the author)

we do know that 'Joe Rocks' was World War I rhyming slang for 'socks'.[5]

Racehorses, boxers and an entertainer?

In 20th century Australia there were racehorses[6] and boxers[7] with this name. But the most well-known bearer of the name was probably the Australian vaudeville entertainer Joe Williams, whose stage name was *Joe Rocks*. He had a long career, travelling widely in the eastern states of the nation, both city and country, from the first decade of the 1900s to the 1950s.[8]

It is possible, then, that Bill Ryan named his new road after foxes, socks, racehorses, prize fighters, or an entertainer! Possible, certainly; but unlikely, perhaps?

In conclusion …

We can safely say that Bill Ryan, who had Joe Rocks Road constructed in the early 1980s, named the road after the former Joe Rocks Paddocks through which it runs. Joe Rocks was the name of the area as far back as 1938, and probably earlier, possibly as far back as the colonial era.
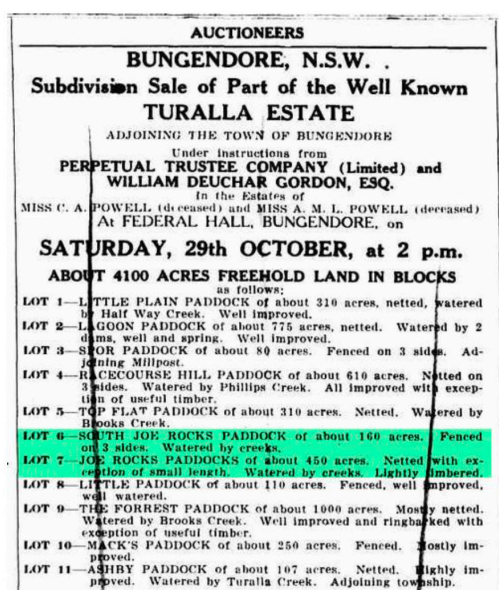
...a tantalising toponym

Who named the paddocks? When they were so named? Why was this name chosen? All these questions remain. Were the owners of the 'Turalla Estate' property responsible? Or perhaps it was one of the pioneering families who selected the land in that area in the 1870s, and who then owned it until it became part of 'Turalla Estate' in the 1890s? If anyone can shed further light on this mystery, please let us know.

David McDonald

email: david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au

Endnotes

[1] Yarrowlumla Council. (1998). 'Naming of public roads', *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, 29 May 1998 (no. 87), p. 4016, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article231967208.

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[4] Donnelly & Co. (1938). Subdivision sale of part of the well known Turalla estate, adjoining the town of Bungendore, National Library of Australia, MAP 1402651, https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/1402651.

[5] 'Tales of the war: trench dictionary no 2', *The Forbes Advocate*, 11 December 1917, p. 1, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article100288368.

[6] For example 'Wallsend winners', *The Newcastle Sun*, 7 September 1923, p. 2. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163183149.

[7] For example 'Stadium matches', *The Sun (Sydney),* 21 October 1917, p. 2. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221407514.

[8] Surf club's bright concert at Sawtell', *Coffs Harbour Advocate*, 10 March 1953, p. 2. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article187936815.

AUCTIONEERS
BUNGENDORE, N.S.W. .
Subdivision Sale of Part of the Well Known
TURALLA ESTATE
ADJOINING THE TOWN OF BUNGENDORE
Under instructions from
PERPETUAL TRUSTEE COMPANY (Limited) and WILLIAM DEUCHAR GORDON, ESQ.
In the Estates of
MISS C. A. POWELL (deceased) and MISS A. M. L. POWELL (deceased)
At FEDERAL HALL, BUNGENDORE, on
SATURDAY, 29th OCTOBER, at 2 p.m.
ABOUT 4100 ACRES FREEHOLD LAND IN BLOCKS
as follows:
LOT 1—LITTLE PLAIN PADDOCK of about 310 acres, netted, watered by Half Way Creek. Well improved.
LOT 2—LAGOON PADDOCK of about 775 acres, netted. Watered by 2 dams, well and spring. Well improved.
LOT 3—SPUR PADDOCK of about 80 acres. Fenced on 3 sides. Adjoining Millpost.
LOT 4—RACECOURSE HILL PADDOCK of about 610 acres. Netted on 3 sides. Watered by Phillips Creek. All improved with exception of useful timber.
LOT 5—TOP FLAT PADDOCK of about 310 acres. Netted by Brooks Creek.
LOT 6—SOUTH JOE ROCKS PADDOCK of about 160 acres. Fenced on 3 sides. Watered by creeks.
LOT 7—JOE ROCKS PADDOCKS of about 450 acres. Netted with exception of small length. Watered by creeks. Lightly timbered.
LOT 8—LITTLE PADDOCK of about 110 acres. Fenced, well improved, well watered.
LOT 9—THE FORREST PADDOCK of about 1000 acres. Mostly netted. Watered by Brooks Creek. Well improved and ringbarked with exception of useful timber.
LOT 10—MACK'S PADDOCK of about 250 acres. Fenced. Mostly improved.
LOT 11—ASHBY PADDOCK of about 107 acres. Netted. Lightly improved. Watered by Turalla Creek. Adjoining township.

see 'Advertising', Endnote 3 above

Toponymist on the loose...

Adelaide, same but different

I have been back in my hometown for five years now, after being toponymically remote for several years. From 2013-2019 I roamed through Tasmania, New South Wales, the South Pacific, Scandinavia and Europe, for work and pleasure, constantly looking up at signs with placenames on them, as well as at road signs and house signs. Once a toponymist, always a toponymist, it seems.

In 2019 I made it to Iceland and the Faroe Islands, locations of profound placename interest in terms of pan-Nordic language and place history. Still, there's nothing like a return to the place which is home. Things (and here I mean *names*) tend easily to float to the surface. You notice things more, especially when you realise how the little things do change over time.

I have often wondered, as I move on foot or on two or four wheels, what structures there used to be in those particular suburbs of Adelaide before the present edifices were built. What were these places called originally? Which names have stuck around?

Wikipedia's 'List of Adelaide obsolete suburb names' and 'List of Adelaide suburbs' provide the placename scholar with a feast of possible and actual excursions into the City of Churches' placename history. *Chicago* is now *Kilburn*, *Crest Alta* is the well-known *Belair* (home to South Australia's first proclaimed national park), and the present *Glenelg North* used to be dubbed *Golflands*, because of the golf course in the area near Adelaide Airport and the Patawalonga River.

Klemzig, the first settlement of German immigrants in Australia, was renamed *Gaza* to echo the anti-German sentiment in World War I. The name *Gaza* commemorated the British victory in the Third Battle of Gaza. The name *Klemzig* was reinstated in 1935. Some have attempted to bring *Gaza* back as a name, especially during World War II, though these attempts have been unsuccessful.

It's a pleasure to have my own little column in *Placenames Australia*. I will endeavour to continue to be your Leyland Brothers-inspired 'toponymist on the loose', always on the lookout for quirky and relevant placenaming peculiarities. Please get in touch should you have anything you want to share or anything I might be able to uncover relevant to toponymy.

Joshua Nash
Some Islands

From *mia-mia*...

This article is somewhat unusual for *Placenames Australia*: it isn't about just a placename. In fact, it illustrates how an Indigenous Australian word can become part of the Australian English lexicon, be copied into New Zealand English, change meaning, be adopted as toponyms, and finally become the name of a vessel. The inspiration for this article comes from an earlier one: research into a toponym very often leads one down all sorts of rabbit holes.

Some time ago, Paul Geraghty and I researched the origin of the Fiji sugar cane plantation (now a Nadi suburb) called Miegunyah (Tent & Geraghty, 2020; Geraghty & Tent, 2021). This led us to investigate the various toponyms in Australia that bear that name form, of which we found 18. It has its origins in the Dharuk (Sydney language) word *gunyah* 'temporary shelter; hut', now an established word in Australian English. We also briefly looked into another Indigenous word of the same meaning, **mia-mia**, and it was that which inspired this present article.

Mia-mia in Australia

Mia-mia or *miamia* is one of the commonly used Indigenous loanwords in Australian English for 'temporary shelter; hut; house'; others include: *wurley* (< Kaurna, SA), and *humpy* (< Yagara, QLD). Its entry in Dixon et al. (2006, 198–199) reads:

> **mia-mia** /ˈmaiə-maiə/, /ˈmiə-miə/, /ˈmai-mai/
> Formerly many spelling variants: **mai-mai**, **miam**, **miam-miam**, **mi-mi**, **myam-myam**, **mya**, and **mya-mya**. [Although the word was much used in Victoria (the earliest Victorian instance is 1838), it appears to have originated as *maya* or *maya-maya* in Nyungar, the language of the Perth-Albany region.[1]

The entry for the term in the *Australian National Dictionary* (Moore, 2016) provides a more specific etymology:

> [From Wathaurong and Woiwurrung miam-miam. Cf. Western Australia MIA, which some have argued (cf. B.J. Blake, *Wathawarrung and the Colac Language of Southern Victoria*, 1998) was brought to Victoria by sealers and whalers.][2]

The term *Miya* 'hut' appears in Whitehurst's *Noongar dictionary* (1997), in *Nyungar place nomenclature of the southwest of Western Australia Nyungar names [...]* (Collard

et al., n.d.) as *Mya, maia, mai* 'hut', and in Moore's *A descriptive vocabulary or the language in common use amongst the Aborigines of Western Australia [...]* (1842) as *mya*. Strong indications are that the Victorian word may well have been borrowed from Nyungar (WA).

Troy (1994) also records various forms of the word being used in NSW Pidgin throughout NSW and Victoria, many noted by J. F. H. Mitchell in his *Aboriginal dictionary (Woradgery tongue.)* (1906). Hercus (1986, 241) records *mai-mai* 'camp' in the Ganai language of Gippsland, and in southern Ngarigu (NSW), where she suggests it is a borrowing from Gippsland (p. 246). Koch (2016, 148) claims the term *mai-mai* 'camp, house' spread after contact with Europeans.

It is not uncommon for Indigenous-derived words to be incorporated in or used as toponyms. For example, there are 130 places with *gunya(h)*; 16 with *humpy* (9 in QLD, 3 in VIC, 2 in WA and one each in SA & NSW); five with *wurley* (all in SA); and 37 with *mia mia*, which are listed in Table 1 on the next page.

Maimai in New Zealand

Various Aboriginal and Māori words and toponyms have criss-crossed the Tasman. One is *mia-mia*; however, it generally takes the form *maimai* /ˈmai-mai/ in New Zealand. Why it should have this form is not clear; presumably, the source was either a copying of the alternative form in Australia (see above), or a direct derivation from the Māori term *maimai*. Williams' *A Dictionary of the Maori Language* (1985) lists it under the entry for **mai**:

> Mai (iv) —
> **Maimai**, n. A dance, or haka, to welcome guests at a **tangi**.
> **Maimai aroha**, (a) *Token or expression of affection.* [...] (b) *Song of affection for the dead.*

The online *Māori Dictionary* has the following entry:

> **1. (noun)** song of affection for the dead, haka to welcome guest to a *tangihanga*.
> *He waiata aroha, he waiata tangi te maimai. He momo haka hoki hei whakatau i te manuhiri ki te tangihanga (RTP 2015:119). / A maimai is a song of affection, a lament. It is also a type of haka to welcome guest to a tangi.*
> (https://maoridictionary.co.nz/word/3373)

...to *maimai*

State	Name	Feature
NSW	Mia Mia (2x)	PRSH
	Mia Mia Creek	STRM
	Mia Mia Lagoon	WTRH
NT	Mia Mia Creek	STRM
QLD	Mia Mia	PRSH
	Mia Mia Range	RNGE
	Mia Mia	LOC
	Mia Mia Crossing	FORD
SA	Mia Mia Yard	YARD
	Mia Mia Dam (3x)	RES
	Mia Mia Waterhole	WTRH
	Mia Mia Plains	HMSD
	Mia Mia	HMSD
	Mia Mia Point	PT
	Mia Mia Crossing	FORD
	My Mia Mia	HMSD
VIC	Mia Mia Creek (7x)	STRM
	Mia Mia Track	TRK
	Mia Mia (2x)	LOC
	Mia Mia Telephone Exchange	BLDG
	Mia Mia Creek North Branch	STRM
	Mia Mia Creek South Branch	STRM
TAS	Mia Mia Bore	BORE
	Mia Mia Well	BORE
	Mia Mia Creek	STRM
	Mia Mia	HMSD
	Mia Mia Pool	WTRH

Table 1. Australian occurrences of *Mia Mia*

However, in New Zealand English, *maimai* is mostly used to refer to a duck shooter's hide (Figure 1).

Figure 1. *A New Zealand duck shooter's maimai.(Mark Purdon, 2015. National Contemporary Art Award 2015: Maimai, Lake Ngaroto, New Zealand. Waikato Museum. http://researcharchive. wintec.ac.nz/3816/)*

Deverson and Kennedy's (2005) entry for the word states:

> **maimai** /ˈmaɪmaɪ/ n. (also formerly **mia-mia**) *NZ* a duck shooter's hide. [ORIGIN: Aust. *mia-mia* a hut or shelter, from Aboriginal *maya-maya*.]

The OED's entry provides some extra information:

> **Maimai**, *n*.
>
> **Origin:** Probably a variant or alteration of another lexical item. **Etymon:** mia-mia *n*.
>
> **Etymology:** Probably < mia-mia *n*., extended directly from Australian English to New Zealand English. Not a Maori word (compare Maori *maimai* a haka to welcome guests), although used of a Maori shelter; nor is Maori related to the Australian languages in which the etymon of mia-mia *n*. occurs.
>
> *New Zealand*
> A makeshift Maori shelter of sticks, grass, etc. Now usually: a duckshooter's hide or stand.
>
> 1863 S. Butler <u>First Year Canterbury Settl.</u> v. 72   The few Maories that inhabit this settlement...always go on foot, and we saw several traces of their encampments—little *mimis*, as they are called—a few light sticks thrown together, and covered with grass, affording a sort of half-and-half shelter for a single individual.

So, *miamia~maimai* appears to have been initially used in NZ English to denote a makeshift Māori shelter before it changed meaning to a duck shooter's hide. It then seems to have been recruited for toponymic use, and then as a vessel's name.

The New Zealand Gazetteer (https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz) lists four toponyms that bear the name form. The first is a hill east of the capital, Wellington. No information is provided for the origin or meaning of that name. The second is a location nor-nor-east of Greymouth on the north-west coast of the South Island. Associated with this location are *Maimai Plain*, and *Maimai Creek*. For the latter, the following purprted origin of the name is provided:

> **History/Origin/Meaning:**
>
> Name submitted by the Westland Chief Surveyor, September 1969, after research in connection with the revision of NZMS1 S78. Office records showed the name Toarona Creek, but AA signage and local usage was for Maimai Creek, the local authority was unsure. Origin and meaning unknown, but presumably a duckshooting area.

Given all these features are in very close proximity, this etymology may be considered to apply to all three toponyms.

Figure 2. (*Source: Evans, M.P. (2013). 'Duck shooting'. Ref: DCDL-0024744.*

It is not uncommon for toponyms to be used as names of vessels, especially naval vessels. This has been a long-standing tradition in many navies. The steam trawler *Maimai* is such a case. It began life at the yard of Stevenson and Cook Ltd, Port Chalmers in 1943, and was built for the Royal New Zealand Navy for mine sweeping duties. In 1946, she was sold to Maimai Trawling Company of Wellington and converted for fishing, and was finally broken up in 1966. Although I have not been able to find any information regarding the origin of its name, however, it is most likely derives from the *Maimai* on the South Island. The *Maimai* was a Castle/Manuka class Mine Sweeper Trawler. A common practice in naming naval ships of a specific class is that they are bestowed with names along a theme. There were 13 Castle/Manuka class MS Trawlers built for the RNZN, all were named after toponyms in the country (see Navypedia).

Toponyms, as we know, can have rather convoluted pedigrees; and that complicated history often means that any conclusions we can draw about their origin are tentative at best.

Jan Tent

Endnote

[1] They also report the term has reached New Zealand, and refers to a duck shooter's hide [1833]. See below.

[2] Although it is plausible the word was introduced into Victoria by sealers and whalers, Blake, Clark & Krishna-Pillay (1998, pp.59–154) do not specifically state the vector. Their entry for 'house/hut' merely provides the Wathawurrung term *karrung*, after which various cognates are listed. After the cognates *mimi* is noted with the comment '[WA word spread via English]', which is referenced to Griffith (1840–1).

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...from *mia-mia* to *maimai*

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Figure 3. *Steam trawler* Maimai, *at the wharf. (Photo:* NZ Maritime Museum *online)*

Hypocoristics from Queensland

You'll recall that in our two previous issues we've been reporting on the use of *hypocoristics*—those shortened forms of words which are often used as informal variants of placenames. **Michele Lang** has sent us a list of almost 50 that are well-known across Queensland. (Michele is sure that there are dozens more, but they are used only locally and not widely known.) We note that in the list is one particular style which has 17 examples: an abbreviated form preceded by 'The'. And yes, some examples are cheeky familiar forms (nicknames) rather than being genuinely hypocoristic—but they're way too good to leave out!

Placename	Nickname	Placename	Nickname
Alexandra Headland	Alex	Great Keppel Island	GKI/Keppel/The Islands
Barcaldine	Barky	Hamilton Island	Hammy/Hammo
Bargara	Buggera	Indooroopilly	Indro
Beaudesert	Beauy	Isisford	The Isis
Biloela	BIlo	Keppel Sands	The Sandhills
Bouldercombe	Bouldy	Lakes Creek	The Creek
Brisbane	Brissy/Brizzy/Brisvegas	Longreach	The Reach
Bundaberg	Bundy	Magnetic Island	Maggie
Capricorn Coast	The Coast	Maroochydore	Maroochy
Central Queensland	CQ	Mt Isa	The Isa
Charon's Ferry	The Ferry	Mt Morgan	The Mount
Charters Towers	The Towers	North Queensland	Hicksville/NQ
Cloncurry	The Curry	Proserpine	Prossy
Darling Downs	The Downs	Redcliffe	Reddy
Emu Park	The Park	Rockhampton	Rocky/Rockvegas
Far North Queensland	FNQ	Stanage Bay	The Bay
Fitzroy Vale	The Vale	Stradbroke Island	Straddie
Fortitude Valley	The Valley	Sunshine Coast	Sunny Coast
Frenchville	Frenchie	Surfers Paradise	Surfers
Gogango	Gogo	Thargominda	Thargo/Tharga
Gold Coast	Glitter Strip/Goldie/Goldy	Woolloongabba	The Gabba
Goondiwindi	Gundy/The Gundy	Yeppoon	Jappoon

We wonder if Queensland is more receptive to hypocoristics and other familiar abbreviations for its placenames... We suspect not, in fact; but statistics will not give us the answer, since the appropriate dataset does not exist. We'd be receptive to the views of our readers from other states and territories on this vital matter, especially if they are accompanied by nice examples (says the Editor).

Placenames Puzzle Number 92

Occupational toponyms *Many toponyms bear the name of an occupation (though not necessarily named for it). The following clues are in the form of:* Feature type / occupational field / location. *For example*: Beach / service / SA, S coast of Yorke Peninsula, in Meteor Bay. Answer: *Butlers Beach*.

1. Suburb / catering / ACT, Canberra
2. Town / maritime / NSW, in Southern Tablelands, S of Queanbeyan
3. Locality / medical / TAS, in Central Highlands, 120 km N of Hamilton
4. Bay / retail & manufacture (cloth) / WA, N of Leeman
5. Bay / maritime (hunter) / TAS, on Riedle Bay, Maria Island
6. Suburb / military / NSW, on the S shore of Port Stephens
7. Peak / medical / QLD, between Townsville and Charters Towers
8. Stream / military / NSW, NW of Barrington Tops
9. Hills / retail (meat) / TAS, S of Richmond, to the N of Hobart
10. Cove / manufacture (stone) / TAS, Port Arthur
11. Mountain / manufacture (timber) / QLD, W of Rockhampton
12. Bay & suburb / service (plant carer) / TAS, Port Cygnet, S of Hobart
13. Suburb / manufacture (lumber) / WA, E of Perth
14. Hill / service (repair) / TAS, on Rocky Cape, N coast
15. Suburb / retail & manufacture (staple food) / TAS, E of Devonport, N coast
16. Stream / ecclesiastical / SW of Burnie, ACT
17. Suburb / manufacture (casks) / QLD, Brisbane
18. Point / agriculture / QLD, on NW coast of Facing Island, Gladstone
19. Shoal / retail & manufacture (cloth) / QLD, in Walker Bay, S of Cooktown
20. Suburb / manufacture (flour) / NSW, between Barangaroo and The Rocks

[Compiled by **Jan Tent**]

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