

Placenames Australia

Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey

an initiative of the Australian Academy of Humanities, supported by the Geographical Names Board of NSW



Norfolk Island Toponymy

The Microcosm of Nepean Island

Norfolk Island, a remote isolated island archipelago and external territory of Australia in the southwest Pacific Ocean 1700 km east of the Australian mainland, provides toponymists and linguists with a laboratory case study in naming, toponymy, and language change and contact. This article looks at the toponyms of Nepean Island, a small uninhabited island 800 metres to the south of Norfolk Island's administrative centre Kingston (Figure 1), and questions whether Nepean is a microcosm of naming behaviour, which is representative of the rest of the Norfolk macrocosm. What makes Norfolk Island interesting for linguists is its diglossic language situation; Norf'k—the language of the descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian counterparts—and English, are both spoken on the island and both are used in place-naming.

Nepean Island is approximately 1 km² and has a large number of toponyms. Its toponyms represent a 'microtoponymic' case study which may be representative to toponymy on the Norfolk Archipelago as a whole. Despite its small size, Nepean is an important element in the Norfolk landscape; its grassy undulating topography is clearly visible from most vantage points on the southern region of the larger Norfolk. The 200 Norfolk Island pines that used to cover Nepean were cleared long before the Pitcairners arrived in 1856, and the physical makeup of the island bears scars from the first two penal settlements, particularly the Second Settlement (1825-1855) when sandstone quarrying resulted in the well-known area and placename, *The Convict Steps* (or *Em Steps* in Norf'k) on the eastern side of the island. Nepean has a large population of sea birds, and the Norfolk community uses the island for other activities like fishing, camping, and collecting whale bird eggs. Aside from research into the natural history of Nepean (see references to Nepean Island in Endersby 2003), management plans for the inclusion of Nepean as a public reserve (Norfolk Island Parks & Forestry Service 2003), a small sketchy map in Coleman (1991: 4), and a few comments on Nepean toponyms in a rambler's guide to Norfolk (Hoare 1994), there has

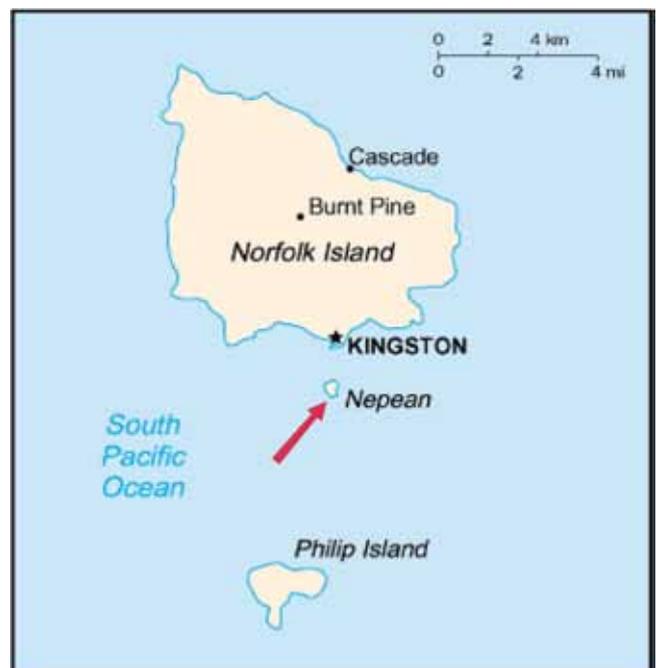


Figure 1: Norfolk Island Archipelago

never been a comprehensive toponymic survey of this small, uninhabited island.

Nepean was named after Evan Nepean, the Undersecretary for the Home Office, shortly after the beginning of the First Settlement period on Norfolk (1788-1814). Nepean is not a volcanic island like the other islands in the Norfolk Archipelago but was formed around 12,000 years ago from windblown sand dunes (Green 1973). Due to its tidal patterns and the east-west rip on the northern part of the island, Nepean is a difficult place to access and apart from occasional natural history research (tracking of masked boobies, gathering of whale bird eggs and fishing), the island is rarely visited. There is a petrified wharf known locally as *The Bar* that was used by convicts to transport sandstone from Nepean to Kingston, the first major settled area on the island, during the Second Settlement.

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From the Editor



In the previous issue, we announced that the winner of the 2011 PA Award was Joshua Nash, for his paper on Kangaroo Island placenames. Although that article was much bigger than we can find room for here, we are able to bring you in this issue his article on Nepean Island toponymy.

There's still time, by the way, for historical societies and other community organisations to enter for the 2012 PA Award: see the notice below.

This issue sees the second appearance of our new series *Reports from the Trenches*—this time from Anthea Harris of the Nedlands Library in Perth. (We look forward to receiving more contributions from the aforesaid trenches!) Our regular

correspondent from northern NSW, Geoff Minett, keeps us up-to-date on Macksville and the Macleay Valley. And as usual, Joyce Miles has been 'out and about' in the West.

As promised, we also have Charles Koch's story behind the unusual name of Homestead in Queensland; and the report from Malvern Historical Society on the spelling of Stonnington.

Our thanks to all those readers who have subscribed as Members of PA, and especially to our Corporate Members. Our subscription year begins in July, and existing supporters will find an invitation to renew with this mailout. In the meantime, do plan to join us in Brisbane for our September workshop and AGM—see the notice below.

David Blair
editor@anps.org.au

Annual General Meeting and Placenames Workshop

The 2012 AGM of *Placenames Australia* will be held in Brisbane on 5th September. We anticipate that the meeting will begin at 2.30 p.m. at a venue provided by the Department of Environment & Resource Management. All supporting members are cordially invited to attend. Nominations for the Management Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to five other members) are invited. Please email nominations to the Secretary <director@anps.org.au> by 1st August 2012.

The meeting will follow a Workshop at the same venue on placenames, with a likely emphasis on Queensland names. We suggest that if you are contemplating joining us for the Workshop and the AGM, you should contact the Secretary beforehand to confirm details of time and location.

The Placenames Australia Award 2012

The *PA Award* in 2012 will take the form of a

\$1000 grant

to support placename research by a History Society or other community organisation.

Placenames Australia will award \$1000 to the group submitting the best proposal for original research into the placenames of their area of interest. Applications should state the nature and location of the project and outline the method for completing data collection and processing. It is intended that projects should be completed and written up within 12 months of the granting of the award.

Are you a member of such a group? Encourage your society or association to apply—the closing date for submissions is 1 July 2012. Grant proposals should be sent to the Director of ANPS at Macquarie University, and authorised by the Secretary or other delegated officer of your association.

For more information and advice on the form of the project, contact the President, Dr Dale Lehner, dalelehner@bigpond.com

This newsletter is published quarterly by
Placenames Australia Inc ABN 39 652 752 594
ISSN: 1836-7968 (print) 1836-7976 (online)

Editor: David Blair
c/- ANPS, Linguistics Department
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY NSW 2109

A town called 'Homestead'

I grew up in Homestead, a small town 72 km south west of Charters Towers, in North Queensland. The contradiction in terms has always caused much confusion with the name and I quickly learned to say that I hail from the 'town' of Homestead.

The Homestead district was settled in the 1860s with the establishment of a number of cattle stations. Gold was discovered at Cape River approximately fifteen miles west of Homestead in 1867. The Government Geologist, Richard Daintree, announced in June 1867 his estimate that the Cape River gold field stretched over a length of seventy miles by fifteen miles. The first gold rush in North Queensland ensued.



'Allandale' circa 1910 (Photo: *The Northern Miner*)

By 1867 Homestead Creek had already been named after a pastoral property recorded with the Lands Department as 'Allandale' but referred to by locals as 'the homestead'. Teamsters driving bullocks west would say that they wanted to make 'the homestead' by nightfall to water their stock. 'Allandale' homestead, on a lagoon which is an anabranch of Homestead Creek, has a permanent water supply. It is located approximately one mile north east of the current location of Homestead town.

The name *Homestead* was in common use in the 1880s. More gold was discovered at the head of Deadman's Creek in 1883 and the field was gazetted as the *Homestead Diggings*. Also in 1883, another field was discovered near Thalanga. The first field was renamed the *Old Homestead Diggings* and the new field became known as the *New Homestead Diggings* and later the *Allandale Provisional Goldfield*.

The town of Homestead owes its existence to the railway. Great Northern Rail commenced construction of the line from Charters Towers to Cloncurry in the 1880s.

Completion of the rail bridge over Homestead Creek was a major milestone. The bridge was constructed entirely of timber

and at 346 feet was the longest of three major bridges on the line at that stage. A rail head was established on Homestead Creek, hotels were needed and a settlement was formed. Cobb & Co coaches picked up passengers, mail and freight from the train for destinations further west. An article in the *Northern Miner* of 11 February, 1884 reports the opening of the extension of the Northern Railway to Homestead.

While Homestead remained the rail head there was a population of about 400, mainly navvies. Besides the temporary accommodation for the workforce and the hotels for passengers, the main buildings were the railway station, refreshment rooms and telegraph office. By 1918 the population had reduced to about 100 and remained relatively constant thereafter.

Until recently I had understood that the town was named after the present 'Allandale' homestead, a handsome building visible from the road and rail line. This mistaken idea was confirmed by articles about the restoration of the building reported in the *Rural Bulletin* in July 2000 and the *Northern Miner* in February 2004. Both articles report:

'The house that gave birth to a township has once again become a labour of love for a Homestead family.'

It is believed that the existing house on 'Allandale' (since renamed 'Speculation') was constructed in Charters Towers in the 1880s and was moved to its current location in about 1910. There is no record of the previous homestead or other buildings which must have been on the cattle station when the name *Homestead* evolved for the creek in the 1860s.



'Allandale' in 2011 (Photo: C.Koch)

When I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s local folklore incorrectly had it that the name arose because train crews would look out for 'Allandale' homestead. They would know the train was approaching town when 'the homestead' came into view.

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Homestead (...continued)

However, the railway station and town name would have been chosen well before the line actually reached Homestead in 1884.

Clearly Homestead Creek and the early gold mines were named after 'Allandale' station, which was referred to locally as 'the homestead'. However the current building now being so lovingly restored did not 'give birth' to the town as claimed in the newspaper reports quoted above. Homestead township already existed some 30 years before the current building was erected, and the honour must go to an earlier building. Railway officials were responsible for the establishment and naming of the town. They selected *Homestead*, the existing name for the creek and (unofficially) for the surrounding district, as the name for the new railway station and thus for the town.

Charles Koch
November 2011

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Homestead State School Centenary 1893–1993 (Historical information from Colin Cooper)

Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld.

Rural Bulletin, Townsville, Qld.

Acknowledgment

Our thanks to Ron and Jeneve Barnicoat, present owners of 'Allandale', for their assistance with this article, and particularly for providing key historical documents.

West Australian Gold Towns and Settlements

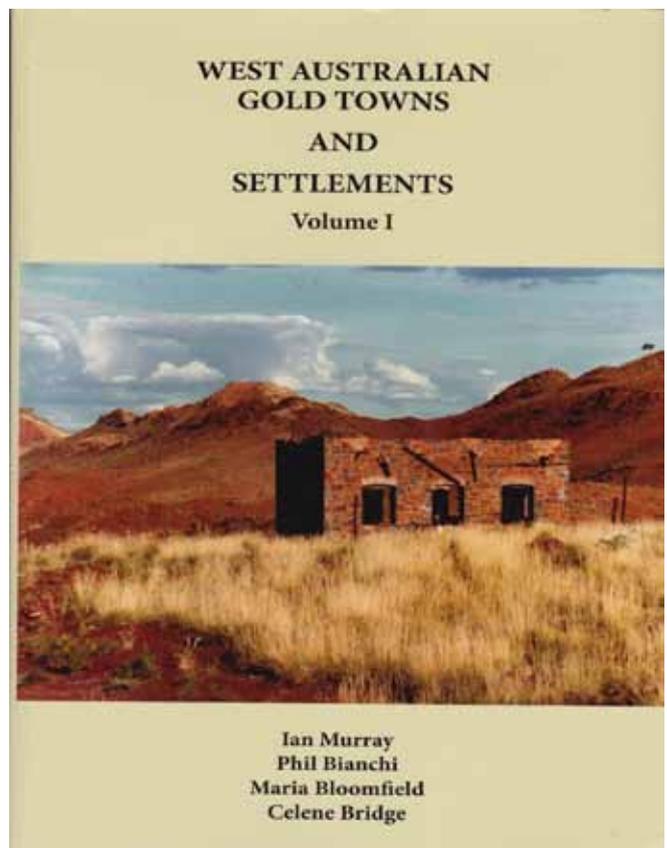
Ian Murray has been a prolific contributor to West Australian toponymy for several years. He has produced, with colleagues, a remarkable series of books which document the naming history of WA places. Readers with long memories will remember our notice in the March 2004 issue of *Araluen to Zanthus: a Gazetteer of Perth Suburbs and WA Towns*, on which he collaborated with Brian Goodchild; and our December 2006 issue noted Ian's *Aboriginal Corporations, Communities and Outstations*. In June of 2009 we reviewed his monograph *Where on the Coast is That?*, a compendium of some 4000 WA placenames, which he compiled with Marion Hercock.

His latest book, *West Australian Gold Towns and Settlements*, covers the establishment of goldfield town sites and mining centres following the discovery of gold from the 1880s. The material in this two-volume publication comes from government archives and from Ian's personal knowledge, as a prospector, of the WA goldfields region. He was assisted in the production by Phil Bianchi, Maria Bloomfield and Celene Bridge; and Ian generously credits them as co-authors.

After a brief outline of the 22 included goldfield districts, the main section (of 150 pages) reveals an alphabetically-ordered history of 121 sites. Each article, after identifying the location, reports the establishment of the site and its progression to a thriving town; in so doing, it usually indicates the reason for the placename being given (often, unsurprisingly, after the finder of the gold).

Part 3 is a thorough index to the names of people mentioned in the preceding text. The bulk of the two volumes, however, is devoted to Part 4: photographic records of townsite plans, most provided from the archives of Landgate WA.

Ian Murray's latest work continues his fine record of scholarly contributions to WA history. Toponymists owe him a considerable debt for making available the sort of documentation on which valid toponymic interpretations must be made.



The book can be ordered direct from Hesperian Press.

Ring: 08 9362 5955 or
Email: books@hesperianpress.com.

Murray, Ian... [et al]. *West Australian Gold Towns and Settlements*. Two volumes (xv, 595). Carlisle, WA: Hesperian Press, 2011. ISBN 9780859050944.

Macksville

In the September 2011 issue of *Placenames Australia* I recounted the toponymic history of Kempsey and the Macleay River in NSW. The nearby town of Macksville on the Nambucca River has a similarly interesting history.

The Nambucca is strangely absent in the reports of the early explorers in the area. Neither James Cook nor Matthew Flinders made mention of the river as they sailed north and mapped the coast; and John Oxley explored the mouth of the Macleay River in 1820, but made no mention in his reports of the Nambucca River.

Probably the first person to recognise the river was the convict William 'Gipsy' Smith, previously a rat catcher in London. He absconded from Port Jackson with other convicts in July 1817 in the government schooner *William Cossar* which then became stranded north of the Nambucca River entrance. He made his way to Newcastle with help from Aborigines in April 1818, and was taken by Captain

William Eckford of the *Nancy* in an expedition to locate the stranded schooner. Smith recognised the entrance of the Nambucca, and the party left the *Nancy* in an inlet north of the river, then walked north and located the *William Cossar*.

The first Europeans to traverse the Nambucca Valley were, no doubt, cedar cutters who had moved on from the Macleay River area when cedar ran out there around 1835, though they left no records of their arrival. They arrived in small groups, usually two men or more and sometimes with women and children in tow. They were mostly convicts who had received their ticket of leave who then took to the forests to cut cedar trees. As they had no means of hauling the trees they logged only near streams and used the water to transport the logs downstream by tides and currents to early cedar merchants.

After the first wave of cedar cutters Surveyor-General Mitchell contracted Clement Hodgkinson, on behalf of the Government, to survey the area north of the Macleay River. Hodgkinson, having emigrated from England in 1839, had an interest in Yarrabandini Station in the area now known as Frederickton; the property was leased by W.H. Chapman at that time.

In 1841 Hodgkinson took a stockman, William Miles, with

him and traversed the lower reaches of the Macleay around Yarrahapinni Mountain and viewed, named and sketched the Nmbukh River (Hodgkinson named it *Nambucca* in his writings). He also named three tributaries of the Nambucca River: Oankihi Creek (now Eungai Creek) Algomerra Creek (now Allgomera Creek) and Gurravembi Creek (now Warrell Creek). Hodgkinson gave all the creeks, including the Nambucca, native names as the indigenous people called them.

In his writings Hodgkinson mentioned a cedar merchant's hut inhabited by William Scott who immigrated to Australia soon

after his daughter's birth in England in 1837; the location is now known as Scotts Head.

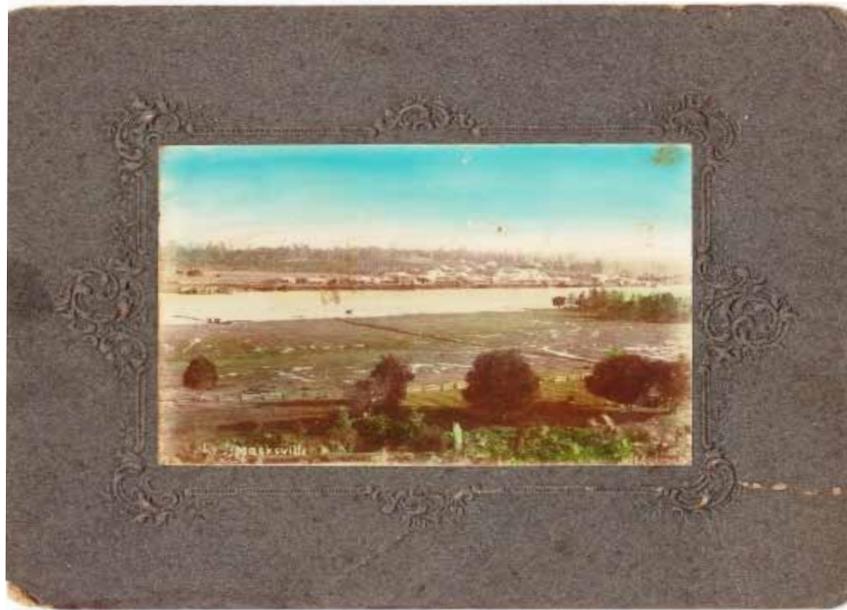
The second wave of cutters arrived in the late 1850s when cedar prices were high; the number of individual cedar cutters diminished, however, as 'runs' were taken up by individuals and they employed men to cut the cedar trees for them and float them downstream. Patrick Byrnes of Congarinni

was one such, and he established a store and hotel 'The Shamrock' where the bridge track crossed the Taylors Arm section of the Nambucca River¹. In 1861 the Robertson Land Act abolished 'runs' and enabled small holdings to come into existence under Conditional Purchase title. Immigrants from England, Scotland and Ireland joined with those cedar cutters who had stayed, to take up this land.

From these beginnings, between 1864 and 1869 175 small farms were taken up, and from 1880 to 1884 some 267 selections. Dairying, pig farming and maize (corn) were the three main land uses until the late 1940s and 1950s; bananas then became prominent until the 1970s. With the advent of small farms, villages came into being to supply schools, post offices, halls, hotel, shops and ancillary businesses.

Two of those early families were the McNallys (who settled at Bellingen) and the McKays (who came from Dungog and settled at Bowraville). Hugh McNally arrived in 1888, and Angus ('Baldy') McKay arrived as early as 1887. Descendants of these pioneers settled in Central Nambucca, as it was known then, and privately subdivided land there. Their surveyor suggested it be called *Macs-town*, a suggestion no doubt reinforced by the

... *continued next page*



Macksville, circa 1907-12

Macksville (...continued)

fact that Father McGuinness, a parish priest from Kempsey also took up land and subdivided it in 1887. The name stuck, first in the form *Macks Village* and now officially as *Macksville*.

Geoff Minett

Research Officer

Mary Boulton Pioneer Cottage and Museum

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Endnote

- ¹ For readers interested in further background, my book *Bridle Track, Punts and Bridges* (2011) describes the Byrnes family. And *Looking Back* (2011) is a history of Allgomera, Eungai Creek, Unyka, Stuarts Point, Macleay Point (now Grassy Head) and Scotts Head, over the period 1835-1960. Both publications are available by emailing me: gminett6<at>bigpond.com.

City of Stonnington, VIC

On Glenferrie Road in Malvern, within Victoria's local government area of Stonnington City, there's a grand 19th century residence called Stonnington. Is this coincidence or spelling error, we might wonder. Malvern Historical Society has the answer:

Stonnington in Glenferrie Road Malvern was built in 1890 to the design of London-born architect Charles D'Ebros, as a private residence for John Wagner, a partner with A.W. Robertson in Cobb & Co. coaches. Wagner's residence was named Stonnington after Stonnington, Connecticut, U.S.A., the birthplace of Wagner's wife Mary. From 1901 the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia was located in Melbourne. For the next thirty years, when State Government House was required as the residence for the Governor-General, Stonnington became the Vice-Regal residence for seven Governors of Victoria. During this era

the spelling of the name was changed to Stonnington.

The City of Stonnington takes its name from Stonington using the altered spelling from the Vice-Regal period. The residence in Glenferrie Road has now reverted to the original spelling. The confusion is long standing: a researcher recently found the following reference using Trove, (*Sydney [Australia] Herald*, 31 October 1833). 'the Penguin had arrived at Stonnington from the South Seas with 1125 Fur seal skins and 2300 Hair seal skins'.

Thanks to the Malvern Historical Society for sending us this information, from their newsletter 'Local History News' December-January 11/12.

Bill Bryson on American Placenames

One of our favourite travel writers is Bill Bryson. Some say he's the best thing to come out of Des Moines, Iowa; we wouldn't care to express an opinion on that, nor would we guarantee that everything he says is entirely factual. But here's Bill reporting on US placenames:

"In the morning I drove to Wyoming, through scenery that looked like an illustration from some marvellous children's book of Western tales—snowy peaks, pine forest, snug farms, a twisting river, a mountain vale with a comely name: Swan Valley. That is the one thing that must be said for the men and women who carved out the West. They certainly knew how to name a place. Just on this corner of the map I could see Soda Springs, Massacre Rocks, Steamboat Mountain, Wind River, Flaming Gorge, Calamity Falls—places whose very names promised adventure and excitement, even if in reality all they contained were a DX gas station and a Tastee-Freez drive-in.

"Most of the early settlers in America were oddly inept at devising place-names. They either chose unimaginative, semi-recycled names—New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New England—or toadying, kiss-ass names like Virginia, Georgia, Maryland and Jamestown in a generally pitiable attempt to secure favour with some monarch or powdered aristocrat back home. Or else they just accepted the names the Indians told them, not knowing whether Squashaninsect meant 'land of the twinkling lakes' or 'place where Big Chief Thunderclap paused to pass water'.

"... It was only here in the real West, the land of beaver trappers and mountain men, that a dollop of romance and colour was brought to the business of giving names. And here I was about to enter one of the most beautiful and understatedly romantic of them all: Jackson Hole... [which] isn't really a hole at all: it's just the name for a scenic valley that runs from north to south through the Grand Tetons, very probably the most majestic range in the Rockies."

The Lost Continent: Travels in Small Town America (1989)

Reports from the Trenches...

...CITY of NEDLANDS, WA

Just 7 km from Perth, the City of Nedlands stretches from the banks of the beautiful Swan River to the shores of the Indian Ocean in an upside down and back to front L shape. Nedlands' history reflects its wide variety of land use and the geographical names have widely dissimilar origins, in the local Nyungar language, English variants and Latin. Landowners and developers chose the names and these were usually inspired by more than one association with the word.

Nedlands owes its name to Colonel John Bruce, Superintendent of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards, who arrived in Perth in 1850 with the first convicts who supplied a much-needed labour force for the colony. Bruce arrived with a tribe of daughters and his baby son Edward. Within a few years, the three eldest daughters had been snapped up by eligible young men and a farm by the river had been bought in trust for young Ned—*Ned's land*.

The first owner of that farm was Adam Armstrong, a Scot who named it after his home town of **Dalkeith**. **Swanbourne** lies at the other, seaward, end of the present City and commemorates the English village home of Captain Fremantle. His ship had brought some of the first settlers to Western Australia in 1829 and the coastal areas of Fremantle, Cottesloe and Swanbourne carry names associated with his family. The nearby area of **Osborne**, honouring one of Queen Victoria's residences but also acknowledging notable businesswoman Mrs William Osborne, was important enough to have a railway station for visitors to its hotel and grounds. When the station was closed residents used Swanbourne as their address and the name *Osborne* vanished into obscurity.

Butler's Swamp is another forgotten name, of land first owned by publican John Butler who ran the Bush Inn. Water levels rose and the lagoons flooded into **Lake Claremont**, named after the town of Claremont that grew up on the road halfway between the settlements of Perth and Fremantle. It is a very pleasant area on Freshwater Bay and became a town independent of the Nedlands Road Board in 1897. The origin of its name is uncertain but it was probably after another of Queen Victoria's palaces with a link to the landowner's wife, Clara. The name became so prestigious that the residents (or the real estate

developers) of **Graylands** (a name that could be attributed to any of several Grays, but probably to Maria) opted to rename their suburb **Mount Claremont**. This escaped the association with the local hospital and its treatment of patients with mental illnesses.

Real estate developers are very creative when naming new subdivisions and none more so than the successful branding of **Hollywood**, which survives as a ward name, but does not have a cinema. Another ward name is **Melvista**, the brainchild of a schoolgirl who acknowledged the beautiful view across Melville Water and won a competition in the 1940s.

The route of the Perth to Fremantle railway in 1881 passed through the north of Nedlands and station sites increased residential development. **Subiaco** station was named for the New Subiaco monastery founded by the Benedictine monks in 1851. Saint Benedict composed the rules of monastic life and founded the Benedictine order in Subiaco in northern Italy. The northern area of Nedlands is often referred to as **West Subiaco**.

Karrakatta has a station but the suburb is largely occupied by the cemetery that holds the remains of many famous names. Its own name harks back to the original Aboriginal words 'katta' meaning hill and 'karra', which could refer to a crab, the red-tailed black cockatoo, a spider or an orchid with an edible root. Many today would favour the cockatoo as its habitat is seen to be threatened by further residential development.

Two other suburbs are partly in the City of Nedlands. **Floreat** is from the Latin 'let it flourish', a rather bold renaming of the Limekilns Estate by the City of Perth Town Clerk. Two other suburbs are partly in the City of Nedlands. The name **Shenton Park** reflects a subdivision of the extensive landholdings of three-time Mayor of Perth Sir George Shenton. He lived in **Crawley Park** which became the University of Western Australia and used to have a Nedlands address.

There is currently much talk about amalgamation with neighbouring councils. Choosing a new name would be a challenge but there is certainly a wealth and diversity of historical names to consider.

Anthea Harris

Local Studies Librarian, Nedlands Library

Swan River (Matilda Bay) from the foreshore at Nedlands



Norfolk Island Toponymy...



Figure 2: Nepean Island topography

Other well-known toponyms on Nepean are *Convict Steps/Em Steps*, *The Crack*, *Saddle*, *Unicorn* and *Stump*.

Nepean toponyms were collected on three field trips on Norfolk Island between 2008 and 2009. Five informal interviews with members of the community were conducted and subsequent follow up questionnaires carried out based on a more precise list of placenames derived from archival research and the initial interviews (a more comprehensive list of Norfolk toponyms is published in Nash 2011 [<http://www.norfolkonlinenews.com>]). The table below presents a list of Nepean placenames with their history.

NAME	HISTORY
East End	The easternmost point of the island.
Mary Hamilton Reef / Rocks	An eponymous placename doublet remembering the reef and rocks where the steam liner <i>Mary Hamilton</i> came aground in the early 1900s. It is also the name of a diving site in the same area along with other nearby sites Blues Cathedral and Black Coral.
Poison Bay / Pizen Bay	The location and etymology of this name are questionable. Reliable sources place it on the northern coast, while the Nepean Island – Plan of Management (Norfolk Island Parks & Forestry Service, 2003: 1) place it in the location where <i>Up ar Sand</i> appears on the map opposite. It is either named after the ‘poison wind’ which comes from the north east across Norfolk during inclement weather, which burns out crops, or because of the local Norfolk ‘poison weed’ which may have been found on Nepean. <i>Pizen Bay</i> is a suspected secondary name attributed to a gentleman by the name Pizen who supposedly used to fish here.

The Convict Steps / Em Steps	The English and Norf’k placename doublet for the convict steps which were created when stone was mined by convicts for constructing buildings in Norfolk’s administrative centre in Kingston. Also known as <i>Dem Steps</i> . While mooring on Nepean is difficult, this is an easy place to gain access to dry land by boat due to the flat rocks at sea level near The Convict Steps.
The Crack	A location on the far west of Nepean which is a favourite rock fishing site. At low tide one can easily cross from The Crack to West End but during high tide one has to jump because the higher swells submerge the rock passage.
The Saddle	Descriptive name for the undulating topography which appears like a saddle from one side, especially from Queen Elizabeth Lookout, a turn in the Rooty Hill Road on Norfolk which looks out to Nepean.
The Skull	A landscape feature on the extreme south of Nepean, which when the sun shines on it looks like a skull.
The Stump	Named after the remains of a Norfolk pine which used to be located in the thin southern portion of Nepean. The Stump was used in locating several offshore fishing grounds, which were lost once The Stump was pushed over.
Under Stump	The rocky area at sea level under where The Stump used to stand.
Unicorn	Located between The Stump and The Skull, Unicorn is another landscape feature which has a point and had been described as looking like a unicorn.

...the Microcosm of Nepean Island

Up ar Sand	Translated as ‘up on the sand’ in English, this is the only sandy area of significant size on Nepean. Although most likely incorrect, several informants have also purported Poison Bay to be located here.
West End	The westernmost point of the island.

Norfolk are typically commemorative (e.g. Monty) whereas there are no commemorative monolexeme toponyms on Nepean.

6. The microtoponymy of Nepean reflects the fuzziness and deficit of histories and location of placenames, and a vagueness of defining boundaries of what may, for example, constitute a Norfolk or an English placename.

Studying the placenames of islands is nothing new. However, what is and has been alluded to in this paper is how an island community has come to name a small uninhabited island and how these principles may be used and extrapolated to a larger toponymic situation. The microtoponymic case of Nepean Island, an island that is uninhabitable due to lack of running water, provides insight into what tools humans use to utilise, understand, and describe a type of small ‘no-man’s land’, though one that is very important for the cultural and environmental history of Norfolk Island. More importantly, it has documented and mapped these placenames and put forward a resource which other toponymists and linguists can use in their research. The concept of ‘island toponymy’ as a new area of methodological and theoretical concern for toponymy and onomastics in Australia and elsewhere is also put forward.



Figure 3: Nepean Island land-based toponyms

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Like the larger corpus of Norfolk data presented in Nash (2011: 262-384), the Nepean microcosm presents some generalities that to apply to Norfolk toponymy proper:

1. Norfolk toponyms (e.g. Fata Fata) and Nepean toponyms contain Norfolk lexemes.
2. Toponym doublets (e.g. Poison Bay / Pizen Bay) are present on Norfolk (e.g. Kingston / Down-a-Town).
3. Descriptive names are common on Nepean as on Norfolk.
4. Commemorative names exist on Nepean as they do on Norfolk (e.g. Johnnies Stone).
5. Non-proper monolexemes (with or without articles) are productive as toponyms on Nepean (e.g. Skull, The Stump) and on Norfolk (e.g. Cascade). However, monolexemes on

Joshua Nash

Department of Linguistics
University of Adelaide

Out & About...



with Joyce Miles

Wandering around the South Coast of WA (Part I)

Pemberton—Supplier of sleepers

Edward Brockman, son of Perth's first mayor, was attracted to **Pemberton** in 1861 as an ideal area to start breeding horses. He was obviously successful as he subsequently exported many to India. But the area became famous for its spectacular hardwood forests and the strength of the karri made it ideal for sleepers for the proposed Trans-Australian Railway Line, built between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie (1912-1917). Timber mills were established by the state government in 1913 and sleepers were supplied not only for the Australian railway, but many were exported to England for use on the London Underground and other UK railway lines. Today Pemberton specialises in growing grapes for the wine industry and avocados for the overseas market.¹ The town claims the highest lookout tree in the world.²

There was dissatisfaction with the original name of the area—**Big Brook**—and a more suitable one was sought. Pemberton Walcott had settled in the area in 1862 and the name 'Walcott' was suggested, but for some reason this was rejected by the Post Office. Eventually Pemberton was chosen and was in use from 1916. A small private town had developed, but by 1921 the community was demanding that a government townsite be established. In spite of resistance from the State Sawmills Department, a survey was undertaken and the townsite of Pemberton was gazetted in 1925.³

References

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Denmark

The shire town of **Denmark** stands on the south coast of Western Australia near the mouth of the River Denmark, some 51 km west of Albany. The South Coast Highway runs through its centre. The town derives its name from the River Denmark. The river was discovered in 1829 by the explorer and Royal Naval Surgeon Dr T.B. Wilson who named it as a tribute to his friend, Dr Alexander Denmark, a physician of the fleet, with whom he had worked at a naval hospital in Hampshire, England.¹ The town was gazetted in 1909, although there had been a settlement for some years before that as a timber mill had been established on the banks of the river in 1894.²

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Ravensthorpe

The South Coast Highway runs through the small town of **Ravensthorpe**, 49 km north of the coastal town of Hopetoun. It is an area of mining, sheep and wheat and was first surveyed in 1848 by State Surveyor John Septimus Roe. He named the nearby Ravensthorpe Range as a tribute to the Bishop of Western Australia and South Australia, Bishop August Short, who from 1835 to 1847 had been the Vicar of Ravensthorpe in Northamptonshire, England.¹ (This name was mentioned in the Domesday Book (*Ravenstorp*) and is based on the Old Scandinavian personal name *Hrafn*).²

In 1868 the Dunn brothers established a sheep station which they named *Cocanarup*. In 1898 James Dunn found gold at Annabel Creek and the Phillips River Goldfield was designated. The area prospered, the population increased and in 1901 the townsite of Ravensthorpe was gazetted.³ At the suggestion of surveyor A.W. Canning, it took its name from the nearby Ravensthorpe Range.⁴

The gold mining boom was short-lived. Mining had largely ceased by 1920 and the railway, opened in 1909 between Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, closed in 1925. Copper mining continued to operate spasmodically until the 1970s.⁵ More recently a nickel project was commenced, but that has now been suspended.⁶ Today two thirds of the Shire remain as natural bush divided into National Parks.

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Hopetoun

Hopetoun, a quiet seaside village located on the south coast 49 km south of Ravensthorpe, was once a port for the goldfields in the area. Matthew Flinders, aboard the *Investigator*, had charted the coastline in 1802 and by the 1820s the sealers and whalers knew that the area offered shelter if needed.¹ In 1871 it was named **Mary Ann Haven** but was also referred to as **Mary Ann Harbour** and **Mary Ann Cove**.² One account suggests that a sealer named Thomas settled in the area and named it after his daughter.³ Another suggests that it was named **Mary**

Ann Harbour after the name of the ship which brought supplies to the port.⁴ When gold and copper were discovered in 1898 by James Dunn at Phillips River Mining District near Ravensthorpe the area expanded. The coastal site was attractive to the miners. The town was surveyed in 1900 by G. Reilly who suggested that the name be changed to Hopetoun in honour of the 7th Earl of Hopetoun, whom Queen Victoria had appointed as first Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia on 13 July 1900.⁵ Initially the town prospered and development took place, but the railway link with Ravensthorpe was closed in 1925 and the port closed in 1936.⁶

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Eucla–Buried by sand

Once **Eucla**, which lies almost on the border between Western Australia and South Australia, was one of the most important telegraph stations on the Albany to Adelaide line which opened in 1877. During its construction a jetty and a tram line were constructed and a township grew up which was gazetted as Eucla

in 1885. The original site had to be abandoned in the 1890s due to the encroachment of nearby sandhills. Rabbits had eaten all the vegetation which had hitherto stabilised the dunes, causing them to drift. A new site was established on higher ground some 5 km to the east. Eucla flourished until the construction in 1929 of a new telegraph line to the north along the side of the Trans-Australian Railway.¹

But who named it? In 1841 John Eyre embarked on what has been referred to as ‘Eyre’s miserable march across the waterless Nullarbor Plain’. He arrived desperate for water in what is now known as Eucla in March 1841.² Apparently he did not give the area a name. According to Murray and Hercock, it was named in 1867 by a lieutenant of the Marine Board of WA while surveying the harbour and is said to have been derived from an Aboriginal word for the area, *Yinculyer*, a reference to the planet Venus.³ Another local Aboriginal name for the area is *Chiniialla*.⁴

Today graphic pictures show the desert sands smothering the old buildings.⁵ The old telegraph station remains as a tourist attraction as does the huge signpost declaring Eucla to be 1435 km from Perth and 1268 km from Adelaide.

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Placenames Puzzle Number 41

The ‘S’ Factor

The clues reveal placenames starting with ‘S’ (disregard spelling) e.g. (VIC) Surname of bride of Edward VIII ... Simpson

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (QLD/NSW) Patron saint of England | 11. (NSW) Desert in N. Africa |
| 2. (QLD/NSW) Rome was built on one of these | 12. (NSW) Mariners; English for an Australian unit |
| 3. (VIC) Disposal of goods at reduced prices | 13. (NSW) 12th century captor of Jerusalem who opposed the Crusaders; overwhelm |
| 4. (VIC) Nickname for shoemenders; stream | 14. (NSW) Retainer of a Japanese feudal noble; sharp end |
| 5. (VIC) Australian tea break | 15. (NSW) London hotel in the Strand, or a cabbage |
| 6. (TAS) Fitting closely but comfortably | 16. (NSW) Small hut to shelter a guardsman; portion of a river between bends |
| 7. (TAS) Extensive treeless plains especially Russian | 17. (NSW) Wash applied to an animal’s fleece; an area of calm enclosed salt water |
| 8. (TAS) Oxley and Mitchell for example; larger than a cove | 18. (QLD/NSW/NT/TAS/VIC) Bones of a body fitted together; harsh grating noise |
| 9. (TAS) Pacific etc.; very large African/Indian animal | 19. (NSW) Somnolent; zodiacal sign Leo |
| 10. (TAS) Female siblings; stretch of sand | 20. (SA/VIC) Region of the clouds |

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Answers:

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 17. Sheep Dip Lagoon | 13. Saladin Swamp | 9. Sea Elephant | 5. Smoko | 1. St George |
| 18. Skeleton Creek | 14. Samurai Point | 10. Sisters Beach | 6. Snug | 2. Seven Hills |
| 19. Sleeping Lion | 15. Savoy | 11. Sahara | 7. Steppes | 3. Sale |
| 20. Skye | 16. Sentry Box Reach | 12. Sailors Flat | 8. Surveyors Bay | 4. Snobs Creek |

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