Between 1606 and 1803, some 900 European placenames were bestowed along the Australian coastline by the Dutch, British and French. Figure 1 shows the areas of coastline charted by these nationalities.

The early history of charting Australia’s coastline is well documented from most perspectives, but has largely been neglected from a toponymic standpoint. The documentation of Australia’s early European history from a toponymic perspective demands an examination of the mechanisms of place-naming (i.e., procedures, methods, strategies). Unfortunately, this approach has not yet been fully integrated into the research agenda of many toponymists. This is perhaps partially due to the lack of an effective toponym typology. We attempt to address these issues here and report on a preliminary investigation and analysis of the early European place-naming practices in Australia.

Overall, the Dutch motives for exploring and charting the parameters of the Southland were quite different from those of the British and French. The Dutch Veerenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (‘United East-India Company’) or the VOC, as it became known, had ambitions to expand its geographical knowledge to guide their vessels safely to its factories and trading posts, and to find precious metals. During their 150 years of contact with the Southland, the Dutch charted some 55% of its coastline, but conferred very few placenames. However, this is perhaps not so surprising because the VOC saw no potential for profit in this land, and unlike the British and the French in the latter years of the 18th century, had no territorial designs. The placenames on Dutch charts were essentially applied only to those features that had some significance for navigation or respite. Further naming was, therefore, unnecessary.

In contrast, the British and French, who were of course a product of the intellectual climate of the Age of Reason, described and evaluated what they saw in more enlightened and objective terms. They placed more value on carefully detailing the flora, fauna, geography and inhabitants of newly found territories. However, although as is often claimed the Pacific voyages of these nations were predominantly disinterested scientific endeavours, the geopolitical rivalry between Britain and France during the 17th and 18th centuries drove them to obtain as much geographic, scientific and commercial intelligence to foster their respective territorial ambitions. A natural corollary of these aspirations was more prolific place-naming. Prolific naming of places is a characteristic by-product of scientific exploration and/or settlement, for when you name a place, you also take “possession” of it. Indeed, as Herman (1999: 96) suggests “the politics of language, of place names, and of sovereignty are [inextricably] intertwined.” Table 1 chronicles Dutch, British and French place-naming on the Southland’s coastline between 1606 and 1803.

(Continued on Page 3)
**Letter to the Editor**

**Place Names and Bilingual Signs in Gippsland**

Alistair Moffat in his *The Sea Kingdoms: the story of Celtic Britain and Ireland* (Harper/Collins, London, 2001) mentions the use of bilingual signs throughout Wales as an example of the progress towards maintenance of the Welsh language. It occurred to me that although the Kurnai language is technically dead a similar program could be instituted here in Gippsland, at least in part.

There is now a small body of academic and published work on the Kurnai language. Bilingual signs, whether in Wales or Gippsland, make people more aware of the previous occupants of the land. Whilst there is some doubt and debate about a number of Aboriginal place names there seems no reason, why bilingual signs could not be easily introduced where there is one generally accepted Aboriginal name.

For instance in the old Omeo Shire most of the place names above the Gap (north of the divide) already have Aboriginal names whilst for the district below the Gap the converse is true. In these places, Alfred Howitt has recorded both the Aboriginal place names and their meanings.

Thus, I write this in my shop at Swifts Creek or Bun Jirrah Gingee Munjie (big kangaroos go to that place) before returning home to Ensay or Numblamunjie (blackfish place) or travelling through Tambo Crossing or Neoyang (eel/eel water?).

No doubt, this is a small step but it is one easily taken and a substantial step towards both recognition and reconciliation. Earlier in (2004) there was a debate in the ‘letters to the editor’ column of the Bairnsdale Advertiser over the possible reversion of the name Paynesville to the original Toonalook (various spellings) which does not appear to have come to anything. Perhaps the use of bi-lingual signs is a solution to this debate. From my previous experience with place name derivations, I am sure that this action would also be attractive to tourists and visitors.

- P. D. Gardner

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**Who’s Who on the Committee**

As promised, we said we would feature, in each issue of our newsletter, a member of the PA committee. This issue, it’s …..

**Tricia Mack, Newsletter Editor:** Tricia Mack is semi retired and is a qualified Historian and Archivist. Tricia’s previous life started as a Survey Draftsperson for PMG/Telecom, which gave her the thirst for not only maps but place names. Tricia then moved onto become Office Manager of a small business and Australian Interactive Multimedia Industry Association. Tricia graduated in the Advanced Diploma in Local and Applied History from University of New England, Armidale, NSW in 2003. Tricia’s main historical work at present is to transcribe what was Balmain Cemetery in Leichhardt and to produce a book/CD and a map showing the interments.

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Laura Kostanski, Placenames Australia’s Victoria Representative and Secretary for our Victorian Committee, was among the crowd in Melbourne’s Federation Square to watch Kevin Rudd deliver his apology. There is a great story in the Australian about her contribution to the recognition of Aboriginal culture in Victoria; follow the link [http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,23203419-12332,00.html?%3F](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,23203419-12332,00.html%3F)
The study

Our small study aimed to collate and analyse data describing the place-naming practices of Dutch, British and French navigators between 1606 and 1803. It is reasonable to assume that British place-naming practices and motivations would have changed after settlement in 1788. The French, however, extended their scientific explorations up until 1803, and although having surreptitious intentions of surveying the region to establish settlements in Tasmania and the mainland, their place-naming practices would have been quite dissimilar to that of the British colonists. The toponyms resulting from these French expeditions were therefore included in the survey. In addition to these visits, there were a number of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of visit</th>
<th>Chief Explorer(s) (Nationality)</th>
<th>Ship(s)</th>
<th>Area surveyed or sighted</th>
<th>Number of resultant names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1606</td>
<td>Janszoon (D)</td>
<td>Duyfken</td>
<td>West coast Cape York Peninsula</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1616</td>
<td>Hartog (D)</td>
<td>Eendracht</td>
<td>Shark Bay region</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1618</td>
<td>Jacobszoon (D)</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>North West Cape</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1619</td>
<td>de Houtman, d’Edel (D)</td>
<td>Dordrecht, Amsterdam</td>
<td>Rottnest Is, Swan River region &amp; Houtman Abrolhos</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1622</td>
<td>unknown (D)</td>
<td>Leeuwin</td>
<td>Cape Leeuwin region</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1622</td>
<td>Brookes (E)</td>
<td>Tryall</td>
<td>Montebello Islands</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1623</td>
<td>Carstenszoon, van Colster (D)</td>
<td>Pera, Arnhem</td>
<td>West coast of Cape York &amp; Arnhem Land</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1624</td>
<td>unknown (D)</td>
<td>Turtleduyff</td>
<td>Turtledove Shoal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1627</td>
<td>Thyssen, Nuyts (D)</td>
<td>'t Gulden Zeepaert</td>
<td>Cape Leeuwin to Nuyts Archipelago</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1628</td>
<td>de Witt (D)</td>
<td>Vianen</td>
<td>Pilbara coast</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1629</td>
<td>Pelsaert (D)</td>
<td>Batavia</td>
<td>Houtman Abrolhos</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1636</td>
<td>Pool, Pieterszoon (D)</td>
<td>Cleen Amsterdam, West</td>
<td>Gulf of Carpentaria</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1642</td>
<td>Tasman (D)</td>
<td>Heemskerk, Zeehaen</td>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1644</td>
<td>Tasman (D)</td>
<td>Limmen, Zeemeeuw, Braq</td>
<td>Gulf of Carpentaria, Arnhem Land &amp; Kimberly coast</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>1681</td>
<td>Daniel (E)</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Houtman Abrolhos &amp; Rottnest Is</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1696-7</td>
<td>de Vlamingh (D)</td>
<td>Geelvinck, Niptang, Weselije</td>
<td>Rottenest Is, Swan River to North West Cape</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>1699</td>
<td>Dampier (E)</td>
<td>Roebuck</td>
<td>Shark Bay to Port Hedland region</td>
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<tr>
<td>1704-5</td>
<td>van Delft (D)</td>
<td>Nova Hollandia, Watier, Voschensbosh</td>
<td>Arnhem Land north coast</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>1727</td>
<td>Steyns (D)</td>
<td>Zeeuwijk</td>
<td>Houtman Abrolhos</td>
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<tr>
<td>1756</td>
<td>Gonzal, van Asschens (D)</td>
<td>Rijker, Buijs</td>
<td>Gulf of Carpentaria &amp; Arnhem Land</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>1768</td>
<td>Bougainville</td>
<td>Boudeuse, Etoile</td>
<td>Great Barrier Reef, 100 km off north coast</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1770</td>
<td>Cook (E)</td>
<td>Endeavour</td>
<td>East coast from Pt Hicks to Cape York</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1772</td>
<td>St Allouarn (F)</td>
<td>Gros Ventre</td>
<td>Cape Leeuwin to Shark Bay and to Melville Island</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1773</td>
<td>Furneaux (E)</td>
<td>Adventure</td>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Bligh (E)</td>
<td>Bounty &amp; Bounty longboat</td>
<td>Tasmania &amp; North-east coast of Cape York</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Cox (E)</td>
<td>Mercury (Gustaf III)</td>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>Vancouver (E)</td>
<td>Discovery, Chatham</td>
<td>South coast of WA</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>Edwards (E)</td>
<td>Pandora</td>
<td>Great Barrier Reef</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>McCluer (E)</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>North coast of Arnhem Land</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1792</td>
<td>Bligh (E)</td>
<td>Providence, Assistant</td>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1792-3</td>
<td>D’Entrecasteaux (F)</td>
<td>Recherche, Esperance</td>
<td>South coast of WA &amp; Tasmania</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1793</td>
<td>Hayes (E)</td>
<td>Duke of Clarence, Duchess</td>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802-3</td>
<td>Baudin (F)</td>
<td>Geographe, Naturaliste</td>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>unknown (D)</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Pilbara coast (Remmessens R.)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL 890**

Table 1. Chronicle of Dutch, British and French place-naming on the Southland 1606-1803
...Placenaming

Placenaming in independent British visits, unconnected to the fledgling penal colonies at Sydney Cove and Lord Howe Island, e.g. Bligh (1788), Cox (1789), Vancouver (1791), Edwards (1791), McCluer (1791), and Hayes (1793). These also resulted in sections of the coastline being charted and placenames being conferred, which are also included in this survey.

Method

The following aims were defined:

• to document all Dutch, British and French toponyms bestowed between 1606 and 1803, and
• to identify place-naming practices of the Dutch, British and French navigators by categorising the specific elements of the toponyms.

It was expected that this initial documenting process would provide sufficient data to define a toponym typology which could then facilitate the identification of differences between the three national groups.

Data sources & procedure

Placenames bestowed were sought through methodical searches of records of expeditions undertaken. Priority was given to primary sources (i.e. copies of navigators’ original journals, charts, correspondence etc.) because they would provide the most direct evidence of the mechanisms of place-naming. Where such sources were not available or extant, secondary sources were consulted. These were also consulted to confirm suppositions from the primary sources, or to provide research-based evidence for naming motivations and the original referents of toponyms. All placenames bestowed during the survey period were recorded, including those that were subsequently replaced, “lost” or forgotten; or merely those that have survived on today’s maps. A database was then created which recorded the following:

• Date of exploration/charting of the coastline
• Chief explorer(s)/mariner(s) (if known)
• Vessels involved (if known)
• Region of contact, exploration and/or charting
• Placename(s) bestowed
• Translation (where necessary)
• Date of first recording of the placename (where available)
• Source of first recording of the placename (i.e. chart and/or journal)
• Citation explaining motivation for the placename (where available)
• Subsequent naming (if known)
• Toponym categories (3 levels)

In order to analyse the names in the database in terms of place-naming practices, a practical and effective typology for toponym specifics was required.

Part 2 of this article appears in our next issue.

Reference


This is an abridged version of a paper presented at the Trends in Toponymy conference, University of Ballarat, November 2007, and will appear in the conference proceedings.

Jan Tent
Department of Linguistics
Macquarie University
Director, ANPS

Helen Slatyer
Department of Linguistics
Macquarie University

WHO WAS DENNIS?

The Convict Trail follows the route of the Great North Road in the Hunter Valley, NSW, and was built by convict labour between 1826 and 1836 to provide a route from Sydney to Newcastle.1 When researching placenames along the road I found an account by Surveyor General Major T.L. Mitchell of exploration in this area. In it he speaks of toiling on foot amid rocky heights and depths and then having the satisfaction “to trot over a new and level road, winding like a thread through the dreary labyrinth before me, and in which various parts had already acquired a local appellation not wholly unsuited to their character, such as “Hungry Flat” “Devil’s Backbone”, “No-Grass Valley” and “Dennis’s Dog-Kennel”.”2 The first three names are obviously descriptive, but who was Dennis and what kind of dog did he have that merited a kennel which was important enough to be recorded in Mitchell’s account?

The site lies just off George Downs Drive at Bucketty and between October and December 1830 was the location of Road Gang 29, the most southerly camp for the Newcastle-based convict work gangs.3 Fieldwork has failed to throw any light on the origin of this historic name and all that remain are a waterhole used by the local Bucketty Volunteer Bush Brigade and a name on a map. If anyone knows anything about Dennis or his dog do please let us know.

References


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Ancient Etruria

Etruria was the Roman name of the territory of the Etruscans, an area to the north of Rome corresponding more or less to modern Tuscany. (The names Toscana, Etruria and Etruscan are all etymologically related.) At the beginning of the 19th century, the name was briefly revived in the Kingdom of Etruria, a creation of Napoleon Bonaparte for the House of Bourbon-Parma.

The Etruscans of old were swamped by Rome’s expansion. In his essays about his travels in Tuscany, D.H. Lawrence put it dramatically:

The Etruscans, as everyone knows, were the people who occupied the middle of Italy in early Roman days, and whom the Romans, in their usual neighbourly fashion, wiped out entirely in order to make room for Rome with a very big R.¹

Conquerors often seem both to despise and to admire those whom they conquer: on the one hand, the conquered must surely have been primitive, self-indulgent people who really did not deserve to survive; on the other hand, they may have represented a golden age which would have been delightful to live in but sadly had to yield to the harsh realities of a vigorously modern world. The Romans seem to have had thoughts of both kinds about the Etruscans, and similarly simplistic and contradictory views are still heard today in countries where indigenous cultures have been disrupted or destroyed.

Among the Romans who referred to Etruria are the Emperor Claudius, who is said to have been interested in Etruscan culture and to have written extensively about it, though none of this work survives; and the poet Virgil, who mentions Etruria in his Georgics, a long poem about farming practices and rural life. Near the end of book II of the Georgics, writing about the joys of healthy active life in farming communities, Virgil mentions people of the past; including Remus and his brother, and uses the words sic fortis Etruria crevit. These words are usually translated prosaically as “thus strong Etruria grew” or “thus Etruria grew strong”. A free translation by the poet C. Day Lewis has “so it was…that Tuscany grew to greatness.”²

Remembering Etruria

For centuries after the decline of Rome, Europeans knew of Etruscan culture, partly because the Romans themselves had referred to Etruria in their writings. In the 17th century, for example, Scotsman Thomas Dempster, who held teaching posts in several European cities, wrote a treatise (in Latin) about Etruria. British artist James Byres (1772-1817) copied many Etruscan murals, providing valuable records of some works which have since deteriorated or been destroyed.

Virgil’s works remained well known in Europe through to modern times. Indeed Virgil probably was, and perhaps still is, the most widely read and studied of ancient Roman authors. Dante often alludes to Virgil’s Aeneid, and Ronsard is said to have known all of Virgil by heart. 18th century England found a taste for didactic poems about agriculture, in the style of the Georgics and sometimes referring specifically to the Georgics. It is reasonable to assume that the words sic fortis Etruria crevit were familiar to 18th century Europeans who had received formal education.

In the 1760s Josiah Wedgwood bought an estate in Staffordshire and had a hall and factory built there. The factory was initially for the manufacture of ornamental vases, later for “useful wares” as well. Wedgwood called his new premises Etruria and promoted the idea that he was reviving the art of ancient Etruria. At a ceremony to mark the beginning of production in 1769, Wedgwood himself made some black “Etruscan vases”. These were later decorated with figures and commemorative wording, which included the Latin Artes Etruriae Renascentur, “the arts of Etruria are reborn”.³ According to J.Allbut’s Staffordshire Pottery Directory of 1802, “The name of this estate was given to it by Mr Wedgwood, in memory of an ancient state in Italy, once celebrated for the exquisite taste of its pottery.”⁴

Pottery manufacture at Wedgwood’s Etruria ceased in the middle of the twentieth century, when the works were relocated, but the name survives prominently as a suburb of the Stoke-on-Trent conurbation, with an Etruria railway station and street names such as Etruria Vale Road.

Etruria in Australia

In New South Wales, the name Etruria appears on the Sydney Cove medallion of 1789. Governor Phillip had sent clay from New South Wales to Sir Joseph Banks, who in turn sent it to Josiah Wedgwood to use in a medallion. The medallion depicted “Hope encouraging Art and Labour under the influence of Peace, to pursue the employments necessary to give security and happiness to an infant colony” and “commemorated the landing of the First Fleet in New South Wales in January 1788”.⁵

Given that Virgil’s Georgics were known and imitated in 18th century England, it seems at least possible that the name Etruria on the medallion is not only the name of the place of manufacture, but also an invocation of Etruria as a model for the “infant colony”, an example of an ancient pastoral land that was perhaps thought to be purer or less developed than Greece or Rome.

Whatever the idealisations or aspirations, Virgil’s actual wording sic fortis Etruria crevit appeared on the first Great Seal of New South Wales, which was approved by King George III in August 1790. It was dispatched to the new colony, where it was received in September 1791 and then used to produce wax impressions to authorise official documents.

Virgil’s words continued as the motto of the colony for some time. They can be found, for instance, on the first adhesive postage stamps issued in New South Wales in 1850. They can also be seen carved on the Sydney GPO, finished in 1888, although the Heritage Council of New South Wales suggests that by then the words were a “long discarded convict motto”, already yielding to the modern motto orta recens quam pura nites.⁶

It is not clear that it was ever intended that New South Wales should be officially called Etruria, but the name was certainly put before the citizens of the colony in various ways, especially in Virgil’s words. In the 1880s, the invocation of Etruria seems to have been abandoned, at least in New South Wales.

A more lasting allusion to Etruria in Australia is found in Hobart, in the motto of the city, sic fortis Hobartia crevit. The city’s website refers to Virgil’s words that have been
adapted in the motto and mentions their use in early New South Wales. So in Australia it is Hobart rather than New South Wales that continues to invoke – indirectly – ancient Etruria. But exactly how 18th and 19th century settlers in Australia conceived of Etruria and why they wanted to use the name are questions for further investigation and discussion.

References
1. D.H. Lawrence’s essays on Etruscan places were first published in Travel and World Today in 1927 and 1928, then issued in book form in 1932. They were republished as Etruscan Places by Penguin Books in 1950.
2. C. Day Lewis’s translations of Virgil’s Eclogues and Georgics were published in the Oxford World’s Classics series (Oxford Paperbacks, 1999).
4. www.thepotteries.org
5. www.heritage.nsw.gov.au
7. www.hobartcity.com.au

Learning about placenames from Cobb & Co

An interesting source of place and locality names is the list of Cobb & Co mail contracts in the three eastern States. The Cobb & Co firm rarely ran on a route where they did not have a mail contract. These contracts were with the original Postmaster General’s Department (PMG) in each state, and gave the names along the route at which the mail was to be delivered.

Always, of course, the names were those where a Post Office was established. There were other smaller places listed where the horses had to be changed. These had names and some later became mail change stations.

Where the coach stopped to change the horses often grew up to be a village and in some cases, a town. Then, in time, many declined as transport improved and many disappeared completely. Some have their names retained as a locality. Some of those that disappeared were named for the property on which they were built.

Depending on the topography of the coach route, the change stations were situated about 12 miles apart in hilly country and up to 20 on the level outback plains. If the firm’s road managers were lucky, there may have been a dwelling or shanty already there. Otherwise, a yard and a paddock were required, with access to water. A shed that would serve as a home for the groom stationed there, and for the storage of fodder or the horses and room for the harness.

The licensee of an inn was often postmaster, and before you knew it, he started selling meals and establishing a store for the convenience of the local workers and station hands. The groom was able to fill in his time between coaches by setting up a blacksmith’s shop as the grooms needed to be farriers.

Thus the small settlements developed, flourished, declined and many disappeared.

By the beginning of the twentieth century as distance was conquered by the petrol engine, which had to stop less frequently, these links with the past were being lost.

Apology
ANPS wishes to apologise to Prof Rod Ewins for not acknowledging him as being the source of the Fiji map in December 2007 Newsletter.

Upcoming Event:
Placenames Australia is planning to hold an inaugural Researchers Meeting in NSW in spring 2008. This will be a great opportunity for our volunteer Research Friends and others interested in investigating Australian placenames to get together to share their findings, discuss experiences, and pick up tips for going further. If you’re interested in attending, and particularly if you would be willing to talk about your research, please contact:

Flavia Hodges at <fhodges@bigpond.net.au>, 61 Lee Street, Maitland, NSW 2320
Placenames puzzle no. 25

The Historically Famous

The clues reveal placenames connected with historical figures (disregard spelling)

E.g. (NSW) Of Armada fame, knighted by Queen Elizabeth I…………….Drake

1. (SA) Formulator of the law of gravity
2. (SA) Scottish pioneer of television; Botany has one
3. (SA) Australian who developed the sheep shearing machine and founded a famous motor company
4. (VIC) British field marshal renowned for the victory at El Alamein
5. (VIC) Millionaire philanthropist who established free libraries
6. (VIC) He took one small step for man….
7. (VIC/S) 18thC. admiral who devised the scale for measuring wind velocity
8. (VIC/TAS) She was personally very involved with No. 17
9. (ACT) Australian statesman, judge, helped write the UN charter and was President of the UN General Assembly 1948-49.
10. (QLD) 35th president of the USA
11. (NSW) His will established Oxford scholarships
12. (NSW) 16th c. English adventurer who introduced the potato to Ireland
13. (NSW/S) Defeated Napoleon at Waterloo
14. (NSW/W) First person to run a mile in under four minutes
15. (NSW/Q) Inventor of the telephone
16. (NSW/V) Author of Seven Pillars of Wisdom
17. (NSW/V) Admiral hero of Trafalgar
18. (W) Pupil of Aristotle, he conquered the Persian Empire; opposite to depths
19. (W) Founder of the Australian Liberal party, prime minister, knight.

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First Annual General Meeting of Placenames Australia
Held in Ballarat

Placenames Australia was incorporated as an association early in 2007 and its first Annual General Meeting was held in Ballarat on 29 November 2007, during the “Trends in Toponymy” conference held at the University of Ballarat. Nine people attended.

Brief written reports on the year’s activities and finances were provided to the meeting. The main activities of 2007 had been the setting up and incorporation of the association itself, development of the Australian National Placenames Survey database, and quarterly publication and distribution of the newsletter. The association’s income since its incorporation consisted of twenty-three subscriptions, of which two were at the higher corporate rate. Largely thanks to corporate support received in publishing and distributing the newsletter, no expenditure had as yet been charged against income.

Discussion of the reports raised a number of questions about the nature of the relationship between Placenames Australia and the Australian National Placenames Survey, and about subscription rates and sources of funding. The executive will meet early in 2008 to consider these questions and to prepare more explanatory material for members (and potential members).

It was also reported at the meeting that Mary Feely (NSW), Michelle Lang (Queensland) and Tricia Mack (NSW) had kindly volunteered to assist the association with the newsletter and administration. Additional offers of assistance from Josh Nash (SA) and Helen Slatyer (NSW) were gratefully accepted at the meeting.

In the absence of other nominations, the following members of the executive committee were reappointed: President, Colin Yallop; Vice President, Joyce Miles; Secretary and Treasurer, Jan Tent; Newsletter Editors, David Blair and Dale Lehner; Other Committee Members, Michael Walsh and Greg Windsor.

Formal minutes of the AGM will be made available to members of Placenames Australia.

We are grateful to the University of Ballarat and the organisers of the “Trends in Toponymy” conference for their help in providing a time and place for the AGM.

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December 2007
We say thankfully to...

our corporate sponsor, the Geographical Names Board of NSW—and to the Secretary of the Board, Greg Windsor. This year’s newsletters could not have been published without the support of the GNB.

Contributions

Contributions for Placenames Australia are welcome. Please send all contributions to the Editor, Tricia Mack, by email: <editor@anps.org.au>

Electronic submissions and photographic or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.

Closing dates for submission are:

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