

# 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



## In Search of the Pennant Hills



*Thomas Pennant (National Museum London, D17869)*

Theories about the origin of placenames which date back to the earliest days of European settlement in Australia can be the subject of great debate amongst historians, as there is often little documentation of precisely when, why and by whom particular areas were named. This is very much the case for the name 'Pennant Hills'.

There are two theories about the name. One of these relates the word 'pennant' to its meaning as a flag used for signalling purposes. The theory suggests that soldiers stationed in the area of present-day West Pennant Hills watched for the rising of such pennants at Government House in Sydney, and that they then raised their own pennant to transmit the sign to Parramatta that the governor was on his way. However, there were in fact never

any soldiers stationed there, nor were flags ever raised in that area until Australia Day, 1988!

The only recorded evidence of such a signalling system in the region is of one which operated from 1824 until 1829 near the corner of present-day Marsden Road and Stewart Street in Ermington. This installation was part of a larger system, which transmitted messages between the flagstaff at South Head – which was set up to watch for arriving ships – and the township of Parramatta. However, the use of the term 'Pennant Hills' can be found in much earlier documents. Works listed by Governor Hunter on 28 September 1800 mentioned that 'Another stockyard was designed for Government at Pendant Hills in Dundas district but is not yet begun to be inclosed. Will be inclosed when wanted'.<sup>1</sup>

In an 1801 muster list, 'Pennant Hills' was mentioned as the place of residence of Ann Fay, the wife of William Bellamy.<sup>2</sup>

In 1802, Governor King wrote to Joseph Banks referring to 'the range of Pennant Hills'.<sup>3</sup>

Writing about the Castle Hill Rebellion in 1804, Elizabeth Macarthur also makes reference to the rebels having gone to the Macarthur farm at 'Pennant Hills' for weapons and recruits.<sup>4</sup>

George Caley, who travelled by foot from Parramatta to the sea in February 1805, mentioned in his journal of his trip 'Capt. Macarthur's farm at Pennent hill'.<sup>5</sup>

These references were made almost a quarter of a century before the signal station was in existence, suggesting that the flag theory lacks a substantive basis.<sup>6</sup>

An alternative suggestion was put forward in 1920 by historian James Jervis, who wrote about the origins of various placenames in Sydney. Jervis stated:

*The origin of the name Pennant Hills is somewhat obscure. It was in use between 1790 and 1800. Probably it was named after Thos Pennant, who was a famous naturalist, and who wrote many books on natural history. Pennant was a correspondent of Sir Joseph Banks. Early documents refer to the Pennant Hills.<sup>7</sup>*

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## From the Editor



You'll have noticed, without my pointing it out, that we have a smart new design for *Placenames Australia*. Our thanks go to the NSW Geographical Names Board, whose talented staff in Graphics Services cheerfully work with us to improve our newsletter.

Our regular informant Andrew Tink features in two pieces this month. Our lead article on *Pennant Hills* is an extract from a recent book he co-authored with Trevor Patrick and James Symes; details of the book and its availability appear at the end of the article on page 7: our photo (right) shows a triumphant Trevor at the book launch. Andrew has previously written for us on the naming of Sydney, and a recent article on the subject is noted by us, also on page 7.

We're always delighted to hear from our readers—whether responding to our articles or supplying (or seeking) new information on placenames. In this month's issue, we print a plea for help on *Yarrangobilly* from the Sydney Speleological Society; a response by Carol Sonogan to Jan Tent's article in the March 2011 issue on Federal electorate names; and correspondence from Lea Fowler in Western Australia giving the origin of *Bettys Beach* (and coincidentally raising the question of how a 'bay' can mysteriously become a 'beach').

We also continue some of our regular features, including the Puzzle by our Vice-President Joyce Miles, as well as the next instalment in her *Out & About* series. In our December issue, Joyce's travels will have progressed from the NW to the SW of Western Australia, all being well. That issue will also see an answer to the question of *Riddlesdale* from our regular contributor Jim Wafer, as well as Jeremy Steele's thoughts on the Indigenous origin of *Maroubra*.

Toponymists tend to be a well-travelled lot; by the time you read this several of the Committee will have attended the Annual Forum of CGNA (that's the *Committee*



for *Geographical Names of Australasia*) in Adelaide. An ANPS Workshop focusing on research in Indigenous placenames (especially those of SA) and the AGM of Placenames Australia are held in conjunction with that Forum. Immediately after that, the International Council of Onomastic Sciences is holding its international conference in Barcelona—so there'll be a mad dash on the part of some to get there in time!

*David Blair*

## Colin Yallop 1941-2011

We are sad to have to report the death of our past President, Dr Colin Yallop. Colin died suddenly in Melbourne in early July.

Colin was a familiar figure to many, but some of us within Placenames Australia and in the Australian academic community had known Colin for over 40 years, and had found in him an esteemed colleague and dear friend.



Born in England, and trained in phonetics at Cambridge, Colin came to Australia to do his PhD research in the Alyawarra

language of the Northern Territory. He had an exceptional ear for language, and was fluent in a number of European languages, as well as in Bahasa Indonesia and Javanese. Although his primary interests were in phonetics and phonology, Colin's keen mind

led to major contributions in other fields, such as translation, semantics and lexicology. He became Director of Macquarie University's Dictionary Research Centre in 1989, and served in that capacity for almost 10 years.

In the 1990s he joined the Editorial Board of the *Macquarie Dictionary* and, on Arthur Delbridge's retirement, became Editor-in-Chief for the preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Colin had always been a strong supporter and encourager of the Australian National Placenames Survey, and when we instituted Placenames Australia (Inc.) in 2007 to put the Survey on a stronger administrative footing, he willingly accepted our invitation to become President. As with everything he did, Colin served in this capacity with diligence, with quiet dignity, and with kindness to all.

He is remembered with deep affection, and is sadly missed. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Maureen, and to his family.

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## Queen Victoria: Did she name any of our places?

Queen Victoria stares down at crowds milling around the entrance to the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney's CBD which was dedicated to her in 1898. She gazes regally from at least eight statues in the main towns of Australia, although worldwide the most famous statue is perhaps the one of her keeping guard over Buckingham Palace in London as she looks down The Mall towards Admiralty Arch. Born in 1819, she was crowned Queen of England in 1837 on the death of William IV and reigned over her Empire for sixty-four years until her death in 1901. But how much real impact did she have on the naming of places in Australia?

The nineteenth century was a time of expansion and development in Australia. New colonies came into being. South Australia was formally named in 1836<sup>1</sup>. What had formerly been known as the Port Phillip District of NSW separated from NSW in 1851 and was named the Crown Colony of **Victoria** in honour of the Queen<sup>2</sup>. **Queensland** was created as a separate colony in 1859<sup>3</sup>. It seems that several names were suggested for the new colony – Cooksland and Flindersland<sup>4</sup>, but **Queensland** was finally chosen and in addressing the people on his arrival on 10th December, 1859, Governor-elect George Ferguson Bowen told them that the name for the colony was “entirely the happy thought and inspiration of Her Majesty herself”<sup>5</sup>.

The discovery of gold, first at Bathurst in 1851 and then in other parts of the country, transformed Australia completely. By 1852 immigration ships had begun to arrive, bringing thousands of hopeful prospectors from many parts of the world<sup>6</sup>. Hence great changes took place. Towns developed and Australia's population grew. From under half a million in 1850 it grew to over a million by 1860 and by the end of the century this had increased to around three and three-quarter millions<sup>7</sup>.

Throughout the world there are towns and cities named **Victoria** - many of them in honour of Queen Victoria - but in Australia no large city on the mainland appears to have been named after her. Perhaps one of the largest areas dedicated to her memory is the **Great Victoria Desert**. This vast land mass of some 425,000 square kilometres stretches from Western Australia to South Australia (29°30'S/126°30'E). In 1872 the British explorer Ernest Giles set out to conquer what were described as the “terrifying central deserts of the continent”. After several perilous journeys of exploration, Giles and his party set out in May 1875 determined to travel west across the central area in the hope of finding pastoral or mining country. All they found was desert. At the end of September, almost dying of thirst, they were fortunate enough to find an oasis of a small pool of fresh water surrounded by green fodder whereupon Giles dedicated the spring and the vast arid lands around it to the queen, **Victoria**. This is now known as the **Great Victoria Desert**<sup>8</sup>.



In 1832 under Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell a pass, referred to as the **Pass of Victoria**, was constructed down a mountain in the Blue Mountains, NSW. Mitchell named the mountain **Mount Victoria** but the highest point on his map was marked as One Tree Hill. With the coming of the railway, a platform was erected in 1869 and a township grew up, known as both One Tree Hill and **Mount Victoria**. This led to confusion and after the first Post Office was built in 1876 the official name became **Mount Victoria**<sup>9</sup>.

In conjunction with attempts to establish a military and naval base at Port Essington, NT, a fortified settlement was built at Barrow Bay in 1838 and named **Victoria**, but through lack of basic functions, it only lasted a few years and all that remain today are a few ruins<sup>10</sup>. Commander John Clements Wickham and Lieutenant John Lort Stokes, aboard *HMS Beagle* on a mission to complete the examination of inlets in north-western Australia discovered in October 1839 what the officers described as ‘indeed a noble river’ which they named as the **Victoria** after the Queen of England. It turned out to be the Northern Territory's largest river<sup>11</sup>. In 1841 Resident Magistrate of the Toodyay District, Western Australia, Captain John Scully, wrote to the Governor on 2nd March 1841 of coming to ‘extensive grassy plains through which a brook runs in winter’ which he named **Victoria Plains** ‘after his young queen’<sup>12</sup>. **Victoria Park**, a suburb of Perth, is part of Victoria Park Estate which was developed in 1891 and named in honour of the Queen<sup>13</sup>.

There are a number of placenames which include the word ‘Queen’ which were chosen in her honour. These include **Queenstown**, Tasmania, **Queenstown** (originally **Queen's Town**) a suburb of Adelaide SA, **Queenscliff**, a coastal suburb in NSW, **Queenscliffe** and **Queenscliff** in Victoria<sup>14</sup>.

Perhaps Victoria's name appears as a placename rather less frequently than might have been expected. She was, of course, unpopular for a while on account of her prolonged disappearance from public life on the death in 1861 of her beloved Albert, but this is offset by the enormous numbers of thoroughfares of various kinds named **Victoria** in our various towns and cities.

Joyce Miles

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> R. and B. Appleton, *The Cambridge Dictionary of Australian Places*, 1992, p.274
- <sup>2</sup> Appleton, *op. cit.* p.301
- <sup>3</sup> Davison, Hirst and Macintyre, (Eds.) *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, 2001, pp.667 and 541
- <sup>4</sup> Appleton, *op. cit.* p.251
- <sup>5</sup> Beverley Kingston, *The Oxford History of Australia*, Vol.3, 1989, p.xiii
- <sup>6</sup> Davison, Hirst and Macintyre, *op. cit.*, p.28
- <sup>7</sup> www.populstat.info/Oceania/australc.htm
- <sup>8</sup> Michael Cannon, *The Exploration of Australia*, 1987, pp.246-251
- <sup>9</sup> Origins of Blue Mountains Town Names on www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/library/aboutthebluemountains/; [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Victoria\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Victoria_New_South_Wales)
- <sup>10</sup> Cannon, *op. cit.*, p.113
- <sup>11</sup> *ibid.* p.120
- <sup>12</sup> Information supplied by Shire of Victoria Plains quoting from Rica Erickson, *The Victoria Plains*, 1971
- <sup>13</sup> Ian Murray and Brian Goodchild, *A Gazetteer of Perth Suburbs and Western Australian Towns*, 2003, p.61
- <sup>14</sup> Appleton, *op. cit.* pp.251-252

## Yarrangobilly

*We've received the following plea for help from Ross Ellis and Erik Halbert of the Sydney Speleological Society. If you have any information on Yarrangobilly, let us know and we'll be happy to pass it on to Ross and Erik.*

Our caving group (the Sydney Speleological Society) is preparing a book on the Yarrangobilly Caves for our 60th Anniversary in 2014, and we are writing chapters for it.

One chapter makes mention of the name Yarrangobilly and we would like to explain more about what the word means and when it was first used in print and would be happy to be able to extend the questions if enough information came to hand.

We are also wondering if anybody could throw some light on the word *Arranarrang*, which we assume is an Aboriginal word and suggest is a corrupt version of Yarrangobilly or vice versa.

It has been reported that Yarrangobilly is thought to mean 'a flowing stream' in the local Aboriginal language (McCarthy 1952, 1971; Reed 1967, 1969), and so far, the first printed use of the name Yarrangobilly that we know of appears to have been in the definition of the NSW county of Buccleuch in 1849 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 January 1849, pp. 3-4).

We know that the name was not used in 1833 when Surveyor Stapylton surveyed the first few miles of Yarrangobilly River

upstream of its confluence with the Tumut River. In his survey he is reported as naming it Mangola Creek (Andrews 1992, p. 331) or Mongola Creek (Hoad 2004, p. 28). However, he could also have named it Mungola Creek. Both Mangola and Mungola appear to have been used by the Aborigines for the Murray crayfish (River lobster) (*Euastacus armatus*) (Argus 2 November 1863, p. 7; Gilligan et al 2007, pp. 16, 73). Gilligan et al also reported that in accounts of his scientific expeditions around the upper Murrumbidgee catchment in the 1830s, George Bennett documented the traditional name of Mungola used by the Ngannawal tribe (Scott 2005 not cited).

An early reference, Clarke (1860, p. 106), in his comprehensive *Researches in the Southern Gold Fields of New South Wales* says:

About 10 miles S. by E. of Bogong Mountain is the valley of Arranarrang, at the head of Mungola Creek, and on the west side of Coolalamine, surrounded by lofty mountains nearly bare of timber. The creek is a tributary of the Tumut. Cliffs of water-worn marble abound here also...The marble here is either white or red, but there are stalactitic caverns in it of great beauty.

Rose (2001, p. 35) commenting on this quote, in 1966 noted that he (Rose) could not find an Arranarrang Valley or Mungola Creek and speculated that Clarke could be referring to Cave Creek, a tributary of the Jounama Creek. Clarke's work published in 1860 was a large undertaking and the quote above appears to derive from a report to him on the results of a trip to the area by TA Murray and HW Nichols in 1851 (Clarke 1860, p. 104).

Murray was Speaker of the Legislative Assembly at the time and may have been involved in the definition of NSW counties carried out in 1849.

In light of Mungola Creek actually being Yarrangobilly River then our view is that Arranarrang Valley is an early version of Yarrangobilly Valley, perhaps a precursor based on the name used by a local Aboriginal tribe. This is consistent also with Clarke's description of there being *stalactitic caverns...of great beauty.*"

If anyone could help us better explain the word Yarrangobilly and supply or put us on to any references which might bring the use of the word closer to when the caves were discovered (c. 1834), then we would be very pleased.

## References

- Andrews, Alan E.J. 1992. *Major Mitchell's Map 1834: the saga of the survey of the nineteen counties*, Blubber Head Press, Hobart.
- Clarke, William Branwhite 1860. *Researches in the Southern Gold Fields of New South Wales*, Reading and Wellbank, Sydney, Google digitised version, pp. 314. Google.com
- Gilligan, D Rolls, R Merrick, J Lintermans, M Duncan, P and Kohen, J 2007. *Scoping the knowledge requirements for Murray crayfish (Euastacus armatus)*, NSW Department of Primary Industries (now incorporating NSW Fisheries),

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# Classifying Indigenous Names of Federal Electorates

With reference to Dr Jan Tent's article in the March edition, it is interesting to further consider the indigenous names of Federal Electorates. As stated in his article, only 13 percent of the 150 electorate names are considered as indigenous. The following list and meanings taken from the Australian Electoral Commission<sup>1</sup> form a basis for further analysis (Table 1).

Table 1. Indigenous names of Federal electorates

Name and Type	Gloss
<i>Eponymous</i>	
Bennelong	
Bonner	
Jagajaga	
Lingiari	
<i>Locational</i>	
Ballarat	'resting or camping place'
Berowra	'locality' (no meaning attributed)
Calare	Aboriginal name for the Lachlan River
Canberra	'meeting place'
Corangamite	After a local salty lake of the same name; <i>corangamite</i> is apparently a local Aboriginal word meaning 'bitter'
Corio	'small marsupial' or 'sandy cliffs'
(Eden)-Monaro	'locality' (no meaning attributed)
Indi	After the Aboriginal name for the Murray River
Kooyong	'camp' or 'resting place'
Mallee	After the local Aboriginal name for the dwarf eucalypts that grow widely in this region
Maranoa	Aboriginal name for a local river. Possibly 'duck eggs'
Maribyrnong	'plenty of eels'; 'head of river'
Wannon	After the Wannon River which was named by Major Mitchell in 1836. (The VACL website <sup>2</sup> further records that the word was obtained from Jardwadjali, with no meaning passed on through Mitchell).
Warringah	'sign of rain'; 'across the waves'; 'sea'
Werriwa	After the local Aboriginal name for Lake George near Canberra

The eponymous names, while being names of notable indigenous people, have been applied as placenames only after European contact, and do not therefore reflect indigenous naming practice. They may be considered as introduced.

With that consideration, a comparison of indigenous and introduced names shows marked contrasts (Table 2).

Table 2. Comparison of Indigenous and Introduced names

	Indigenous	Introduced
Eponymous	--	112 (83%)
Locational	15.5 (100%)	22.5 (17%)

In order to understand traditional naming practices the sixteen indigenous locational names listed have been categorised as follows (Table 3).

Table 3. Meanings of Indigenous electorate names

Name refers to	Frequency	Percent
Body of water, or characteristics of bodies of water	8-9	50-56
Meeting or resting place	3	19
Flora or fauna	2	12.5
Unspecified	2-3	12.5-19

There is much to be understood about the frequencies and reasons for certain categories of meanings reported.

Multiple meanings for a placename may actually reveal layers or packages of associated cultural information that a name may have conveyed. Their classification and comparison may result in a framework for indigenous naming practices that would help to verify the depth or accuracy of various given meanings.

Carol Sonogan

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Australian Electoral Commission, *Election 2010: Index to current electoral division profiles & maps*. <http://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/index.htm> (accessed 14 April, 2011)

<sup>2</sup> Clark, I. and T. Heydon (2002) *Database of Aboriginal Placenames of Victoria*, Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, Melbourne. <http://vaclang.ozhosting.com/search.asp> (Searched "Wannon" 14 April, 2011)

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## Thomas Pennant (1726-1798)

Pennant, who never visited Australia, was a prominent ornithologist and zoologist, and a prolific author of the eighteenth century, whose writings about natural history, topography and travel were based on his many tours of the British Isles and his research into the world's animal kingdom. It was said that his writings achieved great success by always making dull scientific matters interesting. Pennant belonged to a distinguished Welsh family, who had an estate at Downing, in Flintshire, for many generations. His friends included Sir Joseph Banks, Captain James Cook and Francis Grose senior, whose son, also Francis, administered the colony of New South Wales when Arthur Phillip returned to England in 1792. His keen interest and support of the journeys of these men to the other side of the world possibly led to his name becoming preserved in that of the suburb we now know as Pennant Hills. Under the patronage system of the eighteenth century, the colonial pioneers often acknowledged their supporters in England by naming geographical features in their honour, although many of these people never travelled to Australia. Governor Arthur Phillip, for example, named Sydney after Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney, who was the Home Secretary in the British Cabinet<sup>8</sup>, and Rose Hill (the early name for Parramatta) commemorated George Rose, who was Secretary to the Treasury and one of Phillip's neighbours in England.

## The Life and Work of Thomas Pennant

Thomas Pennant was born on 14 June 1726 in Holywell, Flintshire, in Wales. His education commenced at the Wrexham School and his passion for natural history was inspired by a book published by Francis Willughby in 1678 titled *Ornithology* (the study of birds). In 1744 he attended The Queen's College, Oxford, and he was awakened to the wonder of minerals and fossils by a tour through Cornwall in 1747. In 1750 his literary career began with his description of an earthquake at Downing being inserted in the *Philosophical Transactions*, the official publication of the Royal Society. In 1754 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and three years later Carolus Linnaeus prompted him to join the Royal Swedish Society of Sciences in Uppsala. He married Elizabeth Falconer in 1759 and they had two children: a daughter, Arabella; and a son, David, who lived until 1841.

In 1760 he resigned from the Society of Antiquaries and the next year commenced writing *British Zoology*, being elected as High Sheriff of Flintshire in the same year as a commitment to serve his community. On the death of his father in 1763, the Downing family estate passed to him; and in 1765 his wife, Elizabeth, died. Continuing his passion for the natural world, the first part of his *British Zoology* book was published in 1766 with the profits from the sale of the book going to the Welsh School, Grays Inn Lane, London. He visited the continent and made the acquaintance of Voltaire, the famous French author and philosopher. The next year Joseph Banks welcomed Pen-

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nant as a Fellow of the Royal Society, London. The year 1771 saw the publication of *A Tour in Scotland in 1769*, which proved very popular; *Synopsis of Quadrupeds* was also released in the same year. An honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law from the University of Oxford was conferred on him in 1771, and during the next year he toured Scotland accompanied by Reverend J. Lightfoot, a botanist, and Moses Griffith, a landscape artist. The highlight of that year was being honoured with the 'Freedom of Edinburgh'. A tour in 1773 of Ireland followed by a trip to the Isle of Man with Francis Grose senior added to Pennant's knowledge of the natural world. In 1776 John Keyse Sherwin painted his portrait, in the style of the noted English artist Thomas Gainsborough. He celebrated his second marriage to Anne Mostyn in 1777, which produced two children: a daughter, Sarah, who unfortunately died when she was aged fourteen years, and a son, Thomas, who lived until 1846. A string of books followed from 1778 with *A Tour in Wales; History of Quadrupeds and Journey to Snowdon* (1781); *Journey from Chester to London* (1782); *Arctic Zoology* (in three volumes, 1784, 1785, 1787) which included information from Sir Joseph Banks; and *An Account of London* (1790) which went into three impressions. Pennant's correspondence with author Gilbert White was the basis for White's book *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, Wales* (1789). Being aware of his mortality, he wrote *The Literary Life of the late Thomas Pennant, Esq.* (1793), detailing his life's work. He went on to write *History of Parishes of Whiteford and Holywell* (1796). Pennant then commenced writing *Outlines of the Globe*, based on his correspondence with the major explorers around the world. The first and second volumes of this work were published in 1798. He died on 16 December 1798, aged seventy-two years, and his second wife, Anne, died in 1802. The third and fourth volumes of *Outlines of the Globe* were published posthumously in 1800 by his son David. The fourth volume gave details of the settlement at Sydney Cove obtained through his correspondence with Joseph Banks.<sup>9</sup>

## Thomas Pennant and the Early Expeditions to New South Wales

Pennant's connection to the explorers and founders of the colony of New South Wales stemmed largely from his membership of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge (usually known simply as the Royal Society), the oldest and probably the most famous scientific organisation of any kind in the world. It has enjoyed a continuous existence since King Charles II approved its formation in 1660. The Society represents British science throughout the world, and the fellowship comprises all parts of the Commonwealth. The Society, however, is not a government institution, being since its foundation an independent body. It is made up of Fellows, who pay an annual subscription and who make their own rules and appoint their own officers, and its patron is the ruling monarch. The Royal Society was the premier scientific body of the eighteenth century and played a strong part in promoting expeditions around the globe, through its influence with the British Admiralty and

## ...the Pennant Hills

the government. It was the Royal Society that urged the Admiralty to commission an expedition to observe the transit of Venus across the face of the sun in 1769. Lieutenant James Cook undertook this journey on the Endeavour, which ultimately led to his discovery of the eastern coast of Australia; and Joseph Banks, on behalf of the Royal Society, accompanied him. An ardent naturalist and botanist, and a wealthy landowner, Banks had been admitted to the Society in 1766 at the very young age of twenty-three years. He was ready to finance scientific expeditions, as well as take part in them and undergo the many risks and discomforts of foreign exploration.

He had already been a member of an expedition to Newfoundland, where he had made considerable collections of artefacts from the natural world.

Thomas Pennant wrote to Banks on 10 April 1768 suggesting he use his influence to mount an expedition of exploration to the Pacific Ocean.<sup>10</sup>

Banks gathered a team of eight scientists and engaged Dr Daniel Solander, the Swedish naturalist, to ensure botanical science and natural history would be advanced through discoveries made on the journey. Banks bore all the expenses of the staff and equipment necessary for carrying out botanical and other biological investigations at the places the expedition would visit. They duly accompanied James Cook on his first voyage from 1768 to 1771.

Pennant's books on the natural world were carried by Cook as texts for reference on his journeys of discovery. Cook wrote in his journal during the voyage:

.... at Goose Cove, New Zealand, left five Geese, brought from the Cape of Good Hope. Lieutenant Pickersgill was one who shot a White Hern which answers exactly with Mr. Pennant's description of the White Hens that either now or were formerly in England. Mr Pennant described the White Hern, in his book titled *British Zoology*.<sup>11</sup>

Cook claimed the entire eastern landmass of Australia in 1770, naming it New South Wales. Pennant in his final book (*Outlines of the Globe*, volume four, 1800) included a map showing all the known land features, with the eastern shore of Van Diemen's Land linked by dotted lines to Point Hicks where Cook first sighted land. Across those dotted lines he indicated the possibility of a strait that divided the country, foreshadowing the

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## Sydney or Howe?

In an article which appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Australia Day this year, PA contributor Andrew Tink asked the question 'why did Arthur Phillip christen Sydney Cove after the British Home Secretary and not after the First Lord of the Admiralty?'

As Andrew pointed out, Phillip had two political masters, both Cabinet ministers—Lord Sydney, the Home Secretary, and Lord Howe of the Admiralty. And since Phillip was a naval man, surely Howe was the natural choice to honour in this way?

eventual discovery by Matthew Flinders and George Bass of the waterway that bears Bass' name.

**Trevor Patrick**

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> *Historical Records of Australia* (HRA), series 1, vol.2, Library Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament 1914-1925, Sydney, p.619.
- <sup>2</sup> R. Hawkins, 'On the origin of the name of Pennant Hills', *Local Colour*, 1989, vol.4, no.13, p.13.
- <sup>3</sup> King to Sir Joseph Banks, Mitchell Library reel FM4/1748, p.156.
- <sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Macarthur to John Piper, April 1804, *Piper Papers*, Mitchell Library, A256 p. 423.
- <sup>5</sup> George Caley, *Journey to the Sea*, 1805. Journal 1802-1807, Mitchell Library: Microfilm FM/4/2568
- <sup>6</sup> Interestingly enough, another site in Sydney connected to the same flagstaff system—Woollahra—also has been the subject of controversy: as to whether its name comes from the Aboriginal wood 'Woo-la-ra' which was noted by Daniel Southwell in 1788 to mean 'The Lookout'. This was later taken to mean that the word related to the flagstaff established at South Head by Captain Hunter, yet this was not in place until 1790, two years after the first mention of the term, making such a theory untenable. B. Crosson "'Woollahra" and the lookouts', *Woollahra History and Heritage Society Briefs*, Brief no. 11, 1989.
- <sup>7</sup> J. Jervis 'The origin and history of the place names of the Parramatta and adjoining districts', *Journal and Proceedings Parramatta Historical Society*, 1921, vol. 2, p. 50 (as read before the Parramatta and District Historical Society 7 September 1920).
- <sup>8</sup> R. Appleton (ed), *The Australian Encyclopaedia*, 4th edn.
- <sup>9</sup> Information about Thomas Pennant obtained from following websites: [www.llgc.org.uk](http://www.llgc.org.uk); [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org); [www.encyclopedia.jrank.org](http://www.encyclopedia.jrank.org); [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)
- <sup>10</sup> Joseph Banks papers, Mitchell Library, series 72.130.
- <sup>11</sup> J.C. Beaglehole (ed), *The Journals of Captain James Cook on his Voyages of Discovery*, vol 2, Hakluyt Society, Cambridge, 1968, p. 126.

Extracted from *In Search of the Pennant Hills* (2007), by Trevor Patrick, James Symes & Andrew Tink

Copies available from:

Trevor Patrick

PO Box 176 KENTHURST NSW 2156

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In brief, Andrew says the answer is that Phillip had always been on the outer in the Royal Navy; and it was Sydney, rather than Howe, who had chosen Phillip as governor. So Lord Sydney got the major honour while Lord Howe had to make do with a speck of an island in the South Pacific. (Perhaps the First Lord of the Admiralty would be pleased to know that 'his' island is now a World Heritage Site, acknowledged as one of the most beautiful and precious natural sites in the world.)

*Andrew Tink, a former NSW MP, is the biographer of William Charles Wentworth and of Lord Sydney. Andrew's article on the naming of Sydney appeared in our December 2007 issue.*

# The Naming of Bettys Beach, WA

*ANPS Director, Jan Tent, reports.*

We received an email from Lea Fowler of Bullsbrook, WA. She writes: 'I am interested to know if you have any information regarding Betty's Beach, on the eastern side of Two People Bay which is 30km east of Albany, Western Australia. This beach is named after my mother who is now 92 years of age. In our family it has always been known as Betty's Bay and I am unsure when and why it became a "beach". I can provide detailed information on how this area came to be named after Mum and provide some interesting historical facts. Please advise if this information is already on your database. Many thanks.'

*Unfortunately we had no information on Bettys Beach, so we asked Lea if she would tell us all she knew. She then sent us the following:*

Betty's Beach 30km east of Albany, Western Australia was named in honour of my mother Betty Jones (née Poole) in 1932. These are her words, written on March 15, 2011 at the ripe old age of 92.



*Betty Jones (née Poole), aged 14 in 1933*

'My father was a great fisherman and we had previously camped at Two People Bay with Mr and Mrs Broomhall who were good friends of the family. Mr Broomhall had been posted to run the Number 2 Pumping Station so that's how he came to find these wonderful places along the south coast. On one of our earlier trips, we discovered a freshwater stream in the next bay (which became Betty's Bay) so it was decided that it would make a better campsite in future. Dad worked for the Government Railways and had earned some Long Service Leave so the family decided to head South for 6 weeks over the Christmas school break.

'Getting to Betty's Bay was quite an ordeal in itself. Our food supplies were ordered from Timewell's Groceries in Albany (enough for the whole six weeks) and of course the packing of canvas tents, stretchers, bedding, cooking utensils, camp ovens and the all important fishing gear for a family of 11. We caught the train from Swanbourne to Albany where we were picked up by an old 'wood truck'. All the family piled in the back except Mum and baby who sat on the front seat with the driver. Of course there were no roads, only tracks in those days and it was a real adventure for a 13 year old bouncing along in the back of the truck over rocks and shrubs to get to the beach. We arrived at the top of the hill and unable to drive down to the beach, had to unload the truck and carry our gear all the way down by hand. There were numerous trips on foot up and down the hill required to get all our supplies. I got fed up with all the traipsing up and down the winding walk trail and decided to take a short cut through the bush – and subsequently got lost and very scared. Dad had to come and find me, boy did I get into trouble, I got a good whack I recall!

'We all had to source our own mattresses, made out of seaweed of course, and made up our beds with crisp white cotton sheet. It was a wonderful six weeks, we lived on fish and tinned food and damper cooked in the camp ovens. I learnt how to fish and caught my first one, a flathead, there. I walked for miles with my Dad to find the best fishing spots. We never saw a soul except for the Norman Brothers who brought us some milk from their farm out Mt Many Peaks way. My sister Joy and I were like little goats, clambering over the rocks without any fear.

'On the day of our departure home, Mr Broomhall wrote my name in charcoal on a piece of wood and put it in the ground at the top of the track. I can still hear him saying "We will call this 'Betty's Bay' because you got lost and caught your first fish here." Imagine my surprise when I went back in 1943 to visit Mr and Mrs Broomhall and they took me out to the coast and there on a proper signpost was "Betty's Bay". To this day I'm still thrilled and honoured to have a little piece of Australian paradise in my name.'



*Bettys Bay (now called Bettys Beach) 30km east of Albany, WA*

*Jan continues:* The nearby Normans Beach obviously derives its name from the Norman family mentioned by Betty.

Brian Goodchild from Landgate, WA, has provided us with the following information:

We have no origin for Bettys Beach, other than it was first shown on an RAC tourist map of the area in 1972. The name was probably known locally before that date, but there is no record of it in any of our sources. It does not appear to have ever been shown on any maps as Bettys Bay.



Betty and her family believe they have seen the name 'Bettys Bay' on a map and are searching for this evidence. Betty and her family would like to see Bettys Beach revert to its original name of Bettys Bay. We shall keep you informed of any further developments. If in the mean time you know of any maps of official references to 'Bettys Bay', the we would love to hear from you.

**Jan Tent**



*Betty Jones of Karrinyup, WA, on her 90th birthday in 2009*

## Out & About...

with Joyce Miles

### Wanderings in the North West (Part II)

#### Port Hedland

Lying some 450kms north of Newman, Port Hedland today is one of Australia's largest ports and the major centre for Western Australia's iron ore industry with a throughput in excess of 70 million tonnes a year<sup>1</sup>. The Dutch had been in the area as early as 1628 when one of their ships, the *Vianen* under the command of Frederickszoon de Witt, ran aground further along the coast to the west of the present port. For many years the area was known as *De Witt's Land*<sup>2</sup>. In 1863 a Dutch pearling captain, Peter Hedland, master of the 16 ton cutter *Mystery*, explored the harbour and named it *Mangrove Harbour*. Subsequently it became *Port Hedland*, named in honour of the explorer<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately, some years later disaster appears to have struck Captain Hedland and his crew, according to a report on page 3 of the *Brisbane Courier* of 8th November, 1881:

*The remains of Peter Headland and his companions have been found on an island to the east-wark of Roebuck Bay. There are evidence to show that after the brutal murder of these men, the natives sank the schooner and escaped to the mainland in the dingy. Headland was associated with the earliest settlement in the North and with the pearllshelling industry<sup>4</sup>.*

It was not until some thirty years after the arrival of Captain Hedland that demands were met by the government for the establishment of a port and a town to meet the needs of the pastoral industry, the pearling trade and a growing population. Port Hedland was officially gazetted in 1896. As it is situated

on the natural harbour named for Captain Peter Hedland, it took the same name<sup>5</sup>. In the 1960s the iron ore industry in the region began to expand. New discoveries were made and new mines were opened at Goldsworthy and Shay Gap. A rail link was built between the new mining towns and Port Hedland and dredging of waterways took place, ultimately resulting in the important place the port has today in the region's varied industries both on and offshore<sup>6</sup>.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> *UBD Western Australia Country Road Atlas – Port Hedland*, 12th ed., p.382
- <sup>2</sup> Michael Cannon, *The Exploration of Australia*, 1987, p.27
- <sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port\\_Hedland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Hedland)
- <sup>4</sup> <http://www.newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article91071>
- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au/corporate.nsf/web/History+of+Country+Town+Names>
- <sup>6</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port\\_Hedland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Hedland)

### Roebourne

*Roebourne* is the name of both a town and a shire, although today the shire is administered from Karratha, 40kms to the west. Roebourne, on the Harding River, is one of the oldest surviving towns on the NW coast of WA. Settlers began to arrive two years after it was first explored in 1861 by Francis Thomas Gregory who deemed it ideal as a pastoral district. The town was named after John Septimus Roe (1797-1878). Born in England, Roe became a naval officer, surveyor and explorer and, after numerous successful operations, was appointed Western Australia's first Surveyor-General, a post he held from 1829 to 1870. During his period of office he carried out many surveys, undertook expeditions inland, was influential in the development not only of Perth and Fremantle but the entire region, and the name of Roebourne, gazetted as early as August 1866, honours his achievements<sup>1</sup>. In 1872 the town was destroyed by a cyclone, but rebuilt. During the 1880s and 1890s it prospered from gold, copper and tin mining, but all declined, although the surrounding Pilbara area has vast iron ore deposits. The area is home to the Ngarluma people<sup>2</sup>.



*John Septimus Roe, at age 27*

### References

- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au/corporate.nsf/web/History+of+Country+Town+Names>
- <sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roebourne#Early\\_history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roebourne#Early_history)

# Kempsey and the Macleay River

As you travel north along the Pacific Highway from Port Macquarie to the outskirts of the town of Kempsey, along the NSW North Coast, you might wonder how the district came into being and how the names evolved.

## Kempsey

Travelling along the highway, you pass through South Kempsey and across a creek named *Gills Creek*. This was named after Sirius Gill, an early settler and Lay Reader in the Methodist Church. Further on, you pass Rudder Park before crossing the bridge into the town of Kempsey.

In the 1830's the first officials and residents of Sydney were aware of a river valley north of the Hastings River; despite explorer John Oxley's earlier non-interest, they were very willing to take up land grants.

The directories of Sydney in 1836 show the names of

- E.W. Rudder, Merchant, Spring Street, Sydney
- Samuel Onions, Ironmonger, East King Street, and
- John Verge, Architect, Upper Sussex Street, Sydney.

Surveyor Ralph in 1835 went to the Macleay and surveyed 812 acres for Onions and a grant was issued on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1836. Enoch William Rudder purchased the 812 acres from Onions for five shillings an acre. According to Rudder's book *History of the Macleay* (printed in 1877), he arranged to purchase the block before Onions made application for the grant. Why, one might ask, did he not make application in his own name?

Rudder arrived in Sydney from England in 1834 and according to his book came to the Macleay in March 1835 to look at this property. Rudder had Surveyor Henry Farncourt White survey 35 allotments and his sub-division was advertised for sale in the *Sydney Herald* of 14<sup>th</sup> November 1836 and auctioned on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Rudder, according to his book, named the town *Kempsey* on the Macleay River after the town of Kempsey in England; the town, on the River Severn and about 32 km north of the city of Gloucester whence Rudder came, lay in picturesque countryside very similar, in Rudder's view, to the Macleay Valley.

## Macleay River

After coming down the hill past Rudder Park you cross a very picturesque river—Rudder was correct in his comparison.

*Smokey Cape* was the first European name applied to the Macleay Coast by Lt. James Cook on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1770 during his voyage of discovery aboard the ship *Endeavour*. This name remained on maps until 1816, when desperate convicts seized the Brig *Trial* with passengers and crew in Sydney Cove and sailed north hoping to reach China. In 1817 the Brig *Lady Nelson* was sent to investigate: the commandeered vessel was found wrecked in

an inlet consequently named *Trial Bay*. Although search parties failed to find any trace of survivors at the time, rumours of a lone woman survivor persisted and found some later verification.

Surveyor John Oxley found the Apsley River at its source in September 18, 1818, having left Sydney in May 1817. He was in Walcha and wrote that he had endeavored to make port on the coast, laid down in latitude 30°45'S—the location of the mouth of the Macleay River. In November 1820 he came to Trial Bay, entered the river at its mouth under the Grassy Head headland (then unnamed). In his report to Governor Macquarie dated December 1820 he was unimpressed, and reported swamps for about 32 km up river and that the land was infertile and sandy.

According to the *Sydney Gazette* on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1825, four prison runaways from Moreton Bay arrived at Port Macquarie after a journey of five weeks; they reported having crossed sixty streams and rivers. The Commandant, Capt. H Gilman, and Capt. Samuel Wright interviewed the runaway convicts; they were particularly interested in their reports of a large river north of the Hastings River. Although Gilman left Port Macquarie in February 1826, the result of his inquiry was an expedition which set off northwards in early 1827. The expedition took a boat via the Maria River (a tributary of the Hastings) as far as Rollands Plains, and then the boat was carried overland for six and a half miles to the New River.

There is no doubt that the river was then named *Wright's River* after Capt. Samuel Wright who led the expedition. Wright soon after became Commandant of Port Macquarie penal settlement until late 1827, and later became Police Magistrate in Newcastle. He died on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1853 at Bengalla near Muswellbrook. The river was subsequently renamed the *McLeay*, then the *Macleay*, after Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay.

Toponymically speaking, then, the river has had a convoluted history: it has borne the names *Trial*, *New*, *Wright's*, *McLeay* and finally *Macleay*.

**Geoff Minett**

Mary Boultons Pioneer Cottage and Museum  
Macksville NSW

## Reference

Weingarth, John. 'The discovery and settlement of the Macleay River.' *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, 7 (4), 1921

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## We recommend...

a book for placenames addicts, by Harry Campbell (with foreword by Alexander McCall Smith):

[Whatever Happened to Tanganyika: the Placenames that History Left Behind](#) (London, Portico Books, 2007)

Heard about British Heligoland? How about the Californian settlement of Zzyzx? Mr Campbell knows them all... Watch out for occasional extracts in future issues of *Placenames Australia*.

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# Name changes - or not

Shakespeare claimed that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but apparently not everyone agrees.

## Rotten Bay

The ABC reported recently on toponymic ructions in South Australia. There has been a push, apparently from the local council, to rename an area long known as *Rotten Bay*, on Boston Island in Spencer Gulf. The name *Bluefin Bay* was suggested in order to project a more positive image.

Submissions from local residents to SA's Geographical Names Unit, however, opposed any change, and the council has now decided to withdraw its support for a new name. (We note that Mayor Peter Davis is the owner of Boston Island; he says he is disappointed the area will remain known as Rotten Bay.)

The Geographical Names Unit suggests that the name is either a warning to mariners and fisherman that the bay is not suitable for shelter in bad weather or that anchor ropes were cut by swaying across razorfish seeded in the bay. The name has been known in the area since the mid 1800's.

## Bogan Place

Residents of Bogan Place, in Wahroonga on Sydney's North Shore, have been urging their local council for some time for a name change. They're sick of people making fun of their street

name, they say; and their street sign keeps getting stolen. (By bogans, we wonder?).

The mayor of Bogan Shire Council in the central west of NSW can't understand what they're on about. He says that those who live on the Bogan River are proud of the word and its history, which goes back to the local Aboriginal people who were there when Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell arrived in the area in 1835.

Ku-ring-gai Council, however, turned out to be more sympathetic than Bogan Shire's mayor. Bogan Place now rejoices in the name *Rainforest Close*!

## SpeedKills VIC 3488



The Victorian town of Speed, population 45, temporarily changed its name in February to *SpeedKills*. The Transport Accident Commission, which promotes road safety, approached Speed

residents with the idea, promising \$10,000 to the local Lions Club if the change were made.

As yet, we have no record of any improvement in the road accident statistics in the area during the month of February!

# Placenames Puzzle Number 39

## First Names of the Well-Known

*The clues reveal placenames which are the same as the first names of the well-known (disregard spelling) e.g. (WA) Was the Queen's younger sister; watercourse ... Margaret River*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. (SA) She is absolutely fabulous  | 10. (TAS) Governor of NSW 1810-21   |
| 2. (SA) Australia's first woman Prime Minister                                  | 11. (TAS) US politician, former Governor of Alaska; land surrounded by water                                    |
| 3. (SA) He and Nicole are parents of Sunday Rose                                | 12. (TAS) Regarded as Australia's greatest batsman  |
| 4. (SA) In recent years he won Wimbledon six times; where two streets meet      | 13. (VIC) Of an iconic armour-clad 19th century folk hero; intersection of two walls                            |
| 5. (SA) First name of <i>La Giaconda</i>  | 14. (VIC) Daughter of the 42nd President of the USA   |
| 6. (WA) Tasmanian-born royal mother of four; small stream                       | 15. (VIC) A premier Australian politician, but not related to the captain of the <i>Bounty</i> ; type of window |
| 7. (WA) Her positions have include First Lady and Secretary of State            | 16. (NSW) Woman assassinator of Marat during the French Revolution; to be successful in a test                  |
| 8. (NT) Three of Henry VIII's wives had the same name                           | 17. (QLD) Described her brilliant career  |
| 9. (NT) Pen name of author made famous by farm animals; where tents are pitched | 18. (QLD) His poles were blue   |
|   | 19. (ACT) Actor, co-owner of a rugby league team, and gladiator with a beautiful mind                           |
|   | 20. (SA/VIC) The Bard's settlement  |

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## Answers:

- |                 |              |                  |                    |                  |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Joanna       | 5. Mona      | 9. George Camp   | 13. Neds Corner    | 17. Miles        |
| 2. Julia        | 6. Marybrook | 10. Lachlan      | 14. Chelsea        | 18. Jackson      |
| 3. Keith        | 7. Hillarys  | 11. Sarah Island | 15. Anna Bay       | 19. Russell      |
| 4. Roger Corner | 8. Katherine | 12. Don          | 16. Charlotte Pass | 20. Williamstown |

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## Contributions

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Supporting photographs or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.

## Closing dates for submissions are:

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