



Pennefather River, an ever-changing placename

The Pennefather River – located at 12° 14' South and 141° 43' East on western Cape York Peninsula, Queensland – is one of the most significant historical sites in Australia. It is the place where, in 1606, the Indigenous people of the Australian continent probably first sighted Europeans when the Dutch jacht (or yacht) *Duyfken*, commanded by Willem Janszoon, made landfall after a voyage from the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia).¹

The river is 11 kilometres long and up to about 2 kilometres wide. Its headwaters are fed by Fish Creek

in the north and Bumungu Creek in the south. The current north side land tenure is Deed of Grant in Trust managed by Aboriginal trustees appointed by the Queensland Government and assisted by the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council. The south side land tenure is Deed of Grant in Trust managed by the Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council.

The Pennefather River area has several recorded traditional Aboriginal language names and has had a succession of European names in Dutch and English. The Yupungathi people, whose lands lie in

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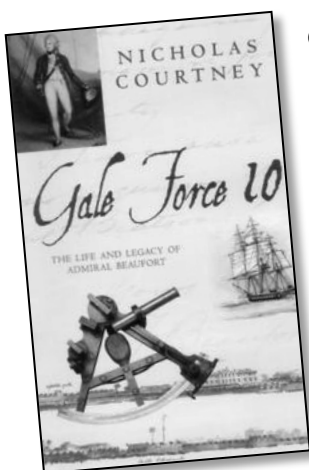


Figure 1: Yupungathi elder, Mr Les Flinders describing the Yupungathi lands on the north shore of the Pennefather River. Photo by the author.

In this issue

Pennefather River, an ever-changing placename	1
New Publication	2
An old map and micro-toponomy	7
Placenames of Fiji 2	8
Recording placenames in the Pilbara region of WA	10
The could-have-been names in south-east Queensland	12
ANPS research friend: Joyce Miles	13
Going for Broke	14
Placenames in the news	14
Geonames 2005	15
Conference	15
Placenames puzzle no. 15: sports and hobbies ..	16
Contributions	16
Mailing list and volunteer research	16

New publication



Gale Force 10: the life and legacy of Admiral Beaufort, 1774-1857

by Nicholas Courtney
published: 2002, London:
Review
ISBN 0 7472 7210 7

Those with any contact with the sea will know the name of Beaufort from the Beaufort wind scale.

For placename enthusiasts, though, his interest is in the long period he spent as Hydrographer for the Admiralty (1829 – 1855).

Beaufort had himself been a meticulous surveyor. His major work in this area was a series of charts of the coasts of Turkey and Asia Minor. It was here that he

formulated some of his principles about placenames, taking care, not only with all the details of the coast that might help in navigation but in trying to match his observations with the classical authors and the place names of history. Beaufort produced here a series of charts that inspired a generation of British classical scholars.

It was no doubt partly because of this experience that Beaufort became a stickler for the use of established and locally relevant placenames. The book quotes a letter from Beaufort to Captain Beechey, surveying in America; 'you place San Francisco in New Albion. Is it not a Spanish settlement? Have not the Spaniards a right to call their colonies what name they please? Do they not call it Neuva California?'

He felt that the 'name stamped on a place by the first discoverer should be held sacred by the common consent of all nations'. He also tried to persuade his surveying captains not to name every new feature from 'a catalogue of public characters and private friends'. We all know that in this he was by no means successful. He continually proposed to his captains that they use placenames that 'convey some idea of the sense of the place, or some allusion to the inhabitants, or better still to adopt the native appellation' while encouraging them to retain established chart names unless there was a good reason for change.

Beaufort was responsible for sending out a very large number of surveying expeditions including some of great relevance to Australian placename studies such as that of Captain Owen Stanley. He also did a great deal to improve the quality of surveying and charting by the introduction of new instruments and the encouragement of both training and excellence in the surveying crews. A very large number of charts were published during Beaufort's period as Hydrographer and every one of them he had worked on personally for at least a few days.

This book has other interests aside from its comments on placenames. Beaufort's life reads like something that Patrick O'Brian would have written with a few touches of Hornblower. I think most readers would find something to enjoy.

□ Jean Dartnall, James Cook University, Townsville

the vicinity of the Pennefather River, still commonly refer to themselves as Conn River people, but this is an adaptation of the Dutch name, Coen, which was used popularly in the early missionaries' time in the 1890s (see Figure 1).²

Traditional Aboriginal names were applied to specific parts of the river rather than the European practice of naming an entire geographical feature. The traditional naming practice reflected the spiritual associations of particular localities and the traditional people's detailed knowledge of the landscape.³

Historically, many Europeans who recorded Aboriginal placenames were not linguists and had limited understanding of traditional naming concepts, hence their records should be treated with caution. The following Aboriginal names have been recorded:

- Archibald Meston, based on information given to him in June 1896 by an Albatross Bay Aboriginal man named Gateet (who probably was an Alngith speaker), called the river 'Ahginthie'.⁴ Meston was also accompanied by a 'Coen river' man named Gnootaringwan, but Meston's report does not indicate whether he also gave the same name 'Ahginthie' for the river.⁵ Meston did not visit the Pennefather River.⁶
- Walter Edmund Roth, based on information supplied to him in 1899 possibly by 'Jimmie D' a man from the Pennefather River area, called the country drained by the river 'ringdanúno' or 'arú-indi'.⁷
- Linguist Terry Crowley in his 1981 paper, 'The Mpakwithi dialect of Anguthimri', wrote that he was given the name 'tidini' for the Pennefather River by his Mpakwithi informant, Donald Fletcher.⁸ The Mpakwithi-speaking people are eastern neighbours of the Yupungathi people. Crowley's map positioned the name on the south-eastern headwaters of the river.
- Some Yupungathi People today refer to the river mouth as 'Ikwiggi', the white sand beach which lies between the mouth and Turtle Creek is known as 'Kuminja' and near the mouth of Turtle Creek is 'Gulkan'.⁹

The European names formerly applied to the Pennefather River are confusing. Unfortunately the *Duyfken* journals have not been seen since the early seventeenth century. Consequently information about the voyage and places visited must be obtained from

second-hand observations by later Dutch explorers such as Jan Carstenzoon.¹⁰

The first known map to depict the *Duyfken* voyage was the Hessel Gerritszoon manuscript compiled in 1622 by the cartographer of the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC – United East India Company, often referred to as the Dutch East India Company). However, according to Dutch scholar W. C. Robert only a few placenames were depicted by Gerritszoon, including 'Vlieg bay [Albatross Bay].., Dubbelde Ree [Double roadstead now Archer Bay].., ... Visch [River and] C[ape] Keerweer'.¹¹ The other more significant chart is one discovered by F. C. Wieder in the Nationalbibliothek in Vienna which is a c.1670 copy from the original *Duyfken* chart showing a surprisingly accurate outline of the north-western coastline of Cape York Peninsula.¹² This chart clearly depicted the river now known as the Pennefather and its cartographer gave it the name 'R[evier] met het Bosch', meaning river with trees or bush, presumably referring to the *Casuarina equisetifolia* (coastal she-oaks) at the mouth.¹³

A Dutch expedition in 1623 led by Jan Carstenzoon in the vessels *Arnhem* (or *Aernem*) and *Pera*, gave the name Coen River to a river at latitude 13° 7' South.¹⁴ Geologist Robert L. Jack examined the naming of the river in his 1921 history of Cape York Peninsula and came to the conclusion that Carstenzoon's Coen River was in fact Norman Creek which flows into the Gulf of Carpentaria about four kilometres south of False Pera Head at 13° 4' South.¹⁵ Later scholarly research by Günter Schilder, however, suggests that it was the river now known as the Archer that empties into the Gulf just south of Aurukun.¹⁶

Although Heeres' translation of the Carstenzoon journal does not give the origin, Schilder states that the name was in honour of Jan Pieterszoon Coen, Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, 1619-1623 and 1627-1629.¹⁷ Heeres indicates that the expedition sailed from the Coen River to a locality named Waeterplaets, then across a large bay (probably Albatross Bay) to 'a high cape' (probably Duyfken Point).¹⁸ The *Pera* anchored there for the night then sailed on a west-north-west course to '12° 5"', where Carstenzoon went ashore.¹⁹ As W.C. Robert suggests, it may be concluded that Carstenzoon landed north of the Pennefather River, then sailed past a large river which he named the 'Revier de Carpentier... probably Port Musgrave with the Wenlock River'.²⁰ Consequently, it may be argued that Carstenzoon either ignored or did not observe the inlet now known as the Pennefather River. Geoffrey Ingleton notes in a table in his account of Matthew Flinders that Carstenzoon's 'r. de Carpentier' was the Pennefather River, yet he contradicts this later in a note to the effect that the Carpentier River was later renamed the Batavia.²¹

The next Dutch navigator to follow Carstenzoon along the western Cape York Peninsula coastline was Abel Janszoon Tasman in 1644. One of the most famous cartographical depictions of the Gulf showing placenames bestowed by the Janszoon, Carstenzoon and Tasman expeditions, is the so-called Bonaparte map held by the Mitchell Library of the State Library of New South Wales. Visitors to the Mitchell walk across a marble mosaic copy of the map installed at the entrance.²²

The views of earlier scholars that the Bonaparte map was the original Tasman manuscript has been disputed by subsequent research: Schilder presented evidence that concludes that it is 'likely to be a copy made during the last decade of the seventeenth century'.²³ Schilder agreed with Tasman scholar, Andrew Sharp, that the map 'stems from a prototype map faultily compiled in Batavia in 1644 from authentic maps and charts, including charts of Tasman's voyages of 1642-3 and 1644'.²⁴

Based on the 1898 translation of *Abel Janszoon Tasman's journal of his discovery...*, and the accompanying English translation of the Swart copy of the Bonaparte map, R.L. Jack argued that Tasman gave the name 'Prince Revier' to the present Pennefather River.²⁵ More recent research by Andrew Sharp, Willem Robert and Schilder indicates that Jack was in error. Sharp concluded that since 'the latitudes in the [Bonaparte] map cannot be relied on, no certain identifications can be made'; while Robert argued that the scale of the Bonaparte map 'is too small to identify the rivers. A Prince reuier,... is placed near present Port Musgrave'; and Schilder also pointed out that the Bonaparte map contains an error in the degrees of latitude for the west coast of Australia, although he did not comment on the effect of this on the placement of the Prince River.²⁶

When Matthew Flinders visited the Pennefather River on 7 November 1802, despite attempts by his Aboriginal guide, Bongaree, to communicate with the local traditional people, they did not speak a common language and Flinders failed to discover the traditional language name of the river mouth or names for places near the river in use at that time.²⁷ Flinders assumed from the Dutch chart which he was using that the river was the Coen and henceforth the hydrographic chart of the area showed that name.²⁸

On 18 June 1880 Captain Charles Edward de Fonblanque Pennefather (see Figure 2), in command of the Queensland Government Schooner (QGS) *Pearl*, sailed from Thursday Island with instructions from the Government Resident, Henry Chester, to 'examine the coast and rivers on the eastern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria'.²⁹ Two days later, Pennefather took a whaleboat into the Coen River at latitude 12° 13' South. There he met with Aboriginal people.

Pennefather noted that 'half-a-mile [800 metres] from the mouth the inlet opened out into a basin three-quarters of a mile [1.2 kilometres] in width, with 3 fathoms [5.5 metres] of water. At the mouth the timber appeared to consist of casuarina trees'. The next day he brought the whaleboat in again and reported that he:

further examined the mouth for an entrance; did not succeed in finding any to admit of the passage of a vessel; proceeded up about six miles [9.6 kilometres] until we found our way stopped by mud-banks and mangroves; could find no appearance of a river, only small creeks. Saw numbers of alligators and flocks of ducks of different kinds, some of which we shot.

*The country back of the mangroves appeared to be open forest; could not land owing to the soft mud extending so far out. Returned on board, passing some hundreds of natives at the entrance, who did not attempt to molest us; I fancy they never had seen white men before. I think this can only be a saltwater inlet, there being no appearance of a river at its head.*³⁰

Following this brief visit, the *Pearl* sailed southwards to the Archer River then again back to the Batavia River which, according to Pennefather, was traversed up to 36 miles [58 kilometres] inland. The *Queenslander* newspaper later published Captain Pennefather's report under the title 'Discovery of another splendid sugar growing district' in which he wrote about the rich tropical scrub and soils and 'handsome palms' seen along the banks of the Batavia, but only briefly mentioned the Coen.³¹ It seems ironic that the river for which he showed the least enthusiasm was the one ultimately named in his honour!

It became apparent to later observers that there were two Coen rivers in the Western Cape region: the Coen named by Flinders and the South Coen which rose in the eastern ranges and drained into the Archer River at 13° 20' South and 141° 42' East. In 1894, W.E. Parry-Okeden – then Principal Under Secretary of the Queensland Colonial Secretary's Office – wrote to the Under Secretary of Public Lands advising that the Government Resident on Thursday Island had requested that the Coen River be re-named to avoid confusion with the South Coen River and Parry-Okeden suggested that the latter be re-named the Coen River.³² Parry-Okeden also suggested that:

the Coen which flows into the Gulf south of the Batavia should be named the "Pennefather" after the present Comptroller General of Prisons, who discovered the river and was one of its first explorers and I have now the honour by

*direction to request that you will be good enough to ask the consent of the Minister for Lands to the official adoption of the name suggested as a substitute for "the Coen".*³³

The new name was gazetted on 9 June 1894 and changed on the Queensland Surveyor-General's 16 mile series maps three years later.³⁴

The British Admiralty Chart 445 for the Gulf of Carpentaria however retained the name Coen until the 1960s, possibly because the Admiralty Hydrographic Office was not advised of the change by the Queensland government.³⁵

Historian Thomas Mutch remarked in 1942 that his Admiralty Chart 445 gave the name Coen River, 'an ancient error... which one would not expect to see maintained on an Admiralty chart'.³⁶ Eventually in 1958, former Royal Australian Navy hydrographer, T. F. Roberts, wrote to the Surveyor-General of Queensland to suggest that a number of placenames on western Cape York Peninsula which varied between those shown on Admiralty charts and other maps should be renamed for the sake of uniformity.³⁷

Roberts noted that Flinders had wrongly identified the Coen River, 'now shown on Land Maps as Pennefather and originally charted by Tasman as Prince River. It is always known locally by both Europeans and Natives as Coen River probably as communication is generally by sea and the Adm.[iralty] Chart used'.³⁸ It appears that Roberts' suggestion for standardisation of the river's name was heeded by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), as a request was sent from the RAN to the British Admiralty in 1960 requesting that the sailing directions should be amended to show 'Pennefather (Coen) River'.³⁹

The name Pennefather (Coen) River first appeared on British Admiralty Chart 445 'Series C8 bearing Large Corrections to 5 November 1965'.⁴⁰ Finally in December 1967 the name Coen was officially superseded by Pennefather in a table of 'New and altered names' in the *Australia Pilot*.⁴¹

□ Geoff Wharton

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the Traditional Owners of the Pennefather River area who have generously shared their knowledge with the author over many years and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc for their permission to publish this extract from his paper 'The Pennefather River: Place of Australian National Heritage', in *Gulf of Carpentaria Scientific Study Report*. Brisbane: Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc., 2005 (in press). Thanks also to Dr Jan Tent for his comments on an earlier version of the paper.

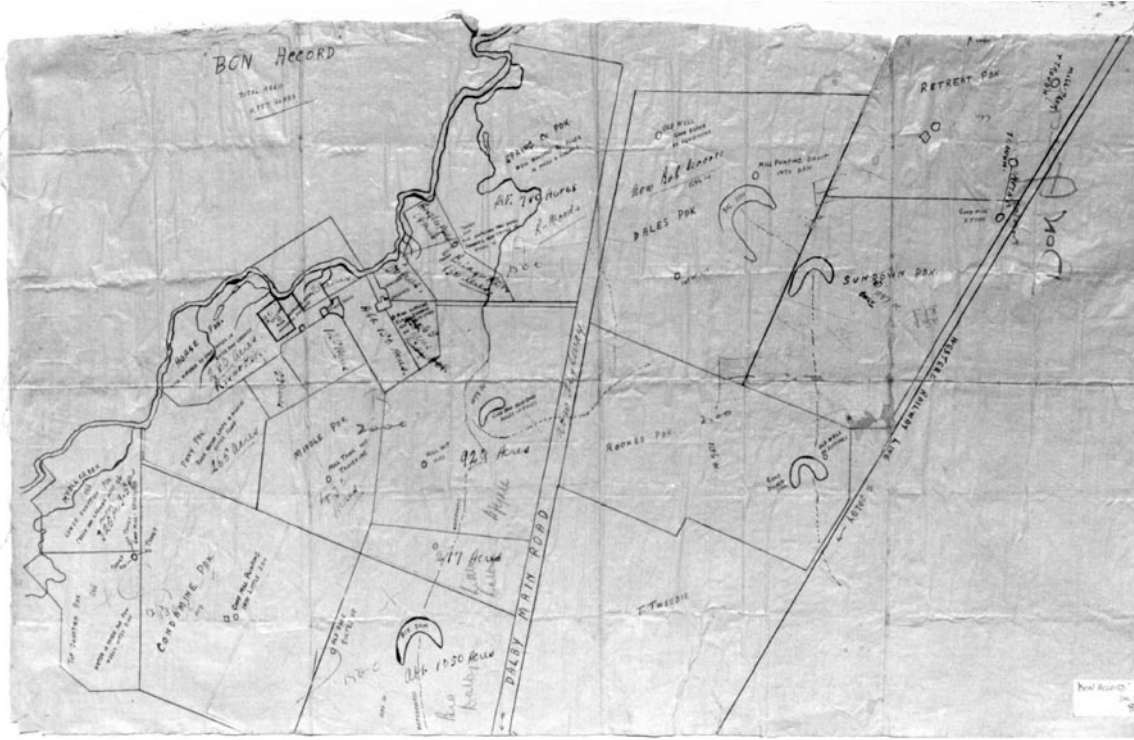


Commander Charles Edward de Fonblanque Pennefather, Naval Forces of the Commonwealth, Queensland (Retired), 1908. Photo held in the Pennefather Collection, Negative number B441B2, Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Brisbane.

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- ¹ Schilder, Günter. *Australia unveiled: The share of the Dutch navigators in the discovery of Australia*. Amsterdam: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum Ltd., 1976, pp. 43-44, 286-287.
- ² The language name Yupungathi has been described by Yupungathi elder, Mr Les Flinders, as meaning 'This is my home'. Mr Les Flinders, personal comment to author, Mapoon, 19 January 2005. Les Flinders is the son of the late Matthew Flinders, who took his name from the English explorer. Matthew was descended from a Yupungathi man whose European name was Barkley.
- ³ For recent valuable analysis of these concepts see Hercus, Luise, Hodges, Flavia and Simpson, Jane, eds. *The land is a map: Placenames of indigenous origin in Australia*. Canberra: Pandanus Books, 2002.
- ⁴ Meston, A. 'Wild country and wild tribes – IV: a tour in North Queensland', *Queenslander*, 30 January 1897, p. 237.
- ⁵ Meston, Archibald. 'Report on the Aborigines of Queensland', *Queensland Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly (QVPLA)*, Volume 4 (1896), pp. 739.
- ⁶ In the *Queenslander* article, Meston noted that he travelled past 'the mouth of the Coen River (Ahginthie)' on board the Queensland Government Steamer *Albatross*. *Queenslander*, 30 January 1897, p. 237.
- ⁷ For his geographical names see Roth, W.E. [A report to the Under-Secretary, Home Dept.] on the Aborigines of the Pennefather (Coen) River Districts, Cooktown, 8 January 1900, folio 3; A/19899 and microfilm Z1347, Queensland State Archives (QSA); and Roth, W.E. 'Social and individual nomenclature', North Queensland Ethnography Bulletin No. 18 published as a facsimile reprint in *The Queensland Aborigines*, vol. 3. Carlisle, W.A.: Hesperian Press, 1984, p. 96. Roth cites his language informant

- as Jimmie D in [Vocabulary of] Ng-gérikudi blacks, appendix to Roth, W.E. [A report to the Under-Secretary, Home Dept.] on the Aboriginals of the Pennefather (Coen) River Districts.
- ⁸ Crowley, Terry. 'The Mpakwithi dialect of Anguthimri', in Dixon, R.M.W. and Blake, Barry J. eds. *Handbook of Australian languages*, Volume 2. Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1981, pp. 146, 150. Les Flinders advised that he had not heard the name 'tidini' applied to any area in his country, but Mrs Harriet Flinders said that it may have been a name used closer to the Batavia country near the Wenlock River. Les and Harriet Flinders, personal comment to author, Mapoon, 19 January 2005.
- ⁹ Les Flinders and Mrs Harriet Flinders, personal comment to author, Mapoon, 19 January 2005. The late Mrs Gwen Masso had also provided the name Ikwiggi to the author. The spelling of these names is the author's rendering and has not been confirmed by a trained linguist.
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- ¹¹ Robert, Willem C.H. *The Dutch explorations, 1605-1756, of the north and northwest coast of Australia*. Amsterdam: Philo Press, 1973, p. 53.
- ¹² Wieder, F.C. ed. *Monumenta cartographica*, vol. 1. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1925, pp. 176-178, and 194 and Plate 125 published in volume 5 of this work in 1933. A copy is held by the Mitchell Library, Sydney.
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- ¹⁴ Heeres, J.E. *The part borne by the Dutch in the discovery of Australia 1606-1765*, London: Luzac & Co. and the Royal Dutch Geographical Society, 1899, pp. 21-45.
- ¹⁵ Jack, Robert Logan. *Northmost Australia: Three centuries of exploration, discovery, and adventure in and around the Cape York Peninsula, Queensland*. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. Ltd., 1921, vol. 2, pp. 690-691.
- ¹⁶ Heeres, J.E. *The part borne by the Dutch in the discovery of Australia 1606-1765*, p. 40; Schilder, G. *Australia unveiled*, pp. 93.
- ¹⁷ Schilder, G. *Australia unveiled*, pp. 87, 98.
- ¹⁸ Heeres, J.E. *The part borne by the Dutch in the discovery of Australia 1606-1765*, pp. 40, 42.
- ¹⁹ Heeres, J.E. *The part borne by the Dutch in the discovery of Australia 1606-1765*, p. 42.
- ²⁰ Robert, W.C.H. *The Dutch explorations, 1605-1756, of the north and northwest coast of Australia*, p. 23.
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- ²³ For example, see Thomson, J. P. *Round the world*. Brisbane: Published under the auspices of the President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Queensland by Outridge Printing Co., 1904, pp. 144-145. Schilder, G. *Australia unveiled*, pp. 147-148, 354.
- ²⁴ Sharp, Andrew. *The voyages of Abel Janszoon Tasman*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1968, p. 319; Schilder, G. *Australia unveiled*, p. 148.
- ²⁵ Jack, R.L. *Northmost Australia*, 1921, vol. 1, pp. 65-67; Tasman, Abel Janszoon. *Abel Janszoon Tasman's journal of his discovery of Van Diemens Land and New Zealand in 1642 with documents relating to his exploration of Australia in 1644*. Amsterdam: Frederik Muller & Co., 1898, Map I. See also Sharp, A. *The voyages of Abel Janszoon Tasman*, 1968, pp. 347-348.
- ²⁶ Sharp, A. *The voyages of Abel Janszoon Tasman*, 1968, p. 327; Robert, Willem C.H. *The Dutch explorations, 1605-1756, of the north and northwest coast of Australia*. Amsterdam: Philo Press, 1973, pp. 34, 57, 74; Schilder, G. *Australia unveiled*, p. 148.
- ²⁷ Flinders, Matthew. *A voyage to Terra Australis; Undertaken for the purpose of completing the discovery of that vast country, and prosecuted in the years 1801, 1802, and 1803, in His Majesty's Ship the Investigator...* London: G. and W. Nicol, 1814, (Facsimile edition. Adelaide: Libraries Board of South Australia, 1966), vol. 2, p. 126. Bongaree (also known as Bungaree) c.1770s-1830, was from the Ku-ring-ai language group near Sydney, New South Wales. Smith, Keith Vincent. *King Bungaree: A Sydney Aborigine meets the great South Pacific explorers, 1799-1830*. Kenthurst, NSW: Kangaroo Press Pty Ltd, 1992, pp. 23-25.
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- ²⁹ Pennefather, C. 'Cruise of the Queensland Government Schooner "Pearl," in the Gulf of Carpentaria'. *QVPLA*, 2 (1880), p. 1123. Charles Edward de Fonblanque Pennefather (1848-1922) was a Queensland public servant from 3 July 1879 to 31 March 1919. Queensland Sheriff's Office. Register of officials and warders, folio 1, RSI 973, QSA.
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- ³³ Parry-Okeden, 24 April 1894, In-letter 94/7794, LAN/A220, QSA.
- ³⁴ *Queensland Government Gazette*, 61, 119 (9 June 1894), p. 1332.
- ³⁵ The Pennefather River replaced the Coen River in *Supplement 5 – 1967 relating to the Australia Pilot Vol. V, 5th edition, 1959 corrected to 13th December, 1967*. London: The Hydrographer of the Navy, 1967, pp. 4, 75.
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- ³⁸ Roberts, T.F., Redbank, to the Surveyor-General of Queensland, 2 September 1958
- ³⁹ Guy Hannaford, UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton, to author, 17 January 2005. Mr Hannaford referred to a letter contained in UKHO file H3499/60 from the RAN dated 15 July 1960 with an enclosure 'Corrections to Sailing Directions' – *Australia Pilot*, Vol. V, Fourth Edition, 1948, Chapter II, Page 57 [to 57].
- ⁴⁰ Guy Hannaford, UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton, to author, 17 January 2005.
- ⁴¹ *Supplement 5 – 1967 relating to the Australia Pilot Vol. V, 5th edition, 1959 corrected to 13th December, 1967*. London: The Hydrographer of the Navy, 1967, pp. 4 (in-text), 75 (table). It is interesting to note that the particular copy of the supplement, which the author consulted at the Queensland Maritime Museum with the kind assistance of Mr Peter Nunan, was once owned by T. F. Roberts.



Map of *Bon Accord* station, Darling Downs, Qld

as River, Condamine and Spring Creek Paddocks. Top Junction and Lower Junction Paddocks derive from their location near the point where Myall Creek joins the Condamine River. Big Dalby and Little Dalby were on the main road to town. Bridge Paddock must have featured a bridge over Spring Creek. The reason for naming Middle Paddock is now obscure but Angle Paddock was obviously inspired by the way it angles in a bend of the river.

An old map and micro-toponymy

I came upon this map of *Bon Accord* station in the collection held by the Dalby Family History Society. I noticed it immediately. It had been drawn with pen and ink on linen and looked quite different from the other maps. George Morris Simpson (with the financial backing of Sir John Hay) established *Bon Accord* in about 1870. The reason for the name choice is unknown but may simply reflect, with a grandiose French comment, on a happy partnership. Simpson acquired a section of the subdivided *St Ruth* pastoral lease near Dalby, on the Darling Downs west of Brisbane. The land was in a desirable location on the banks of the Condamine River. The size of the estate varied over the years and probably reached more than 30,000 acres, like its neighbour *Loudoun* station. *Bon Accord* is shown here at slightly more than 11,000 acres, which probably dates the map to the 1930s, when much of the land was sold off. By the mid 1950s the homestead and remaining 1043 acres were offered for auction, completing the decline of a once much larger landholding.

We see an excellent example, noted on the map, of the local naming systems that are so essential on large rural landholdings. No doubt many of the paddock names originated in an informal way during the 19th century. Most of them are descriptive of location such

The paddocks on the right have more creative names like Rookes, Retreat and Sundown, and it would be interesting to know how they originated. Dales Paddock had me puzzled. I found that William Dale*, a local landholder, was also a farrier and I wondered if stock he was treating were kept there. I soon realised that 1294 acres would not be required for a few injured animals and eventually found that the paddock was William Dale's entire farm, which had been absorbed into *Bon Accord* after his death in the 1870s. That certainly put the size of the huge *Bon Accord* estate into perspective!

Other places on the map give a picture of the requirements for a large sheep grazing property. We see Horse and Pony paddocks near the homestead, which had been established on a bend in the Condamine River. Woolsheds, stockyards, wells, troughs, windmills, and dams are also indicated. The large private grazing estates around Dalby reflect a period of Queensland's history. This particular map, with its informal set of placenames was probably drawn from a survey for sale purposes around 1930, with a few later endorsements such as 'now Bob Moore' on Dales Paddock. Its detail provides a delightful enhancement to the history of this small part of the Darling Downs.

□ Dale Lehner

* I found the information about William Dale during some family history research. He was my great-great grandfather, hence my name. Clearly family history and micro-toponymy often go hand in hand.

Placenames of Fiji ~ 2

One of the joys of studying placenames in Fiji is the relatively high success rate: it's usually fairly easy to come up with a plausible origin for any toponym. The main reason is simply that Fiji has been inhabited for a relatively short period – approximately three thousand years – and that for much of that time essentially only one language has been spoken throughout the archipelago, albeit with considerable variation.

In this second article in the series, I would like to focus on what is probably the most widespread placename in Fiji, which as we shall see has a very obvious meaning, and originated far to the west, in Indonesia.

Anyone who has been around Fiji at all must have wondered why there are so many islands named Yanuca (note that 'c' in Fijian is pronounced like 'th' in English 'this'). The most famous Yanuca today is probably the site of the Shangri-La Fijian Hotel near the chiefly village of Cuvu in Nadroga, though before the hotel was built it was known only as an archaeological site which had yielded some of the earliest remains found in Fiji. The most substantial Yanuca is the island west of Beqa, home of the firewalkers, which can be seen from Suva on a clear day.

Two other Yanucas are also large enough to support a village population. One, between Ovalau and Moturiki, is reputed to have been once the residence of the famous female deity Yadi Rarogo. The other is situated some fifteen miles northeast of Taveuni on the way to distant Naelelevu. When Tasman came to Fiji in 1643, he passed between Taveuni and Yanuca before heading off north to the safety of the open sea. And when Polynesians, perhaps from Samoa, Uvea (Wallis) or Futuna, came across and settled a small island in the eastern Solomons, they named it Anuta (Polynesians cannot pronounce the Fijian 'c' sound, and always substitute 't'). The two islands are somewhat similar in

size and shape, and in their direction from Samoa, and western Polynesians would have been familiar with the Yanuca northeast of Taveuni from their trips to Laucala, formerly one of the most important kingdoms in Eastern Fiji. It also may well have been a stopping-place for Tongans on their trips to distant lands such as Kiribati.

Most islands named Yanuca, however, are considerably smaller. There is one off the northern tip of Vitilevu, between Nananuirā and Nananuiyata (Nanauicake). Another rises from the mangroves off the Macuata coast, just northeast of Vaga Bay, another from the mangroves off the Vatia peninsula, between Ba and Tavua, and yet another is little more than a patch of dry land in the middle of the mangroves off Labasa. Then there are the many compounds, such as Yanucarua ('twin Yanuca') in Totoya, Yanucanibeka ('fruit bat Yanuca') close to the Yanuca northeast of Taveuni, Yanucaivanua (landward Yanuca) at the edge of the mangroves off Navakakā in Natewa Bay, and so on.

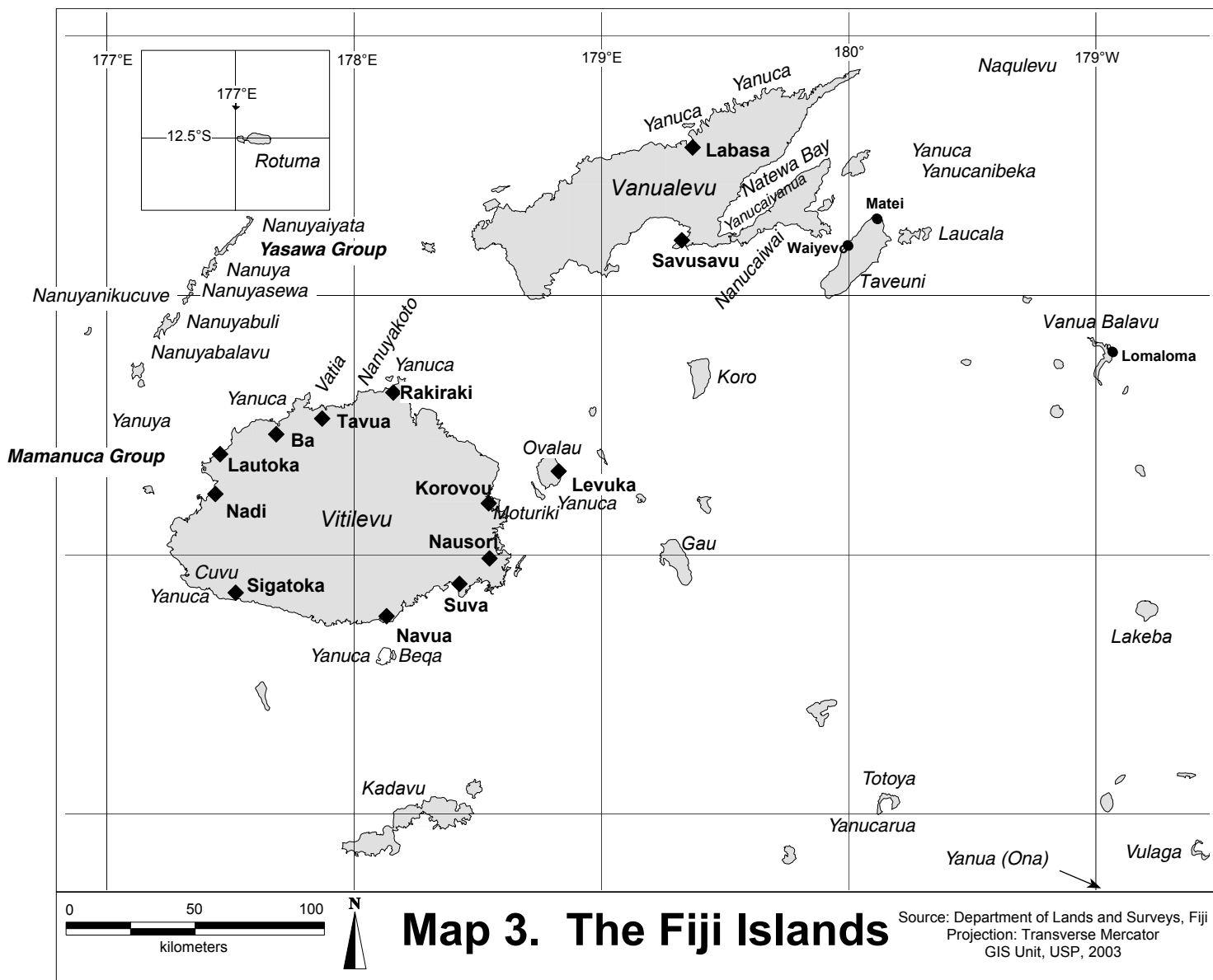
A common sound change in many parts of Fiji, especially in Kadavu and the West, is for 'c' to change to 'y', as in *baya* for 'worm' rather than *baca*, and *yava* for 'what' rather than *cava*. So a variation on the name Yanuca is Yanuya. The largest of these is the inhabited island in the Mamanuca group, east of Monuriki, celebrated as being one of the few places where the art of pottery survives, and with a technique quite different from the better known centres of Rewa and Nadroga. Another Yanuya is found, rather unexpectedly, at the



other end of Fiji, in the Ono group in southern Lau. Uninhabited, it is a nesting site for various seabirds, such as the *tokō* (noddy) and *kacau* (shearwater).

And still we haven't quite finished. The placenames Yanuca and Yanuya have in some cases been fused with the preceding definite article *na*, and so become Nanuca and Nanuya. An example of Nanuca is Nanucaiwai, off the southern coast of the Natewa peninsula in Vanualevu. One instance of Nanuya, in the name Nanuyakoto, is between the island of Macuata and the Rakiraki coast of northern Vitilevu, and the rest are small islands off the coasts of the Yasawa group: Nanuyabalavu ('long Nanuya'), Nanuyabuli ('round or artificial Nanuya'), Nanuyanikucuve ('Nanuya of the rats'), Nanuyasewa ('small Nanuya'), and so on.

So we see that Yanuca, Yanuya, Nanuca, Nanuya, and



their many compounds, all derive from the same name, Yanuca, which seems to have meant 'small island'. And this name is by no means confined to these islands, but was used by the ancestors of the first settlers of Fiji in their travels over vast distances from the setting sun.

Confirmation of the original meaning of Yanuca is found far to the west of Fiji. Among the islands strung eastwards from the Malay peninsula is a chain extending from Bali to Timor. This chain is known in English as the Lesser Sundas, in Indonesian as Nusa Tenggara. A small island off Bali is called Nusa Penida. Further east, on the threshold of Irian Jaya, a small island to the south of Seram is known as Nusa Laut. All of these point to an Indonesian word *nusa*, meaning 'island', or perhaps 'small island'. And when we consult the dictionary, we find that it is indeed the case that in Indonesian, *nusa* means 'island' or 'native country'.

Indonesian has no sound equivalent to the Fijian 'c', but Indonesian *susu* means 'milk', the same as Fijian *sucu*, and *salah* means 'wrong', as in Fijian *cala*, so there appears to be a regular correspondence between the Indonesian

sound 's' and Fijian 'c'. The Fijian equivalent, then, of Indonesian *nusa* would be *nuca*, which is the root of the placename Yanuca. So it seems that Yanuca derives from a word that was brought from Indonesia to Fiji by the earliest settlers some three thousand years ago. But we are still left with the question as to how the first syllable 'Ya-' came to attach itself to the base Nuca.

The answer seems to be simply that the earliest settlers of the Pacific used 'a' as an article before proper nouns, so that while Nuca was the usual word for a small island (a meaning it still retains as far east as the Roviana language of the western Solomons), the vanguard of the Lapita people lost the meaning of the word itself, but continued to name islands using the article 'a' plus the base 'nusa'. In the eastern Solomons, Anuha (locally pronounced Anuca, as in Fijian) is the name of a small island in the Florida group north of Guadalcanal, and other forms such as Anuta and Anute are used as island names in the eastern islands of Malaita and Makira (San Cristobal).

□ Paul Geraghty,
University of the South Pacific

Recording placenames in the Pilbara region of WA

Since 2000 Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre (PALC) has been busily putting all the information relating to words of Pilbara languages onto Shoebox databases. Shoebox is a linguistic application that has many functions. The most immediate result has been the ability to easily update and export to wordlists and dictionaries. Other uses have been the ability to quickly sort, filter and search the data for linguistic analysis and to interlinearise texts.

There is another use which is not so immediately obvious. That is, seeing what has not been researched. Comparing the data collected in a number of languages highlights where the gaps are in the research that has been done. This study looks at the data available on the semantic domain for Names and Place names from 16 languages of the Pilbara that have been committed to the Shoebox database.

In order to compare the data it has been essential to have a systematic approach to data entry. Wangka Maya has developed policies so that individuals who input the data

use a consistent method. There has, however, been some variation in the application of the policy, and inevitable fine-tuning of the system to get it right. For example, sometimes names of ceremonies or astronomical bodies are listed only in the semantic categories of Ceremony or Elements respectively, and not also in the category of Names and Place Names. The databases used in this study had to be reviewed to ensure that all relevant data was being entered the same way.

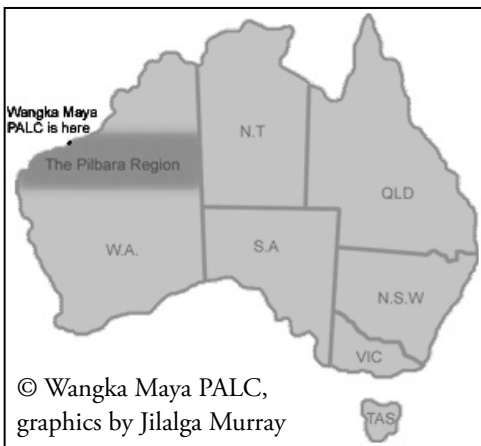
The databases for the 16 Pilbara languages used in this study are recent, ranging from 2001 to 2005. The total number of records in each database varies from 963 to 3764. The Names and Place Names category lists the number of records in each language in this specific category. The semantic domain of Names and Place Names then further subcategorised into Geographic Place Names, Language / Clan Group Names, Astronomical Place Names, People's Names, Dreaming Entities and Ceremonial Names, Biblical Names and Place Names, and Other.

The statistics of each language recorded are listed below:

Language Group	Year of Database Update	Total Number of Records in Database	Total Number of Names and Place Names Records	Geographic Place Names	Language/Clan Group Names	Astronomical Place Names	People's Names	Dreaming Entities and Ceremonial Names	Biblical Names and Place Names	Other
Karajarri	2005	1849	116	114	0	0	0	2	0	0
Kariyarra	2005	1129	5	0	1	1	0	0	3	0
Kartujarra	2005	1544	8	0	5	2	0	1	0	0
Kurrama	2005	1337	141	87	0	4	27	23	0	0
Mangala	2005	1408	37	34	0	3	0	0	0	0
Martuthunira	2003	1393	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Martu Wangka	2005	3764	120	33	12	1	0	7	64	3
Ngarla	2004	2547								
Ngarluma	2004	1366	18	9	0	6	3	0	0	0
Nyangumarta	2001	2458	5	0	3	1	0	0	1	0
Nyiyaparli	2004	2649	186	132	16	9	24	3	2	0
Putjarra	2004	1965	112	76	4	3	19	10	0	0
Thalanyji	2002	963	7	6		1	0	0	0	0
Warnman	2005	1983	193	177	2	2	2	10	0	0
Yindjibarndi	2003	2896	128	54	12	9	44	9	0	0
Yulparija	2005	2469	18	0	0	5	0	13	0	0



Language speakers and linguists. Left to right: Vicki Webb, Gracie Coppin, Terry Klokheid, Bidy Norman, Daisy Charles



© Wangka Maya PALC, graphics by Jilalga Murray

Focusing on the subcategory of Geographic Place Names, the main feature is that there are no entries in five of the language databases. The number of records in other languages vary greatly, with up to 177

Geographic Place Names being recorded in Warnman.

Language and Clan Group Name is also significant in relation to placenames as, in the Pilbara, these are closely linked to geographic areas, for example, the coastal and inland Nyangumarta dialects. There are six languages with no records, and the rest vary up to 16 records. The reasons for the variations tend to be whether the language group wants the information included in the database, the focus of individual language researchers and the state of the language and knowledge relating to place.

Of course, there is no one-to-one correspondence in the type of information found in one language and the next. However, there are enough similarities to indicate that if there is a major semantic area that is being recorded in one language, then it is almost certain that much the same thing will be found in neighbouring languages.

All of the languages listed are living languages. The information indicates where extra research needs to be done. Similar comparisons of the data collected in other semantic fields will also show similar results in what is being researched and where the gaps in research are.

□ Albert Burgman, Linguist,
Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre

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The could-have-been names in south-east Queensland

How different the map of South East Queensland would be today if the placename wannabes* had won the day! It's interesting to pay attention to the placenames that missed out in the race for recognition and to speculate on the reason for their demise. I'm not referring to the indigenous placenames but to the names once suggested or actually used by Europeans that have now been supplanted.

For example, if Chief Justice Forbes's recommendation had been persisted with Edenglassie would now be the capital of the state. It took ten years of settlement for the name of Brisbane to become official. If the authorities had given in to the urgings of John Dunmore Lang, the state would now be Cooksland instead of Queensland.

It's not hard to imagine why Stinking Gully was replaced by Fernvale. The first principal of the Downfall Creek School, found that name embarrassing so led a move to have it named after the then Governor, Sir Herbert Chermiside. Chinaman Creek gave way to something more British, and became Albany Creek. When it became a terminus for the first railway line, Governor Bowen suggested Grandchester as

a replacement for Bigges Camp. It sounded more dignified.

Some changes just had to be made. Could you imagine, when travelling to the present Toowoomba, saying that you were off to the Drayton Swamp? I guess Burnett Swamp was inevitably going to be replaced and Ekibin seems to do it quite well. As the one-time cross-over point for the different railway gauges, Wallangarra sounds better than The Dog Trap.

Anti-German sentiment during the First World War saw Gramzow permanently replaced by Carbrook, Kirchheim by Haigslea, Engelsburg by Kalbar, Teuteburg by Wittia, and Bismark by Maclagan. After the war, Minden and Marburg fought back after a period of being Frenchton and Townshend.

Some changes, like Burly to Burleigh or Morton to Moreton were merely changes in spelling, but Cherbourg came about by a mis-reading of Richard Jones' handwriting. In his application to the NSW government he actually wrote Cherbury, the place where his family came from in England, and not the French Cherbourg.

Edenglassie Central?! Photo: Ron Potter



Surveyor Robert Dixon would have had our streams commemorate various minor English officials and a London map-publisher in Anson, Perry, Barrow and Arrowsmith. But hooray for people power! They are now Currumbin, Tallebudgera, Nerang, and Coomera.

It would have been confusing if the large river discovered by Captain Logan to the south of Brisbane had continued to be called the Darling as he named it. The Governor gave it Logan's own name.

If the original name had stuck, the tourists would now be flocking to Bracefield Head instead of Noosa Heads. But then Bracefield was a runaway convict, and who would want to have a place named after him! Likewise the Moreton Bay island that was once known as Tim Shea's Island after a runaway convict who lived there undetected for fourteen years, thanks to surveyor Warner, is now McLeay Island, named after the Colonial Secretary in Sydney. Much more respectable! The one remaining place name that possibly commemorates a convict is Bribie Island, although that does not go undisputed.

Surfer's Paradise has been marketed rather than Elston, Southport rather than Narang Heads, Binna Burra rather than Mount Roberts, Montville rather than Razorback, Alexandra Headland rather than Pott's Point. All have flourished as tourist destinations.

The Railway Department gave us many of our now familiar names. We have Landsborough instead of Mellum Creek, Aratula instead of Cachem Gate, Boonah instead of Blumbergville, Woombye instead of Cobb's Camp, Pomona instead of Cooroora, just to mention a few.

I suppose Matthew Flinders would not have been surprised that his numbered islands in Moreton Bay were later given proper names. Who today would want to say they were off to Number Two when taking a launch to St Helena Island, or Number Five when going to Peel Island? John Oxley would probably have been quite pleased for his Canoe River to have become Oxley Creek and subsequently the name for a nearby suburb, but he might have been surprised that his Belle Vue Hill became Mt Crosby.

This reminds us that in awarding placenames there are winners and there are losers. The winners are remembered. The losers fade out of our collective consciousness. However the could-have-beens alert us to the changing forces and perspectives present in our history.

□ Ron Potter

* For further information on these names see www.ucaqld.com.au/~piula/placenames

ANPS Research Friend: Joyce Miles



Dr Joyce Miles
Macquarie University

I emigrated to Australia in October 2000 and the following year became an Honorary Associate of Macquarie

University's Division of Humanities and a researcher for the ANPS. My Ph.D. was based on research into the rise of suburbia, one aspect being the significance of the naming of streets and houses in relation to an area's history.

On joining the ANPS I initially focused on the placenames given by the early explorers, revealed by their journals and diaries. Once my husband and I began to undertake frequent road-trips, I had the opportunity to undertake fieldwork and I have begun to investigate settlements, such as Muswellbrook, Singleton, Broke, Cessnock – in fact on arriving in a town my first port of call is the local history library and their historical society in a search for primary documentation. Such research has led to several articles and photographs in *Placenames Australia*, the ANPS newsletter.

Discovering the wide variety of Australian placenames – Coffs Harbour, Collector, Wail, Flowerpot, Crystal Brook – gave me the idea for a series of placenames quizzes currently appearing in the newsletter.

My original research was largely on house names in the UK, Europe and the Commonwealth resulting in the publication of three books. I recently discovered that house names have played a significant role in Australian placenaming as many places are alleged to derive their names from old houses, but little appears to have been recorded of this important aspect of Australian history. This is my most current area of research.

Going for Broke

The name of the village of Broke, which lies to the north-west of Cessnock in the Hunter Valley, NSW, does not refer to the pecuniary state of its inhabitants, but was conferred by Surveyor General Major T.L. Mitchell during an expedition he made in 1831. When a runaway convict George Clarke (alias 'The Barber') was recaptured, he told an extraordinary story of travelling to the north-west along the bank of a large river named, he said, the 'Kindur' and described tribes and their chiefs, vast plains and a burning mountain named 'Courada'. Thomas Mitchell, who had succeeded John Oxley as Surveyor General in 1828, had completed his survey of the road to the Western Plains and Burthurst by 1830 and was anxious to explore some of the eastern regions of Australia which were still unknown. Intrigued by Clarke's tale, he set out to verify the story, which eventually proved untrue. In his journal *Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia* (2nd edition, Volume 1, T. & W. Boone, London, 1839, pp. 2-3) Mitchell records that he met his Assistant Surveyor, Mr White, at the junction of the Ellalong on 27th November 1831 and they proceeded down the valley of the Wollumbi. En route he named the projected village of Broke in honour of "that meritorious officer, Sir Charles Broke Vere, Bart."

It seemed somewhat puzzling that Mitchell should choose the name 'Broke' rather than 'Vere' for the name of the village, but W.C. Foster, in *Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell and his World 1792-1855* (The Institution of Surveyors NSW, Sydney, 1985 pp. 32-33) records that Mitchell was a veteran of the Peninsular War and when



Broke NSW. Photo: Joyce Miles, February 2003

Wellington required intelligence officers to survey a particular region he was one of three officers chosen for the task. One of the others was Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Broke, for whom Mitchell had sufficiently high regard to perpetuate his name in a village. Charles Broke was knighted for distinguished service in 1815, and in 1822, as Sir Charles Broke, took the additional name of Vere, but Mitchell obviously preferred to remember him as he was known in the army days.

□ Joyce Miles

Placenames in the news

The Koori Mail, Wednesday, June 15, 2005, p. 60 reported on Hornsby Shire Council's recognition of the traditional owners of the area in northern Sydney. Roadside signs acknowledge the Darug and Guringai peoples. Darug Elder Edna Watson and Guringai Elder Reta Smith were there for the opening, during Reconciliation Week.

The Koori Mail, Wednesday, June 29, 2005, p. 13 reported on the unveiling of the new interpretation panels on the top of kunyani (Mount Wellington) Hobart. The panels feature words, phrases and a statement in palawa kani (Tasmanian Aboriginal Language). Aboriginal writer Greg Lehman prepared the interpretation panels and they were launched by Trudy Maluga, state secretary of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

Geonames 2005



I attended a recent international conference on minority names, indigenous names and geographical names in multilingual areas. This conference was held in Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden, in the heart of the Frisian language minority area in the Netherlands on 14 to 16 April 2005.

The conference was organised jointly by the Frisian Academy and the Dutch- and German Speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). Bill Watt (Secretary, Geographical Names Advisory Committee, South Australia) chaired the UNGEGN working group.

Various technical linguistic papers were presented for a variety of European minority language group areas. Saami and Frisian minority language papers were very interesting and dominated discussions. Papers were also given on procedural and legal issues, including papers on the Romanian Placenames Act, Polish legislation, the Canadian dual naming process and Australian dual naming processes. Database and gazetteer papers were also presented, including one by Germany on European Gazetteer developments.

Australia is in a unique position. It is considered simple

in some respects, as it is seen as having just one official language. However, cultural sensitivities related to the knowledge and use of Indigenous names seem to be unique and certainly were not reported by any of the other participating countries. Another point which the conference delegates found interesting is the short length of recorded history of Australian placenames.

Apart from the obvious benefits in networking with other like-minded countries, outcomes from the conference included the approval for the development of a metadata database on minority placename projects. This project has an international scope and is supported by an UNGEGN resolution. A draft metadata database was presented by Australia and was well-received. This project will now be progressed. Stage one of the project will see test data entered, participating jurisdictions have been asked to provide this information. Stage two of the project will see a net-based application developed with real data entered into it and placed on the UNGEGN web site.

Other aspects of minority naming were discussed throughout the conference. These discussions relate directly to depiction and storage standards for dual names currently being developed by the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA).

The conference provided a forum for Australia to benchmark itself against other countries in the area of minority placenaming. It was apparent that Australian initiatives are progressive in this area and Australia is seen as a leader in some aspects. Australia's chairing of this working group along with its active participation in the development of the metadata database and the presentation of various papers and reports were much appreciated by UNGEGN. In addition the information gained from the conference will be invaluable for the ongoing development of guidelines and policy by the CGNA and at a state/territory jurisdictional level.

□ Greg Windsor,
Secretary, Geographical Names Board NSW

Conference

The Australian National Placenames Survey will host a day conference on placenames of Indigenous origin, on Saturday 1 October 2005, in Canberra at the offices of Geoscience Australia. It will follow the same pattern as similar day conferences held in Canberra in 1999, Adelaide 2000 and Darwin 2001, bringing together researchers with interests in Australian languages and cultures with members of the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia, the peak body for state/territory nomenclature authorities. It is envisaged that versions of some papers presented at this conference will be published, along with others, in a volume *Aboriginal Placenames Old and New* to be edited by Luise Hercus and Harold Koch for publication in 2006.

Contact flavia.hodges@humn.mq.edu.au for details.

Sports & Hobbies

All the clues reveal placenames are connected with sports or hobbies (disregard spelling) e.g. (Qld/Vic/WA) Very fashionable UK horse racing venue ... Ascot

1. (NSW) Supreme bliss for anglers
2. (NSW) You might expect fried chicken at this Derby
3. (NSW) The purpose in mounting a horse
4. (NSW) Home of the Golden Guitar
5. (Qld) No. 1 Olympic award; sea shore
6. (Qld) A long distance for a foot race
7. (Qld) The places for spelaeologists
8. (WA) Golf term – a hole played in two strokes under par; bark of hounds
9. (NT) Sagittarius, the ninth zodiacal constellation
10. (NT) Rifle or musket, for example
11. (NT) A racing bird; golfer's ultimate target for the ball
12. (Vic) A cricketer aims to keep these on the stumps
13. (Vic - creek) Favourite card game – could be contract
14. (Vic) The player aims a missile at a board with a bullseye – and then another one
15. (Vic) Bowlers aim for it, but are sometimes “high”; watercourse
16. (NSW/Qld) A campanologist has one
17. (NSW/Vic) Terminus for the Cambridge and Oxford boat race
18. (Tas) Wimbledon tennis courts could be so described
19. (Tas) Very senior royal card in the pack; piece of land surrounded by water
20. (ACT) Once the Saturday night place for dancing the quickstep

© Joyce Miles

Contributions

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

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

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

Mailing list and volunteer research

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Answers: 1. Fishermans Paradise 2. Kentucky 3. Ryde 4. Tamworth 5. Gold Coast 6. Marathon 7. The Caves 8. Eagle Bay 9. Archer 10. Gunn 11. Pigeon Hole 12. Bayles 13. Bridge Creek 14. Dart Dart 15. Jack River 16. Bell 17. Mortlake 18. Grassly 19. King Island 20. Hall