A paddock with a salinity problem

After reading the article by Chris Richards on the subject of Cape Everard and its subsequent renaming as Point Hicks (*Placenames Australia* June 2002), I was reminded of another 'naming' that involved the same area.

In 1967, I started working on Australian coastal ships as a navigator. My initial trips were mostly around the south-east corner of the country, and I was confused at first by references to 'Crossing The Paddock'. Gabo, yes; The Prom, yes; but there was no sign of The Paddock on my charts!

I soon found out that it was a marine reference to the stretch of water between Wilson's Promontory and Gabo Island. No-one could tell me why; it was The Paddock, and that was that. Certainly any farmer who owned a paddock that resembled that stretch of water in any way had serious problems on his farm!

I left the sea in the early '90's, and over that period of time the name seemed to have fallen out of use - at least on the cargo ships plying the area. I believe that it is still used by small boat owners. The usage seemed to me to begin declining at about the time when the oil rigs were built in the area, but maybe that was coincidental. Today, with Australian merchant ships in severe danger of extinction in favour of foreign flag ships, the term will no doubt only be kept alive by yachties and perhaps fishermen.

Another stretch of water with its own name in that general south eastern area was 'The Horror Stretch'. This was (and probably still is) the leg between Cape Northumberland, near Mt.Gambier in the west of Victoria, and Backstairs Passage, between Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsular in South Australia.

Free gift enclosed!

Enclosed with every mailed copy (while stocks last) of this issue of *Placenames Australia* is a very special seasonal gift for each of our readers — the video CD *What's in a Name: Australia's geographical names.*

This 10-minute presentation, introduced by Ernie Dingo, describes the importance of Australia's placenames and the work of the nomenclature authorities in assigning and standardising them. It combines a humorous narrative with many impressive shots of locations across the continent.

The CD is a joint initiative of the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia and the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping, as a result of whose generosity we are able to distribute the disks.

The disk can be played on virtually any computer with a CD-ROM drive. Minimum system requirements are Windows 98, ME or 2000; 32mb RAM; 4 x CD-ROM drive; 16-bit Soundblaster or Windows-compatible sound card. In addition Internet access is needed for the link to the CGNA website and email response. On most computers the video will begin automatically when the disk is put into the drive — it can take a little while to load.

In a few cases of slower machines, the audio may be out of sync with the video; to work round this, in File Manager double-click on the file tvc.avi listed on the CD-ROM drive (or for even better results copy it to your hard disk). It should open in a normal Windows Multi Media player (if installed), and in this application the presentation runs fine.

History Week, NSW

History Week is the annual, state-wide celebration and promotion of history organised by the History Council of New South Wales. This year it ran 14-21 September and organisations all over NSW showcased their work by hosting events, talks, lectures, tours, exhibitions, films and book launches. The theme for 2002 was Changing Landscapes, exploring movement and migration, travel and tourism, place and space, identity and meaning, the built and natural environments, the urban and the rural: the landscapes of our past and present (http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au).

In this issue

On Tuesday 17 September the ANPS participated in the part of the programme which was held in the History Department at Macquarie University. Dale Lehner, ANPS Research Associate, gave a presentation called 'Naming where we live' based on research for her thesis on the Darling Downs (Qld). Her talk was about the kind of choices that were made when features in Australia were named (in the case of features such as settlements) and renamed (in the case of natural features such as rivers which already had Indigenous names) at different points in colonial history. It also covered the respective roles played in placenaming by Indigenous people, explorers, squatters, surveyors and ordinary settlers. A condensed version of this talk will appear in a future issue of *Placenames Australia*.

During the same session Flavia Hodges, ANPS Research Fellow, talked about the ANPS and there was an interesting exchange of ideas with members of the audience about the ANPS database, particularly with Chris Cunneen, one of the editors of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Given that many placenames in Australia are named after people, there is certainly scope for the ANPS collaborating with the ADB.
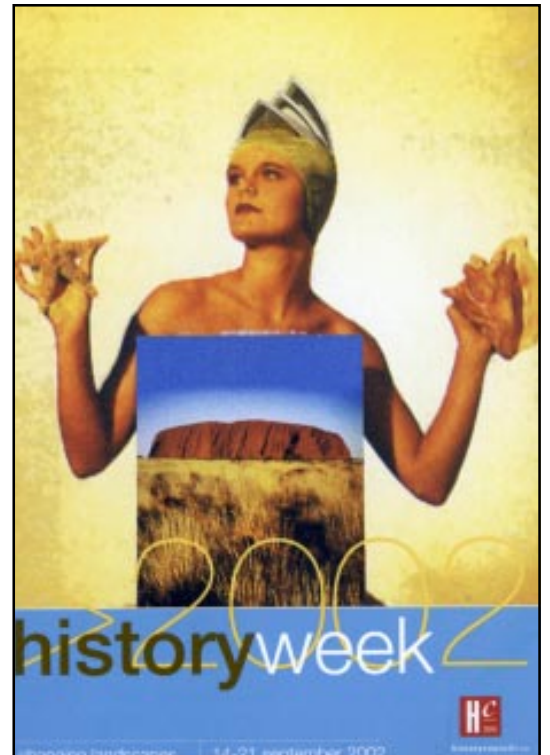
I Quote...

At a time in the 1930s when it appeared that much information would be lost, Prof. H. Alcock from the University of Queensland expressed in strong terms the need to preserve the history of Queensland placenames. He said that they 'tell the story of the changing landscape, of settlement, of success or disappointment, of hope and achievement' and embody the 'human side' of history.

Alcock, H. 'The Cultural Value of the QPNC', in *Queensland Place Names Committee Bulletin*, no. 3, June 1938, p2. Cited in Lehner, Dale 'Placenames and History: an example from Queensland's Darling Downs 1827-1859', *Locality, the Community History Magazine*, Winter 2002, University of Technology, Sydney, p20.

Placenames in the News

The Sydney Morning Herald (Saturday, October 5, 2002) reported on Keith Smith (who is studying 18th century Sydney Aboriginal language and life for his masters degree at Macquarie University) and his unexpected finding of Aboriginal placenames on a faint map of Port Jackson on the inside cover of the 1790 book by first fleeter Lieutenant William Dawes.

Have you seen an article about placenames in the media which you'd like to share with our subscribers? Send a photocopy of the article and/or email details of the publication, date and a brief summary of the article to spoetsch@hmn.mq.edu.au for inclusion in a future issue of Placenames Australia.

A paddock with a salinity problem

The course to traverse this stretch of water is either north west or south east. Of course, out to the west is the Great Australian Bight and an unbroken stretch of the Southern Ocean all the way to Argentina. The Southern Ocean is notorious for storms - perhaps everybody has heard of the 'Roaring Forties'; then there are the lesser known 'Screaming Sixties'. Thus, the swells originating from storm fronts in the Southern Ocean sweep uninterrupted across the Bight from the south west and the west - which means that any ship on passage between Cape Nelson and Backstairs Passage gets these swells right on her beam.

The distance is approximately 150 miles, which at (say) 10 knots gives 15 hours of heavy rolling, unless you are lucky enough to strike a smooth passage - a rare event. Two ships that stick in my mind were sister ships - the 'Kooliga' and the 'Kooyong'. Long razor blades now, they were both on a regular trade between Port Kembla and Adelaide carrying steel to Adelaide for the Holden works and gypsum from Stenhouse Bay back to the east coast. The trip to Adelaide was always dreaded in these ships - the low weight of the steel cargo made them very stiff, so they rolled rapidly and violently. The roll wasn't big in terms of degrees - southbound, they could reach a 35 or 40 degree roll quite easily - but the 15 to 20 degree roll that they achieved northbound was so rapid that (unless well secured) chairs would literally be thrown across your cabin. Sleep was a memory untill the blessed moment when the shelter of Kangaroo Island was reached.

Hence - The Horror Stretch. A name well earned.

I believe that there is some debate as to the exact geographical boundaries of the

View from the Kooliga's bridge in rough weather in The Paddock.
Photo: Bernie Turvey

Horror Stretch and The Paddock. The simple answer would be that they vary from ship to ship, I think!

Broadly speaking, and limited to my own experience, The Paddock was the area between Gabo Island and Wilson's Prom., the Bass Strait (or the Strait) was between the Prom and Cape Otway; the Bight started at Cape Otway and stretched to Cape Leuwin, at the south west corner of W.A., and the Horror Stretch reached from Cape Nelson or Cape Northumberland to Backstairs Passage. No doubt there are many local variations, and probably many more unofficial local names for these and other stretches of water.

Which, I suppose, only goes to show that the sometimes vexed issue of who called where what and why is not limited to the land, but spreads its wings over the entire globe!

❑   Bernie Turvey

An ANPS Research Friend – Denis Gojak

For the past few years the ANPS has been securing funding, establishing its operations and making contact with state and territory, national and international nomenclature authorities. The next phase of the Survey, that is to have more public input into placenames research, is now well underway.

David Blair and Flavia Hodges have appealed for voluntary public assistance through ABC national and local radio as well as commercial radio station interviews in various states/territories. Also, Dale Lehner has made contact with volunteers through her work on the Darling Downs (Qld) and Bill Noble through his presentations to Historical Society meetings.

In each issue of *Placenames Australia*, we try and keep you up to date with the work of a current Research Friend. This issue it's Denis Gojak (pictured below).

When the database is ready, the ANPS aims to have the work done by Research Friends entered via the website. In the meantime, Research Friends are going ahead with collecting information about placenames in their respective local areas and are storing this information until the database is ready for input.

'I am an archaeologist by training and my specialty within the field is historical archaeology which is focused, in Australia, on the period after the arrival of Europeans, from 1788 and right up to the present. Professionally I have worked mainly in southeastern Australia, with a long stint for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and then for Planning NSW. Most recently I have set up a business in archaeological and heritage consultancy, which is still on its shaky newborn legs and has just survived its first Business Activity Statement.

My interest in placenames is because of their resemblance in many ways to other archaeological clues. They are specific to time and place and originate through unique historical circumstances, and very often their real meaning can't be revealed without a lot of further detective work. Professionally I always consider placenames as part of our intangible heritage, because they give life to a place's past, but they exist mainly in peoples' minds and memory. Maps and plans sometimes capture them, but seldom their importance or origin. I've learned that what you name places is a very powerful way of staking ownership or authority over a place, and so in heritage projects making sure that you get names for places and things 'right' is very important. It can easily undermine a local community's support for your proposals if they don't trust you to even call a place by its proper name.

At the moment I'm recording placenames in the NSW Far South Coast and Monaro [also Maneroo, Monera and other variations] that were in use to c. 1850. Most of these relate to the grazing and whaling industries. It's an interesting part of the world because it had a number of early chroniclers who put on paper the names of pastoral properties and runs. The first runs were claimed by the physical presence of men and sheep or cattle, and creating placenames that were recognised by others was important in reinforcing claims of occupancy. In
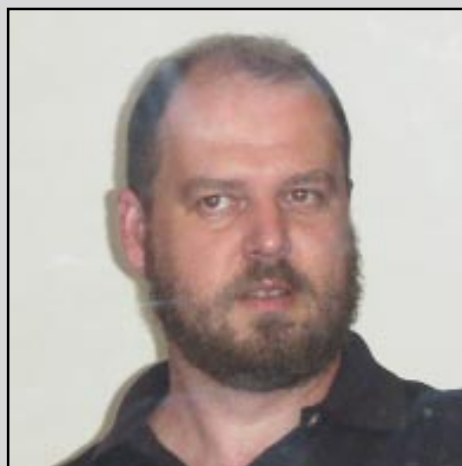
1848 the descriptions of runs were recorded in a form of 'metes and bounds' description that captured local landmarks and features that were understood locally but were not otherwise recorded on maps. Systematically inventorying all of these into the database will be pretty tedious but is worthwhile as an initial stage in research. I am doing a PhD on the archaeology of two of the major entrepreneurial enterprises in the area before 1850 – Ben Boyd, who himself has left various placenames such as Boyd Town, and Ben Boyd Road [in Mosman, in Sydney], and the three Imlay brothers, who are commemorated by Mount Imlay and Doctor George Mountain. Each ran extensive pastoral and whaling operations, employed Aboriginal labourers on the same wages as whites, and collapsed financially before 1850.

The thesis is on hold while the business finds its feet, but apart from getting a systematic handle on placenames the other main task is transcribing the journals of Boyd's whaling station manager, Oswald Brierly. His journals are an important insight into this period and contain a lot of local placename detail, both land and maritime, but he has shocking handwriting which makes transcription almost painful. In later life he became Queen Victoria's official marine artist, but wouldn't have got it if he had to do a handwriting test.

For me historic placenames are so much a part of the story of the way Australia's landscape has developed over the past few centuries that I forget they don't speak as loudly to many others. Driving along Powderworks Road, walking along Sheepwash Creek to Yankee Flat or the Chinamans Bend gives me an instant 'hit' of local history and change through time. The ANPS appeals to people like me who don't want to just list placenames but to make sure they don't get forgotten and that the stories behind them are understood.'

❑ Denis Gojak

CGNA Spot: The NSW GNB visits the Tweed

The Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (the Board) recently visited the Tweed Shire to meet with Local Council and the community. The visit was a result of an initiative adopted by the Board to see first hand some of the naming issues that affected residents in this area.

The public forum sparked debate on several issues. The location of Cook's Point Danger generated a discussion that showed the passion that local residents have when it comes to the accurate recording of geographical placenames.

Over the past thirty years the Board has endeavoured to ascertain the precise location of 'Point Danger' as referred to by Captain James Cook on 16 May 1770. This process included the review of many of Cook's original logs, charts and journals along with many consultative meetings with the community and interested parties and a reconstruction of Cook's original journey in respect to this area.

The Board published its findings in 1999 and confirmed the location of the point to be at the northern entrance to the Tweed River. Local historians are still

Public meeting conducted by the Geographical Names Board held at Murwillumbah

split on this decision which resulted in a lively discussion and subsequent readings and interpretations of Cook's journals.

Although consensus on this issue will probably never be achieved a basic acknowledgment of the Board's need to make a decision was recognised. Further to this the Board expressed gratitude to both sides and suggested that the information presented by them to the Board over a period of many years builds up an invaluable resource for future generations.

The Board also discussed issues of a contemporary nature. The development

of a new township south of Tweed Heads led to a conversation on the pros and cons of the proposed name, 'Casuarina'.

The positive nature of these types of meetings reaffirms the importance that the community places in geographical names of features in and around their local area. As a result of this the Board is committed to holding more of these meetings in various locations around NSW in order to gauge community acceptance of its decisions and promote the gathering of historical information on placenames.

❑   Greg Windsor

New Publications - *Words for Country, landscape and language in Australia*

Stories and phrases can powerfully shape the ways in which we experience and manage our environment.

How do stories take root in particular places? What languages have been used to characterise Australian landscapes and how have they influenced environmental perception and action?

Words for Country answers these questions while exploring the inter-relationship between Australia's landscape and language. Tim Bonyhady and Tom Griffiths have brought together an

illuminating collection of essays whose subjects range from the Ord River in the far north-west to Antarctica in the south, from the centre to the coast, the prehistoric to the present. Their terrain is both environmental and cultural, political and poetic.

Words for Country reveals not just how language grows out of the landscape but how words and stories shape the places in which we live.

UNSW Press
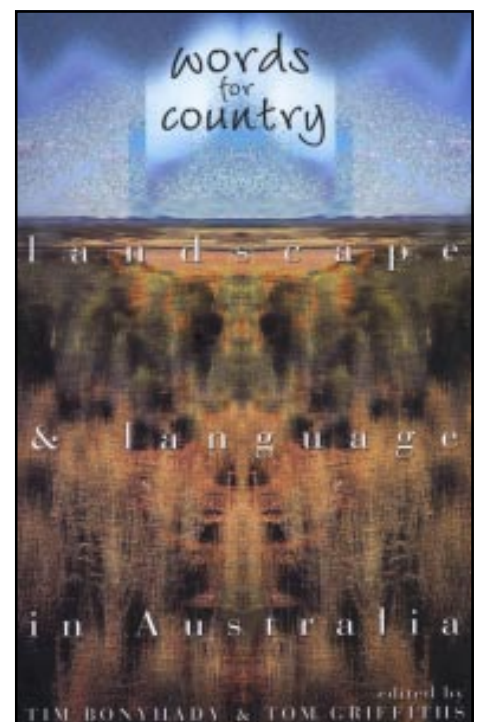
Cape Woolamai – How it shaped our history

Captain James Cook reached the east coast of Australia in May 1770. In sailing northwards he named a large number of geographical features, the first three of which are in present day Victoria – Point Hicks, Ram Head and Cape Howe (where the Vic/NSW border meets the coast). As Cook had been sailing westwards from New Zealand and did not go ashore until he reached Botany Bay, he was not in a position to apply any Aboriginal names in Victoria.

George Bass subsequently sailed along part of the Victorian coast in 1797/8, during his epic whaleboat voyage from Sydney to Western Port (which he named), effectively proving the existence of Bass Strait. Bass wrote about Cape Woolamai in his journal as follows-

The eastern entrance of this place has so conspicuous an appearance by the gap it makes in the land that it cannot fail of being known by any one coming from the eastward.

The point of the island, which is a high cape, like a snapper's head, forms an island. The entrance appears like a passage between it and the main.

When Matthew Flinders published (1814) the account of his circumnavigation of Australia entitled, *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, his comments for 3rd May, 1802, include the following-

We then steered eastward along the south side of Phillip Island, and passed a needle-like rock lying under the shore. Cape Wollamai is the east end of the island, and forms one side of the small, eastern entrance to the port;… Wollamai is the native name for a fish at Port Jackson, sometimes called by the settlers, light-horseman, from the bones of the head having some resemblance to a helmet; and the form of this cape bearing a likeness to the head of a fish, induced Mr. Bass to give it the name of Wollamai.

In addition to this journal entry, Flinders included Cape Wollamai on one of his charts entitled, 'South Coast', that accompanied the 1814 book publication.

Bass and Flinders were close friends and undertook several historically important voyages of exploration together. Consequently, there seems little reason to question Flinders' comments about the naming of Cape Wollamai by Bass, even though the latter used the expression 'like a snapper's head', rather than the actual Aboriginal word.

George Bass and Matthew Flinders did not make any contact with local Aboriginal people while they were on the Victorian coast. So where then did the name Wollamai come from? Part of the answer can be found in Captain John Hunter's book entitled, *An Historical Journal of Events at Sydney and at Sea*, which was originally published in 1793. This book contains a list of Aboriginal words collected around the Sydney area by Governor Arthur Phillip and the Judge Advocate and Secretary to the Colony, David Collins, which had been enlarged upon by Hunter. The list includes the word 'woolamie', which is recorded as meaning, 'a fish called a light-horse-man'. Hunter's book is based on his experiences in New South Wales with the First Fleet. He sailed back to England and then returned to the colony in 1793 as the second Governor. With Hunter on this return journey was George Bass, who was sailing to Australia for the first time.

Another part of the answer can be found with a third passenger on this voyage to Sydney; Bennelong. He was a member of the Eora people (who lived in the area around Sydney) and had been taken to England by Governor Phillip, when the latter went home with health problems. While the three were en-route to Sydney, Bennelong became sick and was treated by Bass, a naval surgeon.

It can be seen from the above, that Bass had an opportunity to acquire some insights into the Aboriginal language used around the Sydney area. In his biography of George Bass, Keith Macrae Bowden writes as follows-

Under Bass's care the native made a good recovery and he proved of some use on the voyage. From him, Bass learnt what he could of the native language spoken about Port Jackson.

Bennelong was an important figure in the early contact between Aboriginal people and the First Fleeters. He is remembered in the name of Bennelong Point on which the Sydney Opera House is located.

Bass would have had further opportunities to learn some more about the language of the Eora people after he arrived at Sydney. Some of the Eora had already become fringe-dwellers around the new settlement, while some colonists (see above) had prepared basic word lists.

Current maps and the Victorian Register of Geographic Names spell the name of the eastern tip of Phillip Island as Cape Woolamai. The earliest reference to this spelling that I have been able to locate is a map of the County of Mornington prepared by the Crown Lands Department in Melbourne in 1858. However, I have located some naval charts prepared after this date that preserve Flinders' spelling of Wollamai.

John Cleeland was one of the early settlers on Phillip Island (remembered in the name of Cleeland Bight), establishing a property that he called Wollomai (named after the cape near which it is located); this is a fourth spelling variant. Cleeland raised a horse called Wollomai, which was entered in and won the Melbourne Cup of 1875, the first Cup to be run on the first Tuesday in November.

A parish of Woolamai was created on the mainland east of Phillip Island, in which a small village/locality of Woolamai can be found. Nearby is the Woolamai racecourse, where popular picnic race meetings are held.

The toponymic significance of Cape Woolamai lies with it being the first

ANPS Victorian State Committee activities

In the June 2002 issue of *Placenames Australia*, we announced the establishment of the Victorian State Committee of the ANPS. In this issue we are pleased to include a photo of the committee and outline some of the activities its members have initiated. Since this photo was taken, Toby Heydon and Laura Konstanski have also joined the committee. Toby is the co-author, with Ian Clark, of the recently published *Dictionary and Database of Aboriginal Place Names of Victoria*. Laura is an Honours student in the History Department at Monash University.

The committee has been very active, convening regular meetings. It has initiated a pilot project on Cornish placenames inVictoria (see On the Web, below), promoted the work of the ANPS through local publications in the Colac Otway Shire and established contacts with organisations which also have an interest in placenames research (including the Centre for Gippsland

Left to right: Don Garden, Anita Davids (Secretary), Bruce Pascoe, Ian D. Clark (Chair), Keith Bell, Chris Richards (Deputy Chair).

Studies and the historical societies of the Macedon Ranges Heritage Council).

David Blair and Flavia Hodges of ANPS headquarters attended their most recent meeting at the University of Ballarat to discuss ways of establishing a Victorian database that will be compatible with the eventual national database. As ever funding is an issue, but it's hoped that collaborators from Macquarie University and the University of Ballarat will be able to apply jointly for Australian Research Council funding, preferably in conjunction with one or more commercial partners.

Aboriginal name applied by a European in present day Victoria. However, the word was not taken from the local language of the Boonwurrung people; it was transferred from the language of the Eora people living around Sydney. Consequently, if dual names were applied to this place in the future, it would involve two Aboriginal words.

Once Aboriginal words enter Australian English they become portable across Australia and the English speaking world. For example, loan words such as billabong, corella, kangaroo, mallee, waratah, woomera have migrated around Australia as placenames. In the process, these names were removed from their social, mythological and spiritual contexts within Aboriginal society. Woolamai migrated to Phillip Island, but did not replace snapper as the name of the red coloured game fish with the distinctive shape, however, it remains as a label on a headland that resembles a fish.

❑ Chris Richards

On the Web: Cornish placenames in Victoria

http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/placnams/placnams.htm

On this website, Chris Richards, of the ANPS Victorian State Committee, together with members of a special interest group of the Cornish Association of Victoria, is calling for information on the naming of towns, rivers, mountains, bays etc. in Victoria that may have Cornish associations. In order to identify possible Cornish names, the special interest group also plans to: review various records, including the Victorian Register of Geographic Names; check maps and records in the collections of the State Library of Victoria, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Geological Survey of Victoria and local historical societies; investigate genealogical and biographical information about people with Cornish names after whom places have been named; survey records held by Cornish groups in Australia and Cornwell; and visit Cornish communities in Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong. To date the group has identified a number of placenames in Victoria which are definitely of Cornish origin including the Duke of Cornwell mine (located south of Castlemaine), Rame Head (see article in *Placenames Australia*, June 2002) and Governor Kings Bay (the name applied by Lieutenant James Grant to the large bight south of Port Phillip Heads).

Do you have a favourite placenames website you'd like to recommend to fellow readers? Send details of the URL address and a summary of its contents to Susan at spoetsch@hmn.mq.edu.au for inclusion in a future issue.

International contacts

David Blair went to Uppsala, Sweden, and Berlin in late August to attend two toponymic conferences, and reports that the most difficult thing about the trip was coping with northern Europe's late summer heat! Apparently Sweden was experiencing its hottest summer in 200 years, and Berlin's temperatures constantly approached 30 degrees. David is definitely a cold weather person, and had been looking forward to escaping Sydney's warm weather!

The historic University of Uppsala was the venue for the International Conference on Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), where 200 delegates from around the world met to discuss personal names and placenames. There's a heavy emphasis on European naming at these conferences, since the extensive historical records of the Northern Hemisphere provide great opportunities for toponymic research. David reported on the progress of the Survey, and had useful discussions with various colleagues who until then were known by name only.

A special benefit of the trip was being able to catch up with various members of our advisory boards, such as Helen Kerfoot (Canada) and Roger Payne (USA) – both of whom are very strong supporters of the ANPS.

A couple of papers by US presenters addressed topics that in many ways parallel Australian colonial experiences: Thomas J. Gasque of the University of South Dakota spoke about the role of the explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clerk in placing names on the landscape of the American West during their great expedition of 1804-06, and Ed Callary of Northern Illinois University discussed a range of Illinois placenames that came into being as a result of the arrival of Swedish settlers in the mid and late 19th century.

A particularly interesting paper was given by Terhi Ainiala of Finland on recent changes and loss of minor placenames:

there has been a very high rate of loss between even the 1960s and 1970s and the present as fewer and fewer people make their living from agriculture and traditional sources of livelihood and methods of production have been replaced by new ones. Also pertinent in relation to this issue was the project described by Eamon Lankford of Ireland in which school students are to collect and map minor placenames in the counties of Cork and Kerry by means of interviews with their elders.

With respect to technical aspects of toponymy, several local Swedish presenters discussed issues relating to the 'code of good placename practice' embodied in their national Ancient Monuments and Finds Act that came into effect in July 2000.

Immediately after ICOS, the Eighth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names began in Berlin . The two-week gathering dealt with many technical matters, and David was joined by two colleagues from the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA), Brian Goodchild of Western Australia and Bill Watts of South Australia. Among the reports from these 'distinguished delegates from Australia', as the conference referred to them, David was able to inform the UN of the successful establishment of our Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy and to present a paper on the standardisation of terms for geographical features. We were also able to present our proposal to offer a UN-sponsored Toponymy Training Course in 2004 (see report on the 2002 course by Susan Poetsch on the next page); the conference was pleased with our intent to offer training in the collecting and standardising of placenames to delegates from developing countries in our region. Officials from our neighbouring countries (such as Myanmar and Malaysia) were very keen to avail themselves of the opportunity; and interest was even expressed from as far away as Cyprus!

Upcoming event

A one-day colloquium on Australian placenames of Indigenous origin, sponsored jointly by the ANPS and Pandanus Books, will be held in Canberra on Thursday 5 December. The centrepiece of the day will be the launch of *The Land is a Map*, edited by Luise Hercus, Flavia Hodges and Jane Simpson (Pandanus Books, 2002). This is a landmark publication in the field of Australian placename research, and most of the papers in it were originally presented at previous colloquia in the series (Canberra 1999 and Adelaide 2000).

The land is a map:
Placenames of Indigenous origin in Australia

In the morning papers will be presented by editor Luise Hercus on 'A landscape almost forgotten: examples from near Lake Eyre'; by Penny Lee, Bob Howard and Brian Goodchild of Western Australia on 'Indigenous and pseudo-Indigenous names proposed for the Albany-Denmark line'; and by Harold Koch and Bill Arthur of the Australian National University on 'Placenames of Indigenous origin in the ACT and south-eastern NSW' and 'Indigenous-derived placenames: mapping and the gazetteer' respectively.

Following the lunchtime launching of the book by Prof. Francesca Merlan, presentations on current indigenous naming issues will be made by Keith Bell, Surveyor General of Victoria, and Greg Windsor, Secretary of the Geographical Names Board NSW. The day will conclude with an open discussion of Indigenous naming issues in Australasia. A full report of the day's proceedings will appear in our March issue.

UN training course

Members of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) have convened courses periodically over the past 30 years. This year I was fortunate to be able to attend the two-week course held in Enschede, The Netherlands (10-17 August) and Frankfurt, Germany (18-24 August).

The venue for the first week was the International Institute for Geo-information and Earth Observation, an institute which has been training people from developing nations in the mapping sciences for several decades. The second week was held at the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, the key cartographic agency in Germany.

It was exciting to be amongst the twenty people from developing nations all over the world, who participated in the course. They struck up an instant rapport with each other and the course convenors and were keen to learn from each other's experiences and current projects as well as from the formal input of the course. While all of the participants worked in some capacity in the field of geographical names standardisation in their respective countries, some of them worked in government bodies (e.g. mapping and surveying agencies), others in academic institutions (e.g. university geography departments). These perspectives provided for stimulating exchanges of ideas.

Unlike in Australia, in many developing nations, the consistent use of accurate placenames, and the idea of responsibility for them lying with a recognisable nomenclature authority, cannot yet be taken as given. However, as UNGEGN argues, the consistent use of placenames is an essential element of effective communication worldwide and supports socioeconomic development, conservation and national infrastructure (see www.unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/

Participants and teachers, UN toponymy training course, 2002

ungegnbrochure.htm).

Week one of the course was a theoretical introduction to geographical names standardisation. The content focused on the principles and processes of:

- · forming national geographical names authorities
- · creating official placename registers
- · making these national gazetteers publicly available.

Topics covered included the role and function of geographical names, the composition of names boards, the importance and role of establishing national toponymic guidelines, the effect of multilingualism on choice of standard names, office processing of names information and the importance of consulting, as well as disseminating information to, the general public.

The practical component comprised the second week of the course. Participants were given the opportunity to go out into the field, to an area just north of Frankfurt (Taunus), to practise the theory, and compare it with the somewhat more challenging reality, of geographical names collection. This exercise was done in small groups, each with an interpreter. Two days were spent in a rural area and one day in a municipal area. The names were collected with the assistance of people local to the area, who were good enough to agree to be interviewed and many were enthusiastic about answering our
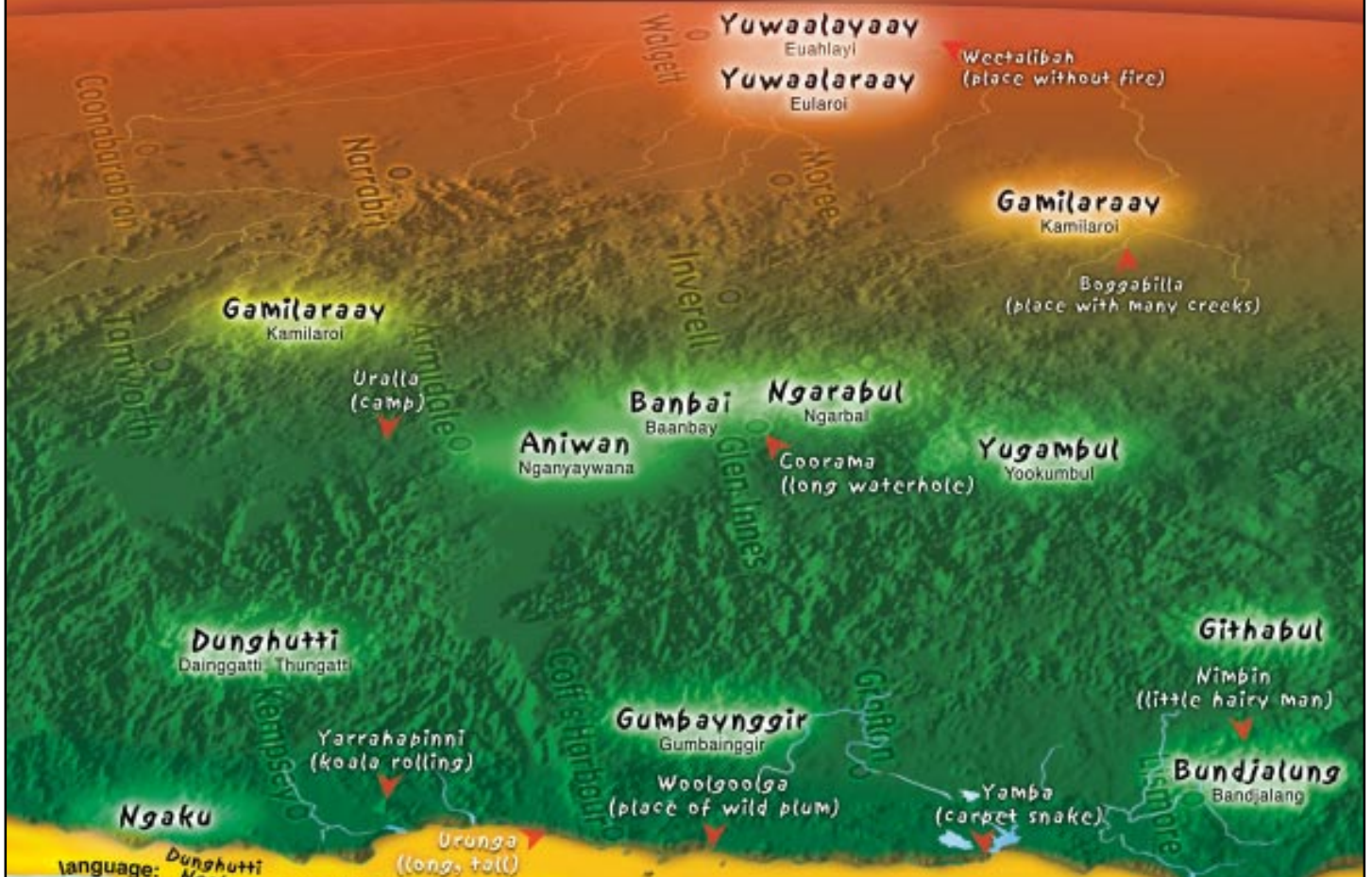
questions about local names. The names collected were then, back in the offices in Frankfurt, used to build toponymic datafiles, which were in turn used to produce maps of the area.

On 24 August I left the group but the other participants went on to Berlin to attend the Eighth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The UN toponymy training courses are held biannually and the next one, in 2004, will be hosted by us, in our capacity as the Asia-Pacific Institute of Toponymy (APIT). To this end, it was fantastic for me to have the opportunity to participate in the 2002 course and observe how it was run and the kinds of contributions and experiences that the participants bring to the course.

APIT will run the course in conjunction with the Geographical Names Board of NSW and the WA Department of Lands Administration. We're also pleased that Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and the New Zealand Geographic Board, Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, expressed interest in developing a collaborative approach to the 2004 course, as this will incorporate more expertise and participation from members of our UNGEGN division (Asia SE Pacific SW). See http://toponymycourses. geog.uu.nl for details of past as well as future toponymy courses.

❑   Susan Poetsch

Aboriginal Languages
of Northern NSW

Yuwaalayaay — Euahlayi
Yuwaalaraay — Eularoi
Weetalibah (place without fire)

Gamilaraay — Kamilaroi
Boggabilla (place with many creeks)

Gamilaraay — Kamilaroi
Uralla (camp)

Banbai — Baanbay
Ngarabul — Ngarbal
Aniwan — Nganyaywana
Coorama (long waterhole)
Yugambul — Yookumbul

Dunghutti — Dainggatti, Thungatti

Githabul
Nimbin (little hairy man)

Yarrahapinni (koala rolling)
Gumbaynggir — Gumbainggir
Woolgoolga (place of wild plum)
Yamba (carpet snake)
Bundjalung — Bandjalang

Ngaku
Urunga (long, tall)

River labels: Wolget, Narrabri, Moree, Inverell, Coonabarabran, Tamworth, Armidale, Glen Innes, Kempsey, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Lismore

language:	Dunghutti Ngaku	Gamilaraay	Yuwaalayaay	Yuwaalaraay	Gumbaynggir	Aniwan	Banbai	Ngarabul/ Yugambul	Bundjalung Githabul
camp	ngura				ngurra	urala	ngura	ngurra	waybar
eye	mi	walaay	walaay	walaay	mill	ila	mil	mil	miyl
I	ngaya	mil	mil	mil	ngaya	yaga	ngaya	(ng)adha	ngay
ironbark	wurra baragin	ngaya	ngaya	ngaya	barrigirrga	girranba		bagalay	bigar
no	yuwi	dhiinyaay	dhiinyaay	dhiinyaay	biiway	abala		yuga	yugam
one	wadhu	gamil	(yu)waal	(yu)waal	julu	nyuwanda	wunna	girara	yabur
kookaburra	garruka	maal	milan	biyarr	gaagum	rrugala	kurrukun	gaaguun	gahgun
mother	nuka	gugurrgaagaa	guguurrgaagaa	gugurrgaagaa	miimi	irrabila	kubara	mina	wadhung
stand	warra-linj	ngambaa	ngambaa	ngambaa	jaganyji	rra-na	dyukka	warri	jahna-la
stone (money)	dharru	warra-y	warra-y	warra-y	muniim	rrula	yarrul	dharru	jaru
		yarrul	maayama	maayama					

Interesting Features:

- Some words are almost the same, for example 'eye' is something like *mil* in most of these languages. Other words are very different: note how much the word for 'one' varies.
- Many NSW languages are named after their word for 'no', for example, *yuga* means 'no' in Yugambul, and *gamil* means 'no' in Gamilaraay.
- People have extended the meanings of some words, so for example, the word for 'stone' has also come to mean 'money' in some languages.
- Aniwan is one of a few languages that have dropped the first sounds (or syllable) in many words, and added a sound at the end of the word, have a look at 'eye' *mil* which has changed to *ila*.

Grammar

The grammar of Aboriginal languages is quite complex. They are closer to Latin than English in the way you put parts of words together to make whole words. The following sentence is in Gamilaraay.

Bubaa-gu	ngambaa	ngami-y.
Father	mother	saw.

The ending -gu on bubaa, the word for 'father', shows that father (not mother) is the one who is seeing someone.

If we want to say 'mother saw father', we do not need to change the word order, as we would in English. The important thing is to put the ending -gu on ngambaa, the word for 'mother'.

Bubaa	ngambaa-gu	ngami-y.

This sentence means 'mother saw father'. This is just one of the many ways that the grammar of Aboriginal languages is efficient, complex and very different from English.

Aboriginal Languages of Northern NSW poster

This is the first time that a poster (see opposite page) about the Aboriginal languages of northern NSW has been produced. It provides a colourful graphic representation of the location of Aboriginal languages in northern N.S.W. Included are a wordlist, placenames and interesting features of the grammar of Aboriginal languages. Many Aboriginal communities and linguists provided advice and checked the content of the poster.

The poster makes a positive contribution to the revival of Aboriginal languages because it takes information about these languages out to the general community. It will be a useful educational resource in Land Councils, Keeping Places, Schools and in people's homes. It is hoped that it will help raise people's awareness about the value and diversity of the Aboriginal languages of the region.

This is a joint project between the Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, Aboriginal groups around northern NSW, and linguists from the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at the University of New England.

Copies are available at the cost of $5 plus postage and handling. To order please contact Cassie at: The Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, Kentucky St, PO Box 1360, Armidale NSW 2350 Phone: 02 6771 1249 Fax: 02 6771 4597.

Mapping Victoria

November 12 2002 to March 2003
Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne
Tel (03) 9326 9288

WHEN IS

A KEY - not an instrument for opening a door? A LEGEND – not a famous person or event? A DEGREE - not an increment of temperature? A CHAIN - not a securing device? A STONE - not merely a rock? WHEN they pertain to the art of Mapping.

BUT THEN AGAIN - a map does function as a key to open our understanding of the environment in which we live. Maps do illustrate the legends created by people and events. As documents they imply a degree of higher learning. In chains surveyors and explorers subdued and secured the Victorian landscape leaving no stone unturned.

The exhibition explores the rich terrain of Victorian maps. From the chart published in 1814 of Terra Australis – showing the early charting of the Victorian coast by Matthew Flinders to a beautiful hand draw map of "Mr. Hume's Tour" – notable not only for the care and craft of hand but the fact that it has an "upside-down" orientation – North is at the bottom of the page and the Victorian South Coast is at the top. Early parish maps of Victoria including the city of Melbourne and surrounds as well as an original parish map of Portland. These parish maps show in detail the layout of individual parcels of land and the purchaser's name. Tribal maps, engineering maps, topographical maps, some whimsical, some enchanting. Comparative maps which provide glimpses into the past of places now built over and changed forever.

We have been fortunate to secure some instruments and objects from the Surveyor General's Office. Included is a beautifully etched stone litho used to print topographic maps of Victoria, a Troughton & Simms of London astronomical theodolite with 20" telescope used in Victoria's geodetic survey and an actual "Chain" from the days they were still used for measuring. Supportive material from the Society's collection of photographs and documents will also complement the exhibition.

The Placenames Puzzle No.4

Erratum and apology: the solution to item 16 in Puzzle 3 in the September 2002 issue should have read Forster-Tuncurry. The typo was mine. SP.

Thanks to Joyce Miles for Puzzle No.4. Clue: It is the sound that counts, not necessarily the spelling, e.g. opposite to outer, animal with valuable fur, one = Innamincka
; indicates a separate word
, indicates a part of a word

Placenames Mailing List and ANPS Volunteer Research

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Qld
1. Part of a fireplace; bars or obstructs passage; type of knot
2. Internet explorers; heaven
3. Definite article; Pentecosts
SA
4. Barrel maker; harsh grating sound
5. Kookaburras for example, French for town; animal's footprint
WA
6. Definite article; highest points
7. Botch; several botches
8. Definite article; 1901 book by Kipling, sturdy
9. Decompose, bird's home; first person singular, terra firma
SA/WA
10. Of no effect or significance, one, make a hole with a drill; aircraft
NT
11. Satan's; associated with Elgin
12. Vermilion; middle
13. Hamburger venue without the '' large cooking stoves
Tas
14. West of England county, opposite to starboard
NSW
15. 19th century English aristocrat author of Childe Harold; type of window
16. Discharge of atmospheric electricity; meteorologically a band of high pressure
17. Opposite to the exit
18. A trio of female siblings
19. Was also a gatherer; the flower Lily came from here
20. Sweet fortified wine; raincoat, place where stone is extracted

Answers: 1. Great Barrier Reef 2. Surfers Paradise 3. The Whitsundays 4. Cooper Creek 5. Birdsville Track 6. The Pinnacles 7. Bungle Bungles 8. The Kimberley 9. Rottnest Island 10. Nullarbor Plain 11. Devils Marbles 12. Red Centre 13. MacDonnell Ranges 14. Devonport 15. Byron Bay 16. Lightning Ridge 17. The Entrance 18. The Three Sisters 19. Hunter Valley 20. Port Macquarie