



Did Matthew Flinders go one river too far?

As described in the September 2006 issue of *Placenames Australia*, our book *Sweers Islands Unveiled*¹ revolves around one particular 17th-century councillor at the Batavia office of the Dutch United East India Company (*Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie*, VOC), and is written as an unusual blend of personal, local and general history.

As collaborators based in Australia, the Netherlands and Norway, we focused on some very minor details in the discoveries of Abel Tasman and Matthew Flinders. As it turns out, the book sheds fresh light on the significance of the Bonaparte Tasman map -- a hand-coloured manuscript map, 73 x 95 cm in size, held by the State Library of New South Wales since 1933 -- and on the quality of Tasman's charting of the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1644. That it should have any significance beyond a personal voyage for my co-writers and me was not intended, but to our joy it has.

The question I raise in this article is whether we can use this new understanding of that map to determine if Flinders was misled while circumnavigating Australia in 1801-03.



Matthew Flinders, (1774-1814)

By comparing Thévenot's *Hollandia Nova detecta 1644*² from 1663 with the Bonaparte Tasman map, it seems Tasman's original charting has been misinterpreted. This, in turn, guided Flinders a trifle off-track when he placed *Sweers Island* on the Thévenot map and *Maatsuijker River* on the modern map.

The project behind *Sweers Islands Unveiled* was to follow the name Sweers. On his two voyages in 1642-43 and 1644, Abel Tasman honoured the councillors of VOC's Batavia office in his nomenclature. Salomon Sweers (1612-1674) had places named after himself in Tasmania, in the Bismarck Archipelago and on the Australian north coast.

In 1644, while mapping the longest run of Australian coastline ever charted by a navigator in a single expedition, Abel Tasman sailed along the west side of Cape York and westwards along the entire northern shores of the continent. He named *Maet Suijker Rivier* and *Sweers Rivier* in the south-eastern Gulf of Carpentaria after councillors Joan Maatsuijker and Salomon Sweers. A bit further west he charted Cape Van Diemen, named after Anthonio van Diemen, General Director of VOC's Batavia office in the 1640s. This headland

❑ CONTINUED PAGE 4

In this issue

| | |
|--|----|
| Did Matthew Flinders go one river too far? | 1 |
| Reader feedback..... | 2 |
| New publications | 2 |
| A note to our subscribers | 3 |
| The townships of Gordon and Wallace, Vic..... | 8 |
| Victoria's coastal placenames | 10 |
| Australian communities online | 11 |
| Mailing list and volunteer research | 12 |

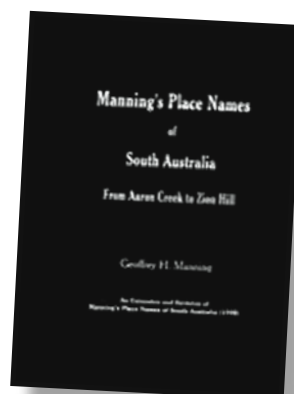


Reader Feedback

Thank you for the September number of *Placenames Australia*, which reached me this morning. I enjoyed Dymphna Lonergan's article on 'A place named Irishtown' in South Australia. This name has also been bestowed on a few places in Victoria. When I was researching the placenames of the Alexandra, Eildon and Yea area of Victoria, I came across an Irishtown which was shown, apparently as a settlement, south-south-east of Glenburn, on the east bank of Muddy Creek (today's Yea River) in John Arrowsmith's *Map of the Province of Victoria* (1853). It is also marked on Hiscock's map of the county of Anglesea (1874). It is not marked on modern 1:25000 maps, so I suspect that this Irishtown (or Irish Town) was a gold-mining settlement that petered out when the gold was exhausted.

Best wishes, Nigel Sinnott

New Publications



Manning's Place Names of South Australia: From Aaron Creek to Zion Hill, by Geoffrey H. Manning, 2006, published by Gould Books, ISBN 9780947284602, price \$79.50

First published in 1986 under the title *Romance of Place Names of South Australia*, with a second edition appearing in 1990 with the title *Manning's Place Names of South Australia*, this became the standard reference work on the topic of South Australia's placenames and their history. This new third edition, completely updated and revised, now contains about 80% more content, as well as over 200 photographs.

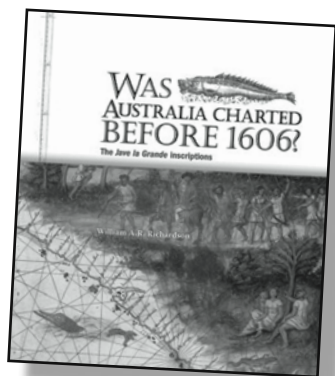
This book will answer many questions about the origins of South Australian settlements and placenames. In South Australia the names of English suburbs are placed alongside Irish towns and next to German or Scottish hamlets. The original meanings of names such as *Aldgate*, *Brompton*, *Cheltenham*, *Lobethal*, *Craigburn* and *Lochiel* are given, together with their reuse in the new land.

This book is a history, not simply a reference tool. Most entries describe the circumstances of the naming as well as the derivation of the name itself, and if this is not available, other historical detail is provided. In a way the book is a gazetteer setting out succinct histories of towns, suburbs, landscape features and other named localities in South Australia, past as well as present. The use of original records also exposes several inaccuracies in existing historical works.

The content is also available on a CD-ROM (price \$49.50, ISBN 9780947284596) and a book and CD-ROM set (price \$99.50). The CD is fully searchable on any word, and is readable using Adobe Acrobat. A bonus that comes with the CD edition only is a facsimile of Rodney Cockburn's *Nomenclature of South Australia*, a classic work originally published in 1908.

As a sidenote, the Manning Index of South Australian History has been acquired by the SA State Heritage Authority and is hosted by the State Library, which now

holds copyright. The Index contains many thousands of references to South Australian newspaper and magazine stories for the years 1837 to 1937. It also includes extensive selected text from the indexed publications, other primary and secondary sources and numerous extracts from Mr Manning's own writings.



Was Australia Charted Before 1606? The Jave la Grande inscriptions, by William A. R. Richardson, 2006, published by the National Library of Australia, ISBN 0642276421, price \$29.95

Dutchman Willem Janszoon's arrival on

the shores of Cape York in the *Duyfken* in 1606 is universally regarded as the first reliably documented non-Aboriginal arrival on Australia's shores. Yet claims abound that the Portuguese, French, Spanish, Indonesians and, most recently, the Chinese were earlier visitors.

Author William A.R. Richardson, Associate Professor at Flinders University, South Australia, examines the evidence for these claims and presents his own case. Much of the Portuguese claim rests on the evidence of a series of sixteenth-century French maps showing a charted landmass -- Jave la Grande, south of Indonesia -- which some have identified as Australia. Richardson devotes much of his book to considering this issue in detail, in particular the information that placenames can provide in identification.

This book is illustrated throughout with charts and maps, some of which are beautifully embellished, showcasing the exquisite art and skill of the mapmakers of the day.



Aboriginal Corporations, Communities and Outstations, by Ian Murray, 2006, published by Hesperian Press, ISBN 059053334

This is a useful listing of almost all of the Aboriginal

communities in Western Australia, giving the shire in which they are located, together with map references, latitude/longitude and a verbal description of the location. In many cases there are also notes about the history of the community, the languages spoken, and the origin of the name. Extensive cross-references assist in tracking communities that have changed their name, as well as some that may have closed or possibly never opened.

Copies may be obtained from Hesperian Press, PO Box 317, Victoria Park, WA 6979, or through the website <http://www.hesperianpress.com>, at a cost of \$22, plus \$5 postage Australia-wide.



A note to our subscribers

December 2006 sees the end of the hosting of the Australian National Placenames Survey within the Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy at Macquarie University. APIT was generously funded by a Vice-Chancellor's Millennium Innovations grant during the period 2002-06 (as reported in *Placenames Australia* December 2001 'Survey to take on international focus as APIT' and March 2002 'Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy goes live'), but will not continue its existence in 2007.

Accordingly, plans are underway for the Survey to continue its work through the structure of an incorporated society. As the title of this newsletter (suggested by Joyce Miles, compiler of our regular placenames puzzles) is both apt and catchy, we have reserved 'Placenames Australia Incorporated' as the name for this new body.

The next step is to formally apply for incorporation, along with a copy of our proposed rules and the name of our Public Officer. We're keen at this stage to hear from subscribers interested in becoming founder members of the society, and particularly from anyone willing to serve as an office bearer. In addition to the Public Officer we need at least a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

In the next issue of the newsletter we shall give full details of the structure of the Placenames Australia society and how you can join up to support the work of the Australian National Placenames Survey.

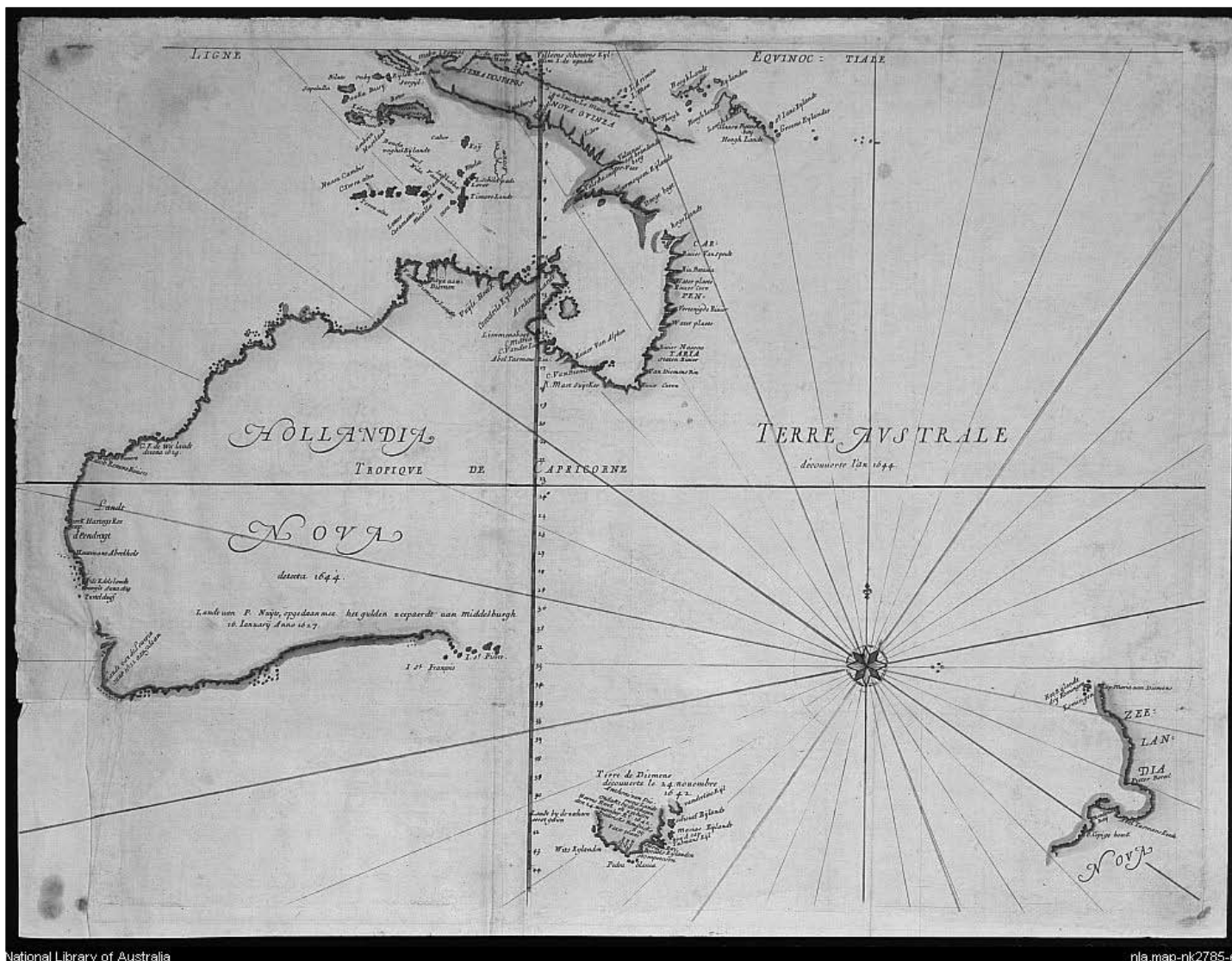


Figure 1: Melchisedech Thévenot (1620–1692), *Hollandia Nova detecta 1644, Terre Australe decouverte l'an 1644*. Engraving 50 x 37 cm. Printed by Jaques Langlois, Paris, 1663. (National Library of Australia, MAP NK 2785)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is easily recognized as present-day Wellesley Islands with Mornington Island as the most significant landscape feature. Later, it was Matthew Flinders who gave the name Sweers Island to the easternmost island in the South Wellesley Group – a group that strangely enough was not recognized as islands by Tasman.

We must keep distinct these two places named after Sweers: the *river* named by Tasman in 1644 and the *island* named by Flinders in 1802. We shall also keep an eye on *R. Maet Suycker* as it is called on the 1663 Thévenot map.

Flinders' nomenclature

When Flinders approached this area in 1802, he reports that he spotted a hill to the northwest as he sailed along the shallow coast, close to what we now know as the Leichhardt River³. With only the Thévenot map to back his decisions and with no islands charted, he took the hill to be part of the mainland and changed his course accordingly.

The hill appeared to be the 29-metre Inspection Hill on Sweers Island, and only the next day did Flinders realise that they had come across a number of large islands not charted earlier. When Flinders anchored between Sweers and Bentinck Islands while doing some necessary repairs on the *Investigator*, he camped on Sweers Island for a fortnight. As it provided such good shelter, he named the strait the *Investigator Road*, a name still in use today.

Flinders soon also found that there was no Maatsuijker River where the old chart said there should be one. While charting the area, he tried to create a link between the old Thévenot map and the modern one, and Flinders explains his theories in *A voyage to Terra Australis* (London 1814):

The wide opening between this land [Sweers Island] and the low coast to the southward [the mainland], I take to have been what is called Maatsuyker's River in the old chart, and that the island [Sweers Island], which Tasman, or whoever made this examination, did not distinguish well from being too far off, is the projecting point marked on the west side of the [Maatsuijker] river.

Thus, Flinders placed the old Maatsuijker River as the large, open sea between Sweers Island and the mainland, and his new Sweers Island as the small headland west of that 'river' on the Thévenot map.

Flinders's reason for naming this island after VOC councillor Sweers is rather complex. Most of the South Wellesley Islands he named after Englishmen -- Bentinck after the Governor of Madras, William Bentinck; Allen Islands after a member of his crew, etc. -- but the island on which he established a shore camp he reserved for the Dutch, as a tribute to those who had travelled there before him. His first thought was to transfer the name *Maatsuijker* (or *Maatsuyker*, in English transcription) from the river to the island, but since a Maatsuyker Group already existed in Van Diemens Land (Tasmania), explains Flinders, he chose Sweers instead. We are not sure whether Flinders knew about the existence of an old Sweers River in the area, but he certainly knew all the old VOC councillors well from the literature he had access to. There is no Sweers River on the Thévenot map's nomenclature.

The Bonaparte Tasman map

The Bonaparte Tasman map has its name from its one-time owner Prince Roland Bonaparte, grandson of Napoleon's brother Lucien. Prince Roland purchased it from Frederick Müller in Holland in 1891, and the Prince's daughter Marie, married to Prince George of Greece, gave it to the Mitchell Wing of the State Library of New South Wales in 1933.

While there exist three complete journals of the 1642-43 expedition, including the Mitchell Library's copy and the so-called 'Sailor's Journal', both once in Salomon Sweers's ownership, no journals of the 1644 expedition are known. This is why various 17th-century maps are the major sources of information for this second voyage, and the Bonaparte Tasman map in particular. The route is laid down in great detail with soundings and anchorages where they stopped for the night. Several other 17th-century maps include Tasman's discoveries, but none in such detail.

The age of the map has been a matter of controversy. While it was believed in 1933 that it was an original map from Tasman's time, a study performed in 1941 concluded that it is a copy, probably made around 1695 by an unknown Dutch cartographer. This conclusion has been commonly accepted over the last 60 years, but is now in question.

In this article and also in *Sweers Islands Unveiled*, I underline that the analysis we make deals only with some very few outlines in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The debate regarding the age of the Bonaparte Tasman map goes into angles and details far beyond what is discussed here. However, a recent study by Grahame Anderson⁴ concludes that the map was not drawn by *one* hand as indicated in the 1940s analysis, but that at least four people were involved in the making of

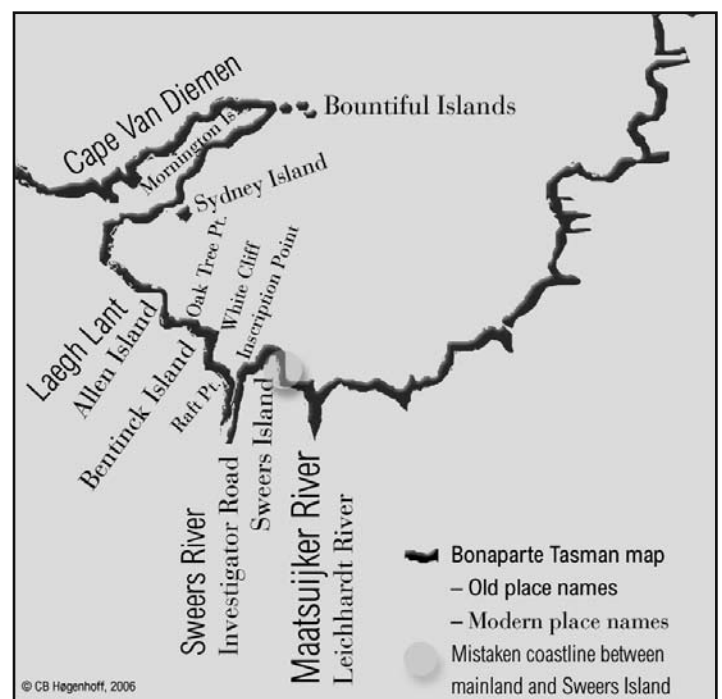
the map. Even more importantly, Anderson argues that he can recognize the distinct handwriting of Isaac Gilsemans on the map. Gilsemans sailed with Tasman as supercargo, and without going into detail here, this piece of information would place the Bonaparte Tasman map as drawn in Batavia, in surroundings where it would seem very natural that it could be made, no later than 1646 when Gilsemans died. He never returned to the Netherlands.

Tasman's course around South Wellesley

Many authors have tried to put Sweers and Maatsuijker Rivers on the modern map. They all tend to look to the various rivers and creeks that flow into the sea in the south-eastern, inner part of the Gulf. Flinders, we recall, thought Maatsuijker was the open sea south of the South Wellesley Group.

We see it differently. *Sweers Islands Unveiled* has an explanation of several pages that leads up to the conclusion briefly presented here. We have looked at soundings and landscape features on the Bonaparte Tasman map, we have studied how Flinders approached the area in 1802, and we have used local knowledge to try out all likely and unlikely possibilities to pass the South Wellesley Group without charting them as islands. Basically, our method was to put ourselves mentally onboard Tasman's ship, forgetting all we knew about modern maps in our attempt to see his world through his eyes – and only later compare what we found with the real world.

Figure 2: The outline of the Bonaparte Tasman map in the south-eastern area of the Gulf of Carpentaria, with old names and our theories on where to apply modern names. (Illustration by C.B. Høgenhoff, 2006)



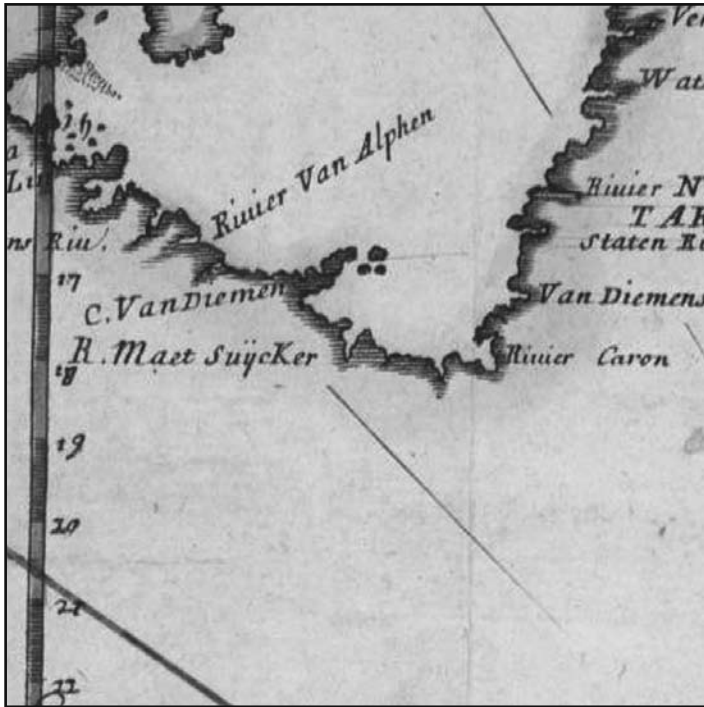


Figure 3: Detail of the Gulf of Carpentaria on the Thévenot map. Flinders used a copy of this map, and placed Sweers Island as 'the projecting point marked on the west side of the [Maatsuyker] river'. While Thévenot has included R. Maet Suycker, he has omitted Sweers River and the area called Laegh lant (Low land) on the Bonaparte Tasman map.

Our conclusion is that Tasman's Maatsuyker River is Leichhardt River or possibly Albert River. Here we agree with many. Then, just like Flinders in 1802, we believe that Tasman saw Inspection Hill on Sweers Island and sailed towards it. Seeing Sweers Island and Bentinck Island from the east, Tasman's charters mistook the land they saw to be a northward-stretching coastline along the mainland. This particular line on the Bonaparte Tasman map makes sense if understood like this, and no sense if not. Then night came; the chart shows an anchorage that must be just north-east of Sweers Island. The next day, seen from the north, they mistook Investigator Road for a river, and named it after Sweers. And from here on and westwards, a most interesting thing reveals itself: we can recognize basically the entire coastline on the Bonaparte Tasman map. Along the north shores of Bentinck Island we follow the major curves towards Oak Tree Point; we can see the coastline turn south towards Allen Island which is charted as a headland; and from there the map continues in a curve marked as *Laegh lant* (Low land) over to Mornington Island, or *Cape Van Diemen* on the old charts. The map and the land fit hand-in-glove.

Back to Flinders

Flinders had only the Thévenot map to guide him, with *R. Maet Suycker* shown as a large indentation or bay. The mere size of this 'bay' must have been what made him think it could be the open sea between Sweers Island and the mainland. Consequently, it seemed only likely that Sweers Island was on the west side of that 'bay'⁵.

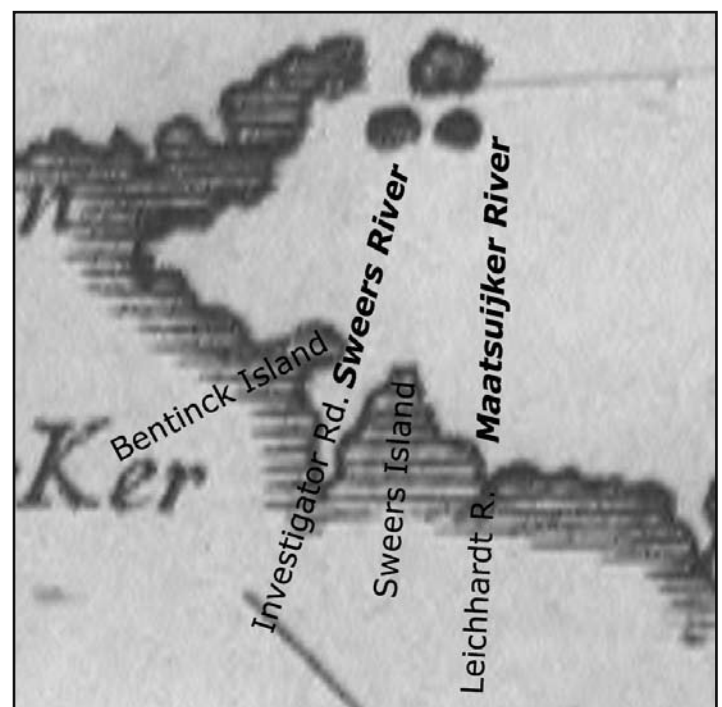
Figure 4 shows where Thévenot should have placed the two rivers, had he made (or been able to make) a better copy. But when we compare his map with the Bonaparte Tasman map, some important features are recognised – and the map as such is really not such a bad reconstruction of the lines seen on Bonaparte Tasman. The most interesting part is the northwards stretching line on the *east side* of the headland east of Thévenot's *R. Maet Suycker*. There is also a small bay marked east of that again. These lines correspond very well with the area between the Bonaparte Tasman map's Maatsuijker River and Sweers River.

And here we are: when Flinders made his conclusions, he placed *Sweers Island* on the west side of *R. Maet Suycker*, whereas in fact it should have been on the east side. And of course, Thévenot had placed the Maatsuijker where the Sweers River should have been – and Flinders placed it in between Tasman's two rivers.

We shall make a note of one particular point here. While many authors have attempted to place both Sweers and Maatsuyker River on the mainland, Flinders was on the right track. And Investigator Road, of course, might indeed be identified both at Sweers River and Maatsuijker River. It just depends on which map you use.

Implications for the Bonaparte Tasman map

Figure 4: Detail from the Thévenot map, with Sweers River and Maatsuijker River applied where they should be placed if we use the same logic as on the Bonaparte Tasman map. We can recognize the general outline from Bonaparte Tasman. The coastline from Leichhardt River to Sweers Island, stretching north, makes sense only if one imagines that Tasman sailed towards Inspection Hill on Sweers Island. (Illustration by C.B. Høgenhoff, 2006)



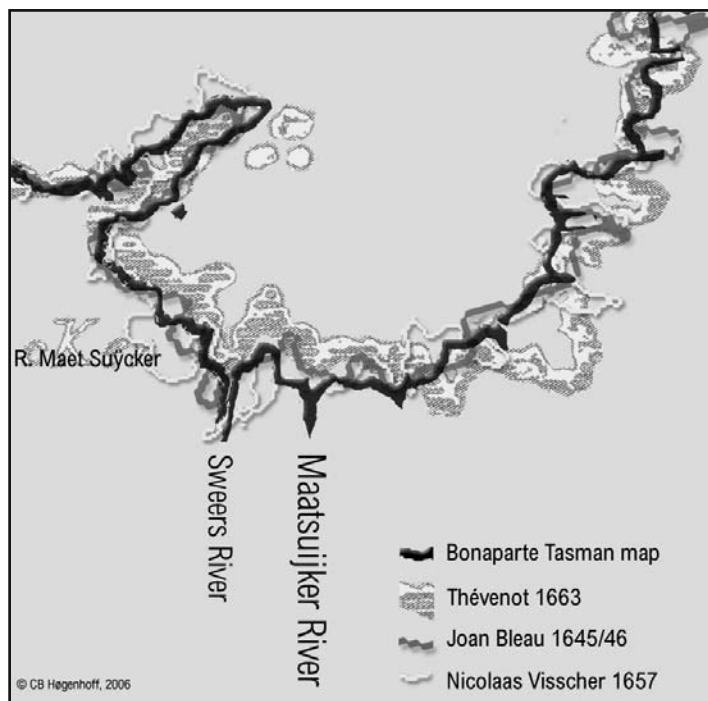


Figure 5: Four 17th-century maps superimposed. We see how the outline of the 1645/46 Blaeu map is quite close to the Bonaparte Tasman map, while Thévenot (1663) and Visscher (1657) both show differences possibly brought on in the copying process over the years. But like Thévenot, Blaeu had Maatsuijker River placed where Sweers River is on the Bonaparte Tasman map, and did not include Sweers River. Visscher included both rivers in 1657. (Illustration by C.B. Høgenhoff, 2006)

Melchisedech Thévenot's 1663 travel anthology was important as it made Dutch discoveries up to 1644 known to the wider public for the first time. The mapping of the Australian continent on these 17th-century maps would remain unchanged and recognisable until the voyages of Captain James Cook more than a century later. There are of course other maps, among which Joan Blaeu's 'updated' world map published in Amsterdam in 1645/46 is the earliest. It includes Tasman's then *very* recent discoveries, and charts the areas discussed here basically as on the Bonaparte Tasman map, but *without* Sweers River. Yet other ones show a more or less twisted coastline in that same area, revealing some degeneration in the copying process. We see this in the outlines from the four maps I have super-imposed in Figure 5 – the two debated here plus Blaeu's 1645/46 map and Nicolaas Visscher's *India Orientalis* from Jan Janszoon's *Novus Atlas* 1657/58. This article is not the place for a full 'Cape Van Diemen and Sweers River' comparison between various maps, but such an investigation would be interesting.

The Bonaparte Tasman map was in unknown private hands before surfacing in 1860 when Jacob Swart published a lithographic copy with transcribed, Latin lettering. Jan Ernst Heeres, the great biographer of Tasman's life, was aware of the original Bonaparte Tasman map but had no access to it, and only since the 1930s has it been known to a wider audience. A reproduction of the Swart version was laid out in mosaic on the stone floor in the Mitchell Library's vestibule

in 1941. Grahame Anderson sheds light on the map's age and origin, and when presented with a draft version of *Sweers Islands Unveiled* in January this year, Mr. Paul Brunton, Senior Curator at the Mitchell Library in Sydney, saw the implications our analysis had on the Bonaparte Tasman map. 'It sheds fresh light on this map and its significance and on the quality of the charting of that 1644 voyage', he wrote in the foreword. Needless to say, for amateur historians like Lyn and Tex Battle, Bob Forsyth, Annette Sweerts and myself, having Paul Brunton write the foreword brought an unexpected dimension to our book. But despite this, the book remains a personal tribute to Salomon Sweers, uncle and guardian of my ancestor Judith.

The new information I mean to bring to the table now, is how one can trace a 'transfer of nomenclature' from one river to another, and how understanding the Bonaparte Tasman map can aid us in correcting Thévenot 1663 and Blaeu 1645/46. If nothing else, this indicates that both artwork and nomenclature on the Bonaparte Tasman map is closer to Tasman's original charts. In a broader perspective, it might be yet another piece in the puzzle that will bring the Bonaparte Tasman map to the forefront of early Australian maps.

And if Matthew Flinders should have sailed one river too far because of an incorrect copy made later in the 17th century, he still placed Sweers Island on the best possible spot: next to Tasman's Sweers River.

□ Carsten Berg Høgenhoff, Oslo

Notes and references:

- ¹ Carsten Berg Høgenhoff, *Sweers Islands Unveiled*. Written in cooperation with Lyn & Tex Battle, Bob Forsyth and Annette Sweerts. Published by Høgenhoff Forlag, Oslo, 2006, ISBN 8299714028. See also <http://siec.winnem.com> and <http://www.sweers.com.au>.
- ² Melchisedech Thévenot (1620–1692), *Hollandia Nova detecta 1644, Terre Australe decouverte l'an 1644*. Engraving 50 x 37 cm. Printed by Jaques Langlois, Paris, 1663.
- ³ Matthew Flinders, 1: *A voyage to Terra Australis* (two volumes), G. & W. Nicol (London 1814). Reprinted by the Libraries Board of South Australia, Australia Facsimile Editions # 37 (1966); 2: *Journals of the Investigator 1801, 1802 & 1803* (three volumes). First two volumes: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/flinders/manuscripts/3.html; third volume: Public Record Office, London.
- ⁴ Grahame Anderson, *The Merchant of the Zeehaen: Isaac Gilsemans and the Voyages of Abel Tasman*, Te Papa Press (2001), ISBN 0909010757.
- ⁵ In *Sweers Islands Unveiled*, we refer to Flinders' understanding of the Thévenot map, but do not address the questions raised in this article. It was only after the book had been printed that I saw that Thévenot must have had the Maatsuijker River placed in the wrong place.

The townships of Gordon and Wallace, Vic

Much of the feedback I have received from readers of my *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria* has been correspondence about whether or not several townships described as 'officially surveyed' were ever actually proclaimed in the Government Gazette. As an example of the complexities, I can furnish additional information about the establishment of Gordon and Wallace, two nearby centres located in the Central Highlands region of Victoria.

According to Blake's *Place Names of Victoria* (Rigby, 1977) the names of these settlements were derived from local landholders: George Gordon, manager of Bungal pastoral run in 1838, and presumably John Wallace who also gave his name to Mount Wallace, over 15 miles to the south-east of Gordon. However, it is my contention (and conviction in the case of Wallace) that the names came from an entirely different source, and the following information demonstrates this.

Originally the area around present-day Gordon was referred to by the parish name of *Kerrit Bareet*, and then *Kangaroo Bob's* from the name of the first miner of note in the area about 1856. The first school in the area was opened in 1857 as *Hiscock's New Find*; Hiscock was acknowledged as the finder of the first significant gold at Buninyong.

Gordon was described as a gold-mining centre, but it does not rate a specific mention in Flett's *Gold Fields of Victoria*, nor do there appear to have been many high-yielding mines in the area. I think that it would be fair to say that during its most important period, about 1860 to 1885, Gordon acted as a service provider to surrounding smaller centers, both mining and agricultural. The mining warden (with gold-mining registry) was located at Gordon. This contrasts with (Mount) Egerton, three miles to the south, which, with its many deep lead mines, sustained a population of over 1,000 persons for almost forty years from 1875.

In 1857 a new and more direct road was opened between Ballan and Ballarat, and it was planned that a township would be surveyed along this road on the eastern side of the West Moorabool River. In such cases, in contrast to the survey of an existing named centre where most of the streets would be named after notable local personalities at the time, the name

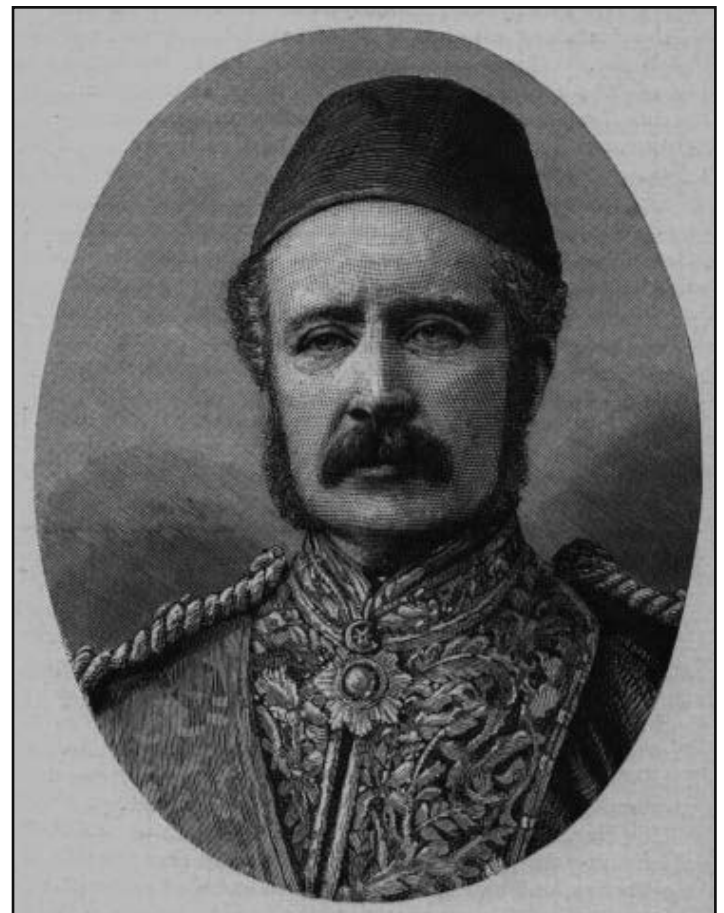
and possibly the street theme for a new township would be nominated by the Surveyor General's Department. After that, the actual street names would be left to the imagination of the individual surveyor.

By 1857, Charles George Gordon (1833-85, later General Gordon of China and Khartoum fame) had already received popular acclaim for his deeds in the Crimean War, and this appears to be the most likely source for the township name. The theme for the street names of Gordon was obviously iconic figures of history, and Wallace Street -- evidently named after the Scottish patriot William Wallace (d. 1305) -- forms the eastern boundary of land actually subdivided into urban allotments. Wallace Street appears to be the only minor street actually constructed at the time of survey.

Even though at the time little or no development took place in the surveyed township, the name Gordon was quickly adopted for all of the area covered by diggings to the south, and soon a centre steadily developed around the location of the present township of Gordon. This is probably the reason that under the 1861 review, the official township of Gordon was reproclaimed (probably in 1862) as the town of Wallace, with all the land within the town boundary designated as the parish of Wallace.

About the same time, with the increasing importance of *Gordon's Diggings*, the road was diverted through its centre, and this continued to be the main road to Ballarat until the

Charles George Gordon (image from Wikipedia)





Statue of William Wallace at Edinburgh Castle

construction of the Western Freeway will over a hundred years later.

The parish map of 1875 shows that by that date the parish of Wallace had again become part of Kerrit Bareet while the actual area for the town of Wallace had been curtailed, i.e. the town boundary now only encompassed the land originally subdivided into numbered urban allotments. The same 1875 parish map also shows the present Gordon as the village of Gordon. My best guess is that it was probably first officially surveyed in 1863 and given the name of *Gordon's*.

The 1952 plan shows that under the 1951 review Wallace was reproclaimed as a township. However, the 1933 survey map indicates only a couple of buildings within the reserve at that time. Under the same 1951 review, Gordon was reproclaimed as the township of Gordon.

Another aspect that also links Gordon and Wallace is the significance of the route for the railway from Warrenheip to Gordon, completed in 1879.

When the railway from Melbourne to Ballarat via Geelong was completed in 1861, the citizens of Ballarat immediately clamoured for a direct link to Melbourne. Anticipating such a request, railway engineers had already planned a route several miles to the south of the road, which would avoid

many of the undulations which are incurred even on today's freeway. However, the proposed route bypassed both Bacchus Marsh and Ballan. There was a huge protest from these centres, and this partially explains why completion of the route was delayed for nearly thirty years.

Gordon railway station is located at the gap between the township and Mount Egerton, thus avoiding the hilly terrain in the vicinity of Gordon. Construction of a line from Warrenheip direct to Gordon would have been relatively simple with almost even terrain and no topographical difficulties. However, by 1879 a well-developed farming community had come into existence along the Ballarat Road, and to capture this freight and passenger traffic the route took a long northerly loop which added about 2-3 miles to the length of the journey.

Nevertheless the site of Gordon railway station still allowed for the possibility of the line being continued along the originally projected southerly route if this was considered desirable. This seems to be a nineteenth-century compromise to 'cover all bases'.

The fact that the railway station was situated some distance from the township centre would not have assisted Gordon in its role as a service provider. During the next ten years its population was almost halved – a rather unusual occurrence following the opening of a railway line. However, it is probably fair to say that this decline coincided with the reduction of goldmining activity in the immediate vicinity of Gordon in this period.

On the other hand, with Wallace it was a considerably different story. With the coming of the railway, a small agricultural community which had established itself on the town reserve about 1870 almost immediately relocated itself to the vicinity of the Wallace railway station, almost two miles to the west. This new centre near the station grew rapidly and its population peaked at around 300 persons about the beginning of the First World War. For a large part of the twentieth century the name Wallace was known throughout Victoria and even beyond for the brand of butter produced in factories at Wallace and nearby.

The final irony regarding the route of the railway occurred when the Fast Train Project was started in the year 2000. By this time all railway stations between Ballan and Ballarat had been closed for more than twenty years, and it was suggested that the line should be rerouted direct from Gordon to Warrenheip. If this had been implemented, the reduction by over two miles of the track length would certainly have reduced travel time and fuel costs, and eliminated several well-used level crossings. However, with the merest hint of protest from present landholders, this proposal was promptly shelved.

Victoria's coastal placenames

We have received an enquiry from Dr Eric Bird, editor of the encyclopedia *The World's Coasts: Online*, which has chapters describing the geology and geomorphology of the coasts of each country and state. As part of a project to widen the scope of this work, Dr Bird has recently been preparing a list of the placenames on the coast of Victoria to be included in the section on that state. He has been able to find origins for most of them, but has a list of unsolved items on which further information is needed, and wonders if readers of *Placenames Australia* can help.

The origins of the following names are unknown or obscure. Please send suggestions to ecfb@unimelb.edu.au.

- ▲ *Twelve Apostles* (38° 42' S, 143° 08' E): originally Sow and Pigs (Piglets) islands, but when were they renamed and by whom?
- ▲ *Point Ronald* (32° 42' S, 143° 08' E): who was Ronald?
- ▲ *Maudes Point* (38° 45' S, 143° 20' E): shown on Murray's 1877 map, but who was Maude, and when was this name applied?
- ▲ *Sutherland Beach* (38° 45' S, 143° 21' E): shown on Murray's 1877 map and probably named after a local settler (who and when?).
- ▲ *Freetrader Point* (38° 46' S, 145° 14' E): shown on Murray's 1877 map. There may be a link with a ship called *Freetrader*, built in Hobart in 1850, and wrecked at the mouth of Hopkins River in 1894.
- ▲ *Campbell Cove* (37° 57' S, 144° 44' E): possibly named after Captain Alexander Campbell, who was Harbourmaster in Port Phillip in 1836.
- ▲ *Boag Rocks* (38° 27' S, 144° 51' E): origin uncertain.
- James Robertson Boag had a dairy and probably a guesthouse in Dromana in the 1870s (Janet South, Nepean Historical Society), but there is no evidence of a link between him or his family and this rocky headland beside Gunnamatta Beach.
- ▲ *Cobb Bluff* (38° 27' S, 145° 25' E): It was shown as Watsons Bluff on an 1850 map, but who gave it this name, when and why?
- ▲ *Leonard Point, Leonard Bay* (39° 02' S, 146° 18' E): who was Leonard, and when was this name applied?
- ▲ *St Margaret Island* (38° 38' S, 146° 50' E): there is said to be a link with St Margaret's Bay west of Halifax in Nova Scotia, but this is obscure (Blake 1977). It was known by this name in the 1850s when W.E. and A.S. Laing held it as a sheep run (Melva James, Yarram & District Historical Society), but what was its origin?
- ▲ *Dock Inlet* (37° 47' S, 148° 50' E): there is no evidence of a dock here, was it originally Duck Inlet or Dog Inlet?



Australian communities online: using placenames as community domain names

Australia has over 27,000 communities living in cities, towns and villages spread across a land mass similar in size to Europe. Many of these communities are geographically isolated, far from major centers and services. One of the simplest uniting factors for any community is its name. The World-Wide Web offers an unprecedented means of global communication and an opportunity for communities to interact in a cohesive manner.

In a world first, the Australian Domain Name Administrator (auDA), the national regulator of the World-Wide Web, has created eight new geographic second-level domains (2LDs) to meet the needs of a body of users not well served by the existing 2LDs. The aim is to provide an intuitive, standardised naming system to enable better access to local community, tourism and business information and to facilitate social and economic benefits to Australian communities.

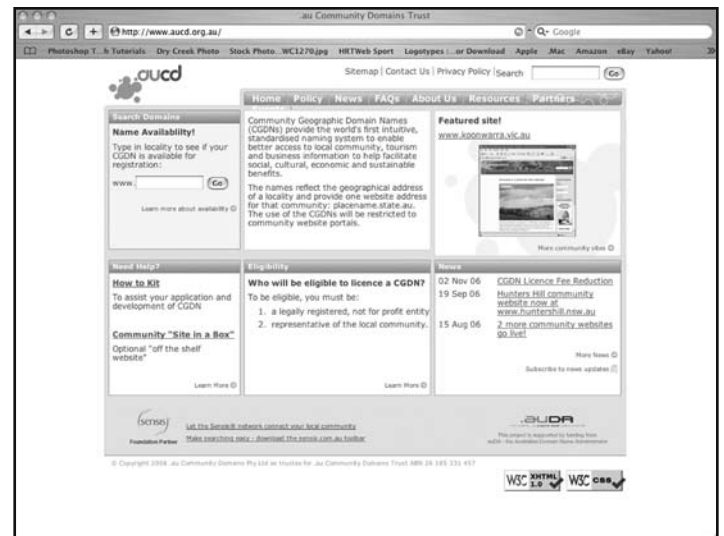
The new 2LDs represent each state and territory in Australia, and all community geographic domain names (CGDNs) will be registered as third-level domains (3LDs) in the simple form of *settlement dot jurisdiction dot au* (e.g. *katherine.nt.au*). Their use will be restricted to community website portals that reflect community interests such as local business, tourism, historical information, culture, sporting groups, local events and news. The purpose is to preserve Australian placenames for use by the relevant community.

The genesis for this concept began in Bathurst, NSW, in 2000 with a group of like-minded individuals who felt that communities were not being given adequate opportunities to use the World-Wide Web. In addition, placenames, whilst reserved from registration in Australia, were increasingly being registered overseas to commercial interests.

Following the fundamental principle that placenames belong to their respective communities and not to individuals

or corporations, in 2004 policy rules and guidelines were developed by a broad range of stakeholders to provide the checks and balances to ensure names are preserved specifically for community websites, for and run by the relevant local community.

In 2005 a not-for-profit company, .au Community Domains (auCD) was established to facilitate, develop and administrate the CGDNs. auCD provides support services to communities who want to register their geographic domain name for a community website portal and to process applications based on the policy rules and guidelines.



Only the names of addressable localities are available for registration. These names basically cover all populated places and are defined by the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA), the authority on placenaming in Australia and New Zealand. Addressable localities are defined as places where populations reside; these include towns, cities, suburbs and rural localities. Any disputes regarding the names will be referred to the CGNA for consideration by the appropriate state or territory placenaming authority.

The national launch of the Community Geographic Domain Names in the .au domain space took place on 8 August 2006. Information on the system is available at www.aucd.org.au

□ Paul Harcombe
Chief Surveyor, NSW Department of Lands &
Board Member of auCD
(first published in UNGEGN's *Information Bulletin* No. 32)

PS: Communities that have already established an online presence under this scheme include Bathurst and Wollongong in NSW, along with the Sydney suburbs of Gladesville and Hunters Hill, Ballarat and Koonawarra in Victoria, and Wyndham in Western Australia, with more joining in all the time.

Poets

All the clues reveal placenames that are also those of internationally famous poets (disregard spelling), e.g. (NSW/QLD) He temporarily mislaid Paradise ... Milton

- (TAS) He urged us to pick the roses while there was time
- (TAS/NT) A poet who visited rural cemeteries
- (TAS/NT) He was concerned about useless acreages
- (QLD) He recounted that the harp was no longer played in Tara's halls
- (QLD/NSW) The middle name of the poet Hopkins
- (QLD) He asked if it was three o'clock and tea time; lands surrounded by water
- (VIC) His name may be shown as 0.453kg; a small inlet on the coast
- (VIC) She assumed men were not attracted to women in spectacles; her street junction
- (VIC) He wrote a lot of nonsense; one twelfth of the year
- (NT – former name) She wished she had visited the dentist more often; type of music
- (ACT/NSW) He tells us that Andy has crossed into Queensland with the cattle
- (SA) Not the Biblical doubting one; aircraft
- (SA) He bears the same name as a major Australian river; settlement
- (WA) Inflammatory (a man much celebrated by the Scots at Hogmanay); stretch of sand by the sea
- (WA/VIC) He addressed the skylark as a blithe spirit
- (NSW) She was not waving but drowning in her sheets of water
- (NSW) Wrote of a big cat apparently on fire in a nocturnal wood + -'hurst'
- (NSW) His nickname came from that of a once-popular guitar-type instrument
- (NSW) He described the Assyrian charging like a wolf attacking sheep; hound's bark
- (NSW/QLD/SA/VIC) His lady, who abandoned her weaving, had a name like an onion

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Contributions

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

31 January for the March issue

30 April for the June issue

31 July for the September issue

31 October for the December issue.

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

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Answers: 1. Herrick (*To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time*). 2. Gray (*Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*). 3. Elliott (T.S.Eliot, *The Waste Land*). 4. Moore (*The Harp that Once through Tara's Halls*). 5. Manly (Gerard Manley Hopkins). 6. Brook Islands (Rupert Brooke, *The Old Vicarage, Grantchester*). 7. Pound Creek. 8. Parkers Corner (*News Item*). 9. Learmonth. 10. Ayers Rock (Pam Ayres, *Oh, I Wish I'd Looked after me Teeth*). 11. Lawson. 12. Thomas Plains. 13. Murray Town. 14. Burns Beach. 15. Shelley. 16. Smiths Lakes. 17. Blakehurst (*The Tiger*). 18. Paterson. 19. Byron Bay (*The Destruction of Sennacherib*). 20. Tennyson (*The Lady of Shalott*).