A Namescape of Melbourne

In 2008 I arrived in Melbourne to research its toponyms for my Masters thesis. I was specifically interested in its cities, shires, and suburbs. It was fascinating to see how clearly, ever since John Batman acclaimed the area's suitability for a settlement on 6 June 1835, Melbourne's urban development had been revealed in the creation of its placenames.

The area I include in my survey comprises about 8,800 km[2], today inhabited by more than 4 million people. At the time I was researching, the 31 local government areas (26 cities, 5 shires) were divided into 483 suburbs, which gave us a total of 514 names.

I mapped and chronicled the establishment of the toponyms bestowed on Melbourne's cities, shires, and suburbs,[1] as this had not been subject to extensive research. My particular aim was to link Melbourne's settlement history to its placenames and to establish place naming patterns to validate the socio-cultural and political significance of placenames.

As the backbone of my thesis, I compiled a register which contains the following information: date of establishment of name;[2] origin of name; and the language from which they were transferred to Australia.[3] I used John Francis Atchison's 1982 questionnaire, developed to classify Australian placenames, as a guideline here. I considered the usage of Indigenous words as placenames and looked at placename changes affecting present names to see if these revealed patterns and functioned as indicators of identity.

A lecturer in linguistics, Arne Bölling is now completing his PhD at Macquarie University and the University of Heidelberg

The data included in the register were gathered from seven major sources: local history books; toponymic books; Brown-May and Swain's *Encyclopaedia of Melbourne*; local historical societies; early parish maps; and Victorian municipal directories as well as Melbourne street directories.[4]

The analyses reveal various aspects of Melbourne's city, shire, and suburb names. By 2008, 26 city names, five shire names and 483 suburb names had been established, adding up to 514 names – 78.4% of which are of English and 17.7%[5] of Indigenous Australian origin.[6] German, French, Greek, Dutch, Italian, Malay and Russian account for the remaining 3.9% (Fig. 1).
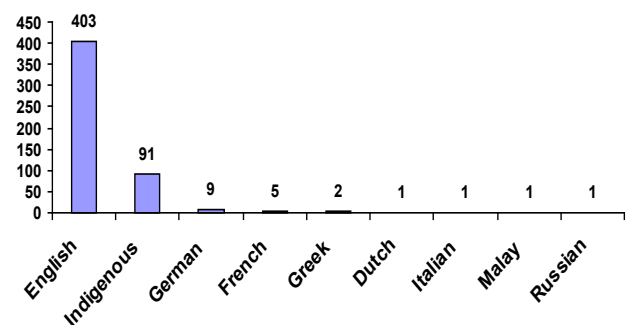
Fig.1 : Language prior to transferral to Australia

Looking at the newly established names from a chronological perspective, the greatest number came into use in the 1850s, i.e. 58, or 11.3% of the total. Since 'gold diggers poured into Melbourne from around the globe'[7] at that time, this rapid development was unsurprising. The comparatively high numbers in the preceding and following decades indicate that by the end of the 1840s (apart from the township laid out by Governor Bourke in 1837) little development had taken place— new settlements were thus widely spread out. In the 1860s the city's expansion was fostered by the Victorian gold discoveries, which produced tens of thousands of immigrants.

I found that the economic situation continuously exerted influence on the numbers of newly established names: the land

From the Editor

One reason many of us are interested in placenames is that they often tell us something of a place's history and of the social attitudes held by those who were responsible for the area's development. Arne Bölling's article in this issue looks at the placename history of Melbourne and its surrounding areas. His view is particularly interesting in that it's from 'the outside looking in', since Arne is a German linguist now researching the toponyms of Australia's cities. The map that accompanies the article is of necessity reduced in size from the original; I'd be happy to email a larger copy to anyone who'd like to see it.

We are also delighted to reproduce in this issue Jeremy Steele's web blog on the name of Sydney's beachside suburb Maroubra. It will be especially interesting to those who'd like an insight into the tricky linguistic considerations involved when you have to assess possible Indigenous origins for our placenames. We haven't attempted to list all the references to Jeremy's extensive databases—check the blog <naabawinya. blogspot.com> for further information and to contact him.

Yarrangobilly

Our thanks to those who responded so enthusiastically to the query about Yarrangobilly in our previous issue. Carol Sonogan and Jaky Troy gave the discussion a hearty kick-off, Harold Koch followed with a lengthy and helpful contribution, and then David Nash suggested further possibilities. All the answers were passed on to our Sydney Speleological Society friends, who are no doubt now trying to make sense of it all. Even now, we are not confident that we know which Indigenous language the word comes from. (If you'd like to see the arcane linguistic correspondence that took place, email me!)

Next issue

If people from Melbourne are *Melbournians* and people from Sydney are *Sydneyites*, what are the residents of Alice Springs called? In our March 2012 issue, we'll have a light-hearted look at these 'demonyms'—the result of some vacation-time ruminations by Mark Oldrey and Jan Tent. And Arne Bölling has promised the second instalment of his Melbourne toponymic survey.

Our next issue will also see an innovation which we hope will become a regular: a column entitled *Reports from the Trenches*. It'll be an opportunity for our friends in History Societies and similar community organisations to share their knowledge of their local placenames. Our first report will be from the **Donald History & Natural History Group** in Victoria, compiled by their archivist Lilian Kirk. We'd be delighted to hear from other groups too—contributions eagerly anticipated!

David Blair
editor@anps.org.au

Murray Chapman Award

Just as we're going to press, the judges' decision on the Murray Chapman Award for 2011 has been announced.

The 2011 Award is to be shared between two 'outstanding' papers:

David Nash: 'The suffix *-dool* in placenames of central north NSW'

Jim Wafer: 'Placenames as a guide to language distribution in the Upper Hunter, and the *landnám* problem in Australian toponomastics'

Congratulations to these two researchers, who will share this year's $5000 prize for research papers in the field of NSW toponymy.

Submissions for the 2011 **Placenames Australia Award** for research in Australian toponymy are before the judges; the winner of this $1000 prize will be announced in our March 2012 issue.

Adelaide 2011

Adelaide was a hive of toponymic activity from 31 August to 2 September. The talkfest began with the *Annual Forum on Geographic Naming in Australasia*, which ANPS attended along with colleagues from the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA). Then followed...

the 2011 ANPS Workshop

with papers focusing on Indigenous toponymy, especially those of South Australia. Papers were presented by Rob Amery, Dymphna Lonergan, Chester Schultz, Maxine Bluett and Josh Nash. Congratulations to Josh, whose paper was based on his now-awarded PhD (on Norfolk and Kangaroo Islands). Josh is happy to send anyone a copy: email <joshua.nash@adelaide. edu.au>

the Placenames Australia AGM

where, among other things, we welcomed Dymphna Lonergan to the Committee and decided to keep the $25/$250 Supporting Members donation at its current rate.

Morooberra the person, and *Maroubra* the place

This article is from the author's blog (naabawinya.blogspot.com) which looks at some Australian indigenous languages. It draws on databases formed from word lists by largely nineteenth-century people. The databases respell the words consistently, and consistent meanings are given to the words. Thus any reference to 'river', 'creek' and so on is always rendered as 'stream'. This device enables comparisons to be made, and word-matches to be uncovered, by using the searching capabilities of databases.

One of the indigenous people encountered by the First Fleeters was Morooberra. The Judge-Advocate, David Collins, who wrote one of the principal accounts, mentioned him as follows[1], from October 1796:

. . . early in the morning, **Mo-roo-ber-ra**, the brother, and Cole-be, another relation of Bone-da, seized upon a lad named Tar-ra-bil-long, and with a club each gave him a wound in his head, which laid the skull bare. Dar-ring-ha, the sister of Bone-da, had her share in the bloody rite, and pushed at the unoffending boy with a doo-ull or short spear. He was brought into the town and placed at the hospital, and, though the surgeon pronounced from the nature of his wounds that his recovery was rather doubtful, he was seen walking about the day following.

Collins reported on him in his second volume[2]:

• 10 Dec 1797
Cole-be knew that this would ensure him the appellation of jeerun, or coward, and that the friends of Ye-ra-ni-be would as certainly take up his cause. As the consequences might be very serious if he should die of the blow, he thought it prudent to abscond for a while, and Ye-ra-ni-be was taken care of by some of his white friends. This happened on the 10th, and on the 16th he died. In this interval he was constantly attended by some of his male and female associates, particularly by his two friends, Collins (for Gnung-a Gnung-a still went by the late judge-advocate's name) and **Mo-roo-bra**. On one of the nights when a most dismal song of lamentation had been sung over him, in which the women were the principal performers, his male friends, after listening for some time with great apparent attention, suddenly started up, and, seizing their weapons, went off in a most savage rage, determined on revenge. Knowing pretty well where to meet with Cole-be, they beat him very severely, but would not kill him, reserving that gratification of their revenge until the fate of their companion should be decided. On the following night, Collins and **Mo-roo-bra** attacked a relation of Cole-be's, Boo-ra-wan-ye, whom they beat about the head with such cruelty that his recovery was doubtful. As their vengeance extends to all the family and relations of a culprit, what a misfortune it must be to be connected with a man of a choleric disposition!

Ye-ra-ni-be was buried the day after his decease by the side of the public road, below the military barracks.

• Jan 1798
Notwithstanding the severe trial which Cole-be had been put to for the death of Ye-ra-ni-be, the friends of that young man had not thought it sufficient to atone for his loss.

Maroubra, Sydney (photo: bilbao6)

One of them, **Mo-roo-bra**, in company with some other natives, meeting with Cole-be, made an attack upon him, with a determination to put an end to the business and his life together. Cole-be, not yet recovered of the wounds that he had received in the last affair, was unable to make much resistance; and, after receiving several blows on the head, was supposed to have been dispatched; but **Mo-roo-bra**, as they were quitting him, seeing him revive, and attempting to rise, returned to finish this savage business; which so exasperated another native, that he snatched up a spear, and in a rage threw it with all his force at **Mo-roo-bra**. The spear entered his right side, just over the hip bone, and went inclining downwards quite through the body, penetrating the bladder in its passage. Of this wound he died in about an hour.

It is tempting to assume that there is a connection between Mo-roo-bra's name, and the Sydney beachside suburb of Maroubra, and to suppose that the suburb might have been named after the colourful figure Mo-roo-bra. It is tempting too to speculate on a meaning for the name, and 'path to the ceremonial ground' has suggested itself from the following:

'Moo-roo'	muru =	'a Road, or Path'	path:	Southwell [:147.3:11] [BB]
'Bora'	bura =	'Bora, or initiation ceremonies of the Kamilaroi tribes'	initiation ground:	Mathews KML/Dwl [:260:] [KML]

The Geographical Names Board provides the following information about a point just south of Maroubra, on the north side of Long Bay:

Boora Point *(Point forming northern entrance to Long Bay - Boora was the Aboriginal Name for Long Bay.)*

Morooberra / Maroubra

Keith Vincent Smith states the view[3]:

> The name Moorooboora means 'pathway to Long Bay', being derived from muru ('pathway') and Boora ('Long Bay'). This is how the present seaside suburb of Maroubra gets its name.

Two other sources give another view as to the meaning of the name:

'Maroubra (Maroobara)'	marubura =	'anything true, good or beautiful'	—:	Richardson, H. Haywood [::] [BB]
'Maroubra'	marubara =	'Name of the beach and the horde which lived there; good'	path to boora:	McCarthy [:13:22] [BB]

The principal idea here is 'good'. However, this is unlikely as it is based on a word of the Kamilaroi language, the language of the distant Walgett district:

'murraba'	maraba =	'Good'	good:	Curr, E.M.: 3 [:321.2:9] [KML]
'murruba'	maruba =	'Well in health'	good:	Mathews KML/Dwl [:278.8:22] [KML]
'murraba'	maraba =	'Sweet, nice, beautiful'	good:	AL&T Greenway (Ridley) [KML] [:238:15] [KML]
'murruba'	maraba =	'good or beautiful'	good:	KAOL Ridley [KML] [:31:2] [KML]
'murraba'	maraba =	'Good'	good:	Mathews KML/Dwl [:278.7:7] [KML]

None of the other coastal or inland languages offer anything comparable.

Until today I might have jumped to the wrong conclusion over the meaning of the name Marubara. Just like Keith Vincent Smith, I had thought 'Maroubra' meant 'path (muru) to ceremonial ground (bura)'.

I was looking at a word list for the Muruwari language on the Queensland border, and it contained the word 'bark', meaning both 'to bark, as a dog', and 'bark of a tree'. The only alternative word I could come up with to distinguish the two ideas was to substitute 'woof' for 'bark as a dog'. I made the alteration, feeling foolish, in all the databases in which the 'bark as a dog' idea occurred. I also noticed:

'Moroube'	marubi =	'Bark as a Dog'	woof—dog:	Paine, Daniel [:41.1:6] [BB]
'Nur-be'	nurbi =	'to bark'	woof—dog:	Anon (c) [c:18:5] [BB]
'mooroobey'	murubi =	'Thunder':	thunder:	Curr, E.M.: 3 [427.1:5] [NGWL]

The 'n' in 'nurbi' looks as if it might have been a transcription error for 'm'; the 'thunder' interpretation suggested a common thread of 'loud noise'; and the general appearance of the words called 'Maroubra' to mind. Further investigation provided the following results:

'mooroobari'	murubarai =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Curr, E.M.: 3 [:381.1:5] [WIRA]
'mooroobey'	murubi =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Curr, E.M.: 3 [:427.1:5] [NGWL]
'mirrabee'	mirabi =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Curr, E.M.: 3 [:425.1:5] [NGWL]
'murraburri'	marabari =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Curr, E.M.: 3 [:371.1:5] [WIRA]
'muruburrai'	murubarai =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Mathews WIRA 1904 [:300:57] [WIRA]
'murungai'	muranGayi =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Mathews D-GDI 1904 [:237.1:5] [D-GDI]
'Marrùp'	marab =	'lightning'	lightning:	Mitchell, T.L.: SQ [:425.1:44] [Gga]
'Mer´-ree-bee'	maribi =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Mathews DGA 1901 [:68.2:20] [DGA]

These are from other languages: Wiradhuri of inland NSW, and Nganawal of the Canberra district, Gundungurra of the Burragorang valley and the southern mountainous district, Dhurga from the coast around Jervis Bay, and even Dangatti from the north coast. However, as has been noted, 'marubi' was recorded in Sydney, and the clearly related word 'murangal' for 'thunder' was noted by several recorders, as shown below.

'Moroube'	marubi =	'Bark as a Dog'	woof— dog:	Paine, Daniel [:41.1:6] [BB]
'Moo-rung-ul'	murangal =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Anon (c) [c:26:18.2] [BB]
'Mo-run-gle'	maranGal =	'Thunder'	thunder:	King MS [:401:12] [BB]
'Morun-gle'	maranGal =	'Thunder'	thunder:	King in Hunter [:409.2:4] [BB]
'M -roong-al'	marungal =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Southwell [:147.2:15.2] [BB]
'murongal'	murangal =	'thunder'	thunder:	KAOL Rowley [DgR table] [:126:5.6] [DgR]
'Moorongal'	murangal =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Bowman: Camden [:17:38] [DG]
'murungal'	murangal =	'Thunder'	thunder:	Mathews DG 1901 [:158:30] [DG]
'murongal'	murangal =	'thunder'	thunder:	KAOL Rowley GeoR [:105:10] [DgR]
'{Morungle-birrong}'	maranGalbirang =	'{Struck with thunder & lightning}'	thunder deriving from:	King MS [:402:7.1] [BB]
'Mu-rungle be-rong'	marangGalbirang =	'Struck by ditto [thunder]'	thunder deriving from:	Anon (c) [c:26:20] [BB]

This evidence suggests that 'Maroubra' might not mean 'the path to the ceremonial ground' (muru-bura) but instead 'thunder-having', or 'sound of breakers present', or similar, anyway, to do with sound.

Although there are no records other than Mitchell's word for 'lightning', to confirm the idea, it is possible that the base word for 'loud noise' might be 'marab', or perhaps 'maraba' or similar. To this would be attached a 'proprietive' suffix something like 'arai', meaning 'having'. This suffix occurs in the language names 'Wira-dhuri' and 'Kamil-aroi', and in abundant exmples from those languages. Although there are equally abundant examples for the complementary 'abessive' or 'lacking' suffix in the Sydney Language ('Biyal Biyal'), there are no clearly identified records for the 'having' suffix in Sydney. But there are many words that are candidates, such as the following:

'cong-ar-ray'	gang-arai =	'Scars on the breast'	scar-having:	Collins 1 [:507.2:7] [BB]
'Cong-ar-rey'	gang-arai =	'To make the scars on the breast'	scar-having:	Anon (c) [c:27:18.2] [BB]
'Gong-ara'	gang-ara =	'Scarifications'	scar-having:	SofM 1897 04 30 [p.106.1: Suttor-BB] [:106:22] [Syd]
'Gong-ara'	gang-ara =	'Ornamental scars on the body':	King in Hunter 1793 [409.1:15] [BB]	
'congare'	gung-ari =	'short scars'	scar-having:	Mahroot [:80:30] [Syd]
'moo-ton-ore'	mudan-ari =	'Lame'	lame-having:	Collins 1 [:508.1:29] [BB]
'[Ngalgear mutingoré]'	muding-ari =	'[... mutingoré ...]'	lame-having:	Dawes (b) [b:28:7.1] [BB]
'can-nar-ray'	gan-arai =	'Centipede'	centipede [snake-having]:	Collins 1 [:512.2:15] [BB]

So 'Maroubra' might be 'murab-ara(i)': 'loud-noise-having'. The suburb of Maroubra is by the sea. The sea is noisy, as it crashes on the nearby rocks.

Jeremy Steele
Monday 30 May 2011

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Endnotes

[1] Collins (1975), I: p .489

[2] Collins (1975), II: pp. 47, 58

boom years of the 1880s (39 new names) and the 1920s (37) were followed by years of severe economic depression: perhaps as a consequence, the numbers of new names dropped in the 1890s (23) and 1930s (11) respectively (Fig. 2). The end of the 19th century is a good example in this context. Economic prosperity, initiated by the gold rush in the 1850s, lasted until the late 1880s, finally culminating in the land boom from 1883-89; due to its uncontrolled nature and high inflow of foreign funds, this speculative boom came to an abrupt end in the early 1890s. During the crisis, which was caused by both internal factors (such as capacity being too far ahead of demand) and external factors (such as the near insolvency of one of London's major banks at that time), many residents moved to the outskirts of the city, as land was substantially cheaper than in the overcrowded city centre. In the 1890s, major banks collapsed, and the unemployment rate exceeded 30%. It was well after the turn of the century before the Australian economy slowly recovered.

If we divide the time span of Melbourne settlement into two periods, from 1835 to 1899[9] and 1900 to 2008 respectively, it becomes obvious that the toponymic practice identified by Tent and Slatyer, omnipresent in times of early European settlement in Australia, seems to slowly disappear (Fig. 3; Table 1): with 1.14 eponymous names/year or a 29.4% chance of an eponymous name, the first period reflects this toponymic practice considerably more than does the second (0.35 or 14.7%).

Period	Time span	New eponymous names	Total of new names
1835-1899	65	74	252
1900-2008	109	38	259

Table 1: A toponymic practice on the verge of extinction

Yet another result, which I find both fascinating and intriguing, concerns the establishment of Indigenous placenames. I was quite disappointed when I realised that from the 1870s onwards—with the exception of the 1990s when restructuring of local government led to the introduction of 10 new Indigenous names—the numbers of Indigenous names are surprisingly low. The change in Australian identity, treating Indigenous culture as an integral part of it,[10] is not reflected in naming Melbourne's cities, shires and suburbs (Fig. 4).

Further, I used the ArcGIS 9 software,[11] a system designed for purposes of mapping and spatial analyses,
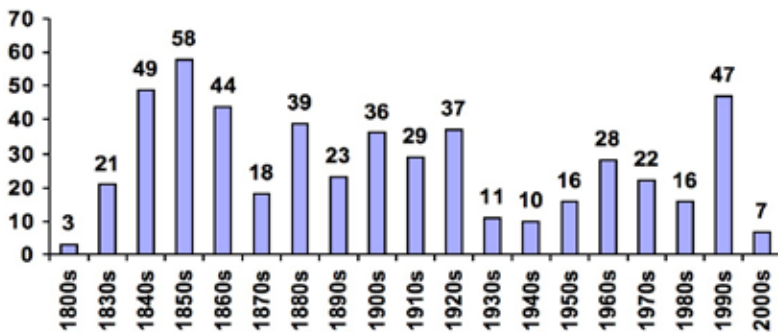

Fig. 2: Number of names established in each decade

Throughout the second half of the 20th century the numbers were generally lower; the 1990s are an exceptional case since it was in this decade that the suburb boundaries were redefined in Melbourne—subdivision names were then needed for the newly created suburbs.

Fig. 3 reveals yet another interesting aspect, supporting the results of Tent and Slatyer's recent survey:[8] especially in the early times of settlement it was common practice to name places after British explorers, British settlers, members of British aristocracy or British politicians.
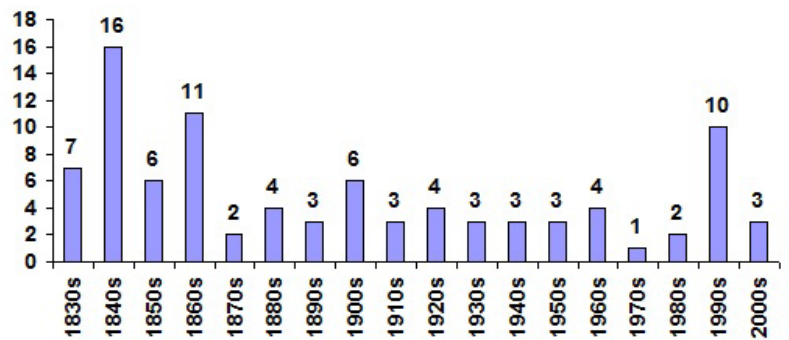

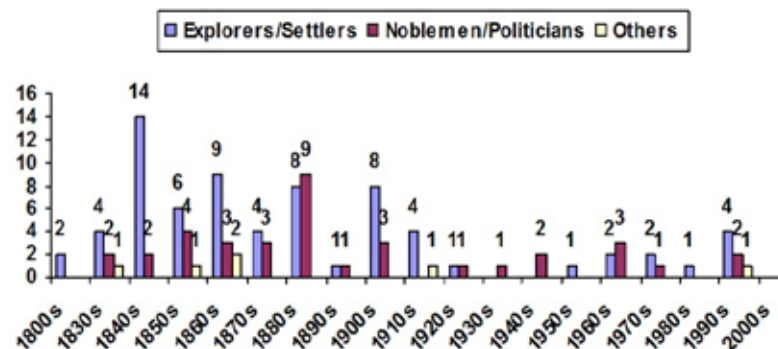*Figure 4: Numbers of Indigenous placenames established per decade*

Fig. 3. Names commemorating non-Indigenous persons

to chronologically map the establishment of the placenames. A problem I had to overcome was that for a number of placenames I could determine only the decade they were unofficially introduced in, not the exact year. I therefore created one map per decade, including the names established at the end of each decade from 1839 to 1929. Since the numbers of new names had dropped by the first half of the 20th century and the pattern of settlement was clearly visible on the earlier maps, I expanded the time span shown on each subsequent map to two decades, resulting in maps for 1949, 1969, 1989, and 2008 respectively.

...a Namescape

The final, consolidated, map of 2008 shows the scattered settlement pattern (Map 1, below, in reduced form). The scale, from dark green (earliest establishments) to dark red (most recent establishments), shows the names established in each of the nineteen decades.

Apart from the city centre, which by the 1850s had reached its maximum number of inhabitants and thus had established placenames for its different areas,[12] residential development was largely uncontrolled and chaotic, resulting in small settlements springing up like mushrooms everywhere. However, not all the names in use today could be found on maps from those first days of settlement; quite a few of the earliest toponyms were changed subsequently. In a following issue, I will shed some light on the three main reasons for the placename changes I discovered while researching these Melbourne toponyms.

Arne Bölling

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Endnotes

[1] I decided to exclude all other placenames since they would not have resulted in significant changes of the findings.

[2] Date of first recorded usage of a placename for each settlement is the issue here. Word-of-mouth propagation might well cause a name to be established more quickly in a smaller settlement than in a larger one.

[3] The etymological history of the placenames was not included in the study, e.g. it is simply irrelevant in the present context that the name of Epping is a derivative of Yppingas from OE yppe 'a raised place, a look-out place' (Ekwall 1936: 160).

[4] As a general requisite when dealing with Australian placenames, I had to be very careful to distinguish between reliable and rather spurious sources.

[5] Considering Dr Jan Tent's findings as shown in the June issue of the Newsletter of 2011, this number is considerably lower than the Australian-wide one, showing 28.2% of names with Indigenous elements.

[6] A name was considered to be of Indigenous origin when bearing at least one generic or specific element derived from an Indigenous Australian language. Amongst them, a high number of corrupted Indigenous names is to be found.

[7] Davison et al. 1998: 423.

[8] When researching the placenames bestowed in Australia between 1606 and 1803, Tent and Slatyer identified the toponymic practice of appointing eponymous names as being common amongst Dutch, British, and French explorers; being relevant for the present study, the British favoured names of nobility and politics (Tent and Slatyer 2009: 18-28).

[9] The three names established well before Melbourne's settlement were disregarded here. The names of the suburb of Cape Schanck (most likely honouring Admiral John Schanck who sailed the Lady Nelson and explored parts of Australia), and the City of Port Phillip (named after the former governor of New South Wales), were established in1801; the suburb name of Arthurs Seat (commemorating Arthur's Seat Hill in Edinburgh, Scotland) was used from 1802 onwards. What were to become Melbourne's naming patterns had already begun to reveal themselves at the very beginning of the 19th century.

[10] As Kostanski (2003) and others have discussed, as a post-war policy Australian people were encouraged to reinstate Indigenous lexemes as placenames from the second half of the 20th century onwards.

[11] I would like to thank Steve Bird from ESRI Australia who gave me access to a student version of the program.

[12] Looking at Map 1, recent developments are to be found in the city centre, such as Docklands and Southbank, which were created to give the city centre a different look and have now become sought-after business addresses.
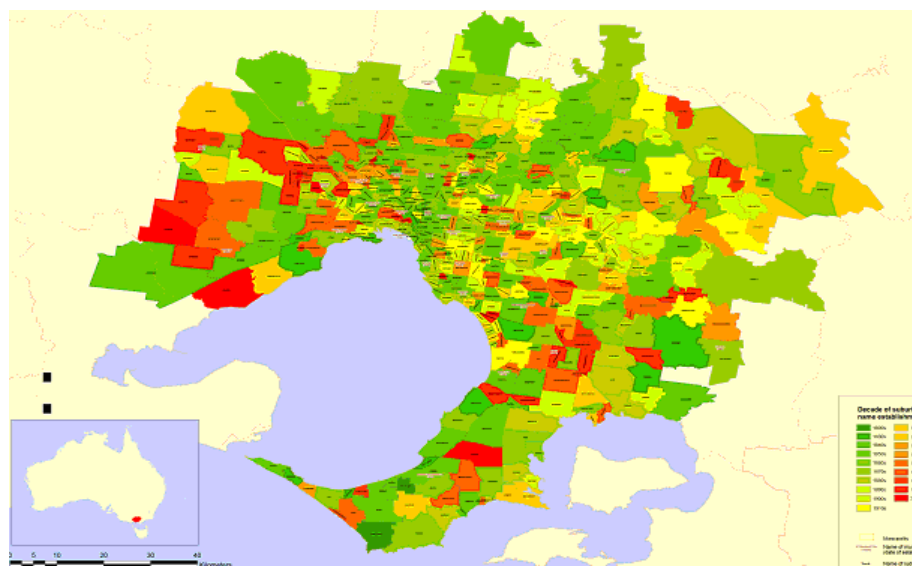
Map 1: Chronological pattern of placename establishment, Melbourne 1839-2008

The riddle of Riddlesdale

Sir Robert Ramsay Mackenzie, tenth baronet of Coul and premier of Queensland from 1867 to 1869, is said to have run sheep on a holding called 'Riddlesdale', near Dungog, on the Williams River (NSW), in the early 1830s. Part of his entry in *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* reads as follows:

With £750 Mackenzie arrived in the *Wave* at Sydney in April 1832 and joined his brother James. He soon paid H. H. Macarthur £500 for sheep which he depastured at Riddlesdale, near Dungog, and the brothers began to speculate in land. In 1837 Mackenzie bought Salisbury station in the New England district and separated from his brother, promising him £3000 (Joyce 1974: 171).

There are several mysteries here. While it's true that Robert did have a younger brother called 'James', who became a clergyman (Mackenzie 1894, part 12), the only brother for whom I have been able to find evidence of a connection with Dungog was senior to Robert and named 'George'.

On 1 July 1829, George Mackenzie and his partner John McLean were allocated a selection of 1,280 acres on the Williams River (Ford 1995: 40). The holding was called 'Underbank', and there is a village upstream from Dungog that still bears this name. (For the location of the original 'Underbank', see the map on p. 72 of Ford 1995).

The name 'Riddlesdale' occurs in one other source that I have been able to locate, and that consists of the depositions from the trial of an Aboriginal man who had killed a white shepherd on or near Riddlesdale.[1] He was tried by jury at the Supreme Court in Sydney on 22 August 1835 and sentenced to be hanged. The first time the locality of the crime is mentioned is in the deposition of Chief Constable Michael Ryan (p. 148), and he calls it 'Ribbledale'. Later in his deposition, the same placename is transcribed as 'Riddledale'. Identical spelling is used in the transcription of the name in the evidence of Thomas Heelan (p. 151). But in all subsequent occurrences of the placename in the depositions it is spelt as 'Riddlesdale' (Michael Ryan, p. 151; David Campbell p. 153, four times).

While it's possible that the placename was indeed 'Riddlesdale', this is a very uncommon name. A search on Google Maps indicates one avenue with that name (in Tunbridge Wells), and that's all. For 'Ribbledale' there are no hits. The name 'Ribblesdale', however, is comparatively common. There are five localities with this name in the UK, and numerous streets. There are two rivers called 'Ribble', one of which runs through North Yorkshire and Lancashire, the other through West Yorkshire. The original 'Ribblesdale' appears to be the valley watered by the former. It's probably from this place that the title of the Barons Ribblesdale is derived (barony created 1797, extinct 1925).

So my hypothesis is that the sheep run was actually called 'Ribblesdale', a name that was regularly either mispronounced or mistranscribed, and that the brother whom Robert Mackenzie joined in Australia was George, not James. But the location of this Ribblesdale (if that is indeed what it was called) remains a mystery. Possibly it was part of George Mackenzie's selection, 'Underbank', or an extension of it.

In the depositions from the trial, the landholder of 'Riddlesdale' is only ever referred to as 'Mr McKenzie' or 'Mr Mackenzie', so it's unclear whether this means George or Robert (or, for that matter, James). Since there is ample evidence for the activities of George in R. L. Ford's comprehensive *Williams River: The land and its people* (1995: e.g. pp. 40, 46, 72, 73, 97, 126, 128, 132) but little mention of Robert, I'm inclined to think that 'Mr McKenzie' is probably George. Robert Mackenzie's name appears only twice, in a paragraph referring to the disposition of the estate he held jointly with George, which is referred to as 'Underbank' (p. 122). There is no mention of Riddlesdale, nor of James Mackenzie.

Any assistance in clarifying these details, or locating Ribblesdale/Riddlesdale, would be much appreciated.

George Mackenzie died unmarried in 1839. His eldest brother, Alexander, inherited the baronetcy on the death of their father, Sir George Stewart Mackenzie, in 1848. Alexander died unmarried in 1856, and was succeeded by the next brother, William. The latter died in 1868, without issue, at which time (George being already deceased), the title went to the fourth brother, Robert (Mackenzie 1894, part 12).

It's perhaps also worth noting that the 'Salisbury' mentioned in *ADB* as having been acquired by Robert Mackenzie was probably the station located south of Uralla (Boddy & Boddy n.d.), rather than the village of Salisbury on the upper Williams River, north of Underbank.

Jim Wafer
James.Wafer@newcastle.edu.au

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records available online at http://www.law.mq.edu.au/scnsw/
Correspondence/pdf/OriginalDocument36.pdf. Digitisation
available online at http://www.law.mq.edu.au/scnsw/
Correspondence/36.htm (both records accessed 25/06/2011).

Endnotes

[1] Scans of the original records of the trial are available in *Miscellaneous Correspondence relating to Aborigines*, State Records of New South Wales, 5/1161, pp 145-157, at http://www.law.mq.edu.au/scnsw/Correspondence/pdf/OriginalDocument36.pdf. These records have been transcribed and are available online at http://www.law.mq.edu.au/scnsw/Correspondence/36.htm

Out & About...

with Joyce Miles

Circling round the South West (Part I)

Pastoral development in the eastern colonies boomed during the first half of the nineteenth century but although exploration was being undertaken in Western Australia, by the mid-nineteenth century the area still had a very small population (around 15,000) and it was not until the opening up of the goldfields towards the end of the century that this grew rapidly. Nevertheless towns developed with varying success and their names have provided a permanent tribute to some of the early settlers/explorers.

Busselton - Chosen by cattle

The site for the eventual town of **Busselton** was, it is said, chosen by cattle. It lies in the south-west of Western Australia on Geographe Bay. With its vast expanse of sandy beaches, the longest timber jetty in the Southern Hemisphere and its Underwater Observatory it is today a popular tourist attraction.

The town takes its name from the Bussell family. John Bussell, a well-educated Englishman, migrated, along with his three brothers, to Western Australia in 1830. Initially they took up land at Augusta, but it proved too difficult to clear. They moved to what they hoped would be better land, but were beset by a series of disasters. Undaunted, four years later they moved again to a large acreage that John had previously acquired some sixty miles north. This time they had more success and developed their property which they named *Cattle Chosen*.[1] One reason given for the choice of this name is that when the Bussell family moved their herds up from the Augusta area they settled where the animals found good pasture.[2] Another version is that some months after their trek northwards a cow strayed the 97 kms from Augusta with a calf and arrived at the property, hence the name.[3] By 1837 the town of Busselton was established.

Endnotes

[1] *Australian Dictionary of Biography online,* Freda V. Carmody

[2] Joyce C. Miles, *House Names Around the World,* p.62

[3] *ADB op.cit.*

Bunbury

Fifty-five kms north of **Busselton** at the western end of the **Leschenault Inlet** lies the city of **Bunbury** at the junction of the Preston and Collie rivers. In 1830 Governor Sir James Stirling led an expedition in search of good pasture south of Perth and he established a military post at **Port Leschenault** under the command of Lieut. McLeod, but this was short-lived.[1] This area was first charted in March 1803 as *Port Barques* by the French expedition under the command of Nicholas Baudin aboard *Le Geographe.* It was later named **Port Leschenault** as a tribute to the ship's botanist, Jean Baptiste Louis Claude Theodore Leschenault de La Tour[2].

In 1836 Lieut. Henry William St Pierre Bunbury of the Twenty-first Fusiliers, who came from a distinguished military family, undertook a trail-blazing expedition southwards from his military station in Pinjarra, which is 87km south of Perth and one of the oldest towns in the State. En route he made valuable discoveries of pasture land and minerals and recorded in his diary that he thought the district would become a thriving and important part of the colony. At **Port Leschenault** he met Governor Stirling.[3] According to his letters and papers (published in 1930) Lieutenant Bunbury wrote of Bunbury:

> A township has been formed, or at least laid down on the maps, comprising of the southern promontory and part of the north beach at the entrance to **Port Leschenault Inlet**, which the Governor named **Bunbury** in compliment to me.[4]

Although the town was mentioned in the Government Gazette in 1839 it took several years for development to commence.[5]

Endnotes

[1] Ian Murray and Brian Goodchild, *A Gazetteer of Perth Suburbs and West Australian Towns,* 2003, p.84

[2] Ian Murray with Marion Hercock, *Where on the Coast is That?,* p.168-169

[3] Michael Cannon, *The Exploration of Australia,* 1987, p.184

[4] H.W. Bunbury, *Early Days in Western Australia* (eds Lieut.-Col. W. St Pierre Bunbury and W.P. Morrell), 1930

[5] Ian Murray and Brian Goodchild**,** o*p. cit.* p.84

Australind – the grand town that wasn't

In the 1840s a 'grand town' of a thousand acres was planned by the Western Australian Company who had purchased 103,000 acres on Leschenault Inlet.[1] The scheme was intended to promote settlement on lines suggested by colonial promoter Edward Gibbon Wakefield and was named **Australind,** a combination of Australia and India, with the hope that it would become a major port trading with India. At first all was well as British investors quickly bought up several thousand town allotments and four hundred 40-acre farms. But overall it was not successful. Suggestions were made that a port intending to trade with India should be located further north.[2] Within six years the scheme had collapsed, the Western Australian Company had been wound up and little of the town was built.[3] Today it has become a dormitory suburb of nearby Bunbury,

but there are reminders of its early days with Henton Cottage, built in 1841 as a hotel, and the church of St Nicholas, originally built of jarrah as a workman's cottage, which claims to be the smallest church in Western Australia.[4]

Endnotes

[1] http:www.landgate.wa.gov.au/corporate.nsf/web/ History+of+Country+Town+Names

[2] Michael Cannon, *The Exploration of Australia,* 1987, p.189

[3] Landgate, *op.cit.*

[4] *UBD Western Australia Country Road Atlas, Australind,* 12th ed., p.70

Collie – a controversial name

Following their exploration of the Canning River and the Darling Range in 1829, Dr Alexander Collie, RN and Lieutenant William Preston, RN sailed south and discovered two major rivers which were subsequently named in their honour by the Lieutenant Governor, Captain James Stirling – the Preston River and the **Collie River**.[1] Alexander Collie was born in Scotland in 1793 and became a naval surgeon, world-wide explorer, justice of the peace, the first resident magistrate at Albany and finally Colonial Surgeon. He died in Albany in November 1835.[2]

Almost half a century after the discovery of the **Collie River**, coal was discovered in the area by a shepherd, so it is recorded, but it took a number of years for coalfields to be established and a site selected for a town. **Collie** was the obvious choice of name for it and this was gazetted in 1897, but this proved controversial as there was already a railway station in the vicinity at Roelands named **Collie.** To avoid confusion, **Collie** was renamed **Colliefields**. However, this did not meet with local approval at all and eventually, in 1899, it was decided to solve the problem by the railway station relinquishing the name **Collie** and becoming Roelands and **Colliefields** reverting to **Collie**.[3] In November 1935 the Municipal Council of **Collie** erected a monument at the corner of Forrest and Steere Streets to commemorate the anniversary of the discovery of the **Collie River** and the centenary of Dr Collie's death in 1935. It was unveiled by the Lieutenant Governor, Sir James Mitchell.[4]

Photo: Tania Roberts, Collie Visitor Centre

Lying 57km to the east of Bunbury, today **Collie** is still a coal mining town producing some 3.25 million tonnes from its open-cut mines, although the underground mines closed in 1994.[5]

Endnotes

[1] Michael Cannon, *The Exploration of Australia,* 1987, p.184

[2] *Australian Dictionary of Biography online,* B.C. Cohen,

[3] Ian Murray and Brian Goodchild, *A Gazeteer of Perth Suburbs and Western Australian Towns,* 2003, p.88

[4] John Bird, *A Rich and Diverse Heritage – a Snapshot of Collie l898-2010,* 2010

[5] *UBD Western Australia Country Road Atlas, Collie,* 12th ed., p.142

Donnybrook

Donnybrook is sometimes referred to as the Apple Capital of the South West as the very popular Granny Smith apples were introduced in 1900 and the apple orchard industry grew after World War I.[1] The town was first settled around 1842 but was not gazetted until 1894. The settlers named the place **Donnybrook** after their home district, an ancient settlement on the south side of the City of Dublin, Ireland whose history goes back to the 12th century. The eastern part of the town was formerly called **Minninup.** The Western district is known as **Irishtown.**[2] Although apples became a commercial success, gold had been discovered in 1897 and a mini gold rush occurred, but it was short lived. Various attempts have been made to revive the industry in recent years, although the proposed town to be known as **Goldtown** never materialised.[3]

Endnotes

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donnybrook,_Western_Australia

[2] Ian Murrray and Brian Goodchild, *A Gazeteer of Perth Suburbs and Western Australian Towns,* 2003, p.94

[3] Graeme Olsen, *South West Life, The Donnybrook Goldrush, 2005*

Bridgetown – a town with a long bridge

Bridgetown, in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, lies mainly on the north bank of one of the major rivers of the South West, the **Blackwood River.** This river was named in 1830 to honour Vice Admiral Sir Henry Blackwood by Captain James Stirling who later became Sir James Stirling, Governor of the new colony. As a Midshipman in the Royal Navy, Stirling received his first commission while serving on the *Warspite* under Captain Henry Blackwood, who eventually became Vice Admiral Sir Henry Blackwood.[1]

Bridgetown, recognised as a Heritage Town in 2000, lies in the heart of timber country, 94km south-east of Bunbury, its main port for exports. First explored by Thomas Turner in 1834, then by A.C. Gregory ten years later, it was not settled until 1857.[2] During the first years of settlement in Western Australia land was expensive, but once an Order in Council had been made in 1850 and proclaimed in the Swan River Colony in 1851,

pastoralists and settlers had greater scope for grazing cattle and sheep. The two earliest settlers to arrive in 1857 were Edward Hester, who had driven his sheep south from Bunbury, and John Blechynden who also came south from the small agricultural community of Beverley, some 130km east of Perth. Both leased large acreages of grazing land. Hester settled on the banks of a brook just north of the **Blackwood River** which has been named **Hester's Hill** in his memory. Over the years the area increased both in population and prosperity. Originally an agricultural area specialising in apples, it gradually became more diversified. By the end of the century a timber sawmilling industry had been established and with the opening of the railway in October 1898 the opportunities for new markets for produce rapidly increased. John Allnut, an original settler, introduced a wide variety of berries and other various fruit, thereby establishing an important fruit growing centre here.[3] More recently the district has become increasingly urbanised.

Before 1868 the area was generally known by the Bibbulman tribe name of **Geegelup** (thought to be a local Aboriginal term for the fresh water crustaceans found in the brook), a name that has been retained for the brook. Settlers suggested to Surveyor Carey that the town be named **Bridgetown** as not only did they have a bridge over a major river, but the first ship to dock at Bunbury to pick up wool from the **Bridgetown** area was named *Bridgetown*. The Surveyor-General, J.S. Roe, suggested to

Governor Hampton that the name **Bridgetown** be adopted and it was gazetted in June 1868.[4] The name is particularly apt as not only has the town had several bridges across the **Blackwood River,** but in 1981 what is said to be the last and the longest jarrah bridge in Western Australia was built to span the State's longest river.[5]

References

[1] http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au/corporate.nsf/web/History+of+River+Names

[2] http://www.westaustralianvista.com/Bridgetown.html

[3] Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, *Record Keeping Plan,* Section 1.1, 2011

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] http://www/westaustraliavista, *op.cit.;* http://www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au/tourism

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Placenames Puzzle Number 40

Well-known Locations of the World

The clues reveal placenames relating to worldwide well-known locations (disregard spelling) e.g. (WA) Home of the British Parliament ... Westminster

1. (WA) Once Eboracum, it was the capital of Roman Britain
2. (WA) South London town renowned for its twin-towered football stadium, now rebuilt
3. (QLD) Forest famed as the haunt of Robin Hood
4. (SA) Home of Swift, Yeats and Joyce
5. (TAS) According to Gilbert, it has pirates
6. (TAS) Capital city on the R. Tigris and second-largest cityh in the Arab world
7. (TAS) Scottish cantilever railway bridge
8. (VIC) Site of a siege during the Boer War
9. (VIC) Columbus is buried in this city, birthplace of Velasquez
10. (NSW) Bartholomew Diaz was the first European navigator to round this Cape
11. (NSW) The start of the world-famous Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race
12. (NSW) Think of Liver Birds and Beatles
13. (NSW) Scottish North Sea port, known as the Granite City
14. (NSW) Commonwealth country with a maple leaf flag; noise of a hound
15. (NSW) Largest city in Canada
16. (NSW/WA) The Sunshine State of the USA
17. (NSW/VIC) On their way here, the pilgrims were told many tales
18. (TAS/VIC) Poirot's assistant never fought on Senlac Hill
19. (QLD/VIC/WA) A very well-dressed UK horse-racing venue
20. (QLD/TAS/VIC) The city's walls could be brought down by the sound of a trumpet and a shout

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Answers:

1. York	5. Penzance	9. Seville	13. Aberdeen	17. Canterbury
2. Wembley	6. Bagdad	10. Good Hope	14. Canada Bay	18. Hastings
3. Sherwood	7. Forth	11. Putney	15. Toronto	19. Ascot
4. Dublin	8. Mafeking	12. Liverpool	16. Florida	20. Jericho

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