Australian Placenames Colloquium

A further colloquium on Australian placenames of Indigenous origin, following those held in Canberra in 1999 and Adelaide in 2000, was held at the Australian National University on 5 December, 2002. For an overview, see http://www.humanities.mq.edu.au/anps/indig.html

Luise Hercus (pictured right) of the ANU opened the day with an inspiring presentation, illustrated with beautiful and evocative photographs, on 'A landscape almost forgotten: examples from near Lake Eyre', in which she pleaded for Indigenous placenames to be recorded while there still remains some knowledge of the link between names and country through the stories of ancestral beings whose presence and actions underlie both the landforms and the associated placenames.

Harold Koch (left), also of the ANU, spoke on 'Placenames of Indigenous origin in the ACT and south-eastern NSW', discussing what can be deduced about the original Indigenous forms by collecting and comparing various early Introduced spellings. He made many interesting points about phonology, while cautioning that reconstructing morphology, let alone meanings and associations, is a more distant goal in the case of languages no longer spoken and very imperfectly recorded.

Penny Lee of the University of Western Australia (below right), in a paper jointly authored with Bob Howard of the Albany Aboriginal Corporation and Brian Goodchild of the WA Geographic Names Committee, focussed on 'Indigenous and pseudo-Indigenous names proposed for the Albany-Denmark line', presenting details extracted for the first time from early 20th-century state government correspondence, along with preliminary observations on evidence for the names' provenance.

Frances Morphy (above left) and Bill Arthur of the ANU gave a progress report on their work mapping the incidence of Indigenous-derived placenames for the proposed *Atlas of Indigenous Australia*.

Placenames News...Placenames News...Placenames

New Editor

After putting together the contents of this edition of *Placenames Australia*, editor **Susan Poetsch** has departed on a six-month leave of absence from the ANPS to take up a consultancy with the NSW Board of Studies, developing the curriculum for the teaching of Aboriginal languages in schools throughout the state. There are of course close links between this work and the study and interpretation of placenames of indigenous origin, and the contacts that Susan makes during her assignment will be of immense value in developing the work of the ANPS, as we have so far been rather stronger on the investigation of introduced placenames than placenames of indigenous origin.

Her organisational abilities and unflappable good humour will be much appreciated at the Board, though sorely missed at the Survey, and we look forward to publishing an article on her new activities in a future issue of *Placenames Australia*.

The June issue will be edited by **Clair Hill**, who is to join the ANPS staff at the beginning of April. Clair has recently completed an honours thesis at the University of Sydney in which she investigated the closely related dialects of Umpila and Kuuku Ya'u at Lockhart River Aboriginal Community on the Cape York Peninsula. She has also worked with Walpiri speakers at the Lajamanu Community Education Centre and the Institute for Aboriginal Development. Email addressed to spoetsch@hmn.mq.edu.au during Susan's absence will be attended to by Clair.

David Blair

ANPS president **David Blair** (pictured below) has now retired from his position as Head of Academic Senate at Macquarie University, but he will continue to fill the honorary role of ANPS Director. He recently made a presentation on the work of the Survey to the Australian Map Circle, a group of Australian map producers, users and curators whose annual conference was this year held at Macquarie. An abstract of part of his talk, concerned with the use of published maps in toponymic field surveys, will be included in a future issue of *Placenames Australia*. His contribution was extremely well received and the President of the AMC has officially communicated both to the ANPS and to NSW Surveyor General Warwick Watkins the importance of continued collaboration between the Survey and the state Geographical Names Board.

GNB links

In fact these ties are already close, due to the warm support of Warwick Watkins, NSW Chief Surveyor Paul Harcombe and GNB Secretary Greg Windsor, and were recently renewed when David Blair, Flavia Hodges and Susan Poetsch visited the Land and Property Information offices in Bathurst.

Over two half-days we delivered an outline of research methods in cultural toponymy to the five members of the GNB staff whose everyday work is concerned with the technical aspects, and had a very useful planning meeting for the United Nations Toponymic Training Course to be delivered jointly by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy and the NSW Geographical Names Board in October 2004. Further details of these events will appear in the next issue of *Placenames Australia*.

Honorary Associates

Several of the our honorary associates have been getting out and about and spreading the word about the fascination of looking into placenames.

Bill Noble made a presentation to the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society on the history and role of the ANPS, spiced with fascinating facts about local placenames and anecdotes from further afield. Dale Lehner has spoken to several local groups about her PhD research showing how placenames research interacts with other aspects of social history to shed light on the patterns of settlement and development of a region. Joyce Miles has been interviewed several times on Kempsey local radio about her research into house names, which began with a PhD on the rise of suburban Exeter and the naming of its streets and houses, expanded into the writing and publication of *Owl's Hoot: how people name their houses*, and continues with the gathering of uniquely Australian examples.

Media focus

APIT director Flavia Hodges continues to keep her hand in with anthroponyms (the names of people) as well as toponyms: she was invited by several print and radio journalists to comment on the most popular given names for babies in 2002, and gave a presentation 'Genealogy, Genes, and Geography' (about surname origins and distribution) on Jill Kitson's *Lingua Franca* program on ABC Radio National. A forthcoming *Lingua Franca* program will feature Jane Simpson of the ANPS Executive Committee talking about Australian placenames of indigenous origin and the publication of *The Land is a Map*.

Macquarie

At ANPS host institution Macquarie University the academic year is about to begin as we go to press. Alexandra Orr, who writes elsewhere in this issue about the undergraduate course on placenames offered for the first time in the second semester of 2002, has enrolled for Honours and will be continuing research into placenames of the Prospect area in Western Sydney as the subject of her thesis.

Chris Richards

Victorian State Committee vice chair Chris Richards continues to write prolifically on placenames for a variety of publications, including an article on 'Animals in the Victorian Landscape' for Melbourne Zoo's *Zoo News* and one on 'Australia — the Big Smoke' for the newsletter of the Fire Services Museum.

Next issue

Also concerned with connections between traditional Indigenous placenaming networks and the Introduced naming system were presentations by Keith Bell (below), Surveyor General of Victoria, and Greg Windsor, Secretary of the NSW Geographical Names Board, on current Indigenous naming issues in their respective jurisdictions. The Indigenous placenames workshops held at various locations in Victoria in late 2002 are described elsewhere in this issue; in NSW the possibility of dual Indigenous/Introduced naming of natural features is now incorporated in official placenaming policy and an comprehensive Indigenous geographical naming strategy is in the course of being developed.

The centrepiece of the day was the lunchtime launch by Professor Francesca Merlan of *The Land is a Map: Placenames of Indigenous Origin in Australia*, edited by Luise Hercus, Flavia Hodges and Jane Simpson, and published by Pandanus Books (of the ANU's Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies) in association with Pacific Linguistics.

As well as the formal presentations and the general discussion session that concluded the event, the day also included much valuable informal interchange of ideas between academic researchers (with both linguistic and historical interests) and representatives of nomenclature authorities — from New Zealand, the ACT and Geoscience Australia as well as Victoria and NSW.

A further colloquium is planned for 2003, and planning is under way for a second volume of papers on Australian placenames of Indigenous origin.

❑ Flavia Hodges

Feedback

I enjoyed Chris Richards' article on the naming of Cape Woolamai in *Placenames Australia* (December 2002).

In the Sydney area, walumai (woolamai) the snapper fish (Pagrus auratus), combined with matta (place or water place, as with Parramatta and Cabramatta) and gal (clan) to form the name wallumattagal, the 'snapper clan'.

'The Wallumedegal,' wrote the French voyager Captain Louis de Freycinet (Paris 1839), who visited Port Jackson in 1819, 'were distributed on the northern side of the Parramatta River, starting from Lane Cove (dans le district de Field-of-Mars).'

In 1792 two retired marines were granted land in the Ryde area at a settlement named the Field of Mars by Arthur Phillip, Governor of New South Wales.

The Aboriginal name 'wallimy' (walumi or woolamai) was used by English settlers at Port Jackson in 1800 to describe the snapper, according to Mary Ann Reid (Asiatic Journal, 1819-20), wife of Captain Hugh Reid of the convict transport Friendship.

Keith V. Smith
Warawara,
Department of Indigenous Studies,
Macquarie University, Sydney

Matthew Flinders – a voyage to terra Victoria

During his circumnavigation of Australia, Matthew Flinders first sailed eastwards in the *Investigator* along the southern coast of the continent. He surveyed the coast of present day Victoria, and carried out some explorations around Port Phillip, during April and May of 1802.

However, Flinders was not the first European to explore the Victorian coast. James Cook had sighted the east coast of New Holland in what is now far East Gippsland in 1770, while George Bass sailed in a whaleboat from Sydney through Bass Strait as far as Western Port in 1797/8. James Grant had sailed eastwards through Bass Strait late in 1800, returning shortly thereafter from Sydney in 1801 to explore Western Port (with Barrallier as surveyor). John Murray also explored Western Port, becoming the first European to locate and then enter Port Phillip. Furthermore, Flinders had sailed along parts of the Gippsland coast during two earlier expeditions (this list is not exhaustive).

In addition to all this English exploration, a French expedition under the command of Nicolas Baudin sailed westwards through Bass Strait just before Flinders arrived in Victorian waters. Consequently, the outline of the Victorian coastline was known to Europeans, and had been labelled with both English and French names (sometimes for the same feature) when Flinders came upon this coast during his voyage.

Of course, Aboriginal people were living in this area, and the features in the landscape already had Aboriginal names. In some instances, there were now features with English, French and Aboriginal names. For example, Grant had named Cape Schanck, the French then called it Cape Richelieu, while the Aboriginal name is recorded in the form Tunnahan.

Into this scene sailed Matthew Flinders in April of 1802. At first glance it may appear that Flinders could add little to

Jenny Richards at the summit of Flinders Peak, the highest peak in the You Yangs. Flinders climbed to this summit and referred to the peak as Station Peak in his book. It subsequently became known as Flinders Peak amongst the general populace and the name was eventually changed to this to commemorate Flinders. Photo: Chris Richards.

Victorian coastal geography and toponymy, but this was not the case. Firstly, his detailed chart of the Victorian coast was a significant advance over Grant's sketch (and the various consolidations of earlier charts), and became the basis for future naval surveys. Flinders' charts also outlined many unnamed features that are recognisable today, such as the coastal range along the Great Ocean Road, which he describes as "Well wooded high land". Not all marked features were given a name. But his charts also omitted some coastal features, such as the Gippsland Lakes, which could not be seen over the coastal dune barrier.

Flinders became aggrieved over the actions of François Peron and Louis Freycinet (of the Baudin expedition) in publishing their book and atlas, respectively, that ignored Flinders' prior discoveries and associated names in South Australia. They had also ignored Grant's prior discoveries and names in Victoria. Peron and Freycinet labelled this area with French names. Consequently, Flinders played great attention in his book, *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, and in the accompanying charts, to the areas of coast that the respective European explorers had first sailed past. Flinders

specifically narrowed the French area of prior discovery (their 'Terra Napoleon') to a short section of the South Australian coast from Encounter Bay to Mount Gambier. In Victoria, Flinders' charts acknowledged Grant's discovery of the coast from Mount Gambier to Cape Schanck, Bass's discoveries from Cape Schanck to Ram Head and Cook's discoveries past Ram Head.

In generously acknowledging the English explorers, Flinders effectively down played the French contributions. When a comparison is made between Flinders' and Freycinet's charts of the Victorian coast, it can be readily seen how the former ignored all of the latter's names, even those that had been applied to features that Grant had not named such as Cape Reaumur and Descartes Bay. However, these, and some other French names, were restored to the Victorian coast in more recent times.

But Flinders does more than simply honour Grant, Bass and Cook on the Victorian coast. When you examine his use of their names, you can see that changes have been affected. Flinders was a 'name amender' and 'name omitter', as well as being a namer. For example,

Flinders changed the name of Grant's Cape Albany Otway to Cape Otway (the form in which it is used today) and Murray's Swan Harbor (sic) to Swan Pond (today it is Swan Bay). Furthermore, he greatly restricted the extent of Grant's Portland Bay, and did not use his name Governor King's Bay for the large bight south of the Port Phillip Heads.

Flinders also pointed out how he had to convince Bass that the latter's Furneaux Land was not the Furneaux Group of islands discovered by Tobias Furneaux in 1773; this Land was then renamed Wilson's Promontory by Governor Hunter at the suggestion of Flinders and Bass. Furthermore, Flinders used Cook's Ram Head and Cape Howe in his chart, but omitted Cook's Point Hicks (because George Bass could not re-locate this headland during his whaleboat voyage to Western Port).

It was also pointed out in *Placenames Australia* December 2002 that Flinders used the name Cape Wollamai for the eastern headland on Phillip Island, attributing this name to Bass. This is the first instance of Europeans applying an Aboriginal name (sourced from Port Jackson) to a place in what is now Victoria. In that article I stated that Bass and Flinders did not have any direct contact with Aboriginal people in 'Victoria'. This statement was incorrect; it should have read 'Western Port'. Flinders noted how the language of the Aborigi-

nal people he met at Port Phillip differed from that used at both Port Jackson and King George's Sound (in Western Australia). However, he noted in his log that Aboriginal words had not been collected. None of the other names used by the aforementioned navigators (in Victoria) were sourced from Aboriginal languages.

What then of the places that Flinders named in Victoria? Apart from Wilson's Promontory, which he jointly attributed to Bass and himself, Flinders clearly stated that he named Indented Head in Port Phillip because of its shape. Flinders also described how he climbed Station Peak (now called Flinders Peak, the highest point in the You Yangs). Flinders has also been attributed with the naming of Moonlight Head, based on an incident described in his book and the following comment on one of his charts – 'Head seen under the lee at 8p.m., in a moonlight interval of thick squalls'. These comments led to the subsequent naming of Moonlight Head.

In Gippsland, Flinders named Corner Inlet (on his earlier chart of Bass Strait), this feature having been located by Bass in 1798. Along the Gippsland coast, Flinders wrote on his chart of the South Coast that, 'The land for some miles behind the Long Beach is low, sandy, and partly covered with bushes and small trees'. This name was also used in his book and in comments on the earlier

Bass Strait chart. It subsequently fell out of use, with the name Ninety Mile Beach eventually being adopted. Not all of Flinders' names have survived.

I am also working on some other intriguing names that appear on Flinders' charts including Hat Rock (on the Bellarine Peninsula) and the Second bluff Mt (sic) (Mount Dandenong). Neither of these names can be found in the book or log. While he acknowledged Murray's naming of Arthurs Seat, Flinders also referred to this feature as the Bluff Mount, hence the use of Second bluff Mount for Mount Dandenong. He was in the vicinity of Hat Rock when he journeyed to Station Peak, from which you can easily see Mount Dandenong on a clear day. Flinders had the opportunity to be the first European to name both features.

Moonlight Head, the Long Beach and Second bluff Mount are interesting examples of the sometimes arbitrary boundary between descriptions and placenames, a problem compounded by the convention of capitalisation of geographical terms that can be seen in the writings/charts of that era.

Many places in Victoria have been named after Flinders (all are commemorative); he did not name places after himself. However, in South Australia he did name Flinders Island off the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula after his brother, Samuel Flinders, who was Second Lieutenant aboard the Investigator. Today, there are far more features in Victoria bearing Flinders' name than there are of James Cook, or any other navigator.

Finally, the use of Flinders' surname as a placename, creates a interesting toponymic link with present day Belgium. In Miriam Estensen's recent biography of Flinders, she suggests that he might have been descended from Flemish immigrants to England. Reaney's *The Origin of English Surnames* lists Flinders as a spelling variation of Flanders. Research begets more research!

View from the path that circles Flinders Peak. Photo: Chris Richards.

❑   Chris Richards

Placenames break into university curriculum

The formal study of placenames has been incorporated into the Division of Humanities at Macquarie University. The second semester of 2002 saw a group of five students enrolled in ENGL 300 become the inaugural student group to expand the subject of toponymic research through a practical involvement in this project. With each student responsible for a different parish within the Sydney metropolitan area, they became immersed in individual research projects which produced interesting results.

The students were assisted by three members of the ANPS team. David Blair, as convenor, reflected his extensive academic and practical knowledge in the field by providing ongoing guidance and encouragement while Flavia Hodges provided both background information on toponymic research and constant group support. Susan Poetsch assisted with queries from members of the group as they became immersed in their individual projects and as they encountered the successes and frustrations of toponymic research.

tion about the background of each placename.

Finally, the Interpretation component was based on analysis of the Documentation data collected and resulted in written reports presenting interpretations of the history, origin and meaning of each placename.

All of the students involved agreed that their individual ENGL 300 research projects were engrossing, frustrating, rewarding and, above all, the basis for a new appreciation for Australian placenames.

❑　Patricia Potts

such as learning about the people and individuals, whether famous or ordinary, across all eras, who had some influence, whether consciously or unconsciously, in the history, origin and meaning of a name. It was also an opportunity to learn more about Australian history in general, and how it ties in with the naming of Australia through time, and how the process of our naming and the types of names we have are similar to or differ from those in other countries, particularly when one considers the unique Indigenous names, such as Toongabbie, but also those chosen by early European immigrants, who often chose names that reminded them of home, or replicated those from their old home, e.g. Doonside and Kings Langley. It is often amazing the way personal stories are mixed up in a name and what kind of patterns can emerge when looking at names and the naming process in general. As a member of the 2002 class, this was one of my favourite aspects of the subject – the personal stories, the local and national histories behind the names.

ENGL 300 Course Participants (left to right): Alexandra Orr, Patricia Potts, Azar Marashian, Kristy Web, and Garth Harris.

The three assessment components in ENGL 300 reflected the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject.

The initial assessment task was a Field Survey. This involved a practical comparison of the placenames for each parish, extracted from the NSW Geographical Names Register with an in-depth analysis of the relevant maps followed by a visual confirmation of each placename in the field.

The Documentation component involved historical research into the final lists of placenames. Researching primary and secondary sources through libraries, local history groups, government bodies and maps produced fascinating informa-

Students in ENGL300 conduct research on the existing and former placenames in NSW, using the names in one 'parish' as a unit of study. Information about these names is collected from various sources and this data is then collated and organised and will ultimately be available on the World Wide Web for public access, demonstrating the value of ENGL300 – placenames outside of the university sphere. The history, origin and meaning of placenames is recorded and preserved for future generations.

As my research project for ENGL 300 I collected data on placenames in the parish of Prospect in Sydney. This project allowed me to gain insights into the broader issues behind placenames,

It was extremely challenging researching and trying to recover information about all aspects of a placename. One could sometimes come up with plenty of information on a particular name, but for another find absolutely nothing! Because ENGL 300 is new and most of the data is being collected and evaluated for the first time, without the benefit of existing answers, it allows students to experience raw research and to obtain valuable experience and research skills, using resources not only within the university but also other facilities in the wider community. With the benefit of a small research group, we were also able to share findings and bounce ideas off each other.

❑　Alex Orr

An ANPS Research Friend – Grant Uebergang

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. Dale Lehner has also 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 Grant Uebergang.

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

If you are interested in becoming an ANPS Research Friend, we can send you an information package. Just fill in the form on the back page of this issue and send it in.

'I first became interested in the work of the ANPS after my local historical society at Millmerran (Qld) received correspondence in 2001 from Dale Lehner requesting our help for her research on placenames of Millmerran Shire, for part of her postgraduate work in the Department of History at Macquarie University. Then, in late 2002 I read an issue of *Placenames Australia* and completed the coupon to become a Research Friend.

My academic background is in Australian and European modern history and Roman and Egyptian

Grant Uebergang

ancient history. I graduated from the Universities of Queensland and New England (Armidale NSW) and developed an interest in family and local history and Australian prehistory.

Placename research is, as I see it, an integral part and extension of local history, which inherently forms part of the greater jigsaw in the identification, origin and character of place. For twenty years now I have been researching the history of my local areas of the Darling Downs – Tummaville and Yandilla – where I reside and have farming interests. These areas were large sheep and cattle stations owned by the aristocratic Anglo-Irish family of Gore i.e. the family of Reverend William Francis Gore, Parramatta, Sydney. My research has resulted in two tomes on the Yandilla area. The aim eventually is to research all placenames within the Millmerran Shire.

Being involved with placenames research, albeit only for a short period of time, has added another worthwhile dimension to my life. It provides an outlet for me to concentrate on something less frustrating and perhaps a little more rewarding (intellectually speaking) than the severe drought and the precarious nature of farming being experienced at the present time. Just as important, it gives me the opportunity to make a return contribution to higher education. '

Heritage listed All Saints Anglican Church, the defining landmark of the Yandilla area and oldest building in the Millmerran Shire (Queensland). Built 1877. Photograph taken 1981.

❑   Grant Uebergang

Australian Attendance at UN Conference

Following David Blair's overview in *Placenames Australia* December 2002, we include below an edited version of a detailed report written by Brian Goodchild for the Intergovernmental Committee for Surveying and Mapping (ICSM), on Australian participation in this conference.

Background:

The 8th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held in Berlin between 27/8/02 and 6/9/02, with 26 August and 7 September being allocated to the 21st Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

Conference Proceedings:

The Conference was managed in the manner of most UN Conferences - formal recognition of delegates; seating in countries alphabetically; translation of presentations into the six UN languages, and presentation of the report of proceedings and resolutions of the conference at the final sessions. A President for the Conference was elected from the host country, Mr Klaus-Henning Rosen, Director General of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Berlin, and I was elected to the position of Rappoteur.

The following points provide a brief summary of proceedings of the conference:

* 242 delegates from 84 UN member nations, 2 non-member states and 4 other agencies attended. Australian attendance was Brian Goodchild, Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA), Bill Watt, SA and David Blair, Macquarie University. Rowland Woods attended as the representative of New Zealand.

* In our region delegates from Malaysia, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalem, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, New Zealand and Vanuatu attended. Each of these delegates attended a meeting of the Asia SE Pacific SW Division of UNGEGN, which I convened on 2/9/02. The meeting was very positive, and was used to share recent developments in countries in the region, discussion on gazetteers, training needs, regional map and gazetteer, and to outline the proposed training course to be held in Australia in 2004. There is support for a new regional gazetteer and map to be produced. Malaysia expressed a desire for the next regional meeting to be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2003.

* The first and last days of the meeting were committed to the 21st Session of UNGEGN. Apart from reports by the Divisions, the ongoing work of UNGEGN is facilitated by a number of working groups. Australian delegates participated in meetings of the working groups on Publicity and Funding and Toponymic Training Courses. The working group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers is also of interest to CGNA members.

* 202 papers or reports were presented at the Conference, and of these 44 were country reports and 8 divisional reports.

* Papers with reports and information which will be particularly useful to CGNA members included reports by countries in our region and a number on gazetteers, cultural aspects of names, toponymic websites, new developments in USA and Canada and a guide to odonym (road names) reduction. There were numerous papers on linguistic and romanisation issues which are of limited interest to Australia, but have a broader strategic importance. Exonyms continue to be a problem area for the UN, e.g. our use of names like Rome and Italy instead of the locally used Roma and Italia.

* Papers presented by the Australian delegates at the Conference were:
1. Report for Australia (prepared by Brian Goodchild)
2. Report for UNGEGN, Asia S E and Pacific S W Division (B Goodchild)
3. Production of the Australian Gazetteer (Lynnette Sebo, National Mapping)
4. Aboriginal Place Names – The Recording Process in SA (Bill Watt)
5. The State Gazetteer in a GIS Environment (Bill Watt)
6. Guidelines for the Consistent Use of Place Names in Australia (B Goodchild)
7. Guidelines for the Recording and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names (Bill Watt)
8. The One City One Site Proposal for Internet Domain Names (Greg Windsor, NSW)
9. Towards a Standard Geographic Feature Set: Elevated Relief Features (David Blair, ANPS)
10. UN Sponsored Toponymy Course, Australia 2004 (David Blair, ANPS)
11. The Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy (David Blair, ANPS)

These papers, and the work of CGNA when assessed against the reports of various countries, confirm Australia and New Zealand are at the forefront of the development of procedures and initiatives associated with this work. Apart from the country and divisional reports, the Australian papers relating to new initiatives and methods were seen by many participants as being of benefit to their organisations. Bill Watt's paper on Aboriginal placenames resulted in a conference resolution in respect to Indigenous names.

* The Australian video 'What's In A Name' had its international launch at the conference, with great interest shown by many delegates. Fifty CD copies and 3 video copies were distributed to delegates eager to get a copy. An indication of its acceptance is that the representative from South Africa has asked for a copy of the script in order that he can adapt it for a South African production.

New Publications
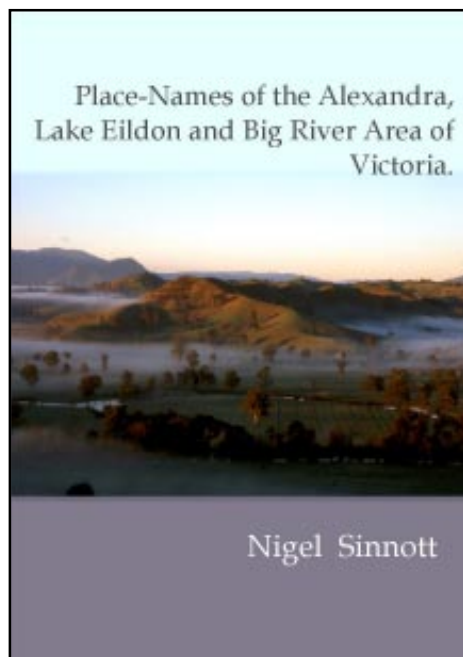
Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria

Nigel Sinnott's book lists about two thousand place-names, both Aboriginal and European, in the Alexandra and Lake Eildon area. Particular effort has been made to record names of places destroyed or flooded by the Eildon dams. Also included are parts of the Strathbogie Ranges, places along the Mansfield Woods Point Road and the Big River, and localities near Yea, Marysville and Healesville.

The gazetteer is beautifully detailed and where possible gives the background and etymology of each name.

The author's interests in history, place names, old languages and botany combine to provide an immensely entertaining and essential historical reference for the bushwalker, genealogist, Sunday traveller or anyone who is seeking an insight into the heritage of this beautiful part of Victoria.

The book is due to be launched on Saturday 15 March 2003 at the Old Shire Hall, Alexandra. Orders ($25 + postage) and inquiries should be addressed to the publishers, the Friends of the Library - Alexandra District Inc., c/o Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra, Vic 3714 (ph 03 5772 1800).

On the Web

http://www.anps.mq.edu.au/

ANPS has a refreshed website, with its own domain name within Macquarie University, so update your bookmark!

The new site has some familiar articles plus some great new interactive features, including a couple of quizzes and a form by which members of the public can contribute placenames information to the Survey.

Thanks to Tony Dwyer (Senior Media Developer) Chris Lavina (Web Designer) and Leigh-Anne Funnell (Web Programmer) at the Centre for Flexible Learning, Macquarie University, for their ideas and expertise.

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.

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* The publicity leaflet 'Consistent Use of Place Names', first produced by ICSM for the UN in 1999, has now been produced in 6 languages and globally distributed. Versions in a number of other languages are also in production.

* The Conference was not without a bit of controversy to liven proceedings. Japan and the two Korea's are disputing the name of the Sea of Japan, with the Korea's proposing it be renamed the East Sea. On a number of occasions the Greek delegation protested about the use of the name Macedonia instead of 'The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'. Turkey protested that the Cyprus delegation did not represent all of Cyprus, but the UN position on this does not recognise the Turkish claim. And lastly, possible serious trouble was averted when a paper from Israel wanting to respell Palestine as Falestin was withdrawn.

Conclusions:

·* Australian expertise in geographical names is highly regarded and was acknowledged by the response to the Australian input to the conference.

* Australia is at the forefront of the development of procedures and initiatives associated with this work.

* The networking with other delegates working in similar environments and directions will provide ongoing benefits.

* The conference confirmed that the work of CGNA and the Australian names authorities is in harmony with (and in some instances leading) other nations/programs.

* The regional meeting held during the conference indicated there was continued interest in the region and support for regional initiatives.

* The resolution on minority names passed by the conference endorses Australian initiatives in this field and provides a unique opportunity to Australia, NZ and the Divisional group.

* There will be ongoing technical benefits from the information contained in papers, displays and the personal contacts developed at the conference.

* The proposal for a Toponymic Training Course to be held in Australia in 2004 was well received, and will be proposed for funding support. Two countries in our region, Myanmar and Vietnam, have requested training.

❑ Brian Goodchild
Secretary Geographic Names Committee
WA
Chair CGNA
Chair Asia SE Pacific SW UNGEGN
Division

FATSIL Forum: 'Piatta parrybuga'
Languages and Rights

The ANPS appreciates that its task of working with Indigenous communities and other Indigenous languages specialists to research and recognise Indigenous placenames is inextricably linked to Indigenous languages and cultural heritage past, present and future. Placenames are a significant aspect of language revitalisation and maintenance.

Thanks to FATSIL (Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages) for kind permission to reproduce here an edited version of the report on the National Indigenous Languages Forum 'Piatta parrybuga' Languages and Rights, held in Sydney between 30/9/02 and 2/10/02. This report appeared first in 'Voice of the Land', the FATSIL newsletter, Volume 23, November 2002. Please contact FATSIL by email at fatsiladmin@bigpond.com if you are interested in further details of the conference, including the full transcript of conference speeches.

Four highlights of the conference were:

Positive directions set from Conference talks

The development of State Policies for Indigenous languages was a key issue at FATSIL's National Indigenous Languages Forum in Sydney. The audience, which included representatives from language projects around Australia, heard of the lead set by New South Wales in drafting policy to protect Indigenous languages, and the steps being taken in other States to follow suit.

In his opening address, Dr. Andrew Refshauge, NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs outlined the reasons for his Government accepting its responsibility to support the preservation of the State's Indigenous languages.

"We must not forget that the fundamental reason for the state of Indigenous languages is the policies, practices and attitudes of past governments and generations - when not only was Aboriginal culture and heritage denigrated, but Aboriginal people were actively prevented from learning or passing on their languages," he said.

Dr. Refshauge said that his Government had recognised that it can play a major role in ensuring the revival and long-term survival of Aboriginal languages and has taken steps to support this work by developing the NSW Aboriginal Languages Policy, the first in Australia.

"Aboriginal self-determination is NSW Government Policy, and it is the cornerstone of the Languages Policy," Dr Refshauge said. "By working with Aboriginal people to maintain their languages, and providing communities with the resources and support to undertake this work, we are giving back something that was taken from them so long ago."

FATSIL 2002 delegates, who represented all Australian states and territories.

FATSIL Chairperson Lester Coyne was pleased to report that the issue of language policies has now appeared on the agenda of MCATSIA - the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Affairs, and will be followed up by consultations with Ministers at State and Federal level.

Policy processes examined

In her keynote address, Director General of the NSW Dept. Aboriginal Affairs Linda Burney stressed the need for Governments to take a holistic approach to Indigenous affairs. "The improvement of physical and material circumstances achieves little if it isn't underpinned by the development of infrastructure for cultural heritage."

Policy Officer Corinne Fagueret, who has played a key role both in the development of the NSW policy, and in consulting with communities around the State, gave an overview of the processes involved through all stages leading to the

presentation of the draft policy. Ms Fagueret invited participants to continue with their feedback and to participate where possible in regional forums to incorporate their views.

Commonwealth funding for languages

In his address to the conference, Senator Aden Ridgeway compared the educational profile of the languages of other nationalities in Australia, with the lack of recognition or financial support given to our own.

"Australia's Indigenous languages remain outside the official language status of the country, and as a consequence, receive little financial resources compared with international economic languages like French, Japanese or German," Senator Ridgeway said. "They aren't even recognised as national languages. This is despite the fact that there has been an increased willingness to support and promote languages, which are seen as of economic benefit to Australia. Just look at the fervour with which the education system has embraced and promoted Asian languages, especially Indonesian and Mandarin."

Senator Ridgeway also pointed out the willingness of businesses and organisations to capitalise on the appeal of Indigenous culture, while unaware of the role of language.

"Australians are proud to showcase Indigenous cultures in international events like the Olympic Games or display it on our national carrier, Qantas," he said. "Many non-Indigenous Australians are developing a much deeper appreciation of Indigenous art and our range of cultural expression – from the visual art of Central Australia or Arnhem Land, which is steeped in tradition and the embodiment of secret-sacred information – to our contemporary film makers like Ivan Sen, Rachel Perkins and others. Yet Indigenous languages remain a complete mystery – a

relic of traditional communities in only the remotest part of the country – to the majority of non-Indigenous Australians."

The Senator said there was a need for greater recognition, co-ordination and adequate resourcing at the Commonwealth level for community language programs, but praised the more encouraging initiatives emerging at State level.

Senator Ridgeway maintains involvement with his own Gumbayngirr language group and is a member of the Geographical Names Board of NSW. He said the aim of the NSW dual naming policy was to restore and recognise the Aboriginal history that exists in every corner of the State; overlay Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal histories; and provide a very immediate context for Aboriginal cultures, languages and experiences past and present.

ABC makes room for languages on-line

The Broadcasting and Languages workshop opened discussion on ways that languages can be more effectively promoted using the network of Indigenous broadcasting services.

Libby Feez invited people to use ABC's "Message Stick Online" (www.abc.net.au/message) to promote language projects, publications and events.

Tiga Bayles (of 4AAA Radio Brisbane) outlined the role of the Indigenous Communications Australia Advisory Committee (ICAAC) and the early stages of the development of a National Indigenous Broadcasting and communications service. The charter for the ICAAC will include the promotion of languages.

Consensus from the session was that establishing and maintaining links between broadcasting services and language project teams must now be a priority, and can't fail to produce great outcomes for people in both fields.

I Quote...

The maps of our landscape carry a huge amount of information about the land and the relationship of one place to another. From our maps we find information about everything from rainfall to the heights of hills and mountains and the shape of lakes. Our maps tell us of the shape of the land and about its physical character. We find our way around maps by marking our place names, but the map does not tell us anything about the names themselves, what they mean or why places were given the names they carry. Those names, though, carry a cargo of meaning and memory, they signpost the fact that place has a human dimension.

Most Pâkeha [non-Mâori New Zealanders] names mark individual places and individual memories of parcels of history. They generally have no particular connection to each other, each standing in its own right. The meaning of many Mâori names, though, can only be understood through their connection to other names and places. Whole series of names belong together in groups, commemorating journeys of exploration by an ancestor, the myth memory of how the land was made or a series of traditional events and people relationships. They also describe the land physically and identify its resources. This Atlas aims to record some of the stories that link groups of Mâori names in what we call Oral Maps.

In pre-literate Mâori culture there was a huge dependence on memory and the careful transmission of history from generation to generation. The names in the landscape were like survey pegs of memory, marking the events that happened in a particular place, recording some aspect or feature of the traditions and history of a tribe. If the name was remembered it could release whole parcels of history to a tribal narrator and those listening. The daily use of such place names meant that the history was always present, always available. In this sense living and travelling reinforced the histories of the people.

English translation of the Maori Introduction to: He Korero Pûrâkau Mo Ngâ Taunahanahatanga A Ngâ Tûpuna (Place Names of the Ancestors, a Mâori Oral History Atlas), New Zealand Geographic Board, 1990, pxiii.

CGNA CD

Just a note to say that the CGNA CD which was enclosed in *Placenames Australia* December 2002 *does* run on Macintosh computers.

The Placenames Puzzle No.5 - Water, Water Everywhere

Having survived the December 2002 bushfire in Sydney, which came frighteningly close to her house, Joyce Miles was inspired to make water the theme of the placename puzzle for this issue.

Nullabor (page 12 *Placenames Australia* December 2002) should read Nullarbor. Thanks to one of our readers, DGN, for picking this up. SP

Clue: it is the sound that counts, not necessarily the spelling, e.g. (lake) Part of a fireplace … Great
; indicates a separate word
, indicates a part of a word

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Rivers
1. (NSW) Ancient fortified residence, narrow beam of light
2. (NSW) A term of endearment
3. (NSW) Nickname of King William II of England (1087-1100)
4. (Tas) Encountered by Simple Simon
5. (Tas/NSW) Raincoat, excavation where stone is obtained
6. (Qld) Half of Ana's snake, belongs to me
7. (Qld) Neville Shute wrote of a similar settlement
8. (SA) A type of land title
9. (Vic) Tin
10. (NT) Ample quantity

Bays
11. (NSW) Fishing lure, belonging to a male
12. (Qld) In greater quantity, 20 cwts.
13. (SA) 14 of 26, long table in a shop
14. (NT) One of Avro's WWII planes
15. (WA) Propel a small boat, male deer

Lakes
16. (NSW) Often accompanies tonic, pat gently, German for 'one'
17. (SA) Mixture of oxygen, nitrogen, etc.
18. (NT) One of Mozart's names
19. (ACT) Sturdy; mythological monster half eagle half lion
20. (WA) Bovine, bovine, limb for flying

Answers: 1. Castlereagh 2. Darling 3. Rufus 4. Pieman 5. Macquarie 6. Condamine 7. Alice 8. Torrens 9. Cann 10. Plenty 11. Batemans 12. Moreton 13. Encounter 14. Anson 15. Roebuck 16. Jindabine 17. Eyre 18. Amadeus 19. Burley Griffin 20. Cowcowing