Porepunkah – Of Rocks and Men?

– Carol Sonogan

One mountain, Mt. Buffalo, dominates the Ovens Valley and the northeast Victorian landscape. It can be seen from many directions and from as far away as fifty kilometres–from Glenrowan, where the Hume Highway passed as Major Mitchell's track, from Eldorado, Beechworth and Carrarragarmungee. The town situated at its base, and at the confluence of the Ovens and Buckland Rivers, is Porepunkah.

The meaning of Porepunkah has been variously given as Hindu for 'gentle breeze'[1], and of Aboriginal origin as 'meeting of the waters'.[2] (The online VACL *Database of Aboriginal Placenames of Victoria*[3] currently lists its meaning as uncertain.) These two attributions will be considered here, and an alternative meaning suggested by a local Indigenous language will also be presented.

Following the establishment of a cattle run in 1837 between present day Myrtleford and Eurobin, the pastoral enterprise Port Punka Station, along with Junction Run and the adjacent Wandiligong Run, would have seen the first permanent habitation of the area by Europeans.[4,5] Local Bright historian Diann Talbot[6] reports that:

John Buckland's name appears on the Barwidgee Run (then recorded as Bowheedgee) in January 1840. Included in his lease was the Port Punkah or Little Portland Run (Porepunkah) and possibly the Junction Run.

Buckland had spent considerable time living in Calcutta, where the Hindi term 'punka walla' was used for a slave boy fanning a large rug to create a small breeze, or *punka*. The leasehold also provided the river-crossing place for a number of adjacent runs. The name 'Port Punka' may reflect its water association as well as John Buckland's India connection, but because of its awkward two-language construction, it seems likely that it may have been an attempt to assign personal meaning to the foreign sounds of an already-existing Indigenous name. The fact that the run was also known as Little Portland seems to lend weight to this conclusion.

A slightly different account is given by Gardner:[7]

The run of Portpunkah was taken up by William Walker and Co in 1846 and included all the Ovens River above Bright. Walker [1794-1854] was a banker and trader who spent much of his life in Calcutta. Indian coolies were imported in 1846 … to work on Walker's stations and almost certainly worked here. The name is derived from the Hindi words for wind and blower, literally the name of a primitive cooling fan and almost certainly referred to the cold wind blowing off the mountains. Formerly Ovens Crossing. Also called Port Punkah and Point Punkah.

Interesting and similar as they are, neither of these accounts rules out a pre-existing Aboriginal placename.

An Indigenous meaning for Porepunkah has also been reported. Wesson's survey[2] attributes the meaning as 'meeting of the waters' from the Minubuddong language. (One language may be referred to by different names. In this case Minubuddong may refer to the language also known as Pallanganmiddang and by the current local community as Waywurru[8].) This reference material, some uncatalogued papers from the old Lands Department, cannot currently be located. However it is interesting to note that this meaning is also attributed to numerous other locations, and that river junctions are common geographical features. (In the case of 'Bundalong', this can be supported, as the word may be literally translated from the local Pallanganmiddang language as 'footprint' place (*pandju-lang*), with its cultural/linguistic associations (see later) as 'married' place, or 'joining up' of the rivers, as surveyor A. L. Martin[9] reported in 1858):

From the editor . . .

One of the most interesting aspects of Australian placenaming is the proportion of toponyms that come from Aboriginal languages. Carol Sonogan's article in this current issue deals with the tricky technical problems in establishing the origin of Porepunkah, a town in Victoria. In this case, an indigenous origin has had to compete with a claimed Hindi etymology.

ANPS Director Jan Tent has fulfilled a promise he made some time ago to survey the names of Federal electorates. In a rather personal assessment, he tabulates the various naming-types, including the proportions of male/female eponyms and indigenous/introduced names.

We'd particularly like to draw your attention to the notice for the Murray Chapman Award which appears on page 9. It's our hope that this $5000 initiative by the NSW GNB will strongly encourage the study of Aboriginal placenames in that State. And *Placenames Australia* has been able to complement that award with a prize of $1000 for a piece of research in topnymy, not restricted to any one State or to Aboriginal placenames.

in this issue...

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I was interested in the mention of Queen Victoria recently in *Placenames Australia.* I spent some time recently on Yorke Peninsula near Port Victoria.

Could you tell me, please, whether this was named in honour of the Queen?

Best wishes,

Robert Hawkins
Baulkham Hills NSW

The Editor replies:

No, Port Victoria was actually named after a ship. According to local history, in June l839 a survey of the area was undertaken by the Adelaide Survey Association.

The party of surveyors, including Robert Cock, James Hughes and George James, aboard the schooner "Victoria" discovered what they described as "one of the finest harbours in this part of the world" which they named Victoria Harbour after their ship. However, although the important port that developed round it was officially named Wauraltee in 1876, the local residents always referred to it as Port Victoria and so in l940 Wauraltee became Port Victoria. We have not so far been able to discover whether the schooner was named in honour of the Queen, but as she had been crowned only two years before the survey was undertaken it seems quite likely.

References

Rhoda Heinrich, *Wide Sails and Wheat Stacks – a history of Port Victoria and the Hundreds of Wauraltee,* l976, p.12

Geoffrey Manning, *Place Names of South Australia*, 1990

http://www.about-australia.com/south-australia/yorke-peninsula/destinations/port-victoria

Continued from page one - Porepunkah – Of Rocks and Men?

> *I have learned that the native name for the junction of the Ovens and Murray Rivers is Bundalong whose meaning is being married or joined together, a very appropriate name for a township.*

At this time, however, the meaning of Porepunkah as 'meeting of the waters' cannot be substantiated. Porepunkah is indeed situated in the landscape at the 'meeting of the waters', but is this in itself sufficient to support that 'meaning'? Is there perhaps an alternative, with evidence that would ground the name in the landscape, and provide richer contextual meaning?

As Kostanski[10] rightly reminds us, 'in discussing placenames of Indigenous origin, one needs to consider the language and cultural background of the name in order to appropriately translate the meaning into English.' Another important consideration, particularly in the case of Indigenous placenames, is their relationship to, and significance in the landscape. Indigenous placenames link culture to the landscape, and mark features of cultural significance in language that can give clues to cultural practice. This cultural practice will in turn be linked to mythology and storytelling. Indigenous stories and meanings are multi-layered, with deeper meanings being revealed only to more advanced initiates. For this reason, many so-called 'meanings' reported to early settlers may have been superficial, vague or even evasive. It is therefore necessary to confirm meanings by uncovering deeper cultural associations.

Four elements used here* for understanding, Indigenous placenames are:

1. language,
2. landscape feature,
3. mythology, and
4. cultural practice.

*These may be seen to correspond loosely with Walsh's[11] 'placename package' of phonological/graphic form, location/feature, 'story', semantic content, and ownership, while perhaps placing more emphasis on contemporaneous cultural practice in addition to past historical events. "Ownership" is here considered under "language".

A possible alternative meaning for Porepunkah presents itself from the records of a local Indigenous language.

The language called by Blake and Reid 'Pallanganmiddang' is documented in *Aboriginal History, Volume 23*.[12] They quote a journal entry from G. A. Robinson that can be seen to associate the Pallanganmiddang language with the Porepunkah area: *'Country of the Bul ler n mit ter extend from W Bank of Hume to Ovens River N to Punderambo and then up towards the mountains' (MLA 7086, vol. 65, part 3, p 13)*. 'Bul ler n mit ter' refers to 'Pallanganmiddang' and 'Punderambo' refers to the property 'Bontherambo' situated just north of Wangaratta at Boorhaman. The 'Hume' has widely been accepted to be the Murray River, however there is evidence that it may, in some cases at least, refer to the Kiewa River.[13] At any rate, there is probably sufficient evidence to ground the language called Pallanganmiddang around the general Porepunkah area. The language may have also been known by other names, and we may not know the term for its speakers; however, it seems legitimate to proceed at least to examine that language for possible explanations.

Blake and Reid's Pallanganmiddang vocabulary list shows *buwa/(puwa)* as 'head', and *pungga* as 'stone'. Though it is difficult to determine what influence word order may have had on meaning, this gives a possible literal translation of Porepunkah as 'stone head':

puwa	pungga
head +	**stone**

We need to look further to confirm this possible meaning–to see if it makes cultural sense and to see if it relates to the landscape.

In 1905, Langloh Parker[14] reported a creation myth of the Euahlayi people of northwestern New South Wales, where man was created from rock, and the Creator or All-Father Baiame left his footprints behind on the rock. It is not clear from the reported myth, but may be proposed from language evidence, that the creation of woman may have been associated with those footprints.

A linguistic/cultural association of footprints with marriage would be supported by evidence in the Pallanganmiddang language, where the word for "footprint" (*pandju-n*) may also form the basis of the words for "wife" and "husband" (as well as "aunt"). This association is also evidenced in the *Bundalong* example cited earlier.

If a similar cultural association between men and rocks existed for the speakers of Pallanganmiddang, then Porepunkah would be likely to have had two meanings – ostensibly 'stone head', and an underlying meaning of 'man's head':

puwa	pungga
head +	**stone / (man)**

Due to the nature of such a cultural 'creation myth' relationship between men and stone/rocks, Porepunkah would likely carry with it associations of 'men's business'. The history of cultural practices in the area could be further explored to substantiate this, for example Bogong moth hunting. Flood[15] seems to agree with earlier writers who 'suggest that moth hunting was a male activity' although the eating of the catch was probably shared. Flood includes a fascinating description from A. W. Scott:

> *The moths were found in vast assemblages sheltered within deep fissures, and between the huge masses of rocks, which there form recesses, and might also be considered as caves. ...[E]ach moth was **resting firmly by its feet on the rock**, and not on the back of others, as in a swarm of bees. [**Bold** Italics added]*

The occurrence of the rock isotome in the alpine area may have also provided the natural narcotic used in parts of the country for young men's initiation ceremonies.

Finally, if confirmation may be found in the landscape itself, then the view of Mt. Buffalo across the Ovens Valley, from the Hume Highway at Glenrowan supports this analysis. Indigenous forbears would have seen the same vision we see today – the figure of a huge mountain man, lying with his head at Porepunkah.

This photograph shows Mt Buffalo as seen from Glenrowan. Porepunkah lies at the base of the mountain near the top left of the photo – at the head of the man of rock. (Artwork by Dylan McHugh.)

This placename exploration has considered a range of factors – a literal translation from a local Indigenous language has been offered, possible cultural/linguistic associations can be demonstrated, and the meaning sits reasonably within the landscape. Have language and mythology provided the means to rediscover the original meaning of Porepunkah after all these years? How many other Indigenous placename meanings are there waiting to be rediscovered?

Special thanks to Dr Christina Eira of the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages for her review comments and suggestions. Content remains the responsibility of the author.

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L.T. CREEK

– Jim Wafer

On the west side of Lake Macquarie (NSW), debouching into the north end of Fennell Bay is a short watercourse called 'L.T. Creek'. The entry for this placename in the NSW Geographical Names Register (reference 34844[1]) reveals that it was previously called 'Elte Creek', which probably reflects the local pronunciation of the name, with the stress on the first syllable (as if rhyming with 'Elsie').

According to a former resident of the area, the initials "L.T." stand for the name of the 19th century missionary and linguist Lancelot Threlkeld. In this case, the folk etymology seems entirely plausible. Threlkeld set up two mission stations at Lake Macquarie, the second of which was at Toronto, a short distance south-east of L.T. Creek.[2] What particular link Threlkeld had with the creek is unknown. However, the preservation of a popular association between his name and the placename over a period of almost 170 years (Threlkeld left Lake Macquarie in 1841) seems noteworthy.

Footnotes

1 See http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/name_search/extract?id=anckjzWAuj

2 See Niel Gunson, *Australian Reminiscences and Papers of L. E. Threlkeld, Missionary to the Aborigines, 1824-1859*, two vols. (Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, 1974); also the entry for Threlkeld in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* at http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020481b.htm

Know your Federal Electorate

– Jan Tent

I often listen to Federal Parliament on the radio and am intrigued by the names of the electorates members represent, e.g. "Will the member for Batman please resume his seat." During the recent Federal Election, I became increasingly interested in these names and wondered how many people actually knew the origin or meaning of their Federal Electorate name.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) provides, through its website, detailed profiles of all the 150 Federal Electorates (see its *Index to current electoral division profiles & maps*).[1] The Australian Broadcasting Corporation also provided this information on its website during and after the recent Federal Election (See its *Federal Electorate Guide*).[2] The data provided in this article is based on the information provided by these agencies.

A tabulation of the origin and meaning of each Federal Electorate soon revealed that they are named either for the location of the electorate, some nearby geographic feature, or after people. The locational names are usually quite transparent, e.g. *Ballarat*, *Eden-Monaro*, *Indi*, *Mallee*, *Melbourne Ports*, *New England*, *Swan* etc.

However, the electorates named after people (i.e. eponymous) are often less transparent. Some are obvious or well-known, e.g. *Banks*, *Bennelong*, *Chifley*, *Dobell*, *La Trobe*, *McMahon* etc. Others, are more opaque or less well-known, e.g. *Aston*, *Batman*, *Cowan*, *Groom*, *Rankin*, *Wright* etc.

The following table catalogues all the eponymous electorates, and some of the less transparent locational names.

Electorate	Origin of name
Aston	After Tilly Aston, a blind writer and teacher who helped found the Library of the Victorian Association of Braille Writers.
Banks	After Sir Joseph Banks, the botanist on Captain Cook's 1770 voyage of discovery.
Barker	After Captain Collett Barker, the first European to discover the mouth of the Murray River.
Barton	After Sir Edmund Barton, Leader of the Federation movement in NSW and Australia's first Prime Minister.
Batman	After John Batman, the man usually credited as the founder of Melbourne.
Bennelong	After Bennelong, the local Aboriginal man befriended by Governor Arthur Phillip when Sydney was first settled in 1788.
Blair	After Harold Blair, a noted Australian tenor and Aboriginal activist.
Blaxland	After John Blaxland, one of the explorers who was in the first European team to cross the Blue Mountains.

Electorate	Origin of name
Bonner	After Neville Bonner, a Liberal Senator for Queensland (1971-1983) and the first Aboriginal person to serve in the Australian Parliament.
Boothby	After William Boothby, the South Australian Electoral Commissioner who was responsible for introducing the secret ballot in that state.
Bowman	After David Bowman, a former Queensland state MP.
Braddon	After Sir Edward Braddon, one of the leaders of the Federation movement in Tasmania, a former member of the Tasmanian Parliament and member of the first House of Representatives.
Bradfield	After John Bradfield (1867-1943), engineer and bridge designer.
Brand	After Sir David Brand, Premier of Western Australia (1959-71).
Bruce	After Stanley Bruce (later Lord Bruce of Melbourne), Prime Minister (1923-29).
Calare	The Aboriginal name for the Lachlan River.
Calwell	After Arthur Calwell, member for Melbourne (1940-72) and Labor Party Leader (1960-67).
Canning	After Alfred Canning who pioneered stock routes and rabbit proof fencing in Western Australia.
Casey	After R.G. (Lord) Casey, former Foreign Minister, Ambassador to Washington and Governor-General.
Charlton	After Matthew Charlton, Labor MP for Hunter (1910-28) and Labor Party Leader (1920-28).
Chifley	After Ben Chifley, Labor Prime Minister (1945-49).
Chisholm	After Caroline Chisholm, an early social worker and advocate of migration to Australia.
Cook	After Captain James Cook.
Corangamite	After a local salty lake of the same name; corangamite is apparently a local Aboriginal word meaning 'bitter'.

Cowan	After Edith Cowan, the first woman elected to an Australian Parliament.
Cowper	After Sir Charles Cowper, who served five terms as NSW Premier (between 1856 & 1870).
Cunningham	After Allan Cunningham, the first European to explore the Illawarra region.
Curtin	After former Labor Prime Minister John Curtin.
Dawson	After Anderson Dawson, who from December 1 to 7 1899, was Premier of Queensland, the first head of a Labor government anywhere in the world.
Deakin	After Australia's second Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin, who served three terms as Prime Minister (1903-04, 1904-08, 1909-10).
Denison	After Sir William Denison, Lt-Governor of Tasmania (1847-55) and Governor of NSW (1855-61).
Dickson	After Sir James Dickson, a leading advocate of Federation, Premier of Queensland (1898-99), and Minister for Defence in Barton's first Federal Ministry.
Dobell	After artist Sir William Dobell.
Dunkley	After Louisa Dunkley, an early campaigner for equal pay for women and a founder of the Victorian Women's Post and Telegraph Association.
Durack	After the Durack family, who were early pioneers and developers of the Kimberley region.
Fadden	After Arthur Fadden, Country Party Leader, Treasurer in the Menzies government, and for 40 days in 1941, Prime Minister of Australia.
Fairfax	After Ruth Beatrice Fairfax, founder and first President of the Country Women's Association.
Farrer	After William James Farrer, noted wheat breeder and experimentalist.
Fisher	After Andrew Fisher, Labor Prime Minister for three separate periods between 1908 and 1915.
Flinders	After explorer Matthew Flinders, the first man to circumnavigate Australia.
Forde	After Frank Forde, Prime Minister for 8 days in 1945 between the death of John Curtin and election of Ben Chifley as Labor leader.
Forrest	After Sir John (later Lord) Forrest, explorer of Western Australia, Premier (1890-1901) and a senior minister in seven Federal Cabinets.

Fowler	After Lillian Fowler, member of NSW Parliament (1944-50) and Mayor of Newtown Municipality 1938-39, the first woman to be elected Mayor of an Australian local council.
Franklin	After Sir John Franklin, Lieutenant-Governor of Tasmania (1837-43).
Fraser	After Jim Fraser, Labor member for the ACT (1951-70).
Gellibrand	After Joseph Gellibrand, an early explorer.
Gilmore	After Australian poet and author Dame Mary Gilmore.
Goldstein	After Vida Goldstein, the first woman candidate at any election in the British Empire.
Gorton	After former Liberal Prime Minister John Gorton.
Grayndler	After Ted Grayndler, General Secretary of the Australian Workers Union in the 1920s and 1930s.
Greenway	After the noted colonial architect, Francis Greenway.
Grey	After George Grey, the third Governor of South Australia.
Griffith	After Sir Samuel Griffith, former Queensland Premier (1883-88, 1890-93) and Australia's first High Court Chief Justice (1903-17).
Groom	After Sir Littleton Groom who was member for Darling Downs from his father's death in 1901 to 1929 and again from 1931 until his own death in 1936.
Hasluck	After Sir Paul Hasluck, MP for Curtin 1949-69, serving variously as Minister for Territories, Defence and External Affairs.
Herbert	After Robert Herbert, the first Premier of Queensland (between 1859 & 1866).
Higgins	After Henry Bourne Higgins, High Court Justice and pioneer judge of the Arbitration Court.
Hindmarsh	After Sir John Hindmarsh, the first Governor of South Australia.
Hinkler	After pioneer aviator Bert Hinkler, the first person to fly solo from England to Australia.
Holt	After former Prime Minister, Harold Holt.
Hotham	After Sir Charles Hotham, an early Victorian Governor.
Hughes	After former Prime Minister Billy Hughes, Prime Minister (1915-23), first for Labor and then for the Nationalist Party.

Hume	After Hamilton Hume, leader of the first overland expedition from Sydney to Melbourne.	**Macquarie**	After Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of NSW (1809-21).
Indi	After the aboriginal name for the Murray River.	**Makin**	After Norman Makin, member for Hindmarsh, Sturt and Bonython (1919-46, 1954-63), Speaker (1929-32) and Ambassador to Washington (1946-51).
Isaacs	After Sir Isaac Isaacs, one of the authors of the constitution, MP (1901-06), High Court Judge (1906-30), Chief Justice (1930-31) and the first Australian-born Governor General (1931-36).	**Mallee**	After the local Aboriginal name for the dwarf eucalypts that grow widely in this region.
Jagajaga	After the aboriginal elder who signed over the northern edge of Port Phillip Bay to John Batman.	**Maranoa**	After the aboriginal name for a local river. Possibly a corruption of the Mandandanji words mara 'duck' and ngoa 'egg'.
Kennedy	After Edmund Kennedy, an early explorer of Cape York.	**Maribyrnong**	After the Aboriginal name for the local tributary of the Yarra River.
Kingston	After Charles Kingston, the reforming Premier of South Australia and leader of the Federation movement in the state.	**Mayo**	After Helen Mayo, founder of the Mothers and Babies Association, and the first woman elected to an Australian University Council.
Kooyong	After a local suburb. The name derived from an aboriginal reputedly word meaning 'camp' or 'resting place'.	**McEwen**	After Sir John McEwen, Country Party leader (1958-71) and Prime Minister for three weeks following the disappearance of Harold Holt in 1966.
Kingsford Smith	After pioneer aviator, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith.	**McMahon**	After Sir William McMahon, MHR for Lowe (1949-82), Treasurer (1966-69), Minister for Foreign Affairs (1969-71) and Prime Minister (1971-72).
La Trobe	After Victoria's first Governor, Charles La Trobe.	**McMillan**	After Angus McMillan, a pioneer and explorer of the Gippsland region.
Lalor	After Peter Lalor, leader of the 1854 Eureka Stockade rebellion.	**Menzies**	After Sir Robert Menzies, Australia's longest serving Prime Minister and founder of the modern Liberal Party.
Leichardt	After explorer Ludwig Leichhardt who disappeared while attempting to cross the continent in 1848.	**Mitchell**	After Sir Thomas Mitchell, a noted early explorer and surveyor.
Lilley	After Sir Charles Lilley, a former Premier and Chief Justice of Queensland.	**Moncrieff**	After light opera and musical comedy singer, Gladys Moncrieff.
Lindsay	After writer and artist Norman Lindsay.	**Moore**	After George Moore, Western Australia's first Advocate-General.
Lingiari	After Vincent Lingiari (OAM). A Gurindji stockman from the Victoria River district, Lingiari led a walk-off of about 200 Aboriginal stockman and their families from Wave Hill Station in 1966, leading to the establishment of the Wattie Creek Aboriginal community. His efforts for land rights led to the grant of 3,200 sq. km around Wattie Creek in 1975, a ceremony famous for Gough Whitlam pouring sand from the land into the now blind Lingiari's hands.	**O'Connor**	After Charles O'Connor, Western Australia's first Chief Engineer.
		Oxley	After colonial explorer and surveyor, John Oxley.
		Page	After Earl Page, former Country Party Leader and briefly Australia's 11th Prime Minister after the death of Joe Lyons in 1939.
		Parkes	After five times Premier of NSW Sir Henry Parkes, whose 1889 Tenterfield address has generally been credited with re-igniting the Federation debate.
Longman	After Mrs Irene Longman, who was the first woman elected to the Queensland Parliament, holding the seat of Bulimba (1929-32).	**Paterson**	After poet and author, Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson. However, there is some dispute that the seat may have originally been named after Colonel William Paterson, an early explorer of the Hunter region.
Lyne	After Sir William Lyne, NSW Premier at the time of Federation and a member of the first Federal Cabinet.		
Lyons	After Joe Lyons, Premier of Tasmania (1923-28) and Prime Minister of Australia (1932-39).		
Macarthur	After John Macarthur, an influential early settler and founder of the merino wool industry.	**Pearce**	After Sir George Pearce, the Parliament's longest serving Senator, representing WA (1901-36).
Mackellar	After poet Dorothea Mackellar.		

Petrie	After Andrew Petrie, the first free settler in Brisbane.
Rankin	After Dame Annabelle Rankin, Australia's first female Commonwealth Minister with departmental responsibility.
Reid	After Australia's fourth Prime Minister Sir George Reid, who was also a reforming Premier of NSW (1894-99).
Roberston	After Sir John Robertson, five times Premier of NSW (between 1860 & 1886) and the champion of land reform in the early period After self-government in 1856.
Ryan	After T.J. Ryan, Labor Premier of Queensland (1915-19).
Scullin	After former Labor Leader James Scullin, who served as Prime Minister (1929-32).
Shortland	After Lieutenant John Shortland, the first European to discover the Hunter River.
Solomon	After Vaiben Louis Solomon, who has been described as the Northern Territory's founding father of Federation.
Stirling	After Sir James Stirling, the first governor of the Swan River Colony.
Sturt	After explorer Charles Sturt, the early explorer of the Murray River.
Tangney	After Dame Dorothy Tangney, the first woman elected to the Senate, representing Labor (1943-68).
Throsby	After Charles Throsby, a local pioneer and early settler in the Illawarra district.
Wakefield	After Edward Gibbon Wakefield, whose ideas for the ideal structure of a colonial society were the basis for the colonisation of South Australia.
Wannon	After the Wannon River which was named by Major Mitchell in 1836.

Watson	After John Christian (Chris) Watson, Australia's third and Labor's first Prime Minister, serving in office from April to August 1904.
Wentworth	After William Charles Wentworth. In company with Blaxland and Lawson, Wentworth was the first recorded European to cross the Blue Mountains in 1813.
Werriwa	After the local aboriginal name for Lake George near Canberra.
Wills	After explorer William John Wills, of Burke and Wills fame.
Wright	After the poet Judith Wright.

The following four tables show the results of an analysis I conducted on the meaning and origin of all 150 electorate names. The first table shows how many electorate names are eponymous and locational; the second, how many names are Indigenous (not nearly enough in my opinion); the third, position held in society; and the fourth, how many are named after women (again, not nearly enough).

Electorate name	Frequency	Percent
Eponymous	112	75
Locational	38	25

Indigenous vs non-Indigenous electorate names	Frequency	Percent
Indigenous	19	13
Introduced	131	87

Eponymous electorates by position held in society	Frequency	Percent
Politician	59	53
Explorer	23	20
Artist/Writer/Singer etc.	10	9
Other	20	18

Eponymous electorates by gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	96	86
Female	15	13
Family	1	1

So, the next time you vote or listen to Parliament on the radio, you will be better informed as to the meaning of your Federal Electorate.

Notes:

[1] Australian Electoral Commission, *Election 2010: Index to current electoral division profiles & maps*. http://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/index.htm (accessed 26 August, 2010)

[2] ABC, *Federal Electorate Guide.* http://www.abc.net.au/elections/federal/2010/guide/electorateresults.htm (accessed 26 August, 2010)

AWARDS

MURRAY CHAPMAN AWARD

for Research into Aboriginal Placenames

The Geographical Names Board of NSW has approved a $5000 award in 2011 for research into Aboriginal placenames, to honour the memory of Murray Chapman, a Yuwalaraay man who was a member of the Board and a champion of Aboriginal languages. Researchers are invited to submit papers, not previously published or accepted for publication, of up to 5000 words. The Board is interested in contributions which add to the knowledge base of Aboriginal placenames in NSW.

The authors of the winning paper and of other papers deemed to be of high quality will be asked to submit their work for inclusion in the proposed third volume, to be edited by Luise Hercus, Ian Clark et al., of an ANU E Press series on Aboriginal toponymy. (The earlier volumes were *The Land is a Map* and *Aboriginal Placenames*.)

Placenames Australia

THE PLACENAMES AUSTRALIA AWARD

for Research in Australian Toponymy

Placenames Australia has approved a $1000 award in 2011 for Australian research in toponymy. Researchers are invited to submit papers, not previously published or accepted for publication, of up to 5000 words. Community groups, students, and early-career researchers are particularly encouraged to submit their work.

Papers for either award should be submitted by 30 September 2011 to:

> The Secretary
> Geographical Names Board of NSW
> PO Box 143
> Bathurst NSW 2795
> Email: GNB@lpma.nsw.gov.au

Notes on Jindabyne

– Keith Collicoat

Jindabyne (elevation 930m) is situated in the Snowy Mountains of NSW. It is the largest town in the Snowy River Shire with a population of about 3500, but this number increases dramatically during winter with an influx of skiers.

The original township of Jindabyne, on the eastern side of The Snowy River, is now under the waters of Lake Jindabyne. It had its beginnings as a stock crossing (circa 1837); a flour mill was established, on the river, by Mr. Stewart Ryrie (junior) and Mr. William Jardine in 1847. Two short historic films give a nostalgic view of the old township before it was submerged as a result of the Snowy River Scheme:

http://aso.gov.au/titles/sponsored-films/snowy-hydro-jindabyne-story/clip1

http://aso.gov.au/titles/sponsored-films/snowy-hydro-jindabyne-story/clip2

The new township was opened by the Governor of NSW, Lieut. General Sir Eric Woodward, on 19th December 1964. A Sydney contractor carried out the delicate shifting of 94 graves from the old to the new cemetery. The transition from old town to new town is documented in a third short film, at:

http://aso.gov.au/titles/sponsored-films/snowy-hydro-jindabyne-story/clip3

As with many places in Australia Jindabyne takes its name from an Aboriginal word, which in this case is thought to mean 'a valley'. The name has been spelled in various ways over time; John Lambie, during his census tour on November 1, 1839, recorded Badgery Station as 'Genderbine'. Three months later in February 1840, Stewart Ryrie, while mapping the Monaro, called it Jinderbine. Today, a hill about 4 kilometres north-east of Jindabyne is known as Jinderboine Hill, rising about 155 metres from Jinderboine Creek.

The identity of the person who gave Jindabyne its name is a mystery to me at present, which I intend to research further. Some reading which I can recommend to those interested in the history of the Monaro (and the Snowy Mountains in particular) is listed below.

Back to Cooma (1926) compiled by the 'Back to Cooma' Executive Committee.

Discovering Monaro (1972) by W. K. Hancock.

Dr. John Lhotsky (2009) by John S. Trengove.

Earliest Monaro and Burragorang 1790 to 1840 (1998) by Alan E.J. Andrews.

Maneroo Backtrack (2007) by John S. Trengove.

Snowy Saga (1960) by Oswald Ziegler.

Broome and Cable Beach

– Dale Lehner

Broome, Western Australia
Photo: Brian Lehner

Although some interest in settling the Roebuck Bay district came from pastoralists in the 1860s, it was not until the 1870s that a port to service the new pearling industry was established. 'By the early 1880s a straggling collection of huts, sheds and luggers could be found at Roebuck Bay. In 1883, the growing shanty town was gazetted and named in honour of the new Governor of Western Australia, Sir Frederick Napier Broome (1842-1896).[1]

Broome had become a career colonial administrator after farming in New Zealand as a young man. On his return to England, he had worked as a journalist. His first colonial appointment was to Natal in 1875 followed by Mauritius in 1878. There Broome attracted notice for his prompt action in sending almost his entire garrison to aid Lord Chelmsford at a critical time during the Zulu war. In 1883, he was offered the governorship of Western Australia, considered an attractive appointment due to the salubrious climate. There he served for six years raising funds for public works and striving for self-government for the colony. He received a knighthood in 1885. Disputes with his senior officials tarnished Broome's reputation in the Colonial Office. His term was not extended and he departed for Barbados in 1890.[2]

'The first town building lots were sold in 1886 and from the 1890s more permanent structures were constructed as the demand for pearl shell grew.'[3] A boost for the town was the construction of a submarine cable from Java to Broome in 1889, which made international communications available. This is the cable from which the world-renowned Cable Beach takes its name.

Broome is still the centre for a thriving pearl industry and a popular tourist destination due to the beauty of the coastline and the town's proximity to the Kimberley district.

Footnotes

1   Broome Historical Society, *Broome Historical Trail*. n.d. , p.2

2   F.K. Crowley, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Online Edition

3   Broom Historical Society, op.cit., p.3

OUT AND ABOUT

Hot Town Named by Mistake

– Joyce Miles

A jasper deposit at Marble Bar
Photo: courtesy of Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The record for the hottest town in Australia is claimed by Marble Bar in the Pilbara region. In the period October l923 to April l924 temperatures reached more than 37.8 (100°F) on 160 days. Nearby is a locality ironically known as North Pole, presumably on account of the very high temperatures in the area which in January can soar to over 49°C (120°F). Marble Bar, an isolated, once prosperous gold mining town, lies 1476 km north-east of Perth. It now has a very small population, although a mine to the south of the town is still operative. Officially gazetted in 1893, it was named on account of a bar thought to be marble which runs across the Coongan River six kilometres from the town. Unfortunately the marble bar turned out to be jasper. But the name remains.[1]

The town has been immortalised in the very funny (but, sadly, little-known) poem:

The Man from Marble Bar
by Victor Courtney

Satan sat by the fires of Hell
As from endless time he's sat,
And he sniffed great draughts of the brimstone's smell
That came as the tongue-flames spat;

Then all at once the devil looked stern
For there in the depths of Hell
Was a fellow whom never a flame could burn
Or goad to an anguished yell;

So Satan stalked to the lonely scene
And growled with a stormy brow,
'Now, stranger, tell me what does this mean?
You should be well scorched by now.'

But the chappie replied with a laugh quite new;
'This place is too cold by far
Just chuck on an extra log or two
I'VE COME IN FROM MARBLE BAR!

From 'Margins: a west coast selection 1829-1988'
Reproduced by courtesy of Fremantle Press.

Reference

[1] http://enc.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble_Bar,_Western_Australia

*Marble Bar
1898*

Placenames Puzzle Number 37

"One More River……"
The clues reveal some river placenames (disregard spelling)
E.g. (NSW) Governor of NSW 1810-1821………Macquarie River

1. (WA) He was great around 330BC
2. (WA) Was this pop group inspired by Napoleon's defeat in l8l5?
3. (WA) Norman who sells furniture
4. (WA) The most defended part of a castle – used as a fortress
5. (WA) Where the sower went to sow
6. (WA) First name of the mutineer who seized command of the Bounty
7. (VIC) They are used for baking, roasting etc.
8. (QLD) Miss Liddell who had a close encounter with a mirror
9. (QLD) With Matheson, he founded a tea trading company in Canton in 1832
10. (QLD) Only son of Abraham and father of Jacob and Esau
11. (SA) State politician famous for simplifying laws of land ownership
12. (SA) The brigade that charged
13. (NT) Falls on the River Zambezi in Southern Africa
14. (NSW) Grace, the lighthouse keeper's daughter who rescued shipwrecked sailors
15. (NSW) The State in which the Pied Piper performed
16. (NSW) Charon the ferryman's mythological river in the underworld
17. (NSW) UK seaside town in the vicinity of Senlac Hill
18. (NSW) Scottish wool cloth ideal for men's thick jackets
19. (NSW/WA) No doubt he was also a gatherer
20. (NSW/VIC/WA) Did Shakespeare gaze upon its waters?

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Answers: 1. Alexander 2. Abba 3. Harvey 4. Keep 5. Forth 6. Fletcher 7. Ovens 8. Alice 9. Jardine 10. Isaac 11. Torrens 12. Light 13. Victoria 14. Darling 15. Brunswick 16. Styx 17. Hastings 18. Tweed 19. Hunter 20. Avon

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Dr Jan Tent, *Placenames Australia*
Linguistics Department
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY NSW 2109
Fax: (02) 9850 9199 Email: director@anps.org.au

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Contributions

Contributions for *Placenames Australia* are welcome.
Please send all contributions to the Editor,
by email: editor@anps.org.au
Electronic submissions and photographic or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.
Closing dates for submission are:

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