A Hundred Years of Change

A Namescape of Melbourne—Part II

We all know that placenames contain 'a wealth of historical, cultural, and linguistic information' (Tent and Slatyer 5), thus preserving a good deal of a place's history. However when a placename is, for whatever reason, not used anymore and is replaced by another, this information tends to fall into oblivion quite easily. When conducting research on Melbourne's city, shire and suburb names in 2008, I looked at such placename alterations. The following should be understood as a representative overview of name changes, rather than as a comprehensive list.

It is well understood that, before colonisation, landscape features were identified by Indigenous toponymic systems. Our present interest, however, is in the habitation features of Melbourne and its suburbs which were given placenames within the Introduced system; and, specifically, in such of those placenames as have undergone changes in Melbourne's history for various reasons. The replacement of the name *Bearbrass* by one commemorating Lord Melbourne is probably the best-known such alteration. Since *Melbourne* was assigned by Governor Bourke in 1837, the unofficial name of *Bearbrass* 'Bare-of-grass', referring to the earlier grasslands in the city, has never been used on any maps (Annear 17).

I found three motivations to change a placename to be predominant. First, the most common reason for a change seems to have been wealthy citizens pleading for a more prestigious name. For example, the locality of *Gardiner* was renamed

A glimpse of Collins St. (photo: OnlyMelbourne)

Malvern in 1878 (Cooper 144). Although Cooper does not list any particular reasons for the change, it is likely that in their petitions, the inhabitants expressed the demand for a more prestigious name[1] and thus chose *Malvern*, deriving its name from the English place near the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire, which also shows similarities in the landscape.

Secondly, lack of localisation and uncertainty of identity in the original name resulted in a certain number of placename changes; the two following examples I found particularly interesting. *Emerald Hill* was changed to *South Melbourne* in 1883. According to U'Ren and Turnbull (147), 'the council was about to raise a loan on the London market and it was fearful that investors would wonder where and what Emerald Hill was.' A possibly apocryphal version of this story also suggests that the 'Emerald' raised connotations of radicalism and Irishness which would not appeal to the London investors. Whatever the reason, it felt that South Melbourne gave the area a clearer identity—if only geographically. Thus the change was intended to lead to a clearer localisation of the name.

The problem of localisation was puzzling Port Melbourne at exactly the same time. *Port Melbourne* had been known as *Liardet's Beach* and *Sandridge* before 1884. In 1838, a certain H. McLean described the area today referred to as Port Melbourne as the 'opposite beach'; this notice was published in explorer John Pascoe Fawkner's *Melbourne Advertiser*. Clearly it had little or no identity at this stage. In the following year, adventurer Wilbraham Frederick Evelyn Liardet arrived at

From the Editor

In the previous issue, we announced that the joint winners of the $5000 Murray Chapman Award for 2011 were David Nash and Jim Wafer. The judges were still deliberating on the $1000 PA Award; we are now able to reveal that this prize was won by Joshua Nash, for his paper 'An Island A Part: Pristine Place-Naming on Dudley Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, South Australia'. Highly commended by the judges was a paper by Robert Wheeler on the name of the Sydney suburb of Elderslie. We're delighted to publish it in this issue, beginning on page 3.

Submissions for the 2012 awards are now invited: see the notice below for the Murray Chapman Award, and on page 7 for the 2012 PA Award.

This issue sees the first of our new regular column *Reports from the Trenches*—this time from the Donald History Group in Victoria. And for light relief, I've brought you some idle vacation thoughts from Mark Oldrey and Jan Tent which just might tempt you to respond (pages 5-6): email me if you can't resist the temptation. And you'll already have noticed the second part of Arne Bölling's article on Melbourne suburb names.

In our June issue, Charles Koch will reveal the story behind the unusual name of Homestead in Queensland; and we'll bring you a brief report from Malvern Historical Society on the spelling of Stonnington.

David Blair
editor@anps.org.au

NSW GOVERNMENT | **Land & Property Information**
Geographical Names Board

Murray Chapman Award 2012

for research into Aboriginal placenames

The Geographical Names Board of NSW is sponsoring a $5000 award in 2012 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 seeking 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 two earlier volumes were *The Land is a Map* and *Aboriginal Placenames*.)

Papers should be submitted by16 April 2012 to:
The Secretary
Geographical Names Board of NSW
PO Box 143
Bathurst NSW 2795

Email: GNB@lpma.nsw.gov.au

Elderslie: a spelling conundrum

Elderslie is the suburb in the Camden (NSW) local government area where I having been living for the past twenty two years.

It took its name from John Oxley's second land grant of 332ha (820 acres) of June 1816, which was adjacent to his first land grant and home, Kirkham, and which fronted the then Cow Pasture Road. However, the name on his land grant was *Ellerslie*. So there were two questions to answer: why the spelling change, and why did John Oxley choose this name?

Well, the first resort was to Google, which revealed that in Scotland the spellings are interchangeable, with the meaning 'field of elder trees'. However, there were no elder trees on Oxley's land grant or nearby.
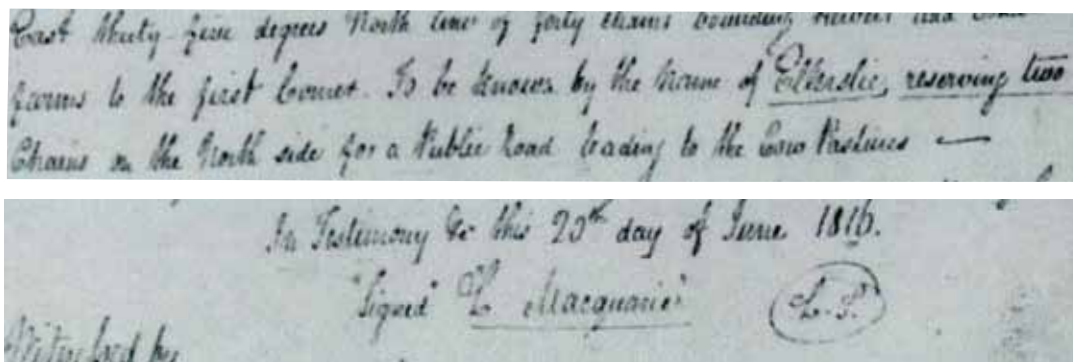
Extract: Governor Macquarie's 'Ellerslie' land grant document

Kirkham Abbey in Yorkshire was the birthplace of John Oxley (born in 1784); but another search of the internet didn't reveal any close association of an Ellerslie where he grew up. It is unlikely that he travelled far from home before his naval career began when he joined the Royal Navy in 1799 at age fifteen, but after this he sailed to the West Indies, Cadiz and Gibraltar and NSW in 1802. He returned to Port Jackson in November 1808 as first lieutenant on the *Porpoise* and returned to England in May 1810 with the ex-Governor Bligh.

Oxley had taken a liking to the Colony after his several visits with the Navy and had obtained an order for a land grant of 243ha (600 acres) near the Nepean River from the Colonial Office. However, during this last visit the acting governor, Lieutenant-Governor William Paterson (filling in between Bligh and Macquarie), gave land grants to the officers of the *Porpoise*. Oxley received 405ha (1,000 acres) in February 1809.

When Governor Macquarie arrived in January 1810 this land grant was cancelled but regranted as 243ha (600 acres) in May 1810 with the name of *Kirkham Park*, in the same area, based on the recommendation from England. This was just as well, because Oxley had purchased stock for his land. Oxley's first land grant eventually was finalised in June 1815, when the revised grant was cancelled and he received the original 405ha (1,000 acres), again in the same area and named this time as *Kirkham*.

Oxley was discharged from the Navy in 1811 when he returned to England. He was appointed as the Colony's Surveyor-General, effective from 1 January 1812, but it was not until 25 October 1812 that he arrived back in NSW to take up his new position.

Further searching on the name of his second land grant revealed that there was an *Elderslie* just outside Glasgow. It was well-known as the family estate of Sir William Wallace, the resistance leader during the Wars of Scottish Independence, remembered in Scotland as a patriot and national hero, today better-known as 'Braveheart'. He defeated an English army at the battle of Stirling Bridge, and became Guardian of Scotland, serving until his defeat at the Battle of Falkirk. Later he was captured near Glasgow and handed over to King Edward 1 of England, who had him executed for treason in 1305.

Again, what was the association with John Oxley? I noticed when researching Sir William Wallace that in 1810 a Miss Jean Porter had written a novel about him called *The Scottish Chiefs: A Romance.* Apparently it was a best seller and has been reprinted many times. A downloaded copy from the Gutenberg Project revealed that on page one Ellerslie was mentioned, and Chapter 3 was entitled 'Ellerslie'.

As John Oxley travelled out from England in 1812 to take up his new job, it was probable that that he had some reading matter, and as Miss Porter's book was new and popular there may have been a copy on board the ship.

I decided to look for a second-hand copy (easier to read) and found one in Goulburn; in fact there were a lot for sale on the internet, especially in America. The edition I bought was published about the 1900s and to my surprise the name *Ellerslie* had become *Elderslie*. The next step was to find a first edition. The Fisher Library at Sydney University had a copy, which would have been the edition that John Oxley may have read on the ship. Ellerslie was used in this original version.

Unfortunately when Oxley died at the early age of 45 in 1828, he was not in a good financial position and the library and the household furniture he had brought out were sold at his townhouse at the corner of Macquarie and King Streets. The house was bought by the Trustees of St James Church. Therefore it isn't possible to trace whether he had a copy of Miss Porter's book.

A variation to the above hypothesis is that the naming of Oxley's

Elderslie (...continued)

second land grant in 1816—much larger than the grants of less than 40ha which were Governor Macquarie's preference—followed the pattern of using placenames to please the 'people of influence', often the Governor and/or the Colonial Office in England.

Governor Macquarie was born on the isle of Ulva, on the west coast of Scotland and spent 33 years in military service, before coming to NSW as governor in 1810. Again, it would be expected that, with the then-recent publication of *The Scottish Chiefs: A Romance* having re-established the hero status of Sir William Wallace, Oxley's use of Wallace's family estate name *Ellerslie* would have won him some favour with the governor of NSW.

Oxley's third land grant of 255ha was located at Appin and was
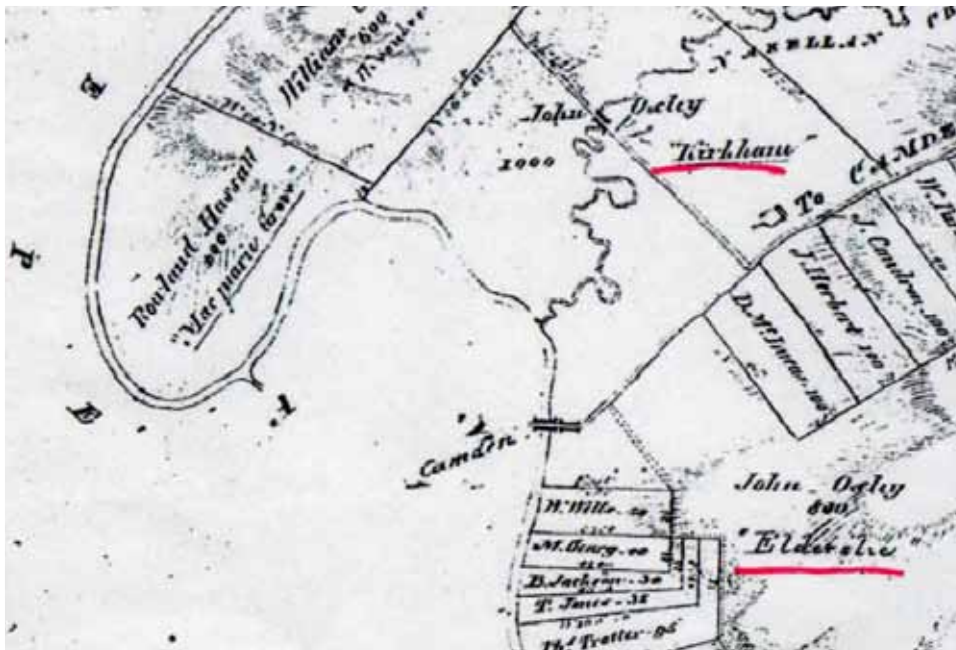
called *Malton*, after a town close to his family home at Kirkham, England.

Two more land grants were given to Oxley in June 1823. He was given 243ha near St Marys, now the suburb Oxley Park, which he called *Bathurst* after the Earl of Bathurst, the Colonial Secretary; and also 971ha at Bowral, which he called *Weston*.

The earliest occurrence of the *Elderslie* spelling that I could find appears in the *Sydney Gazette* on Tuesday 7 April, 1829, where hay was advertised for sale 'at Elderslie, Cowpasture'.

The early maps for this area adjacent to the Cowpastures, to the north of the Nepean River, show both spellings. The *Ellerslie* version would have been taken by the draughtsman from the land grant; but whether the *Elderslie* spelling reflected actual usage (perhaps because it was easier to pronounce) or resulted from the difficulty of distinguishing the letters on the grant document and early plans, is open to conjecture.

However, the earliest map that I could find (the Narellan Parish Plan; see above) is dated 1834 and has used the *Elderslie* spelling.

Although there is as yet no clear and certain derivation of my suburb's name, it is very satisfying that John Oxley has had his naming of his second land grant fixed in our local history. It has also been very gratifying to have had the opportunity to research one of Australia's earliest explorers and senior public servants, who left a significant imprint on our local area and country.

Robert Wheeler

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Dublin Placenames Workshop
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Management and Dissemination of Toponymic Data Online

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Gentilic to*pun*nyms

A light-hearted piece

Whilst on a recent visit to me in Khancoban, my good friend Jan asked what one would call a resident of this beautiful little isolated town—was I a Khancobanite, Khancobanian *or a* Khancobaner *or something else? This soon got us thinking about what one would call people from other Australian towns and cities. Is someone from Perth a* Perthite, *a* Perthonian, *or even a* Perthling *perhaps?*

Mark Oldrey

The name of the kind of noun used to denote a person or inhabitant of a place is known as a demonym (or gentilic) [from ancient Greek δημοσ (*demos* 'populace, country') + 'ονομα (*onoma* 'name'); and from Latin *gentilis* 'belonging to a people, national']. The origin of the term demonym is commonly attributed Paul Dickson (1997), who in turn attributes it to George Scheetz (1988).
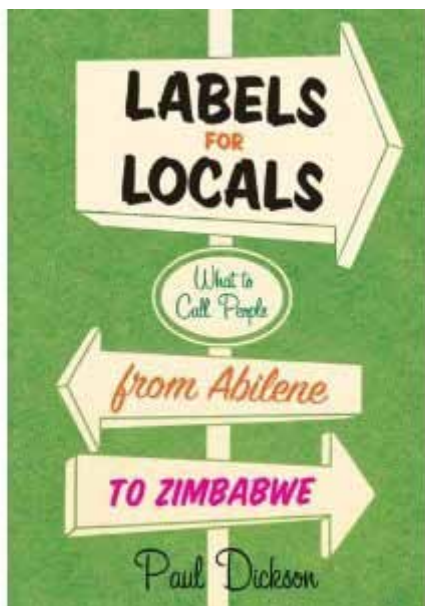
Dickson's Labels for locals*: cover*

Toponymic adjectives like *Viennese, Danish, Florentine, Fijian* are also considered demonyms. Besides having an adjectival function in referring to people from specific places (e.g. *He is a Danish musician, Sitiveni is a Fijian*), they also refer to various other entities and products from specific places. Common examples include breeds of animals, cheeses, wines etc. (e.g. *I love Viennese pastry*, or *Kava is a popular Fijian drink*). Often you cannot use such adjectives as a noun (e.g. *He is a Danish) and therefore they cannot function as names for people from these places (*Fijian* is an exception). In this article, we shall largely restrict ourselves to dealing with demonyms that are nouns that identify people from a specific place.

The designation of a demonym to a group of people can become very contentious. For more than 20 years Fiji has been struggling with what to call its inhabitants. The descendants of the 60,000 indentured labours from India brought to Fiji during the late 19th and early 20th centuries to work on plantations are usually called *Indo-Fijians*. Although this is a contentious term, many indigenous Fijians object to Indo-Fijians being called *Fijians*. This term, according to nationalist indigenous Fijians, should be exclusively reserved for them. *Fiji Islander* is the current uneasy compromise for both. If you go to Fiji, mind how you use the toponymic adjectives *Fiji* and *Fijian*. The former is reserved for anything generically associated with the country as a whole, e.g. the Fiji Parliament, the Fiji climate, the Fiji school system, Fiji English etc. *Fijian*, on the other hand, is used to refer to anything specifically associated with the indigenous people and their culture, e.g. Fijian dancing, Fijian arts and crafts, a Fijian wedding, the Fijian language etc.

English has a number of regular ways to form demonyms, the most common of which is to add a suffix to the toponym. These suffixes are usually modelled after Late Latin, Semitic or Germanic suffixes. Some of the most typical include:

- *-(a)n* (Rome → *Roman*)
- *-ian* (Darwin → *Darwinian*, Australia → *Australian*)
- *-ite* (Camden → *Camdenite*) (mostly for cities)
- *-er* (Sutherland → *Sutherlander*, Zetland → *Zetlander*, Rosehill → *Rosehiller*)
- *-i* (Iraq → *Iraqi*, Bengal → *Bengali*, Israel → *Israeli*) (mostly for Middle Eastern and South Asian places)

There are also irregular forms of demonym, for example, France → *Frenchman*, Netherlands → *Dutchman*, Newcastle → *Novocastrian*, Denmark → *Dane*.

We found that many toponyms don't easily lend themselves to having functional demonyms. Is someone from Brisbane a *Brisbanian* or *Brisbanite*? What is a resident of Roma known as? A *Roman, Romanian, Romarite,* or *Romarian*? Other difficult placenames that come to mind are Ballarat, Hobart, Bendigo, Wangaratta, and Alice Springs. With some, the reason may be that their forms are too complex (i.e. consisting of more than one word) or too awkward to allow an easy transformation into a demonym (e.g. Adamstown Heights, Harvey Bay). For others, it may be because the place and its toponym is not well-known. Notably, Australian toponyms derived from Indigenous languages seem to lack functional demonyms.

Most national toponyms and well-known cities have a clear demonymic form, but this is not always the case, as our uncertainty over Brisbane and Perth shows. Some toponyms have two or more acceptable demonyms. Tasmania comes to mind

Gentilic to*pun*nymics (...continued)

(*Tasmanian* and *Taswegian*), as do *Melbournian/Melburnian* and *Melbournite*, *Sydneyite* and *Sydneysider*. Dictionaries do not always record all the demonyms that we suspect are extant. The *Macquarie Dictionary*, for instance, lists two demonyms for Adelaide (*Adelaidian, Adelaidean*), for Melbourne (*Melburnian, Melbournian*) and for Sydney (*Sydneysider, Sydneyite),* but only one for Brisbane (*Brisbanite*), Canberra (*Canberran*) and Perth (*Perthite*). The *Macquarie* listing seems to favour spelling variants over morphological variation, except for Sydney—and there it omits the variant *Sydneian* (commonly found, for instance, in reference to past pupils of Sydney Grammar School, 'Old Sydneians').
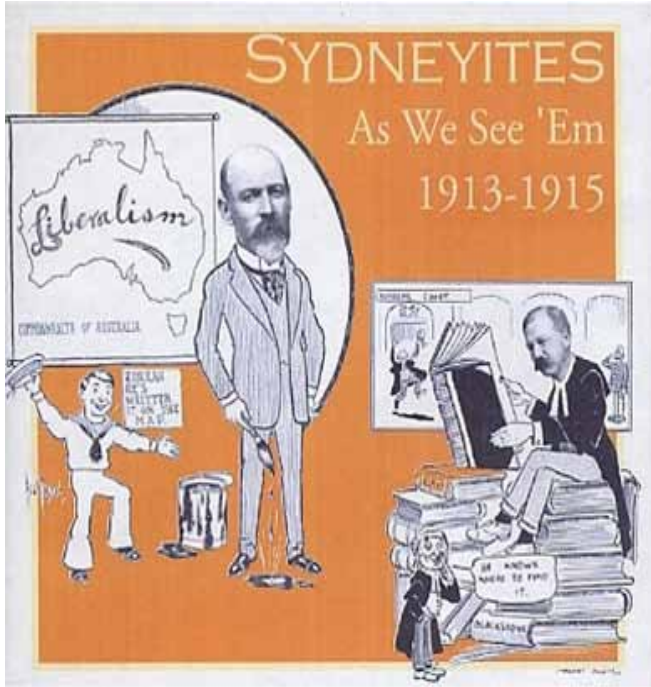
When demonymic variants exist, there is always the possibility that connotative distinctions might arise. A form such as *Melbournian/Melburnian*, for example, appears to have generated a more sophisticated connotation in contrast to its Melbournite counterpart, which seems to connote something less urbane.

Occasionally, demonyms may become toponyms themselves: we have noted previously that Vrilya was a literary demonym that became the toponym for a point on Cape York Peninsula (Tent 6). Demonyms can also give rise to neologisms (new words). The parrot we all know as the rosella derives its name from the demonym Rosehiller. It was at Rose Hill where the early British settlers encountered and named the Eastern Rosella. The hamburger and the frankfurter sausage are two other well-known examples.

Certain demonyms may also become pejorative. For instance, the use of Chinaman and Spaniard is now considered to be politically incorrect. Bohemian, and certainly Philistine, have for a long time been deprecatory labels.

Our discussion in Khankoban moved on to the recreational task of constructing demonyms for places we knew. Many of them were extremely difficult to construct, so we let our imaginations run wild. This led to our forming demonyms that were puns. We like to call them gentilic topunnyms. Here are some of our creations:

- Welaregang → Welaregangster
- Yass → Yassman
- Cobar → Cobarman (masc.), Cobarmaids (fem.)
- Sydney → Sydneyophyte (stess on –neyo)
- Townsville →Townsvillain
- Sandringham → Sandringhamster
- Gundagai → Gundaguy (masc.) Gundagal (fem.)
- Young → Youngster
- Broken Hill → Broken Hillbilly
- Perth → Perthon (as in 'person')
- Malabar → Malabarrister
- Boolooroo → Booloorooster
- Thredbo → Thredbogong (cf. 'bogan'), Thredboster Thredboner
- Whitelaw → Whitelawyer
- Gilgandra → Gilgandragon
- Bredbo → Bredbogan
- Wallup → Walluptite
- Gurrunda → Gurrundaling

We trust that our morphological creativity will amuse rather than offend—but that probably depends on where you live! Perhaps it will be a challenge for readers to continue the process.

Mark Oldrey and Jan Tent

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Eastern Rosella (Platycercus eximius)

Reports from the Trenches

For some time I have intended to give you what is known about the names for local places. We at the Donald History and Natural History Group really enjoy your magazine and have learnt much!

Donald itself is easy. The settlement began to grow from a shanty established on the Richardson River—named, of course, by Major Mitchell for his man who fell into the cold water while crossing the stream near its junction with the Avon River and who accepted this with good humour. (I'm sure you have been told this before. It is in Mitchell's journals.) The growing town was known as *Richardson Bridge*. But the pastoralist/squatter who occupied the land round about was William Donald, and gradually it became known, I'm sure, as *Donald's*. There was no official naming, but *Donald* appeared on a survey map about 1854, and was accepted from there on.

The settlement about 40km south, which was a town before Donald, was Cope Cope, and there have been fanciful stories about it being named from the way horses are called— 'C'up, c'up'—but an aborigine told the anthropologist Aldo Massola that it was because it has a series of lakes where, when it rains enough, the water flows from one to another, finishing up in Lake Cope—now known universally as *Browns Lake* because it is on Browns' property. The aborigine told Massola that it was 'allasame lot of little bottles emptying into one big bottle.' Just recently, when the river came down for the first time in 15 years, this was borne out as the small lakes filled, and then Browns.

Smaller townlets grew up in the surrounding area and most of their names derived from Aboriginal words, or rather what Europeans with various brogues themselves made of Aboriginal words! *Witchipool* was a lovely name; Blake's *Names* says it was named after a plant that grows on top of a hill, but I don't know how Blake's names are authenticated. In any case, the main landowner round the rail station, school and so forth came to be Joseph Litchfield, and it became known as *Litchfield's*, so *Litchfield* it is now. At one stage, there was a move to change it as there was some postal confusion with *Leitchville*. Several suggestions were made, *Papville* being the popular choice, goodness knows why! Fortunately the change did not eventuate.

Corack was the name given by Samuel Craig to his station; Blake says it comes from 'corruk, land' or 'corrak, magpie'.

Wirrumbirchip, according to Blake, was named for the way the track winds between Antwerp and Lake Boga, and means 'the ear'. It was eventually shortened to *Birchip*, and so it remains.

Laen, Blake says, was given to a station by Wedge, and is an Indigenous word for 'good' or 'sweet'. But I often wonder about these; I suspect that Indigenous people did not have names for their places as we do. They would be identified by features of the landscape, and when aborigines were asked 'What name him?' they would not really understand what was wanted. It's much easier for us to accept the origin when a place is named for someone or something European. Like *Sheep Hills*, now only the name of a road—unimaginative, but obvious!

Watchem is still something of a town, between Donald and Birchip, but the meaning of that name is lost.

Keep up the good work; we do enjoy it.

Lilian Kirk
Hon. Archivist, Donald District Archives

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The Placenames Australia Award 2012

The *PA Award* in 2012 will take the form of a

$1000 grant

to support placename research by a History Society or other community organisation.

Placenames Australia will award $1000 to the group submitting the best proposal for original research into the placenames of their area of interest. Applications should state the nature and location of the project and outline the method for completing data collection and processing. It is intended that projects should be completed and written up within 12 months of the granting of the award.

Are you a member of such a group? Encourage your society or association to apply—the closing date for submssions is 1 July 2012. Grant proposals should be sent to the Director of ANPS at Macquarie University, and authorised by the Secretary or other delegated officer of your assocation.

For more information and advice on the form of the submission, contact the President, Dr Dale Lehner, *dalelehner<at>bigpond.*

Sandridge in November. Liardet, sheep farmer and owner of a pastoral property, is generally regarded as the pioneer settler of the area, as U'Ren and Turnbull (10) confirm:

Davis and Storey may have preceded the Liardets but to all intents and purposes it was Liardet who was the real founder of Port Melbourne. A curious mixture of aesthete, entrepreneur and profound failure, Liardet's story in many ways symbolises the future development of the city he founded.

Surveyor William Wedge Darke referred to the area by the descriptive *Sandridge* in 1839 to mark the high sand ridges which he had found by the beach. During that time, the appellation *Liardet's Beach* was used; however, it did not last very long as *Sandridge* was soon adopted and used until 1884.

Ultimately, several factors contributed to changing the name from *Sandridge* to *Port Melbourne*. The first, paradoxically, was the fact that Port Melbourne was not becoming the port of Melbourne. The imminent construction of the Coode Canal and the plan to build river docks made it clear that the port's centre of gravity was shifting away from Port. The people and council of the borough were unwilling to accept this development and fought to maintain Port's status—obviously for the desire to build up an area of economic power as well as a good deal of sentimentality: they still dreamed of Port Melbourne being the front door of Melbourne and Victoria, even when it was clear that it was becoming very much the back door. The name change therefore is a defiant reassertion of the residents to represent Port. Although many residents found *Sandridge* to be an attractive name, it was generally agreed upon that the name of *Port Melbourne* was 'more suggestive of the locality than the previous one', as later Town Clerk E.C. Crockford put it (*The Argus* 6); moreover, people did not have any difficulties localising it.

So exactly the same argument as applied in the Emerald Hill case was used in Port Melbourne, and in December 1883 the Sandridge Borough Council disappeared, to re-emerge in January 1884 as the Port Melbourne Borough Council. The move obviously had popular support, since almost everybody began to use it immediately and nearly all the Sandridge clubs, societies and organisations immediately re-titled themselves (U'ren and Turnbull 147).

Thirdly, official placename changes were often made in order to attract visitors to the area. The area known as *South Yan Yean* until 1889, and later as *Plenty* or *Morang*, was altered to the Indigenous word *Mernda* 'earth' in 1900. According to Brown-May and Swain (474), the name change was accepted 'to capitalise on tourism.'

So residents' aspirations thus led to a number of name changes. These were not the only reasons, however. Other areas were renamed because the original name had become inappropriate as the size of the settlement had expanded: *Two-Acre Village*,

comprising roughly eight square kilometres, was altered to *Cheltenham* in 1853. Bruton (20) states that the area 'seems to have been more quickly populated than other places around.' Another example is the area known as *Hallam* since 1905. As the result of further settlement, the place formerly referred to as *Eumemmerring* or *Hallam's Road* increased in size; the earlier names, referring to geographically limited spaces, became obsolete.

All of the changes mentioned so far resulted in English-based toponyms, whether or not the original form came from English or from and Indigenous language. Just occasionally, an English-based name was changed to one taken from an Indigenous language, as with *Nunawading*,[2] which had been named *Tunstall* first and was renamed in 1945. Barnes (60) attributes the change to a certain Mrs. Weber, 'member of the Legislative Assembly for the district.' Further, Indigenous words were used for places originally bearing English names in *Yellingbo*, known as *Parslow's Bridge* until the 1940s, and *Cardinia*, formerly *South Pakenham* until 1838. However, neither Coulson (235), dealing with Yellingbo, nor Williams (4), summarising Cardinia's history, were able to identify the reasons for the changes.

Date of change	Earlier name	Present name
1863	*Yankee Jim's* (Blake 1977: 273)	*Warburton*
1878	*Gardiner* (Saxton 1907: 44)	*Malvern*
1884	*Liardet's Beach* (Barnes 1964: 62)	*Port Melbourne*
1907	*Ewart's* (Brown-May/ Swain 2005: 405)	*Launching Place*
1909	*Quigley's Siding* (Blake 1977: 122)	*Hillside*
1920s	*Barker's Hill* (Barnes 1964: 77)	*Notting Hill*
1930s	*Crouch's Beach* (Brown-May/Swain 2005: 762)	*Warneet*
1940s	*Parslow's Bridge* (Coulson 1959: 235)	*Yellingbo*
1950s	*Hobson's Flats* (Clark/ Heydon 2002: 77)	*Dromana*
1960	*King's Creek* (Rogers 1980: 77)	*Hastings*

Another change resulted in the German name of *Heidelberg*. Uniquely, this change from *Warringal*[3] to *Heidelberg* was not a result of giving way to the residents' pleading for a change; it merely reflects Richard Henry Browne's enthusiasm for the German town,[4] and his fond memories of his visit to the Neckar region (Kenyon 15). Kenyon further states (13) that none of the names of the area's former divisions, i.e. *Warringal, Jika Jika, Keelbundoora, Morang, Nillumbik* and *Greensborough*, was

...Melbourne's Namescape

appropriate to name an area of 30,000 acres.

It is notable that many of the name changes were for places formerly honouring early settlers, for whatever reason. The table on the previous page lists ten such places that were renamed in the 100-year period before 1960, including some that we have already mentioned.

One effect of such name changing, of course, was that some places were known by two names for some time. For example, although the name of the present-day suburb of *St Andrews* came into use in 1854 (Brown-May and Swain 630), its earlier name of *Queenstown* did not fall totally out of use until the late 1880s (Mortimer 20).

Arne Bölling

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Flinders St Station (photo: OnlyMelbourne)

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Endnotes

[1] The demand for a more prestigious name evokes a number of questions: how can we measure 'prestige'? Do people feel ashamed of living in areas with lower socioeconomic status? Do areas with a higher socioeconomic status generally bear more prestigious names?

[2] According to Brown-May and Swain (513), the meanings of 'meeting place', 'battlefield' and 'ceremonial ground' have been established.

[3] Barnes (43), referring to O'Callaghan (53), translates *Warringal* as 'Eagle's Nest'.

[4] According to Kenyon (15), Browne, being reminded by the similar scenery, spoke of the Neckar region as an 'exquisite green valley' with his 'ever remembered, ever regretted Heidelberg.'

Out & About...

with Joyce Miles

Circling round the South West (Part II)

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.

Greenbushes

Since February 1900 the township of Greenbushes had operated as a separate Road Board District from that of Bridgetown, but in July 1970 the two townships were amalgamated to form the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. Greenbushes is the only mining town in the high rainfall forest areas. In l886 tin was discovered in the area. An influx of prospectors with needs for goods and services led to the establishment of the township of Greenbushes.[1] The name originated from a watering place on a track which was built in 1861 from Bunbury to Bridgetown. According to local records, this watering place was exceptional because of its 'green bushes that always retained an inviting shade of green'. As the name was so widely used it was retained when the town was named.[2]

Sources

[1] Record Keeping Plan, Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

[2] Op .cit.

Augusta—named after whom?

At the south-western tip of Western Australia where the Blackwood River meets the southern Ocean is Augusta, the state's third oldest European settlement. In 1830 new settlers arriving in Fremantle had hoped to take up land near the Swan River colony but were persuaded by the Lieutenant-Governor, James Stirling, to move south to land near Cape Leeuwin.[1] According to a Government Notice, on the 29th of April 1830 the Lieut. Governor, accompanied by Captain Currie, embarked on board the *Emily Taylor* and sailed for Cape Leeuwin. On arrival a number of excursions were made 'to ascertain the nature of the shores of the Inlet to the NW'. The position finally chosen for the new town 'possesses the advantages of excellent soil, plenty of good water, a pleasant aspect, and east access in moderate weather to the anchorage and to the interior country'.[2] Some thirty settlers, including Captain John Molloy, a man of vast military experience, landed at the site of the new town which had been chosen by the Lieutenant Governor. Stirling named the settlement Augusta in May 1830 and appointed Captain Molloy Government Resident and Resident Magistrate.[3]

But why did Stirling choose the name Augusta? On his previous travels he had frequently named places after people he knew—Point Belches after a member of his party, Point Frazer after his botanist, Mount Eliza after Governor Darling's wife, his hostess while he was in Sydney, Ellenbrook—a small brook named after his wife, Cockburn Sound named to honour his Patron. Other places he named after Government officials; for example, Melville Water after Lord Melville who was at the time First Lord of the Admiralty, and Canning River after the then British Prime Minister.[4]

Augusta has been popular as a colonial placename for over 275 years and today in the USA there are more than a dozen towns so named, several taking their name from Augusta in Georgia, which was named by its founder, General James Oglethorpe, in 1735. But there was a very good reason for his choice. He was the representative of King George II to the American colonies and Augusta was Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, Princess of Wales, the King's daughter-in-law and mother of King George III.[5]

Until 2003 it had been assumed that Stirling had chosen the name Augusta to honour the 68-year old unmarried Princess Augusta Sophia, the second daughter of King George III and Queen Charlotte.[6] But there is now another suggestion for the name's origin. One of the three early settlers, and the most prosperous, was an agriculturist named James Woodward Turner. In a letter dated 28th August, 1830, to his eldest brother George Turner who resided in London, he says '... a town is purported to be built named Augusta, County of Sussex, in compliment to the Duke of Sussex'.[7] This is somewhat ambiguous. Extensive research has not revealed whether the town and the county were named at the same time, but according to Landgate, Sussex was one of the original 'Counties' on Roe's 1833 map of the colony and was named after the English County[8]. Therefore it must be supposed that Augusta either refers to the duke's wife (as has been suggested[9]) or is a preferred form of the Duke's name Augustus. The sixth son of George III, Prince Augustus Frederick had been created Duke of Sussex in 1801. He married Lady Augusta Murray, daughter of the fourth Earl of Dunmore in 1793. However, the marriage was annulled as it had not been approved by the King, so it was thereby considered to have contravened the Royal Marriages Act 1772, but the Prince and Lady Augusta continued to live together until 1801.[10] Would Governor Stirling have chosen to honour a lady who was out of favour with the royal family and who had not been living with the Duke for thirty years? Furthermore, she had died two months prior to the naming of the town. Is it just coincidence that this tribute to the Duke of Sussex is in the County of Sussex or was, in fact, the County named for him as well?

A further link with the family of the Duke of Sussex was forged in 1832 when John Molloy, the Government Resident, chose to name streets and surrounding features in Augusta by the names and titles of the Duke's brother, Frederick Augustus, Duke of York.[11]

The names Augustus, August and Augusta had been in the royal

family for generations but since Roman times, towns have been named Augusta rather than Augustus and maybe it was, after all, the Duke who was being honoured.

Sources

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[2] Government Notice – Journal of an excursion to Cape Lewin, April 1830 – Wikisource

[3] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Molloy

[4] Pamela Statham Drew, James Stirling and the Swan River Colony, 2004, pp.13-15

[5] en.wikipedia.org.wiki/Augusta_Georgia#History

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

[7] Tom Turner, Turners of Augusta, 1956, pp.77 and Appendix 'A'.

[8] Landgate, Geonoma database, feature no. 100175426

[9] www.landgate.wa.gov.au/corporate.nsf/web/History+of+Country+Towns+Names

[10] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Augusta_Murray

[11] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Molloy

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Local historians and archivists have a vast reservoir of knowledge about their locality's placenames. We'd like you to share that knowledge with the readers of **Placenames Australia**—send us a report on your area, so that we can run it in our regular column 'Reports from the Trenches'. Long or short, formal or chatty—we'll be delighted to see it. Email to:

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Geographic Names Newsletter

The Office of Geographic Names within Victoria's Department of Sustainability and Environment now produces a regular newsletter. The first issue was published in November 2011, and others will follow quarterly.

We encourage our members to subscribe to the Newsletter, which will provide regular information on current projects in Victoria. Send an email to geo.names@dse.vic.gov.au.

We congratulate the Project Manager of the OGN, Dr Laura Kostanski, on her recent award of a Churchill Fellowship. Laura is now overseas, supported by the Fellowship, researching 'crowd-sourcing' technologies as a way of building better map data systems.

Zzyzx

Surely a contender for the weirdest placename in America is Zzyzx, a settlement in the Mojave Desert of California. At least, we are assured so by Henry Campbell in his book *Whatever Happened to Tanganyika?* (mentioned in our September 2011 issue).

Apparently it's pronounced ZYE-ziks, and was a health resort founded by a radio evangelist named Curtis Howe Springer. Henry Campbell reports that Mr Springer wanted it to be the last word in both luxury and the English language. We imagine that he achieved the latter aim, at least!

Placenames Puzzle Number 41

What We Wear

The clues reveal placenames relating to items of clothing (disregard spelling) e.g. (SA) Gown worn on formal occasions … Robe

1. (VIC) Scarlet; short coat
2. (NT) Usually goes with a collar; fir, pine for example
3. (VIC) Ceremonial headdress of a bishop
4. (VIC) These are worn on wet days (abbr.); a chap (coll.)
5. (VIC) Sleeveless garment, falling over the shoulders; transparent
6. (VIC) Knitted woollen jacket named after an Earl; settlement
7. (QLD) Not short; place in a garment for keeping loose change
8. (SA) Band worn round waist, not off
9. (SA) Knitted woollen hood covering the head, except the face, originally worn by soldiers in the Crimean War
10. (SA) Monk's hooded garment
11. (NSW) A baby's knitted shoe; then another one; NP
12. (NSW) A man's evening dress tie
13. (NSW) Outdoor headgear; honcho/chief
14. (NSW) There's many a one between cup and lip; land surrounded by water
15. (NSW) A sweater; small stream
16. (NSW) Very small skirt or car; constituent of rain
17. (NSW) Shakespeare's 'sixth age' slips into a lean and slippered one; type of window
18. (NSW) Possibly one of London's oldest 'Lane' markets; Mr Jimson of The Horse's Mouth
19. (WA) Cinderella's was a glass one; Rottnest is an example
20. (NSW/TAS/VIC) A Scottish Highlander's cap as part of military dress

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Answers:

1. Red Jacket 2. Ti Tree 3. Mitre 4. Macs Cove 5. Cape Clear 6. Cardigan Village 7. Long Pocket 8. Belton 9. Balaklava 10. Cowell 11. Booti Booti National Park 12. Bow 13. Hat Head 14. Slip Island 15. Jumper Creek 16. Minnie Water 17. Pantaloon Bay 18. Petticoat Gully 19. Slipper Island 20. Glengarry

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