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Placenames Australia

Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey

an initiative of the Australian Academy of Humanities, supported by the Geographical Names Board of NSW

'Mount Cairncross, a remarkable round-topped hill'

On 12 May 1819, while conducting a survey of the Hastings River, Lieutenant Phillip Parker King and Surveyor General John Oxley landed on Little Rawdon Island where, from the edge of the bank,

> *Mount Cairncross, a remarkable round-topped hill which is conspicuously seen from the coast over the entrance of the port, appeared over the next reach, and formed a rich picturesque back-ground for the view.*[1]

This seems to be the first written record of Mount Cairncross and appears in King's *Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia – Performed Between the Years 1818 and 1822*. King also made a painting [right] showing the entrance to Port Macquarie with the hill in the background.

Mount Cairncross lies some twenty four kilometres inland and reaches a height of 536 metres. Although lower than the ranges beyond, it forms the dominant feature on the western skyline and its distinctive shape explains why it is known locally as the 'Sleeping Elephant'.

Unfortunately, King did not say how the hill acquired its name. Few Europeans had come to the area prior to his visit, and although Oxley's party undoubtedly saw the hill as they made their way down the Hastings River in 1818 Oxley did not mention it, nor did it appear on his original map of the area. Before then only James Cook and Matthew Flinders are known to have come close to that part of the coast but neither records the hill in his log. Cook sailed past during the night and could not have seen it, while Flinders wrote only that:

[View of the entrance of] Port Macquarie from the Green Mound *by Phillip Parker King 1819 (State Library of NSW)*

> *The coast from Tacking Point to Smoky Cape is generally low and sandy; but its uniformity is broken at intervals by rocky points, which first appear like islands. Behind them the land is low, but quickly rises to hills of a moderate height; and these being well covered with wood, the country had a pleasant appearance.*[2]

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From the Editor

Dr Tony Dawson is an ANPS Research Friend of long standing. (Readers may recall his profile published in our June 2006 issue.) Tony now lives on the north coast of NSW and we are pleased to have as our lead article his report on Mt Cairncross. You'll also find in this issue the first of a three-part series on Auslan placename signs, by Jane van Roekel and Jan Tent.

In other news, we can tell you that a new on-line magazine contains an article, 'Newcastle dreaming', by our colleague Jim Wafer.

http://www.joomag.com/magazine/keep-newcastle-weird-issue-1-autumn-2013/0914195001376790061

The relevant pages are numbered 116-139, although the website content list indicates that page 126 is the beginning of the article.

Jim also drew our attention to a dual-naming development in Newcastle. The Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee has asked the NSW Geographical Names Board to approve eight dual names for local geographical features. The *Newcastle Herald* reports thus:

http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1799530/aboriginal-names-for-city-landmarks/

We're very much in favour of on-line publishing—we recommend the item below for your consideration, and also draw your attention to the news on page 10 of our ANPS on-line publications.

David Blair
editor@anps.org.au

Flinders' toponyms

Dr Danielle Bréelle, currently a visiting scholar in history at the University of Adelaide, has recently published an article which will be of great interest to our readers. *Matthew Flinders' Australian toponymy and its British connections* has now appeared in the Journal of the Hakluyt Society (November 2013), and is available at

www.hakluyt.com/journal_index.htm

Vale Rupert Gerritsen

We are sad to report the recent death of our valued colleague and contributor Rupert Gerritsen. Rupert's most recent article in *Placenames Australia* was a masterly treatment of the **Point Danger** question in our June 2013 issue. After a brief illness, he died in Canberra in early November 2013.

At the time of his death Rupert was Chair of the Australia on the Map Division of the Australasian Hydrographic Society. He had a long and distinguished career in several disciplines, including indigenous prehistory, ethnography and cartography. In 2007, to recognise his work on Dutch influence in Australian pre-history, he was made a Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau by Queen Beatrice. In 2012, he was awarded the Dorothy Prescott Prize for an outstanding paper 'Getting the strait facts straight' given at the Brisbane International Geospatial Forum.

We express our condolences to his many friends and colleagues, by whom he will be sadly missed.

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Placename signs

No, we don't mean signs such as these. What we have in mind are the name-signs used by the deaf community...

There are three types of placename signs:

- iconic traffic signs indicating the direction to airports, public ammenities, accommodation etc.
- official (and unofficial) road-side signs
- the gestured signs used by the deaf community

We rarely, if ever, consider the latter when discussing placenames. This series of articles will look at the use of placename signs in Auslan, the sign language of the Australian deaf community (the term being a contraction of "**Au**stralian **s**ign **lan**guage").

Auslan's grammar and vocabulary are quite distinct from that of standard written and spoken English. Like the hearing community, the deaf community must also be able to talk about placenames. In bureaucratic societies, placenames are assigned, recorded and controlled by government agencies. Official or gazetted placenames should have standardised spellings, however, there may be regional variations in pronunciation, e.g. *Castlemaine* /kæslmeɪn/ in Victoria and /kaslmeɪn/ in NSW, and *Wauchope* /wɔhəʊp/ (as in "war-hope") in NSW, and /wɔkʌp/ (as in "walk-up") in the Northern Territory. In the Auslan community, there is also variation, but this variation is in the sign-names themselves.

In Auslan, places are given sign-names (a manual symbol) to represent named places. However, not all places with official names will have sign-names because they are only given when there is a need for the deaf community to talk about a named place.

Sign-names can take a variety of forms. Some arise independently from the official name, such as the sign for the Sydney suburb of Stanmore, e.g. **HOTEL**[1] (see Figure 1 below). Deaf people used to meet and socialise at the Stanmore Hotel every Friday night. This salient fact became the sign for the suburb.

Other placename signs make use of the official government name in their formation. Places may be referred to by their initials, such **C-H** for *Coffs Harbour*, or translate the name into Auslan, either literally, as in **BLUE MOUNTAINS**, or as a homonym, as in **BROOM** for *Broome*, WA.

Figure 1: the official Auslan sign for **HOTEL** *is also the sign-name for* Stanmore

Finger-spelling placenames is another option for signers, which consists of spelling out a name letter-by-letter, using the manual alphabet. This is the default method for indicating a placename if the signer does not know a sign for it. Finger-spelling may also be a deliberate choice, if the signer knows a sign, but does not want to use it. Sutton-Spence and Woll (1999) report that British signers often spell a name the first time they mention it, and then give the sign-name. It would be considered rude not to do this, as the conversation partner may not be familiar with

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'Mount Cairncross...

However, a difficulty arising from King's *Narrative* is that it was not published until 1827 and included references to events that took place at Port Macquarie subsequent to his visit. In a similar vein, Mount Cairncross was not shown on the 1822 edition of Oxley's *Chart of Part of the Interior of New South Wales*, appearing only in a later edition of the map containing additions to 1825. It is, therefore, conceivable that the name arose after the establishment of the penal settlement in 1821 when the hill would have become familiar to more people. Nevertheless, in looking for the source of the name the focus must be on King and Oxley.

The only 'Cairncross' with whom King has been found to have had a connection is Jane Cairncross, the wife of Barron Field, a judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Judicature in New South Wales. The Fields arrived in Sydney in February 1817[4] and when King, who was born at Norfolk Island but had spent most of his life in Europe, returned to Australia in September the same year, a friendship developed. King's regard for Barron Field became apparent when, during a voyage along the northern coast of Australia in May 1818, King named the Barron and Field Islands 'after my friend.' [5]

On Christmas Eve 1818 King left Sydney Cove in the

Detail from Oxley's Chart of part of the interior of New South Wales (NLA Maps t939, t940)
Left: 1822 edition *Right: with additions to 1825*

'Cairncross' has its origins in Scotland, and places in Berwickshire and Forfarshire bear the name. As a family name 'Cairncross' has been linked to Forfarshire, especially the Glenesk district, from at least the 14th century,[3] but by the early 19th century it had spread throughout Britain and its colonies.

A limited genealogical investigation of Oxley, a Yorkshireman, and King, whose antecedents were from Cornwall and Devon, failed to reveal anyone named Cairncross in either family. Neither man appears to have had a connection with either Berwickshire or Forfarshire, nor do their naval records, including the ships and places in which they served, throw up the name 'Cairncross'.

Mermaid bound for Van Diemen's Land in order to make a survey of Macquarie Harbour.[6] Also on board were Barron and Jane Field, the judge intending to undertake a court circuit lasting several weeks. Marsden Hordern, King's biographer, observes that King did not mention Jane Field's presence on the *Mermaid*,[7] and that 'it is only from the pens of the gossipy Cunningham [botanist] and Roe [second mate] that we glean the interesting information that the judge was accompanied by "his lady"'. Hordern adds, rather suggestively, that accommodation was limited and that Jane was not the kind of woman 'who would fail to make her mark on male company', quoting a comment from Rose Marie Pinon de Freycinet to the effect that Jane was 'charming...

...A remarkable round-topped hill'

highly educated and knows French literature very well; her appearance is no less pleasing, she is very pretty and has a very pretty foot, as Louis remarks.'[8] Mme de Freycinet was accompanying her husband, Louis de Saulces de Freycinet, captain of the French corvette *L'Uranie*, on a round-the-world voyage and became friendly with Jane while visiting Sydney in 1819.

Hordern, unfortunately, is mistaken, at least on the first count. Jane's presence on the *Mermaid* was reported in both the Sydney and Hobart newspapers,[9] and John Septimus Roe noted that the Fields were attended by a clerk and a male and female servant.[10] So, while not denying Jane's charms, there can be no suggestion of impropriety.

The *Mermaid* arrived back in Sydney in February 1819 and three months later King began an eight-month voyage to survey the eastern and northern Australian coasts. Before leaving, however, he wrote to Captain Freycinet, whom he appears to have known, saying:

> *Should I not have the pleasure of meeting with you during my 2d Voyage which I am about to commence, and in the event of your touching at Port Jackson before my return: Permit me to welcome your arrival by my friend The Honble Mr. Justice Field the Judge of the Supreme Court, a literary man, who will be proud to receive you as a brother & to afford you such information as will be useful & interesting for your pursuit.* [11]

King's account of his subsequent voyage mentions two places called *Cairncross*—Mount Cairncross and Cairncross Island off the Cape York peninsula. Hordern states that King bestowed both 'for the maiden name of the passenger with the "very pretty foot" who had shared their cabin on the way to Hobart Town' but there is nothing in either King's *Narrative* or his log of the *Mermaid* to say that this was the case. Whether King was more forthcoming in his original journal is not known, since copies thought to be held in the State Library of New South Wales and the Admiralty Library in Portsmouth could not be located.[12]

Nevertheless, it is known that King was given to naming places after people. His *Narrative* contains at least 83 instances of this and in 58 of these he gave the reason for choosing the name. Of those left unexplained the origins of some, such as Oxley's Islands and McCluer's Islands (Lieutenant John McCluer was a naval surveyor), are fairly obvious. Less confident explanations might be found for others, such as Sansom's Head (Francis Sansom was a London engraver whose plates included Australian botanical specimens collected by Flinders). However, most of the unexplained names are more obscure and while Lethbridge Bay may be taken to refer to King's own wife, Harriett Lethbridge, and Point Coombe to his mother, Anna Josepha Coombe, Mount Cairncross and Cairncross Island fall into the least certain category.

Yet, if King did not name Mount Cairncross, who did? Oxley can almost certainly be ruled out because the first and only connection between his name and the hill was when it appeared, without comment, on the 1825 edition of his plan of New South Wales.

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Signs of confusion (again)

Dubbo (NSW) is home to a very fine open-range zoo. The welcoming road sign to this rural city does, however, raise at least one interesting question: is there, for instance, any synergy that connects the zoo's animal population and a certain local delicacy?

(Once again, thanks to our eagle-eyed Director, Jan Tent, for spotting this.)

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Mount Cairncross...

View of the entrance to the Hastings River from the southern breakwall. (Photo: Tony Dawson 2013)

Captain Francis Allman, the first commandant at Port Macquarie, can also be tentatively ruled out since no connection can be found between him and the name 'Cairncross' other than that he might have known, or known of, Jane Field.

A possible link could be made to Allman's successor, Captain John Rolland, who assumed command in April 1824 but died unexpectedly in November the same year. He was a member of the Rollands of Auchmithie in Forfarshire[13] but nothing has been found to associate his family with the Cairncross-Glenesk district of Forfarshire. Even so, Rolland was responsible for the discovery of rich agricultural land immediately to the north of Mount Cairncross. This was later named *Rollands Plains* and land at its upper end became *Glenesk*. Yet it still seems unlikely that Rolland was responsible for naming Mount Cairncross because unless he recorded the name very soon after his arrival at Port Macquarie—and there is no evidence of this—there would have been insufficient time for it to have been incorporated into either King's *Narrative* or the edition of Oxley's map on which it first appeared.

Hence, in the absence of contradictory evidence, Hordern's assertion that Mount Cairncross was named by Phillip Parker King for Barron Field's wife, Jane Cairncross, is the most acceptable explanation.

Aboriginal name

It is interesting to observe that while *Mount Cairncross* is the officially registered name of the hill, it has a far more long-standing Aboriginal name, the phonetic form of what is usually written as 'Coolapatamba', though spellings vary. This first came to light in a letter from Draughtsman Frederick D'Arcy to Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell dated 31 August 1830. D'Arcy was assisting Surveyor James Ralfe at the Hastings and was being faithful to Mitchell's instruction to record native names wherever possible. In his letter D'Arcy wrote:

> *As soon as the articles of Field equipment were repaired, I proceded [sic] to trace one of Rawdon Island Creeks (by the Natives called 'Buandingan') which takes its rise from the ranges in the neighbourhood of Cowhoolapatamba.*[14]

The way this is written conveys the impression that the name was already known and used, particularly by Ralfe who had first come to Port Macquarie in 1828. Indeed, the hill was shown as 'Mt Cairn Cross or Coulahpatamba' on Ralfe's and D'Arcy's map of the Hastings[15] produced about 1830.

The native designation was accorded recognition in *The New South Wales Calendar and General Post Office Directory 1832*. Describing the road to Rollands Plains, the directory remarked that 'On the left is a very high mountain, called Mount Cairncross or Coulahpatamboh.' The name, spelt variously, also appeared on early maps of grants in the region as well as on Surveyor General Mitchell's famous 3-sheet map of the colony published in 1834.

Clement Hodgkinson, proceeding up the Wilson River valley in 1845, wrote of 'Mount Caoulapatamba being

...A remarkable round-topped hill'

sufficiently near to enable one to distinguish every tree on its grassy declivities',[16] while Godfrey Mundy, ten years later, reflecting on the Aboriginal tongue, observed that:

> *The language appeared to me soft and full of vowels and liquids ; and is spoken with extreme volubility, especially by the women. Some of the native names of places are grandly sonorous and polysyllabic. It is well when they are retained by the English possessors of the lands, instead of substituting vulgar and unmeaning European titles. Here are a string of names—taken at hazard (that sort of hazard that suits a purpose)—almost as round-sounding as old Homer's muster roll of heroes: Wollondilly, Gĕlong, Bendendera, Coolapatamba, Tangabalanga, Pĕjar, Paramatta, Rhyana. Menangle, Gobberalong, Nandowra, Memendere, Ponkeparinga, Yass, Canadalga, Mŏlong, Karajong, Naradandera, Bong Bong!* [17]

It was not only travellers who liked the name. In 1857, in an article on the marketable value of Australian wines, The Sydney Morning Herald deplored the fact that the 'euphonical native names of our districts, their rivers and mountains, have in too many cases been changed by vulgar caprice. A magnificent hill at the head of the Wilson River, called Coolapatamba by the natives, was named Mount Cairncross by the Government surveyors, and the Cockney corruption of Mount Charing Cross, soon drove the original name out of memory.'[18] The reference to Charing Cross is intriguing but misleading as there is no evidence for it having any bearing on the matter.[19]

Some twenty-five years later, when Mount Cairncross was 'reluctantly given up' as an observation post for the Transit of Venus in 1882 because it was 'some 15 miles from the coast and in summer often surrounded by bush fires',[20] the native name was not mentioned. However, it reappeared the following year, this time with an explanation of its meaning:

> *MOUNT CAIRN CROSS.-This eminence, known also by its native name, 'Koolabatamba,' literally, the place where the eagle drinks, is, says the Manning River Times, a steep peak to the south of the plains, rising to the height of 1,700 feet, from the summit of which a view may be obtained, on a clear day, of Port Macquarie, the Hastings, and the Macleay. At the very top a tiny spring supplies a perpetual fountain with the purest water, and it is from this circumstance that the native name, Koolabatamba is derived.*[21]

Philip Cohen added to the romanticism in a letter to The Sydney Morning Herald in 1890:

> *About 170 miles north of Sydney, and about 12 miles inland, is a large romantic looking round mountain known as 'Mount Cairncross.' At evening time numbers of eagles and great eagle hawks are to be seen wending their way towards the mountain, which is doubtless their night refuge. The native name for it is 'Coulapatamba,' the literal translation of which is 'the eagle's dwelling.'* [22]

That same year a paper on Aboriginal placenames by surveyor Francis Bensen William Woolrych was communicated to the Royal Society of NSW by fellow surveyor John Frederick Mann.[23] In his commentary Mann related the following story:

> *A small party of blacks were, many years ago, encamped in one of the beautiful valleys of the upper M'Leay, the men were away hunting, the camp being in charge of a few women who were attending upon a young mother and her newly born babe; the infant was exposed to the sun upon an opossum cloak, when an eagle swooped down and carried the helpless child away to the summit of some neighbouring cliffs. Some of the men soon returning, at once scaled the precipice, they discovered the remains of the infant, and the eagle, satiated, drinking from a pool of water in the rocks. The remains were collected and buried amidst great lamentation especially on the part of the women. The name given to this water hole on the cliff in consequence of this event was 'Kau-oola-patamba, the place where the eagle drank.'*

In 1898 Mann repeated the story in a letter to The Sydney Morning Herald, adding that it was 'almost a verbatim account as given many years ago to Mr. Surveyor Ralph [sic], who spoke the language of the blacks fluently, and was otherwise conversant with their manners and customs.'[24]

On this occasion Mann was writing in response to an article by 'R.R.G.' entitled 'Christmas on Kosciusko' which had appeared in the Herald a few days earlier and which spoke of a great snowdrift overhanging 'the beautiful Cootapatamba Lake—the "drinking-pool of

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...Mount Cairncross

the eagles," and the highest water in Australia.'[25] Mann was concerned that the name, with the change to only one letter, had been lifted from its original place to be used 'at a far distant point', even though the meaning had not been changed. As he observed, 'Native names are always descriptive, and their retention should be strictly adhered to in preference to the adoption of English names, but in all cases they should be localised, as when made use of at widely separate points their meaning and orthography run the risk of being distorted.'

Mann's letter stirred memories for another correspondent, F. G. Nield, who noted that Coola-patamba, the 'place where the eagles drink' formed 'a prominent feature in the picturesque view to be obtained from the heights of Port Macquarie...'[26]

Later, in 1921, Archibald Meston offered his explanation[27] of the etymology of the name:

> *Coola-patamba, first mentioned by Stutchbury, the geologist, about 1856, and said to be the name of a hill, comes from 'coollah,' in the Wailwoon dialect, a name of the black eagle (aquila audax), 'patamm,' to drink, and the affix 'ba,' nearly always, as an affix, equivalent to our adverb of place, 'there.' The whole word actually meaning 'the eagle drinks there,' or 'the place where the eagles drink.'*

Meston was, of course, mistaken in claiming that Samuel Stutchbury, who arrived in Australia in 1850 in order to make a geological and mineralogical survey of New South Wales, was the first to mention Coolapatamba, and whether or not his etymology is correct may also be open to question, though it seems to be the only one on offer.

Today, sadly, fewer eagles soar over Coolapatamba. Their drinking pool has gone and their wild cries have been drowned out by the continuous electric hum of communication towers. Perhaps, after all, this was what our early European colonists foresaw when they dispensed with Aboriginal names in favour of 'vulgar and unmeaning European titles' which, lacking the romantic allure, often accord more closely with the march of human progress.

Tony Dawson

Endnotes

[1] Phillip Parker King. *Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia – Performed Between the Years 1818 and 1822.* Vol. 1 p.168. London: John Murray, 1847.

[2] Matthew Flinders. *A Voyage to Terra Australis. V*ol. 2 p.3. London: G and W Nicol, 1814.

[3] Arthur Fawthrop Cairncross. *History of a Forfarshire Family. Dundee:* J. Durham & Son Ltd, 1920.

[4] *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser.* 1 March 1817 p.1.

[5] Phillip Parker King. *Narrative,* op. cit.

[6] *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser.* 2 January 1819.

[7] Marsden Hordern. *King of the Australian Coast: The Work of Philip Parker King in the* Mermaid *and* Bathurst *1817-1822.* Melbourne University Press at the Miegunyah Press, 1997.

[8] Marnie Bassett. *Realms and Islands: The World Voyage of Rose de Freycinet in the Corvette Uranie, 1817-1820, from Her Journal and Letters and the Reports of Louis de Saulces de Freycinet, Capitaine de Corvette.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1962.

[9] *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 2 January 1819 and 20 February 1819; *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter.* 2 January 1819 and 13 February 1819.

[10] *John Septimus Roe letters – first major surveys of the Australian coast: the three voyages of the Mermaid 6 August 1818 – 26 February 1821.* Letters dated 7 December 1818 and 16 February 1819 (State Library of New South Wales MLMSS 7964/vol. 4; album online at http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/album/albumView.aspx?acmsID=910903&itemID=981202).

[11] *Phillip Parker King letter book relating to survey voyages around New South Wales, 1817-1823.* Letter dated 26 April 1819 (State Library of NSW MLMSS 4429; transcription online at http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/_transcript/2011/D13569/a4585.htm).

[12] Personal communication from Ms Heather Johnson, Library Assistant, National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth, UK.

[13] John Burke. *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland.* Vol. 3 p.612. London: Henry Colburn, 1836.

[14] Surveyor General: Letters received 1822 – 1855 (State Records NSW ref: 2/1526.2).

[15] Surveyor General: Select list of maps and plans, 1792-1886. Plan of Macquarie District, Map 3813 [State Records NSW NRS13870].

[16] Clement Hodgkinson. *Australia, from Port Macquarie to Moreton Bay.* p.72. London: T. & W. Boone, 1845.

[17] Godfrey Charles Mundy. *Our Antipodes: or, Residence and Rambles the Australasian Colonies with a Glimpse of the Gold Fields.* Vol. 1 p.211. London: Richard Bentley, 1855.

[18] *The Sydney Morning Herald.* 26 January 1857 p.4.

[19] Thomas Jones of Charing Cross was a Mathematical Instrument Maker to the Board of Longitude, and some his instruments were used by the NSW Surveyor General's department. This might explain the allusion.

[20] *The Sydney Morning Herald* 10 November 1882 p.3.

[21] *Illustrated Sydney News* 12 May 1883 p.7.

[22] *The Sydney Morning Herald* 13 May 1890 p.3.

[23] F B W Woolrych. 'Native names of some of the runs &c in the Lachlan District.' *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales,* 24 (1890), 63-70.

[24] *The Sydney Morning Herald.* 19 January 1898 p.5.

[25] *The Sydney Morning Herald.* 15 January 1898 p.4.

[26] *The Sydney Morning Herald.* 25 January 1898 p.3.

[27] *The Sydney Morning Herald.* 9 November 1921 p.16.

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...Placename signs

the sign-name. Some people don't like certain signs and therefore fingerspell the name instead. Cherrybrook can be signed **CHERRY** but many deaf signers feel that there is no real connection between *Cherrybrook* and cherries so it does not make much sense to use that sign. Finger-spelling seems to make more sense, in that instance. Some names, such as *Bega*, are so short it is just as easy to spell them as make a sign for them. Finger-spelling is also used in context for emphasis.

Whether placenames are signed or finger-spelled, the signer will usually mouth the official name at the same time. This helps the audience identify the sign as a name, and helps distinguish between places with similar signs. *Gosford* and *Goulburn* are both signed **G-G**, but the mouthing makes it clear which one is meant.

Variation in Signed Placenames

Sutton-Spence and Woll (1999) report that there is a certain amount of variation in British Sign Language (BSL) name-signs. Places can have more than one name, with different names being used by different groups of people. Deaf people in Bristol sign their city name by the letters **B-L**, whereas signers from other parts of the country use the phonetic analogue **PETROL** or **PISTOL**, which looks similar on the lips. The same phenomenon is true in Auslan.

Placename variation in Auslan can be due to a number of sociolinguistic factors: age, gender, educational background, family background, and region of residence (Johnston and Schembri, 2007). The biggest source of variation is found within the two regional dialects of Auslan; the Northern (employed throughout NSW and Queensland) and the Southern (employed in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania). Each state also has various signs of its own, with different intra state regions having variant sign-names.

Variation in Auslan sign-names can exist at the phonological level, where the signs are essentially the same, but signed slightly differently. This is similar to the different pronunciations for *Castlemaine* in different states. There can also be lexical variants, that is, two completely different signs. Johnston (2003) recorded 1500 phonological variants out of 5,500 signs in his *Dictionary of Australian Sign Language*, and 500 lexical variants suggesting that variation, especially phonological variation, is very common in Auslan. Lucas, Bayley and Valli (2003) found phonological variation in American Sign Language (ASL) to be affected most strongly by the grammatical category of the sign, with nouns and adjectives being the most stable. If Auslan follows a similar pattern, this would suggest that placenames would not show much phonological variation.

To date, no studies have been published on placename signs in Auslan, or indeed any other sign language, except for Paales' study (2010) on Estonian name-signs. The aim of this series of articles, therefore, is to establish some general parameters on how placename signs are used in Australia. This will be achieved by making a preliminary assessment of the amount and kinds of variation that exist. But more on that in the next issue…

Jane van Roekel & Jan Tent

Endnote

[1] We shall follow the convention of identifying sign-names by their English gloss, written in capitals, whilst finger-spelled toponyms are written in capitals with a dash between each letter, e.g. **R-Y-D-E**.

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Lucas, C., R. Bayley, and C. Valli. (2003). *What's Your Sign for PIZZA? An Introduction to Variation in ASL.* Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Paales, Liina (2010) On the System of Place Name Signs in Estonian Sign Language, *Journal of Ethnology and Folkloristics*, 4:2.
(http://www.jef.ee/index.php/journal/article/viewFile/54/pdf_52)

Sutton-Spence, R. and Woll, B. (1999). *The Linguistics of British Sign Language: An Introduction.* Cambridge University Press.

Correction

On page 9 of our December 2013 issue, there were two items omitted from the list of references for Arne Bölling's article 'Writing toponym histories'. The two additonal references are:

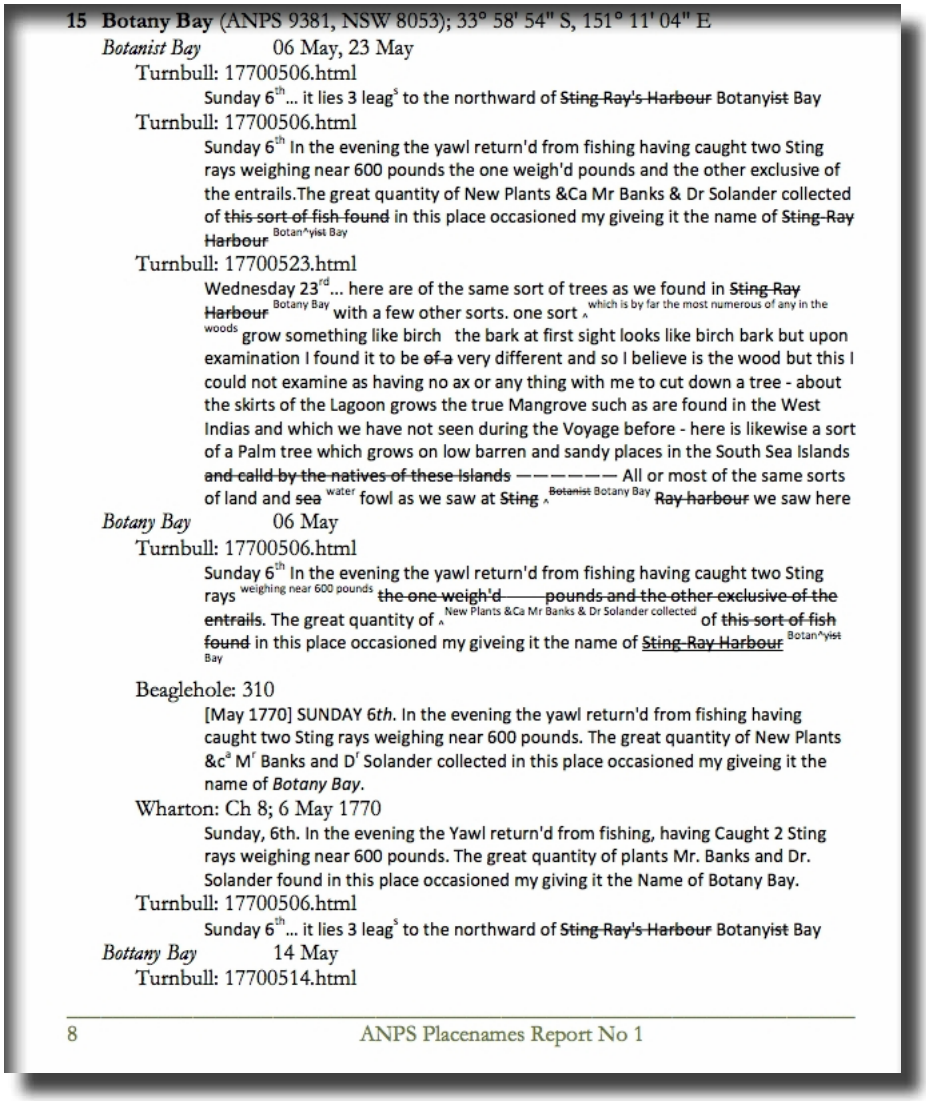
Anderson, Ken. *Sydney's suburbs: how and why they were named.* Kenthurst, NSW: Kangaroo Press, 1989.

McClymont, John. *Pictorial History: Baulkham Hills Shire.* Alexandria, NSW: Kingsclear Books, 2003.

ANPS Placenames Report 1

James Cook's Toponyms

The first e-publication in our new series *ANPS Placenames Reports* is now available. This first Report deals with James Cook's Endeavour voyage along the eastern coast of Australia in 1770, and documents his naming of 122 coastal features.



15 **Botany Bay** (ANPS 9381, NSW 8053); 33° 58' 54" S, 151° 11' 04" E

Botanist Bay 06 May, 23 May

Turnbull: 17700506.html

Sunday 6th... it lies 3 leags to the northward of ~~Sting-Ray's Harbour~~ Botanyist Bay

Turnbull: 17700506.html

Sunday 6th In the evening the yawl return'd from fishing having caught two Sting rays weighing near 600 pounds the one weigh'd pounds and the other exclusive of the entrails.The great quantity of New Plants &Ca Mr Banks & Dr Solander collected of ~~this sort of fish found~~ in this place occasioned my giveing it the name of ~~Sting-Ray Harbour~~ Botan^yist Bay

Turnbull: 17700523.html

Wednesday 23rd... here are of the same sort of trees as we found in ~~Sting Ray Harbour~~ Botany Bay with a few other sorts. one sort ^ which is by far the most numerous of any in the woods grow something like birch the bark at first sight looks like birch bark but upon examination I found it to be ~~of a~~ very different and so I believe is the wood but this I could not examine as having no ax or any thing with me to cut down a tree - about the skirts of the Lagoon grows the true Mangrove such as are found in the West Indias and which we have not seen during the Voyage before - here is likewise a sort of a Palm tree which grows on low barren and sandy places in the South Sea Islands ~~and calld by the natives of these Islands~~ ~~~~~~~~ All or most of the same sorts of land and sea water fowl as we saw at ~~Sting~~ ^ Botanist Botany Bay ~~Ray harbour~~ we saw here

Botany Bay 06 May

Turnbull: 17700506.html

Sunday 6th In the evening the yawl return'd from fishing having caught two Sting rays weighing near 600 pounds ~~the one weigh'd pounds and the other exclusive of the entrails~~. The great quantity of ^ New Plants &Ca Mr Banks & Dr Solander collected of ~~this sort of fish found~~ in this place occasioned my giveing it the name of ~~Sting-Ray Harbour~~ Botan^yist Bay

Beaglehole: 310

[May 1770] SUNDAY 6*th*. In the evening the yawl return'd from fishing having caught two Sting rays weighing near 600 pounds. The great quantity of New Plants &c[a] M[r] Banks and D[r] Solander collected in this place occasioned my giveing it the name of *Botany Bay*.

Wharton: Ch 8; 6 May 1770

Sunday, 6th. In the evening the Yawl return'd from fishing, having Caught 2 Sting rays weighing near 600 pounds. The great quantity of plants Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander found in this place occasioned my giving it the Name of Botany Bay.

Turnbull: 17700506.html

Sunday 6th... it lies 3 leags to the northward of ~~Sting-Ray's Harbour~~ Botanyist Bay

Bottany Bay 14 May

Turnbull: 17700514.html

8 ANPS Placenames Report No 1

Each toponym, from Point Hicks in the south to Endeavour Strait in the north, is supported by citations from Cook's journal or charts. A brief extract from the Report, left, shows entries for the fifteenth feature named, **Botany Bay**.

Copies of this Report can be freely downloaded from our website at:

www.anps.org.au/publications4.html

Our *Technical Reports* are also e-publications and are similarly available for downloading as PDFs.

- No. 1: 'A standard geographic feature catalogue for toponymic research'.
- No. 2: 'Motivations for naming: a toponymic typology'.

How do you say it?

We hear that many of the local inhabitants of **Alstonville** (northern NSW) call their town 'Austinville'. (For those of you who insist on knowing our sources, we acknowledge the inimitable Column 8, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 January 2014.) This reminded us of **Caulfield**, the Melbourne suburb which is almost universally pronounced as 'Cawfield'. (We refer sceptical readers to the *Macquarie Dictionary*, which records only this pronunciation.) And then there's **Cairns**, which in the speech of many sounds as if it's located in the south of France.

There are good phonetic reasons for each of those variant pronunciations which we won't go into here—except to say that the first two toponyms involve tricky consonant sequences which include the notorious /l/, and the third has a rare diphthong + consonant sequence which some speakers have difficulty with. However, they raise an interesting problem for lexicographers and toponymists: when we enter pronunciations in our databases, how assiduous should we be in reporting those less-careful versions of difficult articulatory sequences? Should we report only 'Cawl-field', on the understanding that people will naturally adjust their pronunciation to what is possible for them? or should we report both 'Cawl-field' and 'Caw-field' since both are used and acceptable?

Cape Hawke

Cape Hawke is a headland on the NSW coast, named by James Cook as he sailed northward in the *Endeavour* during his 1770 voyage of discovery. Cook noted in his journal:

> Friday 11th… At 8 oClock we were abreast of a high point of land which made in two hillocks - this point I call'd Cape Hawke Latde 32°..14' So Longde 207°..30 West

In his 1897 edition of Cook's journal, Captain W.J.L. Wharton identified the toponym (no doubt correctly) as a tribute to Admiral Sir Edward Hawke, First Lord of the Admiralty.

The occasion is commemorated in a rather fine plaque at the Cape Hawke Lookout within the Booti Booti National Park. The plaque is fixed within a substantial stone mount; the wording simply reports the fact that Cook named the point, and reveals nothing of the commemorative plaque's origin.

What is intriguing, of course, is the date mentioned on the plaque. It reports that Cook sighted the headland, or at least determined its name, on Saturday 12 May 1770. However, as James Cook's journal makes clear, the *Endeavour* passed the headland at 8 a.m. on Friday 11 May. His journal entry was presumably drafted some time after 12 noon on that day (since Cook was following maritime practice of marking the days from noon to noon rather than from midnight to midnight).

Why this discrepancy, we wonder? Who arranged for the monument to be installed there, and when? And what was the source of the information that led to the incorrect date being embossed?

Placenames Puzzle Number 49

Mining Locations:

The clues reveal placenames of towns where mining is, or has been, carried out. Clues marked with a question mark (?) have a cryptic element. Disregard spelling.

e.g. (QLD) The green gem..... Emerald

1. (WA) A Russian dancer.
2. (NT) Renter's river.
3. (QLD) Roosevelt's Christian name.
4. (VIC) Extra fit?
5. (NSW) Stormy narrow elevation
6. (TAS) Lights in a paddock
7. (SA) This follows the wedding
8. (QLD) On this hill Miss Minnelli is incomplete?
9. (NSW) Loftiest rise
10. (NT) Strong drink in a tropical forest
11. (NT) Native bird
12. (VIC) Alter self?
13. (SA) Metal door accessory
14. (WA) This large hill will attract you
15. (WA) Fresh male?
16. (NSW) Neutral-coloured elevations
17. (WA) Cold sentry No.5 in the alphabet?
18. (QLD) Blue rock
19. (VIC) The value of this tree
20. (WA) A costly cat

Fun with Words Group, Westleigh Probus Club

1. Cossack
2. Tennant Creek
3. Theodore
4. Morwell
5. Lightning Ridge
6. Beaconsfield
7. Honeymoon
8. Mt Isa
9. Peak Hill
10. Rum Jungle
11. Jabiru
12. Bendigo
13. Iron Knob
14. Mt Magnet
15. Newman
16. White Cliffs
17. Coolgardie
18. Sapphire
19. Beechworth
20. Tom Price

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<editor@anps.org.au>
Supporting photographs or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.

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December Issue: 15 October