

MACQUARIE NAMES OUR PLACES

– Joyce Miles



Much has been written, and will continue to be written, about Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821, but to the toponymist he was a gift. He kept meticulous accounts of his journeys both in NSW and Van Diemen's Land, recording the date on which he named a place and, importantly, his reasons for the choice. Many of the chosen names reflected his adoration of his second wife, Elizabeth; many show the regard he had for those accompanying him on extremely hazardous journeys; and other names pay tribute to those to whom he was indebted for support.

This was a time of expansion and exploration led by people such as Evans, Oxley and Blaxland, who accompanied Macquarie on some of his journeys; and the names recorded, along with those given by Macquarie during his eight exploratory tours, reveal the rapid expansion of settlement that was taking place.

Perhaps the most well-known places Macquarie named are the Five Towns whose sites he selected in 1810 on the Hawkesbury River NW of Sydney. They were chosen with a great deal of care for their advantageous positions, considered to be less likely to flood in times of heavy rains. His journal entry for Thursday 6th December, 1810 records exactly why each name was chosen:

'I gave the name of Windsor to the town intended to be erected in the district of the Green Hills... from the similarity of this situation to that of the same name in England; ...I have named Richmond from its beautiful situation....; I have named Castlereagh in honour of Lord Viscount Castlereagh; ...I have named Pitt-Town in honour of the immortal memory of the late great William Pitt, the Minister who originally planned this Colony; and the township on the north or left bank of the Hawkesbury, I have named Wilberforce in honour of and out of respect to the good and virtuous Wm. Wilberforce Esqr. M.P. a true patriot and the real friend of mankind.'

Here we have two of the important sources of naming that have been in constant use over the years: names that are reminders of the UK—the 'home country' for many settlers—and those honouring people in public life who, in many cases, had been instrumental in providing resources for exploration. Macquarie had known Lord Castlereagh, Secretary of State for the Colonies, during one of his periods in England and it was through him that Macquarie obtained the Governorship of NSW.¹

William Wilberforce was the leader of the movement which led to the abolition of the slave trade, and strong influence on Macquarie's attitude to emancipation of the convicts.²

Macquarie's first wife Jane died in Macao in 1796. Eleven years later he married his distant cousin Elizabeth Henrietta Campbell, a relative of the Earl of Breadalbane.³ He was utterly devoted to Elizabeth who must have been a woman of courage as she accompanied her husband on a number of their arduous journeys. On one occasion Macquarie writes 'This day's ride was a very long and fatiguing one for us all, but particularly so for my poor dear Elizabeth, who, however, bore it uncommonly well, notwithstanding she was at least seven hours on horseback and rode not less than thirty miles during this day's excursion'.

BATHURST

A NSW city located about 215 km west of Sydney. Surveyor George Evans camped in the area in 1813 and named it 'Bathurst Plains' in honour of Henry, 3rd Earl Bathurst, who was the Secretary of State for Colonies. Governor Macquarie confirmed *Bathurst* as the name of the future town when he travelled to the area in 1815.

Continued on page three



From the editor . . .

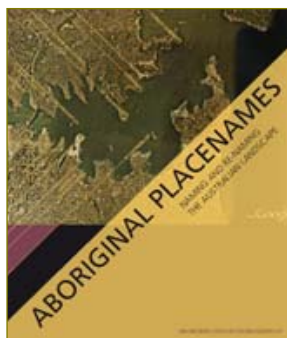
Lachlan Macquarie was sworn in as Governor of New South Wales on New Years Day 1810, and served the colony for over ten years until his resignation in 1821. We recognise the 200th anniversary of his arrival in this issue, and feature a report by Dr Joyce Miles on Macquarie's contribution to the toponymy of Tasmania and NSW.

Next issue: We turn our attention to Western Australia, as Rupert Gerritsen writes for us the story of Eneabba. We also hear again from Jim Wafer--this time on 'fairy' names near Kyogle, NSW.

BOOK LAUNCH



PA committee member Greg Windsor with Kevin Rudd at the launch



Aboriginal Placenames: Naming and re-naming the Australian landscape, edited by Harold Koch and Luise Hercus.

Readers will remember we noted the e-publication of the second volume arising from ANPS workshops on Aboriginal placenames. The book has now gone to print and was launched on 22 May in Canberra by Kevin Rudd.

The launch of the volume has created a great deal of interest—within a few days, Harold Koch had done a dozen radio interviews and four or five news stories had appeared in the Australian media.

The book is available in print for \$29.95, or free online at http://eprint.anu.edu.au/placenames_citation.html.



The contributors and editors meet the press – Luise Hercus and Harold Koch on each side of the PM

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2010 AGM of Placenames Australia will be held:

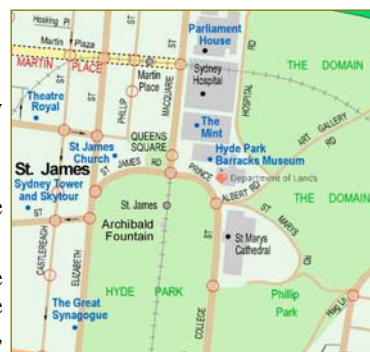
Date: Tuesday 26 October 2010

Time: 4 – 5 pm

Place: Rolleston Room
Land & Property
Management Authority
1 Prince Albert Road,
SYDNEY

All Supporting Members are cordially invited to attend.

Nominations for the Management Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to five other members) are invited. Please email nominations to the Secretary (director@anps.org.au).



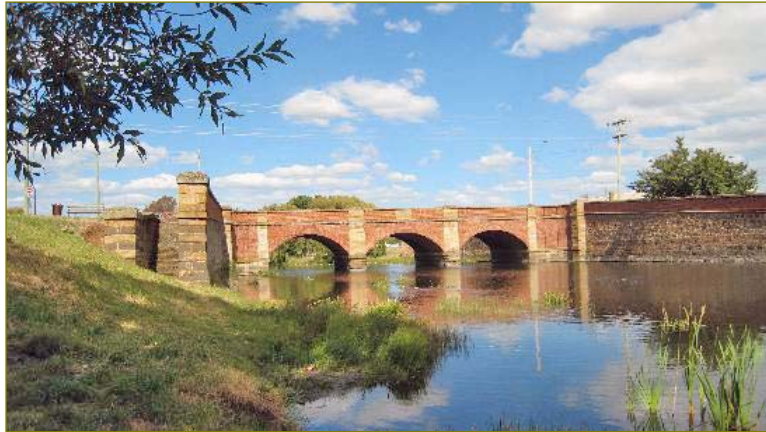
The Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie Archive (LEMA) Project is an electronic gateway aimed at providing a new context for the historical investigation of the lives and times of Lachlan Macquarie and his second wife, Elizabeth.

The project manager and researcher is Mr Robin Walsh of Macquarie University Library.

We thank Robin for reviewing our Macquarie article and for supplying some additional material. We encourage our readers to visit the LEMA material, at <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/digital/lema/>

Continued from page one - Macquarie Names our Places

His Journals make constant reference to ‘my dear Mrs M.’; he drinks a toast to ‘my dearest Elizabeth’ if he is away on their wedding anniversary and when she stays at home writes frequent letters to her and longs for her company. It is therefore not surprising to find Elizabeth’s name and those of her family as a source for a number of place names. On their trip to Van Diemen’s Land in 1811, upon finding a suitable area of land some twenty miles from Hobart, which was well adapted for a township, he determined to establish one for the District of New Norfolk, naming it **Elizabeth Town** ‘in honor of my dear good wife’. The following week they travelled through a broad, fertile and beautiful valley which Macquarie named **Elizabeth Valley**. The Relief Creek he renamed **Elizabeth River** ‘in honor of Mrs. M’. Their journey took them across the barren Salt Pans Plains and they encountered ‘a very beautiful and singular round hill... hitherto called Donn’s Battery’, but again wishing to honour his wife, he changed it to his wife’s second name and it became **Mount Henrietta**. Two days later he named **Henrietta Plains**. On a later journey in April 1815 to what is described as ‘the new discovered country’ to the westward of the Blue Mountains he named **Campbell Valley** from his wife’s maiden name, one that was to appear several times. Others followed: **Campbelltown**, which is now a major suburb to the south-west of Sydney; **Campbell Plains**, described as a very beautiful tract of fine open forest land near Lake Bathurst; and **Campbell Town**, a township which Macquarie established on the north bank of Elizabeth River on his tour to Van Diemen’s Land in 1821. It is no surprise to read that he reached Campbell Town via Henrietta Plains and **Macquarie Plains**.



*Convict bridge over the Elizabeth River,
Campbell Town (Tasmania)*

Elizabeth’s name featured yet again when the Macquaries visited Port Stephens, NSW: for the island at its entrance

MEREDITH, Henrietta Arabella (1774-1825)

Life-long friend and benefactor of Elizabeth Macquarie.

On her death in February 1825, she bequeathed her London home at 58 Upper Charlotte Street near Portland Place, along with various personal effects, to Elizabeth.

he chose **Elizabeth Island**. Had he continued in this vein of honouring his adored Elizabeth there would have been a considerable amount of confusion. However, he resorted to his wife’s esteemed friend Miss Meredith for **Meredith Island**. She featured again in Van Diemen’s Land in **Meredith Forest** (hitherto the Cross Marsh) and **Meredith Peak**, as did another of Mrs Macquarie’s friends Miss Curzon for **Curzon Downs** and **Curzon Peak**. As for his beloved son Lachlan, his name appeared at **Lachlan’s Resting Place**, a spot on the River Tamar in Van Diemen’s Land, where the party, including the six-year old boy, landed for half an hour on a journey by boat to George Town. When Macquarie named Elizabeth Town he christened the nearby rivulet the **Thames**, but ten years later altered this to **Lachlan’s River**. His Journal written on 5 July, 1821 on his second tour to Van Diemen’s Land records that ‘I

have named **Lachlan’s Island**, in honor of our dear boy, and to commemorate his name in this part of the Australian world!’

Not only did Macquarie use the personal names of his family and friends, but he used several Scottish place names with family connections. In the Campbelltown NSW area he chose **Airds** from Elizabeth’s family estate in Scotland, and **Appin** as a reminder of her birthplace. Her cousin was the Earl of Breadalbane—Breadalbane being one of Scotland’s ancient earldoms—and so Macquarie changed Brumby’s Plains in Van Diemen’s Land to **Breadalbane Plains**.⁴ Nine years later he replaced the native name of Mulwarry Plains near Goulburn, NSW, with the name **Breadalbane Plains**.

In 1804 Charles Macquarie, Lachlan’s brother, had acquired Glenforsa, an estate in Scotland, and so it was inevitable that when travelling in Van Diemen’s Land in December 1811 Governor Macquarie should choose **Glenforsa** for one of the places he named and the name of his brother for **Charles Island**.⁴

Having finished his tour of Van Diemen’s Land, the party set sail on 20th December 1811 through Bass’s Straits for Port Stephens to the north of Newcastle. Such were his ties with Scotland that he named the island at the entrance to Port Stephens **Inch Kenneth** from its resemblance to the island of that name in Argyllshire and a river the **Clyde** after the Scottish river Clyde. Before he left Van Diemen’s Land he had changed Cock Pitt Plains into **Argyle Plains**—his

father had been a tenant of the Duke of Argyll (the spelling is slightly different).⁵

When travelling through Camden Valley he named **Corri Linn Cascade** ‘in honor of the Patriot Chief of Scotland, Wm. Wallace’. This presumably is a reference to Corra Linn, one of the Falls of Clyde. Nearby is a cave reputed to have been the hiding place of William Wallace (c.1272-1306), although the cave is now thought to have been formed during the construction of a bridge in more recent times.⁶ **Glencoe** was chosen because Macquarie considered that this stupendous valley reminded him of the Scottish valley within the county of Argyll.

There was, of course, a limit to the number of family names and family connections he could use, and so he turned to royalty. In Van Diemen’s Land he created a new town—**George Town**—which honoured the sovereign who, at the time, was George III; **Lake George**, south-west of Goulburn, honoured the same monarch. In the Bathurst area **Queen Charlotte’s Vale** was dedicated to the King’s wife and **Princess Charlotte’s Valley** to his daughter. On his tour to the Illawarra region in 1822 shortly before returning to England, Macquarie ascended a ‘great mountain’—the high part of the Illawarra coast range behind Bulli—and finding it unnamed, decided upon **Regent Mountain** because, when the explorer Dr Charles Throsby climbed it in 1815, there was a Regent on the throne (as a result of the King’s insanity); from the same source came **The Regent’s Glen**.

Macquarie owed much to the Duke of York. When war broke out again between France and Britain in 1803, the Duke

of York, as commander-in-chief, appointed Macquarie as Assistant Adjutant General of the London district and later promoted him to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the 73rd regiment. The Duke, along with others, supported his application for the post of governor of New South Wales.⁷ One of the most prominent peaks in the Blue Mountains thus became **Mount York**. During his 1811 journey to Van Diemen's Land, having named George Town in honour of the King, Macquarie changed the name of nearby Outer Cove to that of **York Cove** and gave the name **York River** to the rivulet that enters the cove. Some two weeks earlier he had changed Scantling Plains (so called from an outlaw runaway convict having been killed there) to **York Plains**. He then proceeded to Port Stephens, where the bay formed by the southern head of Port Stephens and Point Stephens became **York Bay**. Other members of the aristocracy were similarly honoured. He named what he described as 'a fine capacious bay' within Port Stephens **Clarence Bay** in honour of the Duke of Clarence, third son of George III, who eventually became William IV.

Clarence's Hilly Range was a similar tribute to the Duke. On his first inspection of the interior of the colony in 1810 Macquarie had selected a site for a township which he called **Liverpool** after the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, the Earl of Liverpool. And when in 1815 he named **Bathurst** this too bore the name of the then Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, Henry Bathurst. Admiring the fine plains adjoining Lake Bathurst, Macquarie decided to give them 'the name of that distinguished military hero the Duke of Wellington, by calling them **Wellington Plains**'.

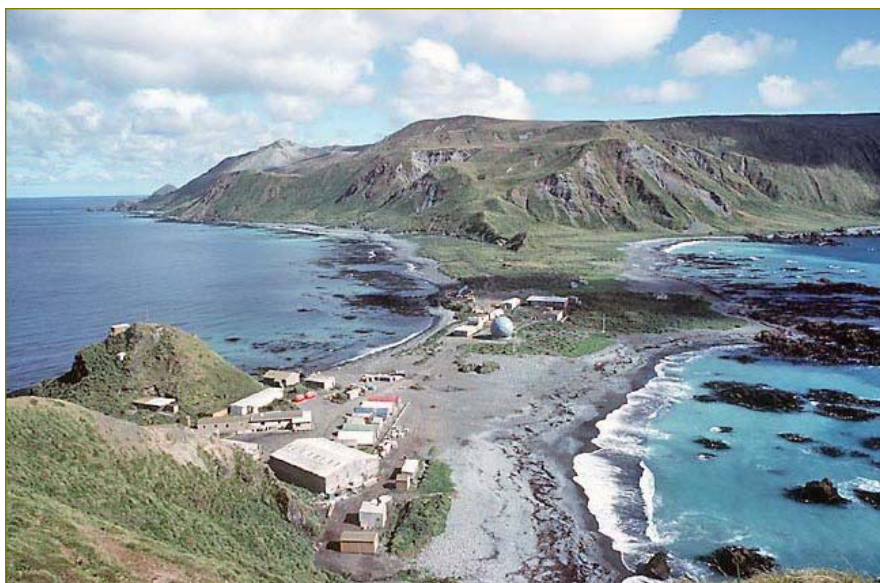
Mention has already been made of the great men whom Macquarie chose to honour—Castlereagh, Pitt, Wilberforce—but all his sources were not from high society. On his various journeys he chose to pay tribute to those who had accomplished great engineering feats. One such was William Cox, military officer, builder, road-maker and magistrate who accompanied Macquarie on some of his tours to whom **Cox's River** and **Cox's Pass** in the Blue Mountains were dedicated—'a just tribute due to his indefatigable zeal and meritorious exertions in constructing and finally completing this grand and important pass.' A number of names were those of other people who often accompanied him on his trips. One was James Meehan, a political prisoner who eventually became Deputy Surveyor-General to John Oxley. In appreciation **Meehan Valley** and **Meehan Creek** were dedicated to him. Another was **Jamison's Valley** for Sir John Jamison who was a member of the Blue Mountains expedition. Similarly **Wallis's Plains** and **Wallis's Creek** were a tribute to Captain James Wallis, Commandant of Newcastle. **Antill Ponds** and **Antill Plains** in Van Diemen's Land were named for Captain Henry Colden Antill, aide-de-camp to the Governor who became a firm friend and accompanied

Macquarie on all his Australian tours; and Tin Dish Hole was changed into 'a fitter and more appropriate designation' by being called **Sorrel Springs**. Lieutenant-Colonel William Sorrell was Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land and accompanied Macquarie on his tour in 1821.

Not all places named Campbell referred to his family. **Campbell's Pass** near Camden was named on 4 October 1815 '... in honor of Mr. Paymaster Campbell', one of the accompanying party. The former Mount Augustus in Van Diemen's Land became **Mount Campbell** 'named after D. Campbell'. While this could have referred to his servant Donald Campbell (who had died while serving with Macquarie in India, and whom he regarded as 'so excellent a servant, and so faithful and attached a follower of my fortunes'), when the naming took place there was a young Lieutenant Duncan Campbell of the 73rd Regiment in the party and it is more likely that he was the source.⁸

Occasionally Macquarie would resort to naming a place because of its appearance: **Black Heath** had a 'black wild appearance'; **Spring Wood** was very pretty; **Prospect Hill** commanded a fine view and **Vale Clwydd** he likened to the valley in Wales.

Macquarie named some places for himself, a practice criticised by his detractors, but not all places bearing the name Macquarie were named by the



*Macquarie Island – named in honour of Lachlan Macquarie, not by him.
(Photo courtesy of Bureau of Meteorology)*

Governor. He did name **Macquarie Point** and **Macquarie Springs** in the Hobart area and **Macquarie Reach** on the Hunter River,

but his journals refer to 'the district named' **Macquarie**, **Macquarie Plains** 'now so named' and **Macquarie River** 'so named now' (all three in Van Diemen's Land), whereas when he himself bestowed a name he used phrases such as 'so named now by me' or 'I have named...' often followed by a reason for his decision. The similarly named **Macquarie Plains** and **Macquarie River** in NSW were, in fact, named by the explorer George Evans when in 1813, instructed by Macquarie, he surveyed a route across the Blue Mountains for nearly 160 kilometres beyond the point reached by Lawson, Blaxland and Wentworth. There are a number of places named in tribute to Macquarie. **Port Macquarie** was named by the explorer and Surveyor-General John Oxley.⁹ **Macquarie Fields** is very appropriately named in the city of Campbelltown and the ACT has a **Macquarie** suburb. **Macquarie Island** is a sub-Antarctic volcanic island lying half way between Tasmania and Antarctica whose discovery is attributed to Captain Frederick Hasselburg, who sighted and named the island on a sealing voyage in July 1810.¹⁰

Macquarie arrived in Australia in 1810 to a great land mass about which little was known, other than a small area around Sydney. He was sworn in as Governor on 1st January, 1810.

There was much administration to be done, but by November of that year he was able to embark on his first inspection of the interior. By the time he returned to London in 1822 he had travelled as far west as Bathurst, to the south coast and Lake Illawarra, north to Newcastle and Port Stephens and undertaken two tours of Van Diemen's Land. His meticulous diaries describe the hardship they underwent, his desires for better methods of agriculture, the planning of new roads and towns. It was a time of exploration and transformation.

A representative sample has been given of the hundred or more placenames Macquarie bestowed during his tours in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land during his period of office. The names he chose reflect his devotion to his family. He used not only their personal names but many placenames from Scotland connected with both sides of the family. While he was quick to pay tribute to contemporary royalty and to Government officials who had assisted him, he did not forget the loyalty shown to him by the many who accompanied him on what were extremely arduous and dangerous journeys of exploration.

During his period of office he was instrumental in transforming Sydney and the surrounding areas, but not without a great deal of controversy. His resignation was accepted in 1820 and he returned to his native Scotland but his reputation had been damaged and he was refused a title. He died in London on 1st July 1824.¹¹

Nevertheless, the memory of Macquarie lives on, not only in the places he named and those that were named for him, but in commercial and academic institutions, streets and buildings throughout Australia.

CAMPBELL, Duncan (1794-1820) —
Lieutenant

Born: Scotland; second eldest son of James Campbell of Glenfeochan (1760-1808), and Margaret Campbell of Airds (c1765-1845), sister of Elizabeth Macquarie [nee Campbell] (1778-1835)

Commissioned: Ensign (73rd Regiment)
2 February 1809; Lieutenant (73rd Regiment) 13 November 1810

Service: Arrived in NSW in December 1809. Garrisoned in Van Diemen's Land 1810-1814. Departed for Ceylon on board the transport *Windham* on 14 April 1814, and arrived in Galle, 29 October 1814. Garrisoned in Ceylon 1814-1820

Died: near Trincomalee, 28 September 1820

Of 322,000 placenames in the Australian Gazetteer, there are 129 names that contain 'Macquarie' or 'Lachlan' or both:

Jan Tent

ACT	1
NSW	83
NT	1
QLD	17
SA	1
TAS	20
WA	3
Offshore	3

References

Unless otherwise stated, the references are taken from:

Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales. Journals of His Tours in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land 1810-1822. Library of Australian History in Association with the Library Council of New South Wales, Sydney, 1979.

Readers are also referred to:

The Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie Archive, an online archive hosted by Macquarie University Library, <http://www.library.mq.edu.au/digital/lema>

And specifically to:

Journeys in Time 1809-1822. The Journals of Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie, <http://www.library.mq.edu.au/all/journeys>

Footnotes

- 1 *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. 'Macquarie, Lachlan (1762-1824)'. Online edition: 2006
- 2 *ibid*
- 3 *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. 'Macquarie, Elizabeth Henrietta (1778-1835)'. Online edition: 2006
- 4 M.H. Ellis, *Lachlan Macquarie, His Life, Adventures and Times*, Angus & Robertson, 1947, p.122
- 5 *ADB* 'Macquarie, Lachlan (1762-1824)'
- 6 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland: Site Records. <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/>
- 7 *ADB* 'Macquarie, Lachlan (1762-1824)'
- 8 Ellis, *op. cit.* p.29
- 9 Hastings Council, *Origin of Placenames* online
- 10 <http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=29579>
- 11 *ADB* 'Macquarie, Lachlan (1762-1824)'



The historic courthouse at Bathurst
Photo: David Blair

A SELECTION OF PLACENAMES BESTOWED BY LACHLAN MACQUARIE

Placename	State	Lat	Long	Feature	National Gazetteer Code	Now Named Differently
Airds	NSW	-34 05	150 49	locality	33230	
Antill Ponds	TAS	-42 12	147 24	locality	207537	
Appin	NSW	-34 12	150 47	locality	32953	
Argyle Plains	TAS	-42 00	147 32	plain	216204	
Bathurst	NSW	-33 25	149 34	locality	35102	
Black Heath	NSW	-33 38	150 17	locality	109498	Blackheath
Breadalbane Plains	NSW	-34 47	149 32	plain	40724	
Campbell Town	TAS	-41 56	147 30	locality	208123	
Campbelltown	NSW	-34 04	150 49	locality	42638	
Castlereagh	NSW	-33 39	150 41	locality	43335	
Clarence's Hilly Range	NSW	-33 29	150 12	hill	44260	Mount Clarence
Clyde River	NSW	-35 24	150 14	stream	44536	
Cox's Pass	NSW	-34 40	150 38	pass	46485	
Cox's River	NSW	-33 44	150 11	stream	46487	
Curzon Downs	TAS	-42 28	147 10	plain	220929	
Curzon Peak	TAS	-42 28	147 10	hill	217754	Curzon Hill
Elizabeth River	TAS	-41 55	147 43	stream	209619	
ElizabethTown	TAS	-41 28	146 33	locality	207581	
George Town	TAS	-41 06	146 49	locality	208188	
Glencoe	NSW	-29 54	151 43	locality	52179	
Henrietta Plains	TAS	-41 43	147 20	plain	216408	
Jamison's Valley	NSW	-33 45	150 21	valley	56697	Jamison Valley
Lachlan's Island	TAS	-42 38	147 58	island	209928	Lachlan Island
Lachlan's River (Thames)	TAS	-42 47	147 04	stream	211786	Lachlan River
Lake George	NSW	-35 05	149 25	lake	51637	
Liverpool	NSW	-33 55	150 55	locality	65300	
Macquarie Plains	TAS	-42 42	146 54	locality	208284	
Macquarie Point	TAS	-42 52	147 20	point	209317	
Meehan Creek	NSW	-35 20	149 33	stream	68226	Meehans Creek
Meredith Forest (Cross Marsh)	TAS	-42 07	146 57	swamp	217574	Cross Marsh
Mount Campbell	TAS	-41 39	145 58	mountain	222310	
Mount Henrietta	TAS	-42 07	147 29	hill	217757	Dunns Battery
Mount York	NSW	-33 32	150 13	mountain	98356	
Pitt-Town	NSW	-33 34	150 52	locality	77733	Pitt Town
Princess Charlotte's Valley	NSW	-33 27	149 29	valley	78492	Evans Plains Creek
Prospect Hill	NSW	-33 49	150 55	hill	78537	
Queen Charlotte's Vale	NSW	-33 27	149 34	valley	78935	
Regent Mountain	NSW	-34 19	150 53	mountain	80039	
Richmond	NSW	-33 35	150 45	locality	80205	
Spring Wood	NSW	-33 41	150 34	locality	109512	Springwood
The Regent's Glen	NSW	-33 43	150 22	gorge	78498	Prince Regents Glen
Vale Clwydd	NSW	-33 28	150 10	locality	106721	Vale of Clwydd
Wallis's Creek	NSW	-32 44	152 04	stream	93127	
Wilberforce	NSW	-33 33	150 50	locality	95555	
Windsor	NSW	-33 36	150 48	locality	96125	
York Cove	TAS	-41 06	146 49	cove	207716	
York Plains	TAS	-42 16	147 26	locality	208487	
York River	TAS	-41 06	146 50	stream	222071	York Creek

Australia's Palindromic Toponyms

– Jan Tent

A palindrome is a word, phrase, number or other sequence of units that can be read the same way forwards and backwards. The term 'palindrome' derives from the Greek *palindromos* (παλίνδρομος, from *πάλιν* 'again' & *δρόμ* - 'run').

In English, the most well-known palindromes are letter-by-letter, e.g. *madam*, *racecar*. You could say these words have a kind of 'reflection' or 'bilateral' symmetry.

Australia has at least eleven palindromic toponyms:

Aramara – a town in Queensland some 40 km west of Maryborough. The name is Indigenous, but its meaning is presently unknown to us.

Arrawarra – a small beach-side hamlet on the North Coast of NSW, some 30 km north of Coffs Harbour. This is also an Indigenous name. Its meaning is presently unknown to us.

Civic – the central business district of Canberra, officially named *City*. However it is also referred to as *Civic*, *Civic Centre*, *City Centre*, and *Canberra City*. Canberra's *City* was officially established in 1927, although the suburb name *City* was not gazetted until 20 September 1928. Walter Burley Griffin's design for Canberra included a 'Civic Centre' with a separate 'Market Centre' located at what is now Russell. However Prime Minister Stanley Bruce vetoed this idea and only the Civic Centre was developed; the idea of the 'Market Centre' was abandoned.^{1,2}

Glenelg – the popular beach-side suburb of Adelaide, 11 km west of the city centre. Established in 1836, it is the oldest European settlement on mainland South Australia. It was named after Lord Glenelg, the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies.³ Through him, the name derives from *Glenelg*, Scotland (in Scottish Gaelic *Gleann Eilgi*).⁴

Hattah – a small township in Victoria, approximately 70 km south of Mildura. It is the gateway to the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.⁵ This is also an Indigenous name whose meaning is presently unknown to us.

Lal Lal – a town in Victoria, on the Geelong-Ballarat railway line, some 100 km west-north-west of Melbourne, and 20 km south-east of Ballarat. It has a strong history of gold, coal, kaolin and iron ore mining. It is also famous for its racecourse.⁶ The name derives from the Wathawurrang language with the meaning 'dashing waters'.⁷

Parap (formerly **Paraparap**) – a suburb of Darwin where its airport is located. The airport was established there in 1919 when the London to Melbourne air race was announced.⁸ The location was named by Dr John A

Gilruth, first Commonwealth Administrator in 1912. He named the area after *Paraparap* in Victoria. The name was later contracted to *Parap*.⁹ The location was also the staging point to the so-called 'Darwin Rebellion' in 1918, a protest against Gilruth's administration.¹⁰ *Parap* is well known for its streets being named after early Australian aviators and explorers including: *Ross Smith Avenue*, *Hudson Fysh Avenue*, *Leichhardt Crescent* and *Gregory Street*.

Paraparap – is a location and farming district near the township of Moriac and some 30 km south-south-west of Geelong. The name derives from the Wathaurung language. Its meaning is presently unknown to us.⁷

Tubbut – an isolated hamlet in far north of East Gippsland in the Deddick Valley, about 190 km north of Bairnsdale 500km from Melbourne, and 30km from the NSW border. Tubbut Primary School is reputed to be Victoria's 'Most Remote Rural Primary School'.¹¹ The origin and its meaning of the name are presently unknown to us.

Tumut – a town at the foothills of the Snowy Mountains in NSW, sometimes referred to as the gateway to the Snowy Mountains Scheme. It is located 423 km from Sydney and 180 km from Canberra via the Hume Highway. It was short-listed to be Australia's Capital. *Tumut* (originally *Dumot*), is claimed to be an Indigenous name meaning 'resting place by the river'.^{12,13}

If any of our readers comes across other palindromic toponyms, or know the meaning of any of the above names, be sure to let us know.

References

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MOONBI

– Joyce Miles



View from Moonbi Range into Moonbi and Peel Valleys
(Photo: Mgillaus)

The story of the origin of the name **Moonbi** is as delightful as the name itself, although, as usual, there is some discussion over its authenticity and its spelling.

The village is located at the foot of the Moonbi Range, 20 kilometres north of Tamworth on the New England Highway. The Moonbi area is the traditional land of the Gamilaraay and Anaiwan people.¹ In 1832 Edward G. Cory, a pastoralist originally from England, set out with a small party to find a substitute for his pastures which were being threatened by the projected land exchange of the Australian Agricultural Company on the Peel River. During his exploration he discovered a track across the Moonbi Ranges, by way of a route later followed by the Great Northern Road.² A landmark of two huge balanced rocks known as Cory's Pillar or Cory's Nightcap on the side of the first Moonbi Hill commemorates this feat.³

Moonbi Station was taken up in the late 1830s by John Swayne, a wool sorter, and subsequently it passed to George Kettle and then to Henry Dangar, whose brother William had accompanied Cory on his exploration. During 1841 Surgeon Dr John Goodwin travelled through this area en route to Queensland and recorded in his diary:

On the fourth Monday of our journey, we started from the Peel and travelled twelve miles along the banks of the Moonby Creek....

.... The land on the banks appeared to be excellent, and was occupied by Mr Henry Dangar as a cattle station

However, Surveyor John Gorman's 1852 map recorded Henry Dangar at Moonboy, a form of spelling apparently recorded for the first time, although it may have been in use much earlier. Moonbi Parish records refer to Moonboy Station and a traveller refers to a part of the First Moonbi Hill as the "First Moonboys". Dr John Gill, JP gave his official address as Moonboy, but later in 1855 referred to his home as "Moonby". It seems to be the convention now to refer to the village, the hill and the station as "Moonbi" and the house as "Moonby"⁴, although when the spelling of Moonbi first appeared is not, as yet, known.

But how did the name originate? There is a local legend reported by Green and Newman in their detailed history of Tamworth. Even with modern road engineering the hill is still long and steep—so it is not surprising that, after Cory and his party had blazed a trail through the hills, the teamsters that began to use this route experienced great difficulty in ascending what

is referred to as The Pinch on the First Moonbi Hill. It was so steep that the only way was to yoke the bullocks or horses of several teams to one wagon and haul them one at a time to the top. It was cooler to work at night, but such was the terrain that ideally they needed moonlight. The story goes that one night teamsters were waiting for darkness to fall and the first man to see the moon appear over the hill shouted "Here's the moon boys" – hence the hill became known as The Moon Boy Range or The Moonboys and the local area as Moonboy.⁵

However, this sounds like a classic folk etymology, and is quite undocumented. Ideally, we would like to see a hypothesis which has some historical and linguistic support. And it happens that there is one very promising suggestion.

The files of the NSW Geographical Names Board cite the F.D. McCarthy glossary entry, that *moonbi* is an Aboriginal word meaning "ashes".⁶ McCarthy, unfortunately, did not give sources for his material, but our ANPS correspondent Jim Wafer has pointed out that there is a Dhanggati word *muuyn* meaning "ashes, dust".⁷ Furthermore, Jim notes a possible comitative suffix *-bayi* in Dhanggati⁸, and this would give rise to the combination *muuyn-bayi*, "ashes-having". Amanda Lissarrague concurs with Jim that Dhangatti country is close enough to Moonbi to make this etymology plausible; perhaps the granite and limestone nature of the terrain was such as to make "dusty" an appropriate description of the Moonbi range. At any rate, it's enough to now make this the preferred etymology for **Moonbi** in the ANPS database!

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- 6 F.D. McCarthy, *New South Wales Aboriginal Place Names and Euphonious Words, With their Meanings*. Sydney: Australian Museum, 1963
- 7 Amanda Lissarrague, *Dhangatti Grammar and Dictionary with Dhanggati Stories*. Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative, 2007, p.153
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..... NOR ALL, THAT GLISTERS, GOLD

(Thomas Gray)

– Joyce Miles



Three places in the Central West of NSW with intriguing names are all linked by gold

- Orange, Ophir and Lucknow.

The main one is the City of Orange. Why should it bear the name of a man who subsequently became King William II of the Netherlands? It is a major regional centre on the main Sydney to Dubbo railway line and the centre of a fruit growing, mixed farming and grazing area, although in the 1870s it was one of the finest wheat production areas in NSW.¹ In its early years it benefited considerably from the discovery of gold in nearby Ophir and Lucknow and today further exploration for gold and copper is being undertaken in the area by the world's largest producers.² Originally the area was known as **Blackman's Swamp** from Blackman's Swamp Creek that runs through the centre of the town, which was named after John Blackman, Chief Constable. It was Blackman who, in 1823, selected the route through swampy terrain that eventually became the main route to the west, but on 18th November, 1846, the Colonial Secretary's Office in Sydney issued a Notice stating that a site had been fixed upon for the Village of Orange at Blackman's Swamp in the Parish of **Orange**.³

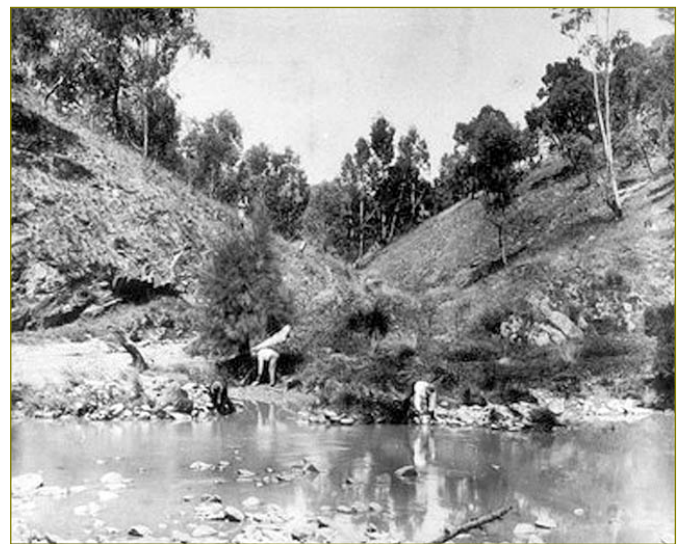
There are several explanations of the origins of the name **Orange**. One is that when Governor-General Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy visited the area in 1846 he was so impressed by the wattles in full bloom that he decreed that the town should be called **Orange**. But the district was surveyed in 1828 and by the following year the name **Orange** had already appeared on the maps as a parish. Another story is that a settler's bride arrived in the town when the wattle was in full bloom and she is said to have declared they were her orange blossoms honouring her wedding and hence the name.⁴ However, the most generally accepted version is that it was named by Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell in honour of Prince William of Orange, aide to the Duke of Wellington, under whom Mitchell had served during the Peninsular War in Spain.⁵ In 1817 Surveyor-General Oxley had honoured the Duke of Wellington with Wellington Valley, Vittoria was named after a Peninsular War battle and Major Mitchell had named Broke in the Hunter Valley in honour of "that meritorious officer, Sir Charles Broke Vere, Bart." with whom he has served as an intelligence officer during the war.⁶ Certainly it was not named for the fruit.

Ophir

This is one of the more exotic placenames. The township, which lies 27km NE of Orange, certainly had an exciting beginning as it owes its existence to the discovery in Australia of the first payable gold. The first reported gold discovery in the area was made by a Lands Department surveyor, James McBrien, who was surveying a road along the Fish River, between Rydal and Bathurst. Fearing disruption to commercial and agricultural business by a "gold rush", the Government hushed it up. However, undeterred, in 1851 a group of prospectors organised by Edward Hammond Hargraves discovered small quantities of gold in the Lewis Ponds Creek area and along the Macquarie River. Hargraves went to Sydney to claim a reward from the Government for his discovery, but he was unsuccessful.⁷

Meanwhile, in April 1851, using a cradle modelled on those used in the Californian goldfields, two of the original prospectors, John Hardman Lister and William Tom, moved to the junction of Lewis Ponds Creek and Summer Hill Creek. Here they recovered 120g of payable gold.⁸

Not only was this the first major find in Australia, but it gave the early settlement of nearby Orange a firm foundation. The site of the discovery later became the township of **Ophir**, the name suggested by William Tom's father after a region in the Old Testament noted for its abundance of gold (1 Kings 9:28 – "and they came to Ophir, and fetched from there gold").⁹ Unfortunately, after only ten months the Ophir strike dried up, leaving **Ophir** as a reserve only. Today, it is a tourist area for picnics, camping and fossicking.¹⁰



*Panning for gold in Summer Hill Creek, Ophir
(Photo courtesy of State Library of NSW)*

Lucknow

As its name might suggest, the goldfield of Lucknow was a great deal more lucky than Ophir. Following the discovery in 1851 of the first payable gold at Ophir, there was a gold strike shortly afterwards at Lucknow. Although after ten months the Ophir strike had dried up, Lucknow gold continued to be mined for a hundred years thereby contributing to the prosperity of nearby **Orange**.

Lucknow lies eight kilometres east of the City of **Orange** on the main road from Bathurst and although no longer an active mine, remains of the mine workings can be seen by the roadside and there are mounds of sand in the distance left over from the gold extraction process.¹¹

By 1863 the growing population of these “Wentworth Diggings” requested their own Post Office and eventually the Manager of the Wentworth Goldfields, John Ford Rae, offered to run the postal service from his office. It was suggested that the village be named **Lucknow**. This was adopted on 1st July 1863. It is not absolutely sure why this name was chosen. One possible theory is that the siege of Lucknow in India had taken place only some six years previously. This had involved the blowing up of mines causing devastation and damage which shocked the world and may have led the mining community whose own jobs were underground to feel a bond between themselves and the people of Lucknow. The name may therefore have possibly been a tribute to their fellow workers. One of the wounded in the siege was a Mr Rae. There is no confirmation that he was related to the Lucknow Postmaster, John Rae, and it could be pure coincidence. John Rae’s parents were Scottish and, as Kerrin Cook points out, their pronunciation of Lucknow would have been close to the “Luck-no” said to be used today.¹² My enquiries from local people have not thrown any further light on the origin of this noteworthy name.

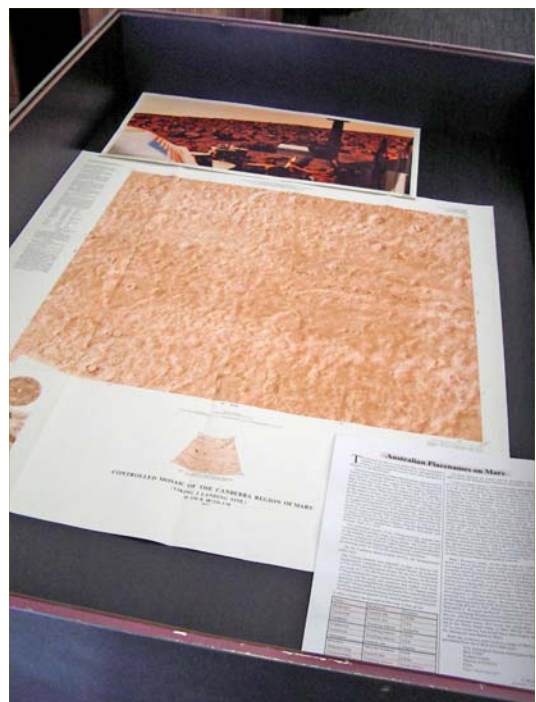
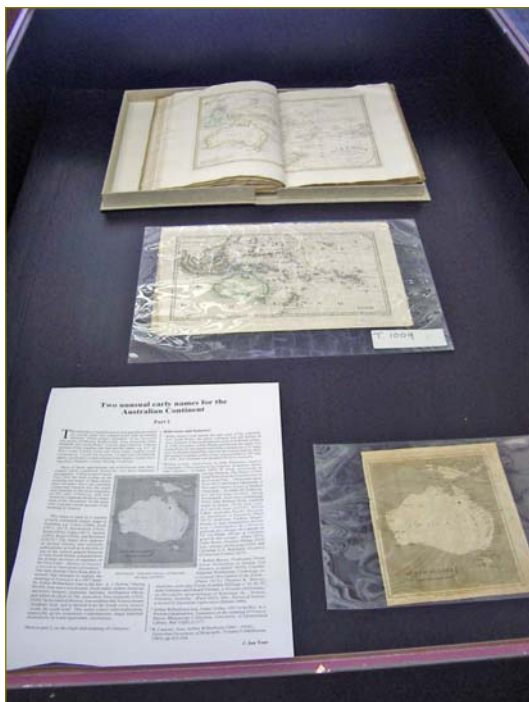
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- 11 Online: www.orange-nsw.com/Lucknow.html
- 12 Kerrin Cook, *Lucknow. A Veritable Goldmine*, Orange City Council, 1995, p.42

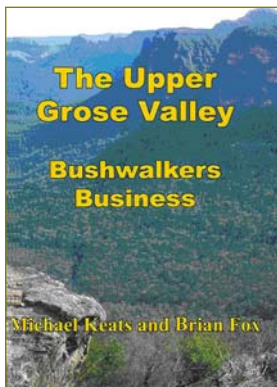
National Library Exhibition

Readers will no doubt detect something familiar in these photos. Our March 2010 issue included an article by Brendan Whyte on the Australia connection with Mars toponyms, and a piece by Jan Tent on *Notasia*, one of the forgotten names for Australia. Brendan, who is the Assistant Curator of Maps at the National Library of Australia, was responsible for an exhibition there which displayed maps relating to these two articles.

We heartily recommend to our readers--and especially to the map addicts among us--the website of the NLA Map Collection: www.nla.gov.au/map/. And, of course, when you're in Canberra take the opportunity to visit the Maps Reading Room on Lower Ground Floor One at the library.



The Upper Grose Valley: Bushwalkers Business



Over the years, authors Michael Keats and Brian Fox have published various books which explore the natural rugged beauty of the Blue Mountains area in New South Wales. Brian and Michael have now teamed up to provide a detailed almanac for bushwalkers who wish to discover the Upper Grose Valley.

Along with providing detailed information on the many bushwalks that crisscross the valley, this book provides a comprehensive account of the flora, fauna, history and geography of the area. Those of us with an interest in toponyms are also catered for with a chapter dedicated to place names. Information on the history and origin of these names is provided, along with other interesting facts and images relating to various sites throughout this picturesque valley.

The book details a wealth of interesting historical facts and brings them to life through the personal experiences of the authors, such as the day Brian and Michael found an anvil at the bottom of a cliff face at Anvil Rock which was later reinstalled by the Local Rotary Club and National Parks and Wildlife Service to its original location.

The book is full of beautiful photographs and illustrations and is a must for bushwalkers or anyone with an interest in this unique part of Australia.

The Book costs \$45.00 is available from most book outlets in the Blue Mountains or can be obtained by emailing the authors at mjmkeats@easy.com.au.

Greg Windsor

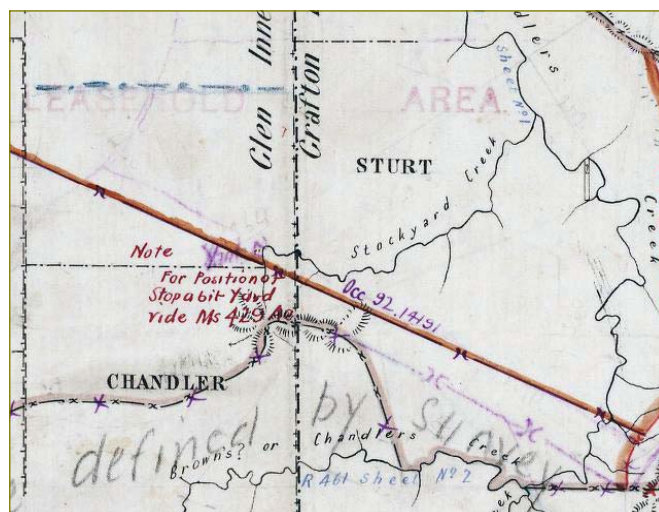
STOP-A-BIT

What an evocative name – **Stop-a-Bit**. The Geographical Names Board refers to it as a locality on Stockyard Creek about 13km south of Dalmorton in the Clarence Valley, NSW. It was originally an old stockyard and, according to local historians, it was used by families when driving their cattle from the Buccarumbi area to Ebor. **Stop-a-Bit** was a convenient point at which to stop for a meal break for the drovers and a rest for the cattle and hence its name.¹

Joyce Miles

References:

- 1 Clarence Valley Council; Clarence River Historical Society



*Pastoral Run Name: Chandler's Creek, Run Number 316
Land and Property Management Authority*



Placenames Puzzle Number 35

They Are All Mounts

The clues reveal Mount placenames (disregard spelling)

E.g. (NSW) Goliath's slayer
Mount David

1. (VIC) Dealer in textile fabrics, especially silks
2. (VIC) Is said to be in the eye of the beholder
3. (VIC) 17th century English diarist
4. (VIC) *My Fair Lady's* Miss Doolittle
5. (VIC) Author of *My Brilliant Career*
6. (QLD) A short rifle for cavalry use (also Melbourne Cup winner 1890)
7. (QLD) A famous TV Alf or a red gemstone
8. (QLD) A small drum with jingles that is shaken
9. (SA) A maker of barrels and tubs
10. (SA) Writes of the exploits of Hercule Poirot
11. (SA) Metaphorically, this can be the thin end
12. (SA) Bush bread cooked when camping
13. (SA) Friend of Mole and Badger
14. (SA) An instrument for determining direction
15. (TAS) Charlemagne's famous knight participated in the battle of Roncesvalles
16. (WA) A piece of iron or ore which, when suspended, points north and south
17. (NSW) Strait connecting the Atlantic and the Mediterranean
18. (NSW) Buttered bread sprinkled with hundreds and thousands
19. (NSW) One-humped racers
20. (SA/WA) A tout now known as a spruiker, formerly associated with fairgrounds

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Answers: 1. Mercer 2. Beauty 3. Evelyn 4. Eliza 5. Franklin 6. Carbine 7. Garnet 8. Tamborine 9. Cooper 10. Christie 11. Wedge 12. Dampier 13. Rat 14. Compass 15. Roland 16. Magnet 17. Gibraltar 18. Fairy 19. Dromedary 20. Barker

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Electronic submissions and photographic or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.

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31 July for the September issue

30 April for the June issue

31 October for the December issue