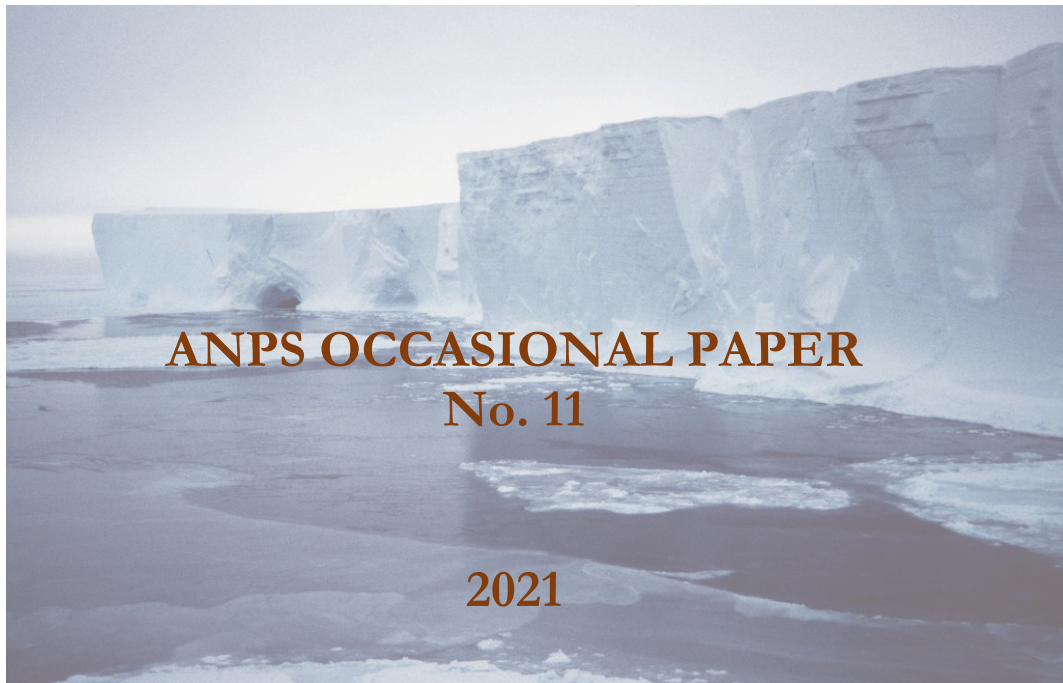


A namescape of the Australian Antarctic Territory



A NAMESPACE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

Jan Tent

ANPS OCCASIONAL PAPER
No. 11

2021



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PLACENAMES SURVEY

ANPS Occasional Papers
ISSN 2206-1878 (Online)

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The ‘Eponymous’ *Mertz Glacier* tongue, named after Dr Xavier Mertz of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911–1914
(Photo: Barbara Wienecke)

<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-antarctica/australia-in-antarctica/antarctic-place-names>

Published for the Australian National Placenames Survey
This online edition: April 2021

Australian National Placenames Survey © 2021

Published by Placenames Australia (Inc.)
PO Box 5160
South Turramurra
NSW 2074

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1 INTRODUCTION

We rarely read or hear about the toponyms of Antarctica. This is surprising given its size and the large stake Australia holds on the continent. Antarctica is nearly twice the size of Australia—excluding its ice shelves, it covers over 13 million km² compared with 7.7 million km² for Australia (Figure 1).

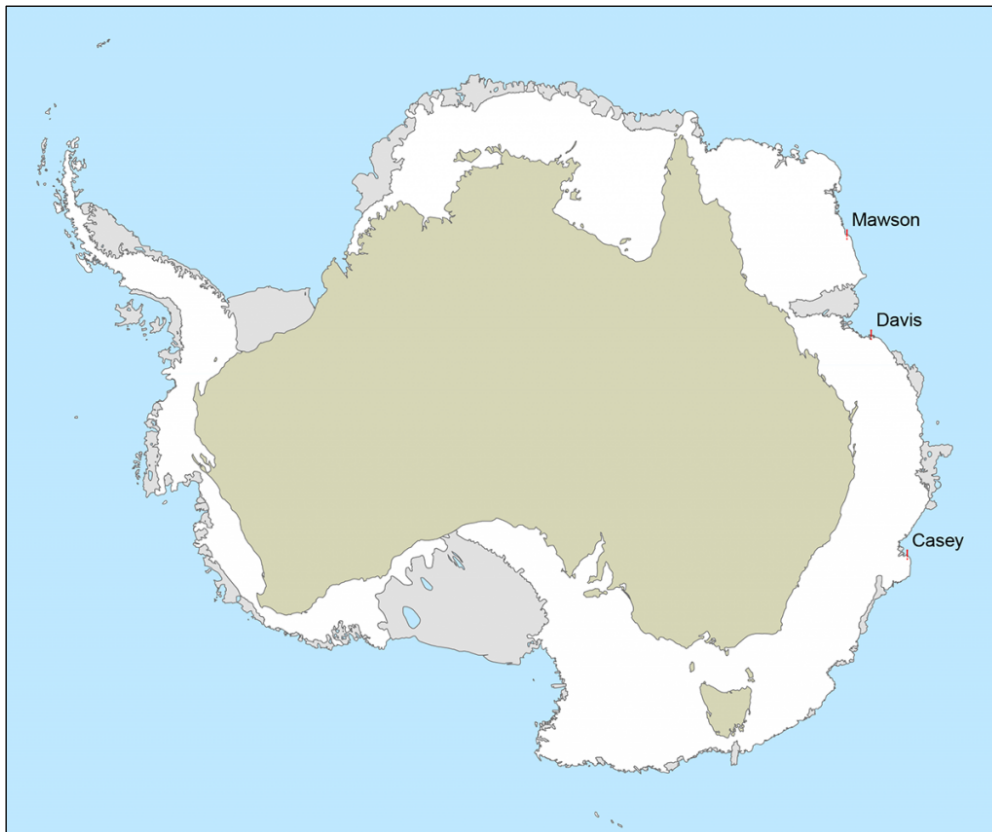


Fig. 1 Antarctica compared with Australia

(Source: AAD, <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-antarctica/environment/geology>)

The Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) covers nearly 5.9 million km², approximately 42% of Antarctica (Figure 2). Given Australia has an interest in such a significant portion of the continent, it seems appropriate that a survey of AAT toponyms be undertaken. Moreover, the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) is a member of the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping's (ICSM) Australia & New Zealand Working Group on Place Names (formerly the Permanent Committee on Place Names), which coordinates placenaming throughout Australia, New Zealand, the AAT, and the territories of Heard Island and McDonald Islands. The placenames of the AAT, therefore, can be seen to fall under the wider remit of ANPS, even though the Survey's database is designed to reflect the toponyms of the eight states and territories of the Australian federation.

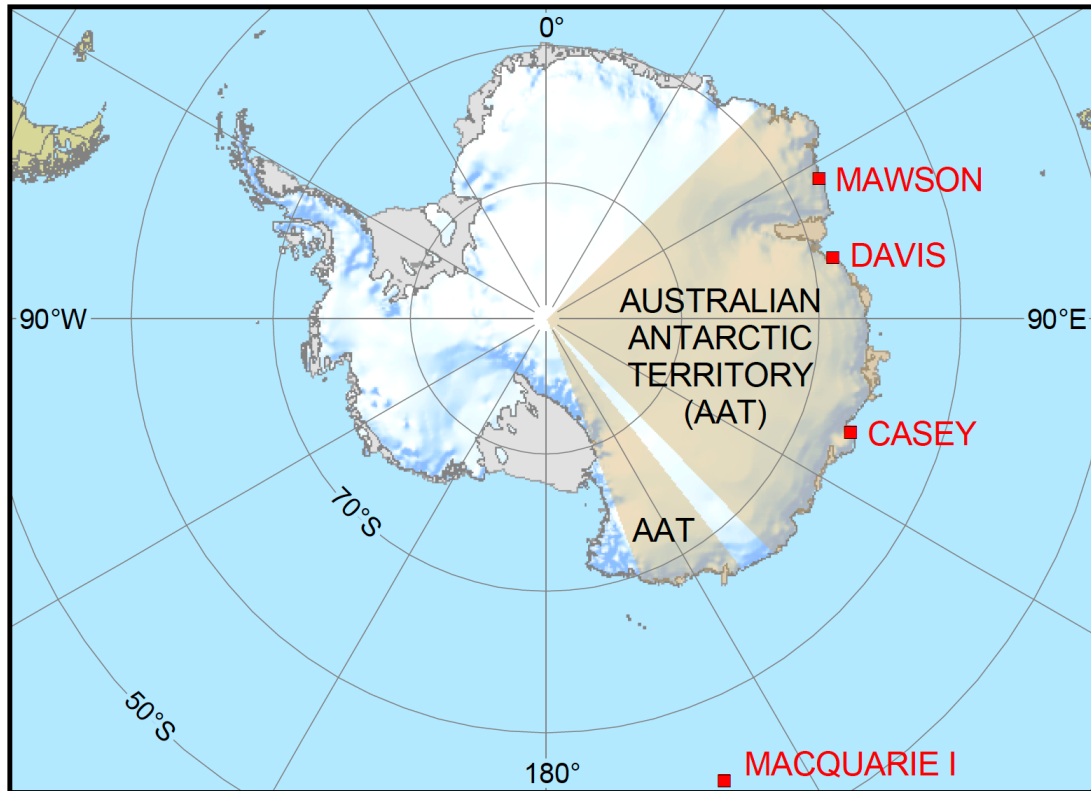


Fig. 2 Australian Antarctic Territorial claims
(Source: Australian Antarctic Data Centre. <https://data.aad.gov.au>)

2 SOME BACKGROUND

Antarctica is a *de facto* condominium, governed internationally through the Antarctic Treaty System. In 1959, twelve countries signed the Antarctic Treaty, and 38 have signed it since. Among the original signatories of the Treaty were Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom, all with territorial claims, some of which overlap. Figure 3 shows these claims.

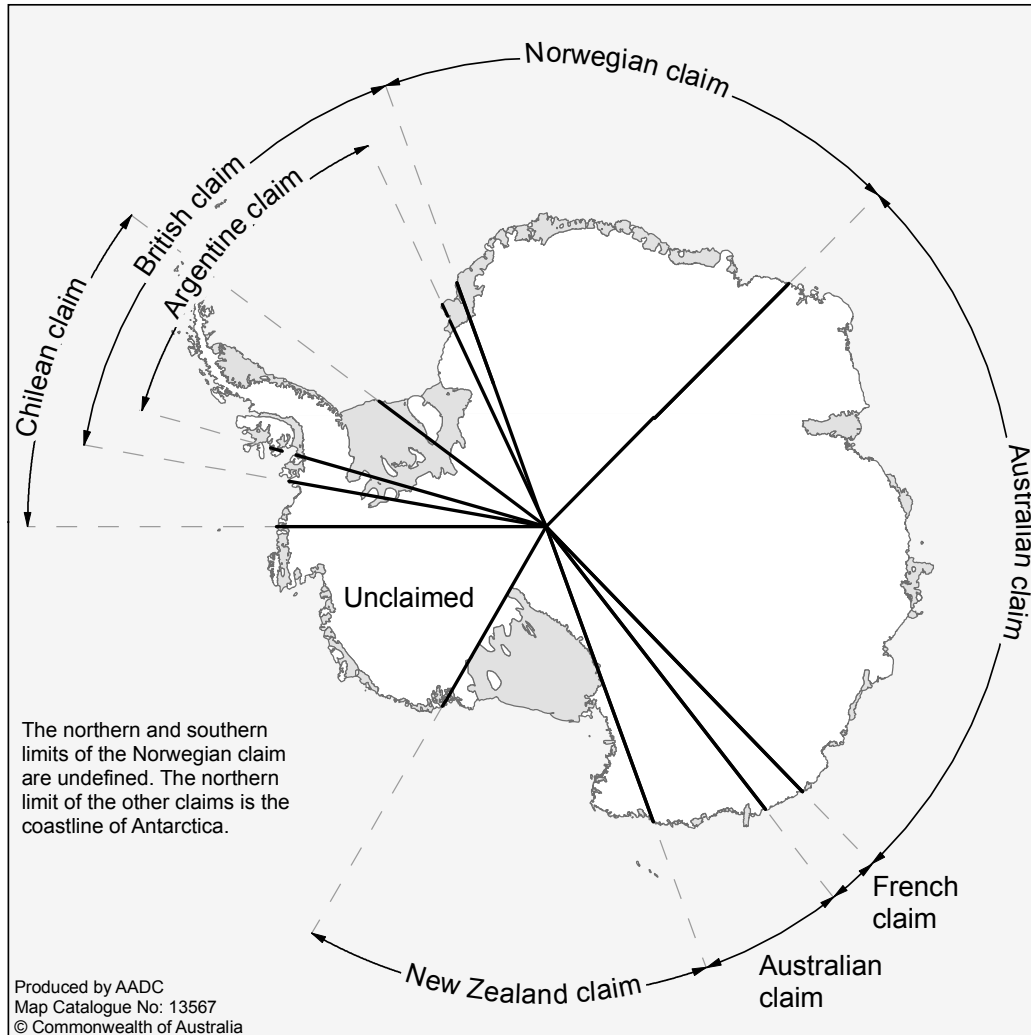


Fig. 3 International Antarctic Territorial Claims
 (Source: Australian Antarctic Data Centre. <https://data.aad.gov.au>)

Other countries participating as members of the Antarctic Treaty also have a territorial stake; however, the provisions of the Treaty do not allow them to make their claims while it is in force. They include:

- Brazil—has a designated ‘zone of interest’, but is not an actual claim
- Peru—has formally reserved its right to make a claim
- Russia—inherited the Soviet Union’s right to claim territory under the original Antarctic Treaty
- South Africa—has formally reserved its right to make a claim, and
- the United States—has reserved its right to make a claim in the original Antarctic Treaty.

The AAT is administered by the AAD, an agency of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The United Kingdom’s claim on the continent, known as *Enderby Land*, was made in 1841, and was expanded and transferred to Australia in 1933. The AAT is divided into nine districts: *Enderby Land, Kemp Land, Mac.*

A namespace of the AAT

Robertson Land, *Princess Elizabeth Land*, *Kaiser Wilhelm II Land*, *Queen Mary Land*, *Wilkes Land*, *George V Land*, and *Oates Land*. These are divided into two separate areas geographically, with *George V Land* and *Oates Land* to the east of the French Territorial claim of *Adélie Land*, and all other districts lying to its west.

The AAT hosts a number of research stations from a variety of countries:

- Australia: *Casey*, *Davis*, *Manson*, and *Wilkes Station* (closed)
- China: *Zhongshan*
- France & Italy: *Concordia Station*
- Romania & Australia: *Law-Racovita-Negoita Base*
- Russia: *Druzhnaya* (closed), *Komsomolskaya* (closed), *Leningradskaya* (closed), *Mirny Station*, *Molodyozhnaya* (seasonal), *Progress Station*, *Soyuz* (closed), *Sovetskaya* (closed), and *Vostok*

Toponymically, Antarctica is like no other region in the world. It is similar to the islands of Tristan da Cunha, St Helena, Ascension, Norfolk, Pitcairn, Île Amsterdam and the Juan Fernández Islands, in that they were all uninhabited prior to being explored and occupied between the 17th and 19th centuries. However, Antarctica differs from these in three significant ways:

- No single language is currently spoken in Antarctica. There is no official language, and there is no ‘local language’.
- Antarctica is administered via the Antarctic Treaty, whilst the aforementioned islands are territories of Britain, Australia, France, and Chile respectively.
- In all likelihood, Antarctica has the one of the best and most comprehensive records of the origins and meanings of its toponyms of any other region in the world.

Since none of the aforementioned islands or Antarctica were previously occupied, no autochthonous placenames existed—all toponyms were introduced. Nash (2013, p. 6) refers to these introduced names as ‘colonial toponyms’ which are ‘exonymic, i.e. they are brought in from outside and introduced to an ecology’ because:

They are not embedded in the landscape, nor have they evolved out of events or through people who have lived in the places attached to them. They are unembedded names which can be made a part of the toponymic lexicon of a specific location through usage.

Nash’s use of the term ‘exonymic’, although understandable, is not conventional. The most commonly accepted definition for ‘exonym’ is perhaps best expressed in Item 081 of the UNGEGN *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* (2002, p. 10), which defines ‘exonym’ as:¹

[A] name used in a specific language for a → **geographical feature** situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated. *Examples:* Warsaw is the English exonym for Warszawa; Londres is French for London; Mailand is German for Milano. The officially romanized endonym Moskva for Москва is not an exonym, nor is the Pinyin form Beijing, while Peking is an exonym. The United Nations recommends minimizing the use of exonyms in international usage.

¹ For more comprehensive expositions on ‘exonym’, see Drago (2007) and Jordan (2011).

Kadmon (2006, p. 129) defines an ‘exonym’ as:

[...] a name given by a linguistic community—a group of people who communicate with each other with relative ease in a common language—in its own language to a topographic feature situated in a territory where this language has no official status, for example, a foreign country. The English traditionally use the form ‘conventional name’, but here we will use the internationally accepted term ‘exonym’.

Room (1996, p. 41) defines the term as ‘the traditional form in one’s own language of a toponym in a foreign country or language.’ In a similar vein, Drago (2007, p. 202) defines the term as:

...a name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status and differs in form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated...

Therefore, in order to avoid unnecessary confusion, the toponyms of previously uninhabited regions are most appropriately labelled as ‘introduced’. However, Nash does employ a very useful term to describe the placenaming of such regions, viz. ‘pristine place-naming’, which ‘refers to island case studies that were linguistically pristine prior to inhabitation, i.e. they were “linguistically uninhabited” islands prior to European colonisation.’ (p. 7). Nash borrows the term from Ross (1958, p. 333), who classed a toponym as pristine ‘if, and only if, we are cognisant of the actual act of its creation’, i.e. its origin is transparent. The toponyms of Antarctica are by and large ‘pristine’ because the majority of their origins are known and are recorded in gazetteers or in explorers’ and expeditioners’ journals.

3 THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC GAZETTEER

The Gazetteer of Australia contains the toponyms of the AAT, though it holds little or no data on their origins. However, the AAD has its own gazetteer, the Australian Antarctic Gazetteer (AAG) (<https://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/>), which very often includes information on the origin of its toponyms either in the ‘Named for’ or ‘Narrative’ columns of the database. The AAG covers the AAT as well as Macquarie Island, Heard Island and McDonald Islands. It also contains several toponyms with point coordinates outside of the AAT, but these features are large and extend beyond the AAT. Whilst the AAG includes names on Macquarie Island, the AAD Place Names Committee is not responsible for names on Macquarie Island; that responsibility rests with the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania.

There are a total of 3604 toponyms listed in the AAG. This number comprises 2892 official names + 368 ‘Informal’ or unofficial names + 344 names of bathymetric features from the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) Gazetteer (<https://www.gebco.net>).

Henk Brolsma (retired Mapping Officer, Australian Antarctic Division) informs me that the AAG only has names that have been formally accepted by the Australian Place Names Committee and signed off by the minister responsible for the division that the AAD happens to be in. In addition, placenaming policy in the AAT is to not name topographic features already named by other countries, although this policy has not

always been adhered to. It has, however, adopted many placenames of other countries when they are considered appropriate (Brolsma, p.c. 11/12/2019).

The AAD website also hosts the Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) (Secretariat SCAR 1992, updated 2014) (<https://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/scar/>). The CGA contains all the names, with accompanying basic information from 22 contributing countries. They are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay. The CGA also contains parts of the GEBCO gazetteer for under-sea features located south of 60°S, and currently lists 37,922 names, although many are duplicated.

4 ANALYSIS

4.1 Methodology

Only the 2892 official toponyms of the AAG were analysed for this Occasional Paper because the 'Informal' and GEBCO names generally do not have any information regarding their origin or designated feature type.

In the current analysis, a toponym type was assigned, wherever possible, on the basis of the AAG narrative which accompanied it and which usually disclosed its origin. Where no such information was provided, Alberts (1995) often did, and this information was then used. In the 24 instances (0.83%) when neither source provided such information, the toponym was omitted from the dataset, thus leaving 2868 toponyms that were analysed.

A slightly modified version of the 2020 revised ANPS toponym typology (Blair & Tent, 2020) was used to assign toponym types to the official AAT toponyms (see Table 2, below). One of the features of the ANPS toponym typology is that it was designed to have toponym classes added or deleted according to need or to reflect the nature of the toponyms of the region under scrutiny. Accordingly, category 6.1.6 'Occupational groups' has been added in order to cover toponyms named after such groups (e.g. carpenters, doggers and mechanics). This category is unlike 2.2 'Occupation/Activity' in that, rather than recognise an occupation or habitual activity associated with the feature, it acknowledges, in general, the occupational groups who made significant contributions to Antarctic exploration and science, and who were not necessarily associated with the named feature. The application of sub-category 6.3.2 'Named concrete entity' has also been extended to include the names of groups (e.g. sporting teams), organisations, institutions, etc., since various features were named after these.

It should also be noted that the 2020 typology implemented certain refinements to the original typology of 2009/2014 (see Tent & Blair, 2009, 2014). Some categories were deleted, whilst others were modified. Underlying these changes was a re-examination of the naming process itself. Unlike our original typology, we identified three stages in that process: the primary **motivation**, the **intention** of the naming, and its linguistic **expression**.

We believe the primary **motivation** for naming a place is ‘to distinguish’ it from other places. In other words, the naming process is a contrastive one. The second stage, the **intention** of the naming, asks the question ‘How should we go about doing this?’

- Is it to commemorate something or someone?
- Is it to foreground a physical characteristic of the feature?
- Is it to reflect feelings of the namer at the occasion of the naming?
- Or is it indeed a combination of more than one intention?

The third stage, the **expression** (or linguistic form) of the **intention**, asks ‘What kind of name should be used?’

- An eponym?
- A description?
- Or a newly-invented name that seems pleasingly appropriate to the place?

The theoretical choices may be more clearly displayed in Table 1.

Table 1
The relationship between **Motivation**, **Intention** and **Expression**

Motivation Why do we do this?	Intention How shall we do this?	Expression What kind of name will do?
To distinguish a place by ...	a. ... characterising it through a Description ... noting an Association ... an Evaluation
	b. ... commemorating or honouring it through noting an Occasion ... a Copy ... an Eponym
	c. ... creating a new linguistic form through an appropriate Innovation

It should be noted that this relationship table does not represent any conscious psychological or linguistic processes engaged in by the namer when a feature is named. The task of the resultant typology is to present a system for toponymists when classifying placenames according to their type—in other words, according to the ways in which they express the naming intention.

Table 2 itemises the toponym categories of the 2020 typology.

Table 2
ANPS Toponym typology (Blair & Tent 2020)
(Example toponyms are from the AAT)

<p>1</p>	<p>Descriptive – using a name denoting an inherent characteristic of the feature.</p> <p>1.1 Topographic – denoting the physical appearance of a feature either literally or metaphorically (e.g. <i>Alligator Island</i> < due to its shape; <i>Tent Island</i> < due to its shape).</p> <p>1.2 Relational – denoting a relationship between a feature and another feature nearby, either in time, space or dimensions (e.g. <i>East Arm & West Arm</i> < the eastern & western arms of Horseshoe Harbour at Mawson; <i>Lesser Mackellar Island</i> < indicative of the size of the feature in relation to Greater Mackellar Island).</p> <p>1.3 Locational – denoting the location or orientation of a feature (e.g. <i>Corner Nunatak</i> < in the extreme north-east corner of the Miller Range; <i>First Gully</i> < the first gully south of the Isthmus flowing east into Buckles Bay; <i>Midway Island</i> < lying midway between Shcherbinina Island and eastern Mather Peninsula; <i>Azimuth Hill</i> < because a sun azimuth was obtained from a cairn built near the east end of the outcrop).</p> <p>1.4 Functional – denoting the constructed or designated function of a feature (e.g. <i>Landmark Point</i> < A rocky point on the Mawson Coast of MacRobertson Land, an excellent landmark if approaching the penguin colony along the coast from Mawson; <i>Boat Harbour</i> < An inlet at Cape Denison, 50m from Mawson’s main hut).</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Associative – using a name denoting something associated with the feature or its physical context.</p> <p>2.1 Environment – denoting something in the local environment or context which is seen with or associated with the feature (e.g. <i>Abatus Bay</i> < abundance of the Abatus group of invertebrate species; <i>Albino Rookery</i> < where albino Adélie penguins were noted in 1969; <i>Erratic Point</i> < named after the presence of erratic boulders).</p> <p>2.2 Occupation/Activity – denoting an occupation, habitual activity or related artefact associated with the feature (e.g. <i>Anchorage Island</i>; <i>Calendar Lake</i> < fossil shells collected there were used for carbon dating hence the association with ‘calendar’; <i>Departure Rocks</i> < due to parties going westwards from Mawson on the sea ice always passing through or close to the rocks; <i>Lambing Gully</i> < gully used in the early years by the ewes at lambing time. There are no longer sheep on the Island; <i>Landing Beach</i> < beach on Macquarie Island used for landing parties; <i>Try Pot Beach</i> < try pots found there from former sealing station).</p> <p>2.3 Structure – denoting a manufactured structure associated with the feature (e.g. <i>Aerial Cove</i> < it overlooked the Australasian Antarctic Expedition’s 1911-14 radio aerial; <i>Astro Glacier</i> < discovered and named by the NZ Geological and Survey Antarctic Expedition 1961-62, which occupied an Astro station on a bluff at the mouth of the glacier; <i>Depot Island</i> < because a depot was established there by ANARE during 1956; <i>Wharf Point</i> < a small wharf was built there in the early days of ANARE occupation and the name has passed into general use; <i>Hut Hill</i> < named by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-13 because it sheltered the Expedition hut from easterly winds).</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Occurrent – using a name recording an event, incident, occasion or date when the feature was named.</p> <p>3.1 Incident – recording an event or incident which led to the naming of the feature (e.g. <i>Access Slope</i> < slope where the first descent of the Darwin Glacier was made; <i>Anxiety Nunataks</i> < rough running aircraft engine over the nunataks caused considerable anxiety; <i>Bypass Nunatak</i> < marked the turning point in the route taken by the 1958 ANARE southern party, in order to bypass dangerous terrain to the south-west; <i>Lord Nelson Reef</i> < the ship <i>Lord Nelson</i> was wrecked there in 1830).</p> <p>3.2 Occasion – recognising a time or date when the feature was named (e.g. <i>Anniversary Nunataks</i> < anniversary of British occupation of Australia; <i>ANZAC Peak</i> < surveyed on 25 April 1948; <i>Festive Plateau</i> < named by two members of the Darwin Glacier Party of the TAE (1956-58) who spent Christmas Day 1957 on the plateau; <i>Fiftyone Glacier</i> < originally named ‘the 1951 Glacier’ by an ANARE party which made a traverse of the island in 1951).</p>

- 4 **Evaluative** – using a name reflecting the emotional reaction of the namer, or a strong connotation associated with the feature.
- 4.1 **Commendatory** – reflecting/propounding a positive response to the feature (e.g. *Abraxas Lake* < ‘an instance or utterance of the magical word “abraxas”, supposed (esp. in Gnosticism) to act as a charm, a gem, amulet, etc., inscribed with this word or other cabbalistic signs. Cf. abracadabra’ (OED); *Ace Lake* < After 9 months of searching for a saline lake containing copepods biologists found them in this lake, it was considered it a winner, an ‘ace’).
- 4.2 **Condemnatory** – reflecting/propounding a negative response to the feature (e.g. *Desperation Gully* < V.J.H. ‘On Heard Island. ONE CAME BACK.’ *The Bulletin*, 75 (3881) (30 Jun 1954): 25; *Dismal Basin* < a very depressing area to look at and even more depressing to walk through; *Dismal Mountains* < because they are frequently shrouded in cloud; *Hell Bay* < small bay is one of the least accessible parts, from both land and sea, of the entire coastline of Macquarie Island, and is rarely visited for this reason. It has been known among ANARE expeditioners by this name for many years, presumably because of the nightmarish approach necessary for anyone to visit it).
- 5 **Copied** – copying the name-form from another place or from another language.
- 5.1 **Locational** – using the name of a feature from another place (e.g. *Aker Peaks* < the farm of S.F. Brunn, a Director of the Antarctic Whaling Co., at Tønsberg, Norway; *Britannia Range* < HMS Britannia, a naval college in England, which had been attended by many officers of Scott’s Expedition; *Dennes Point* < a dolerite point named after a similar dolerite feature on Bruny island, Tasmania; *The Nullarbor* < the black volcanic sand flat on Heard Island between Corinthian Bay and Atlas Cove; *Melbourne Bluff* < Melbourne, Victoria; *Achernar Island* < the brightest star in the constellation of Eridanus, and the tenth-brightest in the night sky; *Algae River* < a drainage system, centred on Algae Lake; *Amanda Rookery* < on Amanda Bay; *Atlas Roads* < off Atlas Cove; *Amery Peaks* < near the Amery Ice Shelf; *Ellis Narrows* < a narrow strait with a tidal race in Ellis Fjord; *Ellis Rapids* < a meltwater stream flowing rapidly in summer from the lakes into the head of Ellis Fjord).
- 5.2 **Linguistic** – using the name-form (or its calque) which the feature has in another language (e.g. *Austnes Peninsula* < *Austnes* ‘East Point’ by Norwegian cartographers; *Belyj Peninsula* < Russian *belyj* ‘white’; *Bernesholmen* (ISLAND) < Norwegian ‘The naked point islet’; *Chernyj Island* < Russian *chernyj* ‘black’; *Donanier Rock* < French *Rocher du Douanier* ‘Customs Officer Rock’ because it seemed to guard the limit of the French sector; *Kiri Nunatak* < Japanese *kiri* ‘frog’; *Arrow Island* < *Pila* ‘The Arrow’ by Norwegian cartographers; *Polarerboken Glacier* < after a polar journal published by the Norsk Polarklubb in Oslo, Norway).

- 6 Eponymous** – using the name of a person or other named entity as a toponym, in the form of a proper name, title, or eponym substitute.
- 6.1 Human** – using the name of a person or of a group of people.
- 6.1.1 Namer** – using the namer’s own name as the toponym (e.g. *Heard Island* < sighted and named on 25 November 1853 by Captain John J. Heard of the American barque *Oriental*).
- 6.1.2 Notable person** – using the name of an eminent person, patron, official, noble, politician etc. (e.g. *Adams Glacier* < John Quincey Adams, 6th President of the USA; *Cape Batterbee* < Sir Henry Fagg Batterbee, Assistant Secretary of the Dominions Office, London; *Edward VIII Gulf* < King Edward VIII of England; *Governor Mountain* < after Sir Bernard Fergusson, Governor-General of New Zealand, and because of the dominating aspect of the mountain; *Baudissin Glacier* < after a sponsor of the German South Polar expedition 1901-1903).
- 6.1.3 Colleague** – using the name of a member of an expedition or survey involved in the discovery or naming of the feature (e.g. *Adams Island* < the boatswain of the Mawson expedition ship, SY *Aurora*; *Adams Fjord* < Ian L. Adams, Officer-in-Charge at Mawson in 1958; *Bayly Bay* < Dr Ian Bayly, a copepod expert who worked in the area of the bay; *Blair Peak* < after James Blair, senior diesel mechanic at Mawson in 1958).
- 6.1.4 Family member or friend** – using the name of a family member or friend (e.g. *Amanda Bay* < daughter of Squadron Leader P. Clemence, RAAF, who commanded the Antarctic Flight at Mawson in 1957; *Cape Ann* < the wife of John Biscoe, the sealer who circumnavigated Antarctica; *Dalice Peak* < Dalice, daughter of Peter A. Trost, physicist at Mawson in 1958. The name was incorrectly spelt).
- 6.1.5 Associated person** – using the name of a person or a group associated with the feature as, for example, a founder, builder, owner or local inhabitant (e.g. *Goorkeba Craters* < named in association with *Nepal Peak*).
- 6.1.6 Occupational group** – using the name of an occupational group or national identity to name a feature (e.g. *Doggers Nunataks* < the members of the 1958 ANARE dog-sledge party who were always referred to at Mawson as the “Doggers”; *Mechanics Bay* < to commemorate the men and vehicles of a 1962 ANARE party; *Surveyors Range* < after the early surveyors).
- 6.2 Other animate entity** – using the proper name of a non-human animate entity (e.g. *Basilisk Island*, *Betli Island*, *Blizzard Island*, *Alexandra Island*, *Zip Point* < dogs that served on the AAE; *Husky Massif* < to commemorate the dogs used by an ANARE party in January 1957).
- 6.3 Non-animate entity** – using the proper name of a non-animate entity.
- 6.3.1 Notable abstract entity** – using the name of a notable occasion, entity or concept, such as a battle, a political association or other abstract category (e.g. *AAE Glacier* < Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1912-14; *ANZAC Glacier*; *BANZARE Glacier* < after the 1930-1 British-Australian-NZ Antarctic Research Expedition, 1930-31 led by Sir Douglas Mawson).
- 6.3.2 Named concrete entity** – using the name of a vessel, organisation, institution, etc. or of a class of a ship, train or plane associated with the feature (e.g. *Kon-Tiki Nunatak* < after the raft Kon-Tiki which drifted across the Pacific Ocean from east to west in 1947; *Alert Island* < after a US vessel that participated in the 1855-56 sealing season, the year which marked the beginning of the peak exploitation period for sealing on Heard Island; *Auster Glacier* < to commemorate the assistance obtained from the Auster aircraft when it was surveyed; *Larc Cove* < site of the first seaborne landing on the Island, made by a LARC ‘Lighter, Amphibious Resupply, Cargo’ amphibious vehicle; *Mariner Islands* < after the Martin Mariner aircraft used there during Operation Highjump; *Weasel Gap* < after the tracked vehicles used by ANARE there; *Highjump Archipelago* < named by USACAN after code word ‘Highjump’ by which USN Task Force 68 (1946-47) was known; *Titan Dome* < after the Cambridge University Titan computer, which was used to process nearly all the radio echo sounding data for this part of Antarctica; *Vicars Island* < after the Australian textile company which presented the Mawson expedition with cloth for uniforms; *Wallabies Nunataks* < after the Australian Rugby Union team the ‘Wallabies’).
- 6.3.3 Expedition vessel** – using the name of a vessel involved in the ‘discovery’ or naming of the feature (e.g. *Aurora Bank* < RSV *Aurora Australis*, 1990-93, and SY *Aurora* of Shackleton’s 1914 expedition; *Brothers Point* < *Brothers*, schooner engaged in sealing when Macquarie Island was discovered; *Cacapon Inlet* < the tanker *Cacapon*, used in Operation Highjump, 1946-47).
- 6.4 Literary and mythical entities** – using the name of a figure or place from literature or mythology (e.g. *Aramis Range* < Aramis in Alexandre Dumas’s novel *The Three Musketeers*; *Argo Glacier* < vessel sailed by Jason in Greek mythology; *Archangel Nunataks*; *Big Brother Bluff* < from the saying in George Orwell’s novel *1984*; *Mount Cronus* < Cronus, the father of the gods in classical mythology).

- 7 **Innovative** – introducing a new linguistic form as a toponym.
- 7.1 **Humour** – using language play with humorous intent to create a new toponym (e.g. *Catch Me Point* < the name “Catch Me” was applied by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-14 to a cave on the point; *Floyd Bluff* < a play on the name of the leader of the 1986/87 ANARE summer expedition, Lloyd Fletcher; *Gwamm* < an acronym formed from the given name initials of an RAAF party’s wives).
- 7.2 **Aptness** – creating a new linguistic form or importing a word from another language to produce a toponym of pleasing sound, positive connotation or appropriate meaning (e.g. *Boobyalla Islands* < common name for the Australian native willow, *Acacia longifolia*; *Boree Islands* < common name for a species of Australian acacia found in Australia, esp. *Acacia pendula*; *Larelar Lake* < circular freshwater lake. Aboriginal [sic] for ‘circular; round’; *Leah Ridge* < ‘Leah’ a code name used at Mawson to identify the survey party).



Fig. 4 *Blair Peak*: ‘Eponymous—Colleague’

(Photo: Wade Fairley, https://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/scar/display_name.cfm?gaz_id=2028)



Fig. 5 *Gorilla Head Rock*, Macquarie Island: ‘Descriptive—Topographic’

(Photo: Paul Helleman, AAD. <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/living-and-working/stations/macquarie-island/this-week-at-macquarie-island/2016/this-week-at-macquarie-island-5-february-2016/looking-for-cape-petrel-chicks>)

4.2 Results and discussion

Before delving into a survey of the AAG's toponyms, it seems fitting to consider the etymology of the name *Antarctica* itself. The name is the romanised form of the Greek compound ἀνταρκτική (*antarktiké*), which is the feminine form of ἀνταρκτικός (*antarktikós*), meaning 'opposite to the Arctic' or 'opposite to the north'. It was first used as the southern-most continent's name in the 1890s by the Scottish cartographer John George Bartholomew. However, prior to its acquiring its present denotation, the name was used for locations that could be defined as 'opposite to the north', for example, *France Antarctique*, the short-lived French colony established in Brazil in the 16th century.

4.2.1 Geographic features

The AAT's 2892 official toponyms belong to 113 different geographic feature types. **Table 3** enumerates these features. Percentages are only given for named features numbering more than 10. The table highlights many geographic features that do not appear on continental Australia, or very rarely. Some also have different senses to ones with which the reader may be familiar; these are itemised and defined in **Table 4**.



Fig. 6 *Baudissin Glacier*, Heard Island: 'Eponymous—Notable person'
(Photo: Jean Faltot, AAD. <http://heardisland.antarctica.gov.au/gallery/landscape>)

Table 3
FEATURE types

FEATURE TYPE	Number	Percent
AERODROME	1	
AIGUILLES	2	
AMPHITHEATRE	1	
ANCHORAGE	3	
ARCHIPELAGO	4	
ARM	3	
AWS	6	
BANK	15	0.52
BASIN	8	
BAY	133	4.6
BEACH	17	0.58
BENCH	4	
BIGHT	1	
BLUFF	61	2.11
BUTTE	2	
BUTTRESS	12	0.41
CANYON	1	
CAPE	104	3.6
CASTLE	1	
CAVE	3	
CHANNEL	8	
CIRQUE	4	
CLIFF	11	0.38
COAST	9	
COLONY	6	
CONE	1	
CORNER	4	
COVE	13	0.48
CRAG	4	
CRATER	4	
CROSSING	2	
DEEP	3	
DEPRESSION	1	
DOME	22	0.76
ESCARPMENT	4	
FALL	2	
FJORD	10	0.34
GAP	4	
GLACIER	201	6.9
GORGE	6	
GULF	3	
GULLY	9	
HARBOUR	2	
HEAD	11	0.38
HEADLAND	8	
HEIGHTS	2	
HILL	79	2.7
ICE SHELF	17	0.59
ICE STREAM	1	
ICEFALL	8	
INLET	6	
ISLAND	447	15.5
ISLANDS	1	
ISTHMUS	1	
KNOB	8	

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LAGOON	8	
LAND	9	
LANDING	5	
LANDING AREA	1	
LAVA TONGUE	1	
LOOKOUT	2	
MASSIF	15	0.52
MESA	2	
MONOLITH	2	
MORaine	9	
MOUNTAIN	372	12.9
NEVE	6	
NUNATAK	219	7.6
OFFSHORE ROCK	11	0.38
OUTCROP	5	
PASS	5	
PASSAGE	6	
PEAK	186	6.4
PENINSULA	37	1.28
PIEDMONT	1	
PILLAR	2	
PLAIN	4	
PLATEAU	16	0.55
PLATFORM	3	
POINT	97	3.4
PORTAL	3	
PROMONTORY	11	0.38
PYRAMID	1	
RANGE	24	0.83
RAVINE	3	
REEF	16	0.55
RIDGE	103	3.6
RIM	1	
RISE	1	
ROCK	101	3.5
SADDLE	2	
SEA	1	
SHOAL	7	
SKERRY	7	
SOUND	3	
SPIT	1	
SPUR	6	
STACK	2	
STATION	7	
STRAIT	7	
SUBGLACIAL BASIN	4	
SUBGLACIAL	7	
MOUNTAINS		
SUBGLACIAL TRENCH	2	
TERRITORY	1	
TONGUE	5	
TOOTH	1	
TOR	1	
UNDERSEA RIDGE	1	
VALLEY	23	0.79
WALL	2	
WALLOW	1	
WATER BODY	187	6.5
WATER COURSE	20	0.69
TOTAL	2892	

Table 4
Geographic feature definitions
 (Source: AADC, 2019. *SCAR Feature Catalogue*)

FEATURE TYPE	Definition
AIGUILLES	A French term which has been widely adopted to describe narrow, needle-shaped rocks.
ARM	A part, usually narrow and elongate, of a feature projecting from the main body, e.g. arm of the sea.
AWS	Automatic Weather Station
BENCH	Similar to a terrace but usually applied to a high-level rock feature.
BUTTE	A flat-topped isolated hill similar to, but smaller than, a mesa.
BUTTRESS	Similar to bastion but usually forming part of a larger feature. Bastion: Upstanding rock feature, commonly with cliffs on at least one side, and usually an outlier of a larger feature.
CASTLE	Descriptive term, a natural feature resembling a castle in shape.
CIRQUE	A deep rounded hollow on a mountain side formed by glacial action and usually occupied by a remnant glacier or neve.
COLONY	A collection of animals, plants, etc., connected, in contact, or living close together.
CONE	Cone-shaped hill or nunatak.
CORNER	Turning point of a rock ridge or a point on a bay.
CROSSING	In the context of names, it is a low pass across a peninsula.
DEEP	The deepest part of the sea, usually where a depression in the sea floor has steep sides.
DOME	A rounded and gently sloping elevation in the surface of an inland ice sheet. Ice domes do not have precisely defined margins and may cover very large areas - more than 100,000km sq, for example.
FALL	A stream falling over a vertical or steep face of a rock, cliff or mountain.
FJORD	Long narrow arm of the sea between high cliffs, but the term bay has also been applied to such a feature.
HEAD ²	Comparatively high, steep-faced land jutting into the sea or into an ice shelf; similar to promontory but applied to a feature of lesser extent, cf. cape, point. An unnamed head is usually described as a headland.
ICE SHELF	A floating ice sheet of considerable thickness attached to a coast. Ice shelves are usually of great horizontal extent and have a level or gently undulating surface. They are nourished by the accumulation of snow and often by seaward extension of land glaciers. Limited areas may be aground. The seaward edge is termed an ice front.
ICE STREAM	Part of an ice sheet in which the ice flows more rapidly and not necessarily in the same direction as the surrounding ice. The margins are sometimes clearly marked by a change in direction of the surface slope, but may be indistinct.
ICEFALL	The portion of a glacier at a point of steep descent, segmented by many transverse crevasses into separate blocks.
LAND	Large continental area defined by natural boundaries, or partly by natural boundaries and partly by boundaries of political convenience. The term was formally used by explorers for newly discovered lengths of coastline, cf. coast. Outside the area covered by this work the term may be synonymous with territory. The use of land does not refer to the ground, rather it is a generic part of a toponym.
LANDING AREA	Any locality either on land, water or structures, including airports/helipads and intermediate landing fields, which is used, or intended to be used, for the landing and take-off of aircraft. Landing areas may or may not have facilities for the shelter and servicing of aircraft, or for receiving or discharging passengers or cargo.
MASSIF	Compact group of mountain heights, which may be partly or almost entirely ice-covered.
MESA	Synonymous with plateau or table but of lesser extent.
MORaine	A mound, ridge, or other distinct accumulation of unsorted, unstratified glacial drift, predominantly till, deposited primarily by direct action of glacier ice, in a variety of topographic landforms that are independent of control by the surface on which the drift lies.
NEVE	The crystalline or granular snow on the upper part of a glacier, which has not yet been compressed into ice; a field or bed of frozen snow.
NUNATAK	A small mountain, rocky crag or outcrop projecting from a glacier, ice shelf or snowfield.
PIEDMONT	Literally (in French), the foot of a mountain. Used to describe the gentle slope leading down from the steep mountain slopes to the plains and including both the piedmont and the accumulation of colluvial and alluvial material which forms a low-angle slope beyond the piedmont.
PLATFORM	A small plateau or flat rock massif.
PORTAL	A gateway, entrance.
PYRAMID	Pyramid-shaped peak.
RIM	A rocky outer edge of a volcanic crater.
SKERRY	Small rocky island.
STACK	High and precipitous detached pillar of rock near shore.
STATTON	A place where there is permanent human habitation and infrastructure serving as a base for scientific research.
SUBGLACIAL BASIN	Subglacial: a term meaning 'beneath the ice'. Basin: a very large depression occupied by sea water, i.e. an ocean basin.

² HEAD and HEADLAND are defined in the same way by the AAD.

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SUBGLACIAL MOUNTAINS	Subglacial: a term meaning 'beneath the ice'. Mountain: A mass of land considerably higher than its surroundings and of greater altitude than a hill.
SUBGLACIAL TRENCH	Subglacial: a term meaning 'beneath the ice'. Trench: A deep, or elongated trough, in a floor of the ocean.
TONGUE	A projection of the ice edge up to several km in length caused by wind and current.
TOOTH	Tooth-shaped rock or nunatak.
TOR	An isolated high rock commonly eroded by wind into unusual shapes.
UNDERSEA RIDGE	A ridge (Long narrow hill or mountain top or spur leading to a summit) that is a submarine feature.
WALL	An ice cliff forming the seaward margin of an inland ice sheet, ice cap, ice piedmont or ice rise. The rock basement may be at or below sea level.
WALLOW	Low-lying muddy or damp place where animals gather.
WATER BODY	An enclosed body of water, usually but not necessarily fresh water, from which the sea is excluded.
WATER COURSE	A natural stream arising in a given drainage basin but not wholly dependent for its flow on surface drainage in its immediate area, flowing in a channel with a well-defined bed between visible banks or through a definite depression in the land, having a definite and permanent or periodic supply of water, and usually, but not necessarily, having a perceptible current in a particular direction and discharging at a fixed point into another body of water.

Not surprisingly, glaciers comprise almost 7% of geographic features in the AAT, and mountains 13%. If peaks are added to mountains, they comprise just over 19% of features. Glaciers have their source on mountains, hence these three features are interrelated; when combined, they comprise just over 26% of named features. What is perhaps a little surprising is that 15.5% of features are islands, a feature which does not generally spring to mind when considering Antarctica.



Fig. 7 Try pots³ on *Try Pot Beach* (Heard Island): 'Associative—Occupation/Activity'
(Photo: E. Woehler, AAD. <http://heardisland.antarctica.gov.au/history>)

³ A 'try pot' or 'trypot' is a large cast iron pot, flattened on two sides, used to extract the oil from blubber obtained from whales and penguins. This process, called 'trying-out', was in the early days conducted onshore, not at sea (Tower 1907: 26-27, 95). Hence the presence of the try pots on the beach on Heard Island.



Fig. 8 *Abatus Bay*: ‘Associative—Environment’

(Photo: David Barringhaus, AAD. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-12/davis-research-station,-showing-abatus-bay-in-antarctic/7589488>)

4.2.2 *Toponym types*

To my knowledge, no quantitative analysis of the toponyms of an entire region or jurisdiction in Australia has ever been conducted. Therefore, it is not possible to make any direct comparisons between the namescape of the AAT and other Australian jurisdictions. Nevertheless, some characteristics of the AAT namescape stand out from what may normally be expected of Australian regions’ toponyms, and are thus worth commenting upon.

Table 5 enumerates the number of toponyms per toponym type, as outlined in Table 2. In all, 2892 toponyms were found; however, for 24 (0.83%) of them no interpretation for their origin could be made. Nonetheless, 13 (54.2%) appear to be ‘Eponymous’ (6.1 ‘Human’) given their apparent name forms (see Appendix, Tables 6a & 6b, pages 32-33). Without further evidence of their origins, they cannot legitimately be included in the final tally of toponyms classified, thus leaving 2868 toponyms.

Table 5
Toponym categories – results⁴

	Toponym type	Number of toponyms	Percentage
1	Descriptive	277	9.7
	1.1 Topographic	215	77.6
	1.2 Relational	56	20.3
	1.3 Locational	1	0.4
	1.4 Functional	5	1.8
2	Associative	115	4.0
	2.1 Environment	90	78.3
	2.2 Occupation/Activity	14	12.2
	2.3 Structure	11	9.5
3	Occurrent	62	2.2
	3.1 Incident	53	85.5
	3.2 Occasion	9	14.5
4	Evaluative	19	0.66
	4.1 Commendatory	10	52.6
	4.2 Condemnatory	9	47.4
5	Copied	427	14.9
	5.1 Locational	49	11.5
	5.2 Linguistic	378	88.5
6	Eponymous	1946	67.8
	6.1 human	1743	89.6
	6.1.1 <i>Namer</i>	1	0.06
	6.1.2 <i>Notable person</i>	287	16.5
	6.1.3 <i>Colleague</i>	1435	82.3
	6.1.4 <i>Family member or friend</i>	13	0.7
	6.1.5 <i>Associated person</i>	1	0.06
	6.1.6 <i>Occupational groups</i>	6	0.3
	6.2 Other animate entity	29	1.5
	6.3 Non-animate entity	139	7.1
	6.3.1 <i>Notable abstract entity</i>	8	5.6
	6.3.2 <i>Named concrete entity</i>	36	25.9
	6.3.3 <i>Expedition vessel</i>	95	68.3
	6.4 Literary, mythical & biblical entities / figures	35	1.8
7	Innovative	22	0.77
	7.1 Humour	3	13.6
	7.2 Aptness	19	86.4
Total		2868	

⁴ The **bolded** percentages aligned to the left of the column indicate the percentage of the total number of toponyms categorised (i.e. 2868); the percentages aligned in the centre of the column indicate the percentages within the first tier subcategories of the main toponym categories; those aligned to the right of the column indicate the percentages within the second tier sub-categories.

Perhaps the most striking statistic is the unusually high proportion of ‘Eponymous’ toponyms (67.8%). A cursory glance through the gazetteer of any state jurisdiction in Australia does not show such a high number of ‘Eponymous’ toponyms. The 9.7% ‘Descriptive’ toponyms also seems somewhat out of the ordinary. Once again, a cursory glance through Australian states’ gazetteers will in all likelihood show a much higher proportion of such toponyms. The numbers of all the other AAT toponym types seem to be within the range of what can be normally expected.

4.2.3 Specific comments on toponym categories

- Category 1: **Descriptive** – using a name denoting an inherent characteristic of the feature.

As just mentioned, there are fewer ‘Descriptive’ toponyms in the AAT than would normally be expected in a region. The overall 9.7% ‘Descriptive’ toponyms seems to be very low.

In a discussion on the problems of Antarctic nomenclature, the American toponymist and secretary of the US Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names 1949–80, Fred G. Alberts (1995: ix), provides some clues as to why this may be so:

The Antarctic continent presents many nomenclature problems. Modern specialized tools were not available to the early explorers primarily responsible for initial activity in Antarctic naming, and the nature of Antarctica put great obstacles in their way. Prior to the advent of modern aerial photography and satellite imagery, the great size of the continent and its relative inaccessibility made it difficult to develop accurate concepts of the whole and the relationship of its parts. It has not been easy for explorers to describe and locate features unmistakably or to identify a feature reported previously by someone else. Many of the natural features in Antarctica are markedly similar in appearance; moreover, the appearance of a given feature may vary with the angle or the time of view. The extraordinary hazards of travel and frequent poor visibility have restricted observation. Practically all of the interior and much of the coast are masked with a cover of snow and ice through which protrude only the upper parts of mountains or mountain ranges. Although many glaciers are perfectly distinct, except perhaps at their sources, the relationship of ice masses to one another is commonly not obvious.

Alberts’ thesis seems reasonable. Given that many of Antarctica’s natural features are seemingly very similar in appearance (not to mention the other impediments to identifying them) might help to explain the relative dearth of ‘Descriptive’ names.

The distribution of toponym types 1.1 (‘Topographic’), 1.2 (‘Relative’), 1.3 (‘Locational’), and 1.4 (‘Functional’) within the main ‘Descriptive’ category seems to be within the relative proportions found elsewhere in Australia.



Fig. 9 *Tent Island*: ‘Descriptive—Topographic’

(Source: P. Bond.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tent_island_%C3%AEle_ross_mcmurdo.jpg)

- Category 2: **Associative** – using a name denoting something associated with the feature or its physical context.

The 4% count of ‘Associative’ toponyms seems reasonable, as does the 78.3% for 2.1 (‘Environment’) toponyms within the 115 instances of the main ‘Associative’ category. The other two sub-categories, 2.2 (‘Occupation/Activity’) and 2.3 (‘Structure’), also appear to be within the bounds of expectation.

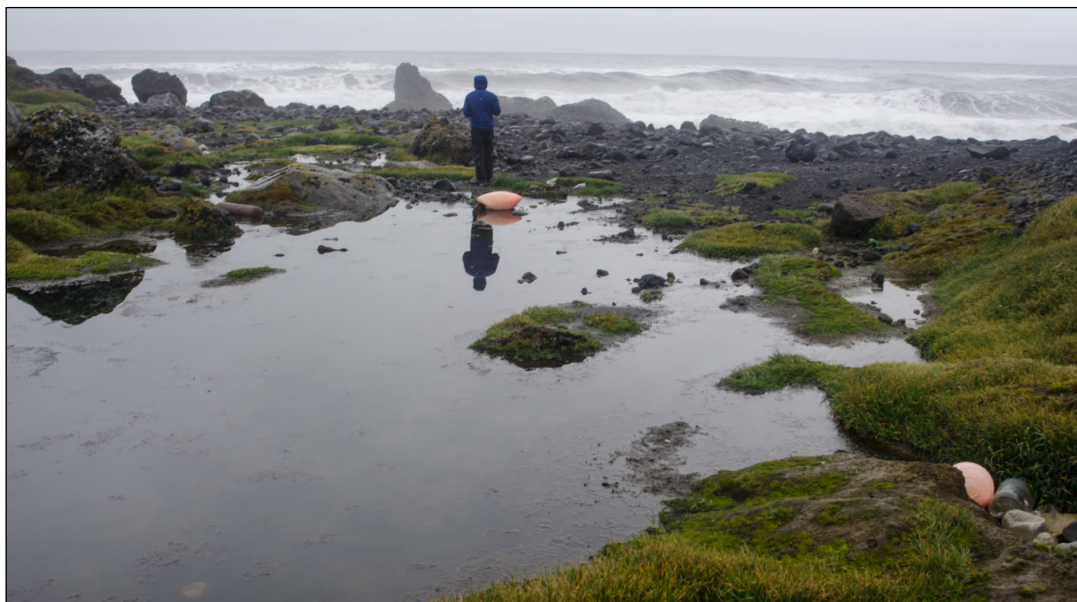


Fig. 10 *Erratic Point* (Heard Island) (with marine debris), so named because of the prevalence of ‘erratic blocks/boulders’ transported there from their original site by glacial action: ‘Associative—Environment’

(Source: Gavin Marshall, ‘What a waste – marine debris to heard island’

<https://trackmyadventures.co/category/heard-island/>)

- **Category 3: Occurrent** – using a name recording an event, incident, occasion or date when the feature was named.

‘Occurrent’ toponyms are never plentiful in any region’s nomenclature; therefore the 2.2% proportion of such toponyms in the AAT seems realistic.

- **Category 4: Evaluative** – using a name reflecting the emotional reaction of the namer, or a strong connotation associated with the feature.

‘Evaluative’ toponyms are rare in mainland Australia, so the 0.66% in the AAT appears to be a comparable proportion.

One of the few evaluative toponyms (i.e. ‘Commendatory’) is particularly imaginative: *Abraxas Lake* (Figure 11), in the Vestfold Hills. The lake has a sparkling blue colour, and contains at least three species of small Crustacea and some unusual algae. *Abraxas* is ‘an instance or utterance of the magical word “abraxas”, supposed (esp. in Gnosticism) to act as a charm; a gem, amulet, etc., inscribed with this word or other cabbalistic signs. Cf. *abracadabra n.*’ (OED).⁵



Fig. 11 *Abraxas Lake*, Vestfold Hills, Antarctica: ‘Evaluative—Commendatory’
(Source: Alice Hancock, *Life in Antarctica*. <https://alycehancock.wordpress.com>)

⁵ The OED provides the following information on the term’s etymology:

Origin: Of multiple origins. Partly a borrowing from French. Partly a borrowing from Latin. **Etymons:** French *abraxas*; Latin *Abraxas*.

Etymology: < French *abraxas* (apparently 1713 (in the passage translated in quot. 1713) denoting an instance of the magical word; 1749 or earlier denoting an utterance of the magical word used as a charm; 1751 denoting an amulet inscribed with the magical word) and its etymon post-classical Latin *Abraxas*, name given by the Basilidians to the ruler of the 365 heavens (3rd cent.) < Hellenistic Greek *Ἀβράξας* (in papyri containing texts on magic; more commonly as *Ἀβράσαξ*: see **abrasax n.**), of unknown origin. Compare earlier **abracadabra n.**, and see discussion at that entry. In the Greek system of alphabetic numerology the letters of *Ἀβράξας* add up to the number 365.

- Category 5: **Copied** – copying the name-form from another place or from another language.

The various types of ‘Copied’ toponyms need to be considered separately.

Firstly, the AAT’s 49 5.1 (‘Locational’) names at first seems a little low given the history of the Antarctic. Newly ‘discovered’ and colonised regions in the world by Europeans, such as the ‘New World’, Africa and Australasia, often had placenames bestowed upon them that were copied from the homeland. Antarctica could be considered as an analogous region to these, and therefore to be ripe for such copying. Often a location or region in the newly ‘discovered’ land reminded explorers or colonisers of home or some other region of the world, and so the name was copied. The AAT’s small number of 5.1 toponyms can perhaps be explained by the fact that the region’s topography is so unlike most other places known to explorers and expeditioners that it did not afford sufficient incentive to copy toponyms from elsewhere.

The relatively high number of 5.2 (‘Linguistic’) names is due to the AAT’s adoption of toponyms directly from Russian and Norwegian into the AAG. Most of these have generic elements in English, whilst maintaining their, often calqued, Russian or Norwegian specifics.⁶ Many of their meanings (and at times their designations) are not transparent to the English reader:

- *Berrnesholmen* (ISLAND) < Norwegian ‘The naked point islet’ (*berr* ‘naked’ + *nes* ‘point’ + *holme* ‘islet’). Name adopted by Australia in 2011
- *Lake Bisernoje* < Russian *Ozero Bisernoje* ‘Lake Beads’
- *Kiri Nunatak* < Japanese *kiri* ‘frog’

In many instances, these toponyms are descriptive in their original language. However, given most of these toponyms have been adopted (copied) into the AAT English language toponymy in their original (near original or calqued) form, they have been classified as 5.2 toponyms. The Russians and Norwegians were clearly more inclined to name features with descriptive names than the British, Australians and New Zealanders. However, without a comprehensive analysis of the Russian and Norwegian toponymies of Antarctica, this impression cannot be substantiated.

The reason for classifying these toponyms as 5.2 rather than category 1 (‘Descriptive’) is that we actually look at such names from the perspective of the current AAT namespace (and what we thus find in the AAG). We are not considering placenaming from the perspective of the name bestowers at the time of naming. Instead, we consider toponyms such as the three listed directly above as ‘imported’ or ‘introduced’ into the AAT nomenclature and the AAG. In other words, we categorise toponyms appearing in the AAG (or any other contemporary gazetteer for that matter), according to the onomastic mechanism adopted by those who entered the toponyms in the AAG.

⁶ The term ‘calque’ refers to a loan translation—‘a form of copying from one language to another whereby the semantic equivalent of a term or grammatical structure in one language is given a literal translation in the other [...]’ (*Macquarie Dictionary*).

Calqued forms appearing in the AAG, such as:

- *Barrier Bay* < Norwegian *Barriervika* ‘The Barrier Bay’
 - *Long Peninsula* < Norwegian *Langneset* ‘The Long Point’
- are also classified as 5.2 toponyms because they have been copied.

- Category 6: **Eponymous** – using the name of a person or other named entity as a toponym, in the form of a proper name, title, or eponym substitute.

‘Eponymous’ toponyms stand out from all other toponym types in the AAT, comprising more than two-thirds (67.8%) of the territory’s toponyms. The 6.1 (‘Human’) toponyms are the most common type, with 6.1.3 (‘Colleague’) being in the majority (82.3% of all ‘Eponymous’ toponyms), followed by features named after a ‘Notable person’ (16.5%), category 6.1.2.

Although Alberts (1995) looks at the toponyms of Antarctica from the perspective of the United States Board on Geographic Names, his reasoning for the application of names of individuals to geographic features may well also be applied to such names in the AAT:

Because Antarctica has no history of permanent settlement, and because the continent has been unveiled through the efforts of explorers, scientists, and others, the Board has found it practical to apply the names of such persons to Antarctic natural features. The requirements for naming features, coupled with the availability of names of deserving people, further justify this practice. It does not, however, preclude the use of other than personal names.

(Alberts, 1995, p. xii)



Fig. 12 The active volcano *Big Ben*, on the ‘Eponymous—Namer’ *Heard Island*
(Photo: Keith Gooley. <http://heardisland.antarctica.gov.au/gallery/landscape>)

In relation to this, Henk Brolsma informs me that although ‘it has long been the PCPN’s policy, in making decisions on domestic geographic names [i.e. Australian domestic names], not to use the names of living persons, but the application of this policy to Antarctica appeared neither desirable nor possible.’ Henk adds, ‘the Americans also name places after mostly living people and their reason is that descriptive names are difficult to come up with—I think it’s a more individualistic approach in their society—I would say it’s the same for Australia.’ (Brolsma p.c. 11/12/2019).

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, to find several features being named after a single individual, usually a member of an expedition. It is also interesting to note that the naming of features after expedition personnel was very egalitarian, with features being named equally after expedition leaders, ship’s captains, medical officers, scientists at one end of the hierarchy, and cooks, mechanics and other tradespeople at the other.

One notable eponym category is the 6.2 (‘Other animate entity’). These rarely feature in any jurisdiction’s toponymy, but comprise 1.5% of toponyms in the AAT. All but one are derived from the names of sled dogs. This is quite understandable given the vital role these dogs played in the exploration of Antarctica.

An interesting set of names within ‘Eponymous’ (‘Named concrete entity’, 6.3.2) are those derived from polar serial publications; an unusual source for a toponym:

- *Polar Record Glacier*—after *The Polar Record*, a polar journal published by Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, England.
- *Polar Times Glacier*—after *The Polar Times*, a polar journal published by the American polar Society, New York.
- *Polarårboken Glacier*—after *Polarårboken*, a polar journal published by the Norsk Polarklubb, Oslo, Norway.
- *Polarforschung Glacier*—after *Polarforschung*, a polar journal published by the Archiv für Polarforschung, Kiel, West Germany.

Expedition and whaling vessels also played a significant role in the unveiling of the continent, their names being the source for 95 toponyms (3.3% of the AAT’s toponyms).

Although a small percentage of the AAT’s nomenclature is derived from literary, mythical and biblical entities and figures (toponym type 6.4), they nevertheless comprise an interesting set of names, in that they often appear in related sets. For example:

- A pair of lakes called *Jack* and *Jill* after the nursery rhyme characters. There is also an associated hill called *Tumbledown Hill*—a hill sloping down to two lakes on its eastern side, and named by the 1986-87 ANARE Field Party because one could ‘tumbledown’ to the lakes named *Lake Jack* and *Lake Jill*.
- *Cinderella Nunatak*—a nunatak lying north of the *Ugly Sisters Nunatak* at the head of the Byrd Glacier. It was discovered and named by the New Zealand Geological and Survey Antarctic expedition (1960-61).
Ugly Sisters Nunatak—two nunataks lying south of Cinderella Nunatak, about 75 km south-west of Mount Albert Markham. This was also discovered and

named by the New Zealand Geological and Survey Antarctic Expedition (1960-61).

- *Rumdoodle Peak*—a prominent peak in the north-western part of the North Masson Range, about south-west of Painted Peak. This peak overlooks the Rumdoodle Air Strip. ‘Rumdoodle’ was the name of a fictional mountain in the novel *Ascent of Rumdoodle* by W.E. Bowman. Since 1960 the name has been used locally by Mawson personnel for the airstrip. The novel is traditionally very popular at Mawson.
Rumdoodle Lake—an almost circular permanently frozen lake in the North Masson Range. The lake is about 5ha in area. The ice is 4m thick over 80m of water. The lake is adjacent to Rumdoodle Hut.
South Doodle (MOUNTAIN)—south of the more prominent Rumdoodle Peak. In *The Ascent of Rumdoodle*, the climbers originally climbed a wrong peak ‘North Doodle’.
Northdoodle Lake A triangular shaped lake in the North Masson Range which is permanently frozen and about 1.8ha in area. It is 400 metres north of Rumdoodle Lake and 800 metres NNW of Rumdoodle Peak.
Binders Nunataks—two small, light-coloured, rock outcrops, about 72km north of Mount Scherger, in the southern Prince Charles Mountains. A base was established at one of the nunataks by an ANARE survey party led by H Geysen in 1960. Named after a fictional character in *Ascent of Rumdoodle*.
- *Aramis Range, Athos Range, and Porthos Range*—ranges in the Prince Charles Mountains named after the three musketeers in Alexandre Dumas’ *The Three Musketeers*.

As mentioned above, 13 of the 24 ‘Unknown’ toponyms are likely to be ‘Eponymous’. Given their name form, they are probably named after notable persons or expedition members.

- Category 7: **Innovative** – introducing a new linguistic form as a toponym.

This category of toponym rarely features in any region or jurisdiction, including the AAT, with just 0.77% comprising its toponyms.



Fig. 13 Memorial Cross on the ‘Descriptive—Locational’ *Azimuth Hill*
(Photo: Angus McDonald, AAD. <https://mawsonshuts.antarctica.gov.au/national-heritage/the-physical-remains/memorial-cross-and-plaque/>)

4.2.4 Some general comments on AAT placenaming

It is a common practice in many parts of the world to name a series of features, suburbs or streets according to a theme. This can be an aid to navigation. Canberra’s suburbs and street names are generally named according to themes: pioneers, legislators, governors, Australian Indigenous words, explorers, defence personnel, etc. Street names in Australian suburbs are often clustered around a theme. In Sydney’s North Epping, for example, street names such as Durham, Norfolk, Devon, Bedford, York, Dorsett, Oxford, Sussex, Gloucester, Chester, Surrey, Derby, and Essex can be found. As seen above under the discussion on ‘Eponymous’ names, Antarctica is no different. Some further examples include:

- *Nepal Peak*—named by US-ACAN in association with *Goorkha Craters* (Gurkha), a name applied by R.F. Scott, 1901-04.
- *All-Blacks Nunataks* and *Wallabies Nunataks*.

Some other unusual AAT toponyms include:

- *Lassitude Lake*—‘Lassitude’ was a condition suffered by the doctor in *Ascent of Rumdoodle* by W.E. Bowman.
- *Floyd Bluff*—a play on the name of the leader of the 1986/87 ANARE summer expedition, Lloyd Fletcher.
- *Gwamm (LANDING)*—situated near Mawson on blue ice, GWAMM was an early landing ground for aircraft of the RAAF’s Antarctic Flight. The name GWAMM was an acronym formed from the given name initials of an RAAF party’s wives. In more recent times the lower case form has become usual.
- *Tassie Lake* and *Tassie Tarn*—each resembles the shape of Tasmania.

- *Todd Gully*—discovered by the NZARP Expedition (1964) who named it after the dialect name for a fox because of the resemblance to fox country in parts of England.
- *Toltec Butte*—a truncated peak discovered by the NZARP Allan Hills Expedition (1964), named after its resemblance to buildings of the civilisation of the same name.

I discovered one name that was misspelled in the AAG, *Erehwon Basin*. The narrative for the toponym states:

An extensive ice-free area forming a basin in the Brown Hills separating the snouts of the Foggydog and Bartrum Glaciers from the northern edge of the Darwin Glacier. Discovered by the Victoria University of Wellington Antarctic Expedition (1962-63). Named from Samuel Butler's novel *Erehwon*.

The title of Butler's novel is actually *Erehwon* (in full *Erehwon; or, Over the Range*), and is an anagram of 'nowhere' referring to the pseudo-utopian realm in which the novel is set. Alberts (1995: 224) spells the name of the feature correctly:

Erehwon Basin 79°48'S, 158°34'E

An extensive ice-free area forming a basin in the Brown Hills separating the snouts of the Foggydog and Bartrum Glaciers from the northern edge of the Darwin Glacier. Explored by the VUWAE, 1962-63, and named from Samuel Butler's novel *Erehwon*.

However, Alberts also lists:

Erehwon Nunatak 74°31'S, 76°41'W

A small nunatak (6 m high, 15m long) at an elevation of 1,050 m, located 16 mi NW of Henkle Peak in Ellsworth Land. It was discovered in January 1985 by chance in a snowstorm and fog by the joint USGS-BAS geological party led by Peter D. Rowley. Glossopteris-bearing sandstone discovered here by the party is significantly older than the oldest previously dated rock from southern Antarctic Peninsula. The name is "nowhere" spelled backwards and was suggested by Rowley because the field party was uncertain of its location during the foul weather.

Perhaps the AAG confused the name with the palindromic *Erehwon Nunatak*. The 1962-63 Victoria University of Wellington Antarctic Expedition spelled the name of the basin correctly when bestowing the name. The New Zealand Gazetteer records the toponym with the correct spelling (<https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/place/10994>).

Another noteworthy feature of the AAT nomenclature is the light-hearted nature of a variety of toponyms. This is probably in keeping with the reputed larrikin nature of Australians, often exhibited in humorous placenames. *Floyd Bluff*, *Catch Me Point*, *The Nullarbor*, and some of the other sets of names mentioned above show this characteristic.

Toponymy is a sub-branch of onomastics, which itself is a sub-branch of linguistics. The main objective of linguistics is to disclose and describe patterns of human language behaviour. Language is, after all, patterned behaviour, and it is precisely the existence of these patterns (or inherent rules) that facilitates the learning of a language as well as the generation and comprehension of novel utterances and texts. Placenames are simply another manifestation of language behaviour, and so one of the aims in studying placenames is the exposition of such patterns in their formation and their labelling of the landscape. Nonetheless, as is often the case, humans do not always act in predictable or systematic ways, and this also applies to linguistic performance and placenaming. So, occasionally there is no pattern, or at least no discernible one. It is therefore essential the linguist or toponymist not succumb to apophenia (i.e. the tendency to mistakenly perceive patterns in, or connections and meaning between unrelated things). Fortunately, the AAT reveals convincing and explicit naming patterns, and it is these patterns that I have attempted to sketch in this paper.



Fig. 15 *Jessie Niccol Creek*, Macquarie Island: ‘Eponymous—Expedition vessel’
(Photo: John Hodgson, AAD. <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/living-and-working/stations/macquarie-island/this-week-at-macquarie-island/2013/4-october-2013>)



Fig. 16 The schooner *Jessie Niccol*, source of the toponym *Jessie Niccol Creek*
(Source: Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database.
<http://www.environment.gov.au/shipwreck/public/wreck/wreck.do?key=7318>)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

My sincere thanks to Henk Brolsma of Kingston, Tasmania (retired Mapping Officer, Australian Antarctic Division) for providing helpful information regarding place-naming in the AAT, and for reviewing an earlier draft of this Occasional Paper.

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APPENDIX

The toponyms in Table 6a could not be classified owing to the lack of documentation regarding their naming. Many of these were named during the *William Scoresby Expedition* in February, 1936 (as part of the British Antarctic Survey’s Discovery Investigations of 1925-39). We would be interested in hearing from anyone who may be able to supply documentary evidence concerning the circumstances of their naming.

Table 6a

<i>Toponym</i>	FEATURE TYPE	Latitude	Longitude	Available information
<i>Argosy Glacier</i>	GLACIER	-83.1333	157.6667	A glacier in the central part of the Miller Range, about 37 km long, flowing into the Marsh Glacier. Discovered and named by the northern party of the New Zealand Geological and Survey Expedition (1961-62).
<i>Bajan Island</i>	ISLAND	-66.13744444	101.0673611	Bunger Hills. Charted by the SAE in 1956.
<i>Boiler Rocks</i>	ROCK	-54.549642	158.864294	
<i>Boot Hill</i>	HILL	-54.520026	158.912845	
<i>Concord Lake</i>	WATER BODY	-54.61434	158.889084	
<i>Couling Island</i>	ISLAND	-67.321	59.6693	An island in the William Scoresby Archipelago about 2 km north of Islay. Discovered and named by the William Scoresby Expedition in February, 1936.
<i>Cumberland Tarn</i>	WATER BODY	-54.643198	158.853987	
<i>Endeavour Lake</i>	WATER BODY	-54.668656	158.874159	
<i>Hum Island</i>	ISLAND	-67.35616667	59.63713889	A small island about 2 km north of Bertha Island in the William Scoresby Archipelago off Kemp Land. Discovered and named by the William Scoresby Expedition in February, 1936.
<i>Regalia Creek</i>	WATERCOURSE	-54.555188	158.879737	
<i>Surry Lake</i>	WATER BODY	-54.585697	158.902968	

Table 6b also lists toponyms that were unclassifiable. However, given their name form, it is likely they are ‘Eponymous’. It still needs to be determined to which sub-category of ‘Eponymous’ toponyms they belong. Once again, we would be interested in hearing from anyone who may be able to supply documentary evidence concerning the circumstances of their naming.

Table 6b

<i>Toponym</i>	FEATURE TYPE	Latitude	Longitude	Available information
<i>Appleby, Point</i>	POINT	-67.407111	59.6044722	A point on an island on the eastern side of William Scoresby Bay, Heard island. Discovered, charted and named by DI personnel on the William Scoresby in Feb. 1936.
<i>Betsey Tarn</i>	WATER BODY	-54.620454	158.888912	
<i>Dales Island</i>	ISLAND	-67.17691667	59.74861111	The outermost island of the William Scoresby Archipelago, about 15 km NNE of Couling Island. Discovered and named by the William Scoresby Expedition in February, 1936.
<i>Doppler Hill</i>	HILL	-53.13583333	73.7225	A hill of rock and stabilised moraine with vegetation on the sides, about 68 metres high with visibility to Round Hill and Lambeth Bluff on Heard Island.
<i>Endresen Islands</i>	ISLAND	-67.2667	60	Small islands, just north of the Hobbs Islands, off MacRobertson Land. Discovered and named by the William Scoresby Expedition in February, 1936.
<i>Fairchild Beach</i>	BEACH	-53.05180556	73.65088889	A beach of sand, shingle and rocks on the north east coast near Round Hill on Heard Island. The origin of the name is unknown but it is known to have been in use in 1857. The name appears on Challenger's charts.
<i>Farrington Island</i>	ISLAND	-67.25055556	59.71491667	A small island about 9 km NNE of Couling Island, in the William Scoresby Archipelago off Kemp Land. Discovered and named by the William Scoresby Expedition in February, 1936.
<i>Ives Tongue</i>	TONGUE	-67.35	59.4833	A narrow tongue of land projecting from an island between Fold Island and the mainland of Kemp Land. Discovered and named by the William Scoresby Expedition in February, 1936.
<i>Morgan Island</i>	ISLAND	-53.01808333	73.57005556	A small island off the North Coast of Heard Island near the eastern part of the Downes Glacier. The name appears on Challenger's chart.
<i>Noble, Point</i>	POINT	-67.34208333	59.47325	A point on the western side of William Scoresby Bay, in Kemp Land. Discovered and named by the William Scoresby Expedition in February, 1936.
<i>Sellick Bay</i>	BAY	-54.629959	158.824792	
<i>Surry Lake</i>	WATER BODY	-54.585697	158.902968	

A namespace of the AAT

<i>Trethenvy Point</i>	POINT	-67.38805556	59.79375	A rocky promontory about 120m high, projecting north from the coast of Kemp Land, approximately 9 km east of William Scoresby Bay.
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