Australia's toponymic links with the Pacific

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Lakemba Railway Station 1910
(Source: https://lakembaclub.com.au/content/uploads/2018/05/lakemba-railway-station_1910.jpg)

CONTENTS

1   HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Australia's links with the Pacific go back to the last quarter of the 18th century with the establishment of the British colony in Port Jackson. Since then, the links between Australia and the Pacific islands have steadily grown and become more important. These links are not only manifested in trade, cultural exchange, strategic ties and tourism, but also toponymically. Australia has a surprising number of toponyms copied from Polynesia and Melanesia (see **Figure 1**). There have also been several cases of Australian toponyms copied to the Pacific.
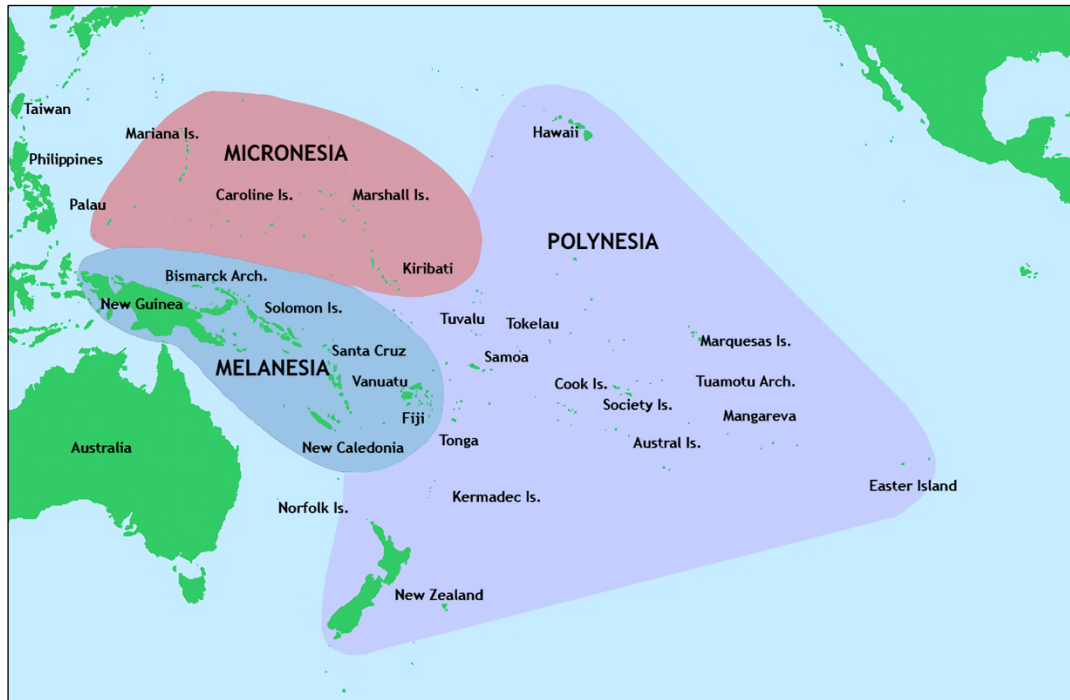
Figure 1.
The three major cultural & linguistic areas in the Pacific Ocean: Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia
(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polynesia)

In this Paper I will highlight some of the Oceanic toponyms found in Australia.[1] Several have already been dealt with in various *Placenames Australia* articles, e.g. Geraghty & Tent, 2010 (*Ulimaroa*); Nash, 2106 (*Orana*); Tent, 2016a (various), 2018 (*Ulimaroa*), 2019 (various), 2020 (*Tanawha*). With the exception of my 2019 article, none of these will be considered in this Occasional Paper.

There are too many Oceanic toponyms in Australia to investigate the origins of most. Many are homestead names, whose origins are notoriously difficult to survey. There are also a number of Australian toponyms copied to the Pacific; these will also be cited. But first some background to Australia's connection with the Pacific seems in order.[2]

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[1] The term 'Oceanic' is used by linguists to denote the subgroup of Austronesian languages that are spoken in the Pacific, i.e. the vast majority of languages spoken in Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. All Oceanic languages share a number of phonological, grammatical and lexical innovations that are absent in other Austronesian languages (Lynch, 1998, p. 46).
[2] This brief history is largely based on Maude (1968), Scarr (1990), Quanchi & Adams (1993), and Denoon et al. (1997).

1.1 Sporadic contacts & beachcombers

Before regular contacts between Australia and the Pacific islands began, sporadic contacts between European explorers and the people of the Pacific had been made from the early 16th century. Most of these explorers, to a greater or lesser extent, left their toponymic mark upon the Pacific:[3]

The Spanish – Magellan & del Cano (1521), de Saavedra Cerón (1527-29), de Mendaña y Neira (1567-69, 1595), de Quiros (1595-96, 1605-06), and de Torres (1606).

The Dutch – le Maire & Schouten (1616-17), Tasman & Visscher (1642-43), and Roggeveen & Bouman (1721-23).

The English – Byron (1764-66), Wallis & Carteret (1766-67), Wallis (1767-68), Carteret (1767-69), Cook (1768-71, 1772-75, 1776-79), Vancouver & Broughton (1791-92), Vancouver (1791-95), and Broughton (1791-92).

The French – de Bougainville (1766-69), La Pérouse (1785-88), and d'Entrecasteaux (1791-93).

Conditions aboard ships at this time were quite horrid, motivating some sailors to jump ship and become the first Europeans to settle in the Pacific (as five of Roggeveen's men did on Takapoto). Sometimes they were marooned. These men often became important figures within island communities (e.g. William Mariner in Tonga)[4], and could give valuable advice in helping islanders deal with European technology such as guns.

Explorers were followed by whalers in the early 19th century. Whaling ships were often short-handed and employed young island men during the whaling seasons. This offered opportunities to learn new languages which enabled the islanders to negotiate on more equal terms with the wider world.

1.2 Beach communities

When trading became more widespread between Europeans and islanders, the first European settlements were established, with ships visiting the islands on a regular basis. Islanders and Europeans began to congregate along the beaches of these ports to provide services and goods to the passing ships. Such refreshment trade beach communities were established in places like Honolulu, Apia (Sāmoa), Levuka (Fiji), Papeete (Tahiti), and Kororareka (Bay of Islands, NZ).

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[3] Explorers post-1788 (the establishment of the British colony in Port Jackson) have been included because they were not connected with that colony.

[4] William Mariner was a ship's clerk aboard the British privateer *Port au Prince*. In 1806, while anchored off Lifuka, in Tonga's Ha'apai island group, the ship was seized by the Tongans. Twenty-two of the 26 crew were killed. Mariner was one of the ones spared, perhaps because he was only 14. He remained in Tonga for four years, during which he became known as *Toki 'Ukamea* ('Iron Axe'). After returning to England, he dictated a detailed account of his experiences, a description of Tongan society and culture, and a grammar and dictionary of the Tongan language. (Mariner & Martin, 1818).

1.3 Sandalwood, whaling, tortoiseshell & bêche-de-mer

Early European traders exploited the Pacific's natural resources of sandalwood, whales, bêche-de-mer and tortoiseshell to such an extent that these products were almost totally depleted. Local labour was always employed to harvest these resources. This fostered much more social interaction than the refreshment of ships' trade had. Moreover, islanders became increasingly aware of the value of their labour and resources and started to demand more in return. Soon alcohol and tobacco became the currency for labour. Tobacco became such a common commodity that Europeans could at once tell if an islander had come into contact with a European by seeing whether or not he knew how to use it.

1.4 Missionaries

The first missionaries in the Pacific were Spanish Jesuits who arrived in Micronesia, in the northern Marianas and Guam, in 1668. The mission failed to take root. It was not until 1797 that the first Protestant missionaries, from the London Missionary Society (LMS), entered eastern Polynesia, gradually spreading through the entire Pacific. It was not until local missionaries were trained that the spread of Christianity set deep roots in the region. During the 19th century, many other branches of Western Christianity established missions in the Pacific. They included Anglicans, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, French Reformed, Lutherans, and Seventh-day Adventists. The great majority of Protestant missionaries during this period were British and American, whilst Roman Catholics were mainly French. Missions were almost entirely responsible for the provision of primary education and medical services, and their schools and theological colleges produced many of the first generation of political leaders in the Pacific.

By the beginning of the 20th century about 90% of Pacific islanders claimed to be Christian (Ernst, 2012, p. 4). Garrett (1992) believes this rapid spread is associated with indigenous people's conviction that to gain the missionaries' *mana* ('power, prestige') they needed to worship the European God. Another factor would have been the desire to attain the material wealth and literary skills of the missionaries which would lead to a new and more prosperous way of life. In other words, Pacific islanders' conversion to Christianity was based more on pragmatism than dogma.

The rapid Christianisation of the Pacific helped solidify and consolidate European power and pave the way for colonisation and further exploitation. Between the 1840s and 1890s, almost every island group in the Pacific was brought within one of the Western colonial empires: Britain, France, Germany, and the United States.

1.5 Plantations—sugar, cotton & copra

As the sandalwood and tortoiseshell trade declined due to over-exploitation, sugar and cotton plantations were established in the region. These, together with copra, became the staple cash crops in Hawai'i, Sāmoa, Fiji, and New Britain.

Establishing a plantation was expensive and few individual entrepreneurs succeeded. Most plantations were established by groups such as the German companies J. C. Godeffroy & Sohn, Fred Hennings, and Ruge, Hedemann & Co. (Firth, 1973), as well as the Australian companies Burns Philp, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR) of Sydney, and the Polynesian Company of Melbourne. Such companies helped to further stabilise and increase trade, but they also had political clout and the incentive to influence government

policy in the Pacific. By the end of the 19ᵗʰ century many Pacific islands were becoming integrated into the global economy.

1.6 Blackbirding

One of the most shameful chapters in Australia's history is that of the human labour trade of more than 60,000 Pacific islanders to Australia between 1863 and 1906. Some 870 voyages were made to the islands to bring people to Australia. People from more than 80 islands in the Pacific—Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, and Fiji—were brought to Australia often through trickery, coercion and kidnapping, referred to as 'blackbirding'. The majority of them laboured on sugarcane plantations in Queensland. However, some also worked in the shipping industry. Conditions were very harsh, the labourers were poorly paid, if at all, and death rates were high (30%) due to exposure to European diseases and mistreatment. In 1906 most were deported back to their countries; however, approximately 2,500 avoided deportation, and their descendants are now known as Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) community (Queensland Government, 2025).

The only direct toponymic legacy I have been able to find of the ASSI community are three creeks and a bore bearing the name *Kanaka* (*Kanaka Creek* and the rather distastefully named *Kanakas Release Creek* near Mackay; and a *Kanaka Creek* near Winton in central Queensland, and a *Kanaka Bore* to its east). There was also an urban enclave adjacent to Moores Creek just north of the Rockhampton CBD, unofficially known as *Kanaka Town*. This is where many ASSI people made their homes from the 1880s onwards (Lloyd, 1998; Rockhampton Regional Council, 2005).

The term *Kanak* was a racial epithet for any Pacific islander used during the 19ᵗʰ century and beyond. It derives from the Hawai'ian *kanaka maoli* 'ordinary person, Indigenous Hawai'an person'. Pukui, Elbert and Mookini (1975, p. 55) also note the Hawai'ian term *kanaka hana* 'worker, servant'.[5]

Three non-Oceanic toponyms, historical reminders of blackbirding, are the names of major Queensland cities of *Townsville* and *Mackay*, named after Robert Towns and John Mackay who made their fortunes through blackbirding; and *Boydtown* on the far south coast of NSW also named after a blackbirder, Benjamin Boyd.

1.7 Colonial expansion

Between the late-18ᵗʰ and early-20ᵗʰ centuries much of the Pacific was colonised by European powers, and their human and natural resources exploited. Apart from jostling for strategic advantages, the demand for guano (phosphate from bird droppings) was a powerful incentive to colonise remote Pacific bird islands such as Nauru, Banaba and Makatea, in order to strip-mine the valuable commodity (Cushman, 2013). The colonial powers were:

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[5] A cognate of *kanaka* is the Māori *tangata* 'man, human being; serf, slave'. Perhaps the secondary meaning may have influenced the use of *kanak* to refer to blackbirded SSI people.

Britain
    Australia (1788)
    Pitcairn (1838)
    New Zealand (1840)
    Fiji (1874)
    South Eastern New Guinea (1884)
    Gilbert (Kiribati) & Ellice (Tuvalu) Islands (1892)
    Niue (1900)
France
    Marquesas (1870)
    Tahiti (1880)
    New Caledonia (1853)
    Tuamotu Arch (1885)
    Wallis (1887)
    Futuna (1888)
Britain & France
    New Hebrides (Vanuatu) (1906)
Spain
    Guam (1565)
    Marianas (1667)
    Easter Island (Rapanui) (1770)
    Marshall Islands (1874)
Netherlands
    Netherlands New Guinea (Western half of New Guinea) (1828)
Germany
    Kaiser-Wilhelmsland (North-eastern New Guinea) (1884)
    Sāmoa (1900)
USA
    Baker Island (1857)
    Howland Island (1857)
    Hawai'i (1898)
    Sāmoa (eastern islands) (1899)

During the 19th and early-20th centuries, many Australians travelled into the Pacific, especially the British colonies, to work, or to establish cotton, sugarcane or copra plantations, in particular to Fiji. There, they often worked for the colonial government as public servants, or for the Colonial Sugar Refinery Company of Sydney. Many also went to New Zealand.

A natural corollary of the ever-increasing contact and trade with the Pacific islands was the exposure of Oceanic to European languages and vice-versa. This resulted in the assimilation of Oceanic words and toponyms into the European languages, which in turn resulted in the development of Pacific varieties of these European languages. With the ever-increasing ease of travel between the Pacific and Australia, the copying of Oceanic words and toponyms into the Australian lexicon and onto Australia's maps was a natural by-product.

The following two sections feature the origins a number of Oceanic toponyms in Australia.[6]

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[6] The toponyms listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 are by no means an exhaustive list of Oceanic toponyms.

2   SOME OCEANIC TOPONYMS IN AUSTRALIA

There is a sizable number of toponyms in Australia that have been copied from the Pacific. How many is hard to tell. However, I have been able to identify more than 100, though there are undoubtedly more. Many can be identified by the tell-tale prefix *wai-* 'water/river/stream', and the suffix *-nui* 'large, big, many, plentiful, numerous, great, abundant, ample, superior, of high rank, important'. So, a placename like *Wainui* means 'big/great water/river'.[7]

Another tell-tale sign of an Oceanic name its syllable structure. Most Oceanic languages have an open syllable structure, where every consonant must be followed by a vowel or diphthong, meaning words cannot end on a consonant. Words may also start with a vowel. In linguistic terms we say they have a (C)V syllable, or open syllable, structure.

2.1 *Wai-* & *-nui* toponyms

Oceanic names seem to be quite popular names for homesteads or rural properties, especially those with the affixes *wai-* and *-nui*. One needs to be careful, however, with *wai-* placenames, because they may, in fact, derive from an Australian Indigenous language. On the other hand, a genuine Oceanic name with *wai-* may, on occasion, be spelled *wy-*, thus obscuring its origin (see **Waitui** below). **Tables 1** and **2** enumerate some Australian toponyms with either, or both, the *wai-* and *-nui* elements.

Table 1.
Wai- toponyms

Wai-Iti	NSW	HMSD
Wai-rua	SA	HMSD
Waigani[8]	NSW	HMSD
Waihaorunga	QLD	HMSD
Waihi Battery Mine	WA	MINE
Waihi Dam	WA	DAM
Waihi Hills	WA	RNGE
Waihora	QLD	HMSD
Waihou	NSW	PRSH
Waihou	NSW	TRIG
Waihou Flora Reserve	NSW	RESV
Waikato	SA	LOC
Waikato Mine	WA	MINE
Waikiki	WA	SUB
Waikiki Foreshore	WA	RESV
? Waiko	NSW	PRSH
? Waiko	NSW	HMSD
? Waikola	QLD	HMSD
? Waikola	QLD	LOC
Waimate Waterhole	NT	WTRH

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[7] Two other common suffixes found in Polynesian toponyms are *-roa* 'long' and *-rua* 'two'. See below.
[8] Also a suburb in Port Moresby, PNG.

Waimea	VIC	HMSD
Waimea Downs	NSW	HMSD
Wai**nui**	QLD	LOC
Wai**nui**	NSW	HMSD
Wai**nui** Bay	NSW	LBAY
Waioma	NSW	HMSD
Waiora	QLD	PRSH
Waiora Creek	QLD	STRM
Waipukurau Park	NSW	RESV
Wairewa	VIC	LOCB
Wairo Beach	NSW	BCH
Wairo Well	WA	BORE
Wairuna	NSW	HMSD
Wairuna	QLD	LOCB
Wairuna	QLD	CNTY
Wairuna	QLD	PRSH
Wairuna	QLD	HMSD
Wairuna Lake	QLD	LAKE
Wairuna Point	NSW	LPT
Waitara	NSW	SUB
Waitara	QLD	HMSD
Waitara	QLD	RSTA
Waitara Creek	NSW	STRM
Waitara Park	NSW	RESV
Waitara Well	WA	BORE
Waitarua	VIC	HMSD
Waiteeia	NSW	HMSD
Waitemata	WA	LOCU
Waitemata	SA	WRCK
Waitemata	WA	HMSD
Waitui	NSW	SUB
Waitui Waterfall	NSW	WRFL

Table 2.
-nui toponyms

Aronui	QLD	HMSD
Awanui	NSW	HMSD
Maranui	WA	HMSD
Painui Gully	NSW	STRM
Papanue Creek	NSW	STRM
Papanui[9]	NSW	HMSD
Papanui Rock	TAS	IS
Powhatunui	WA	HMSD
Pukenui	SA	HMSD
Rapanui	WA	HMSD
Ruanui	WA	HMSD
Tainui	NSW	HMSD
Taranui	NSW	HMSD
Tironui	SA	HMSD
Wainui	NSW	HMSD
Wainui	QLD	LOC
Wainui Bay	NSW	LBAY
Wanganui	NSW	LOC
Wanganui Park Secondary College	VIC	BLDG
Wanganui Rock	NT	IS
? Wanui Santas	QLD	HMSD

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[9] 'Papanui' homestead is adjacent to the rural property 'Wanaka'. The current owners of 'Papanui' report that 'in the early 1960s the property was owned by a Mr Gordon. He was a racing man and at some stage went to New Zealand and bought a racehorse naming it *Papanui* after Lake Papanui. He then renamed the property *Papanui* after the racehorse.' (Di Killen, pers. comm. 19/02/2021). There is no Lake Papanui in New Zealand, but there is a *Papanui Inlet*, a *Papanui Beach* and a *Papanui Cone* near Dunedin, a *Papanui Creek* near Whangārei, a *Papanui Point* near Auckland, six *Papanui Stream*s throughout the country, and of course the Christchurch suburb. *Papanui* literally translated means 'big plain' (*papa* 'flat'; *nui* 'large') (New Zealand History – Nga korero a ipurangi a Aotearoa, n.d.).

Figure 2.
Waikiki Beach (WA)
(Source: www.tripadvisor.com.au/Attraction_Review-g3208400-d3179457-Reviews-Waikiki_Beach-Safety_Bay_Greater_Perth_Western_Australia.html)

Wai is a very common element (usually a base or stem) in many placenames in Polynesia and Melanesia. For instance, New Zealand has several thousand geographic water features (e.g. bays, estuaries, lakes, streams etc.) that have the prefix *wai-* in their names, over 1200 of which are streams (LINZ). The New Zealand Government's 'New Zealand History – *Nga korero a ipurangi o Aotearoa*' website lists 1000 Māori placenames, almost 200 of which contain the prefix *Wai-*. Translations of all these placenames are provided, in all of which the prefix is translated as 'stream', 'river', 'spring', 'water' or 'liquid'.

Nui is a common placename element in eastern Polynesian languages and means 'big', 'large', 'great', 'intense', 'many' etc., and usually appears as a suffix. The New Zealand Gazetteer (LINZ) records over 1000 Māori placenames with this name element. Therefore, toponyms in Australia that end in *-nui* are most likely to be of eastern Polynesian origin, and most likely from New Zealand.[10]

<p style="text-align:center">***</p>

The following sections examine the origins of some *Wai-* and *-nui* toponyms in Australia.

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[10] Although geographically New Zealand is in the western Pacific, it must be remembered that the Māori migrated there from eastern Polynesia during the 13th century. Therefore, Māori is an eastern Polynesian language.

2.1.1 Wairewa

Wairewa is the name of a rural locality and property (**Figure 3**) approximately 34 km west of Orbost on the south coast of Victoria (Tent, 2019c). Prior to European occupation, the region was inhabited by the Krowuntunkoolong clan of the Kurnai~Gunai people. The toponym is pronounced by locals as /waiˈriːwə/ or /wəˈriːwə/, not /waiˈrewa/.

Figure 3.
A rural property in *Wairewa*

Blakeman (2018, p. 27) claims the locality was formerly named *Upper Hospital Creek*, but was changed to *Wairewa* on 1 February, 1927. The name change accords with newspaper articles of the period; however, the year the name was changed differs from source to source. For example, Melbourne's *Weekly Times*, Saturday 18 April 1936 p. 2, intimates the name change occurred in 1922 (14 years before) (**Figure 4**). Furthermore, the name change, according to the *Weekly Times*, was initiated by a schoolgirl, Joy Trevaskis, who surveyed local residents as to an appropriate alternative name. A Mrs Hill, a New Zealand expat, suggested the name *Wairewa* which was accepted. The article does not indicate when the name change actually occurred however, so Blakeman could well be correct.
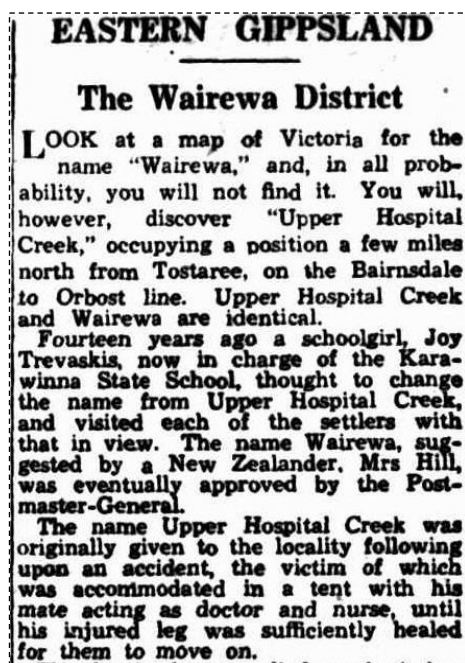
Figure 4.

Blakeman's date of the renaming, however, seems to be corroborated by an announcement in *The Age* of 12 February, 1927, p. 21 (**Figure 5**).
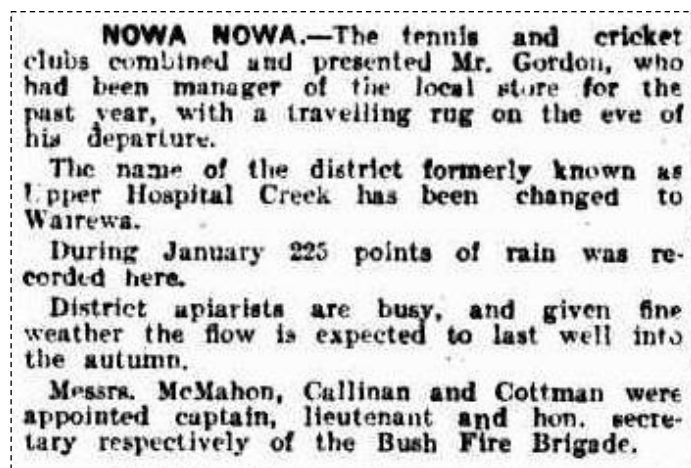
Figure 5.

Despite this name change, several newspaper articles and notices kept referring to the place as *Upper Hospital Creek* into the mid-1930s.

The question remains as to why the locality was named *Wairewa*. This, I have not been able to directly discover; however, the practice of copying the name from the place from where a person stems is very common, as seen with Waitui (see section 2.1.4), especially when the new location reminds them of their home region. This may well be a reason Mrs Hill suggested the name, because the Victorian locality has a similar geography to Lake Wairewa (more commonly known as *Lake Forsyth*) on the South Island of New Zealand. This lake is situated on the southern part of the Banks Peninsula (just south of Christchurch) and abuts the ocean. The coastline of South Gippsland just south of Wairewa, between Lakes

Entrance and Mallacoota has numerous lakes contiguous to the ocean shoreline—the nearby Lake Tyers being quite a prominent one. Both Lake Tyres and the New Zealand Lake Wairewa are closed off from the sea, and both are surrounded by hills. It seems reasonable then to postulate the similar topographies of the two regions inspired Mrs Hill's suggestion.

A locality near Lake Wairewa also bears the name *Wairewa*. Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) declares the meaning of the name is obscure, however, *rewa* can mean 'to float; to become liquified; to raise' in Māori.[11] These meanings are corroborated by Davis (1990, p. 91), Williams (1985) and Ryan (1989). Taylor (1950, p. 80) explains *Wairewa* is the Māori name of Lake Forsyth, and is a 'sheet of water four miles long by three-quarters of a mile wide, skirting the main Christchurch-Akaroa Road at the south-west corner of Banks Peninsula.' He claims the name means 'water lifted up'. The full Māori name for the lake is *Te Roto o Wairewa* (literally 'The Lake of Wairewa') or simply *Te Wairewa*.

One of the intriguing things about placenames is that they can sometimes provide geographers and geologists with information about environmental changes. A toponym often contains an internal a clue of the former state of the feature. I talk about this in the *Placenames Australia* article 'Toponymy 101: D' (Tent, 2016b), where I provide several examples, but the most relevant is the Fiji island of *Tavua* (literally 'place of fire'). Some 3000 years ago the island was a volcano, possibly explaining the origin of the name (Fijian not having a term for 'volcano'). There are also two mountains named *Tavuyaga*, the name being derived from *tavu* 'to burn'; so it can be analysed as meaning 'burning place', hence 'volcano'.

Figure 6.
Te Roto o Wairewa
(Source: Steve Attwood https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevex2/33804006414)

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[11] *Rewa* is also a placename element in Fiji and means 'high, height, to hoist, to lift up, to raise' Capell (1991).

Given Lake Wairewa is on the Banks Peninsula, which forms the most prominent volcanic feature of the South Island, and comprises the eroded remnants of two large composite shield volcanoes, and the 2011 earthquake in the neighbouring city of Christchurch (where significant liquefaction was experienced), and given that *rewa* can mean 'to become liquified; to raise; elevated', it is not unreasonable to suggest that the name *Wairewa* has its origins in some seismic event. Either liquefaction could have occurred in the Wairewa region or an elevation of water or indeed land, because in former times Lake Forsyth had an opening into the sea (**Figure 6**). The closing off of the opening, however, could not have occurred during Māori occupation of the land because Woodward and Schulmeister (2005) argue that although the timing of the closure of the lake's mouth cannot be accurately determined, it does appear that it had stabilised itself as a shallow enclosed lake by about 500 years BP.[12] Moreover, New Zealand's National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) reports that sediment cores in the lake show that it is over 7000 years old, and that it has undergone substantial changes in its history. The likelihood of significant changes brought about by seismic activity is high, and the supposition that an earthquake triggered liquefaction in the region or the raising of the water level during Māori occupation of the land is not implausible.

In support of this, Downes (1915) reports Māori accounts of earthquakes prior to European occupation. In one particularly severe earthquake at Rotorua a *pā* (a fortified stockade) with about 1000 people was swallowed up, and the area became a lake. And in 1838 there were huge falls of earth on both sides of the Whanganui River causing a backwash that left canoes stranded high up on the cliffs. There have also been major changes in the landscape of the Wellington region. Wellington's harbour, Port Nicholson, originally had two entrances. One was the current entrance at Pencarrow, and the other was through the low sandy area now occupied by the suburb of Rongotai and Wellington's airport. The nearby suburb of Miramar was then an island—Motukairangi. According to Māori tradition, some 18 generations earlier there was a great earthquake, known as Haowhenua ('land swallower' or 'land destroyer'). The channel between Motukairangi and the mainland filled with sediment, converting the island to the present-day Miramar Peninsula. By the time Cook explored the area in 1773 there was only one harbour entrance. Studies of the sediment in the isthmus indicate that the area was once below sea level, and it has been suggested that uplift might have occurred along a fault through Miramar (Te Ara).

2.1.2 Wairuna

This is the name of a famous Queensland homestead and cattle station. As **Table 1** shows it is also the name given to a locality, parish and county, all deriving their names from the station. It is some 80 km south of Mt Garnet in the watershed of the Burdekin River (QLD), and inland from Hinchinbrook Island. It is in the Ingham district. The station has a number of heritage listed sites, including the homestead (**Figure 7**) and its accompanying cemetery.

The 'Wairuna' lease had been established in 1879 by Henry Stone and Duncan McAuslan, and was purchased by the Atkinson family in 1881 and operated by them until 1976. From the 1930s it was a centre for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and partnered in research into the suitability of Brahman-cross cattle for northern Australia and later for the establishment of the Australian Brahman breed.

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[12] New Zealand was not occupied until about the 12th or 13th century AD.

Figure 7.
Wairuna Homestead
(Source: Stafford Stock & Property sales brochure.
http://www.staffordstockandproperty.com/wairuna_broc.pdf)

The homestead and cemetery have now been heritage listed by the Queensland Heritage Council.

There has been quite a lot of information published on 'Wairuna' station, most of which focusses on Atkinson family's tenure of the property and their role in the development of the Australian Brahman breed. None of this literature mentions the origin of the station's name. However, the great-grandson of Duncan McAuslan, Ross Fardon, claims in his memoir, *This could be your future* (2015, p. 21), that 'Wairuna Station [was] named after a place in New Zealand where Duncan had been briefly after leaving England.' Wairuna is a picturesque locality 72 km north-east of Invercargill and 100 km south-west of Dunedin, on the South Island (**Figure 8**).

Figure 8.
Wairuna, New Zealand
(Source: *Wairuna Organics* Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/wairuna/)

2.1.3   *Waitara*

Waitara is a salubrious upper north shore suburb of Sydney in Hornsby Shire, some 18 km north of the CBD. Rowland (2008) notes the name was suggested by Myles McRae, Commissioner for Railways in the 1890s, and a land speculator who owned a land parcel he named *Waitara* near Hurstville (O'Reilly, 1950, p. 9) (**Figure 9**). McCrae sold that land and bought land near Hornsby, and when the railway station opened in 1895 he suggested the name *Waitara*, which was formally adopted (*Hornsby Advocate*, 1999). Goodger's (2017) biography of McCrae does not mention his acquiring land in the Hornsby Shire, only concentrating on his business dealings in the Hurstville region. This does not of course negate his owning a parcel of land in Hornsby, nor his role as Commissioner for Railways in which he would have been influential in naming new railway stations even if he did not own land in the area.
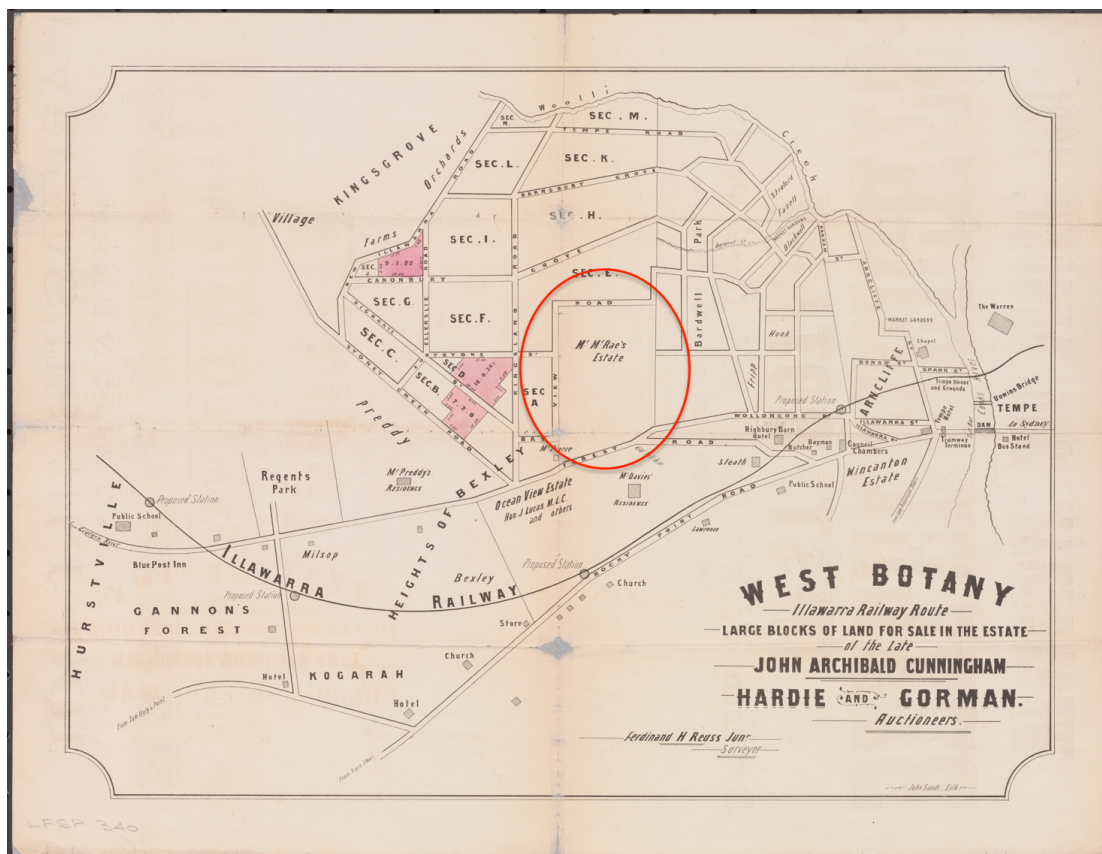
Figure 9.
Map of West Botany showing 'M.ʳ. McCrae's Estate' (Sydney: John Sands, Lith., 1881)
(Source: Nat. Lib. of Australia, MAP LFSP 340, Folder 26. https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230104466/view)

McRae's name suggestion derives from the town of *Waitara*, just north of Mt Taranaki (formerly Mt Egmont) in the Taranaki region on the west coast of the North Island, situated at the mouth of the Waitara River. The meaning of the name is somewhat disputed but it is generally agreed it means 'pure water' or 'mountain stream'.

Rowland (2008) suggests Australian volunteers who fought as Imperial troops at the Waitara River during the Māori wars of the 1860s brought the name back to Australia. Goodger's biography of McCrae is quite comprehensive, and does not give any indication

he had any links with these soldiers, or with New Zealand; so where he sourced the name *Waitara* from remains a mystery.

Figure 10.
Waitara Station
(Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:(1)Waitara_Station-1.jpg)

2.1.4   *Waitui*

On the Stewarts River in the Coorabakh National Park north of Taree, is the locality of ***Waitui*** and the nearby Waitui Waterfalls (**Figure 11,** below).

At first glance the name could be of Fijian origin, because *waitui* is the Fijian word for 'sea' or 'saltwater' (*wai* 'water' + *tui* which can be reconstructed as an old term for 'salt' but is not used today). This, however, does not seem a very likely name for an inland locality and freshwater waterfall. However, Oceanic placenames have often been used for names of yachts, steamships, homesteads, and even racehorses, with no apparent reason other than that they are euphonious. An example is *Ulimaroa* which has been used as a name for a location in Queensland, a steamship, a residential mansion in Melbourne, and a racehorse (see Geraghty & Tent, 2010; Tent & Geraghty, 2012). And so it has been with *waitui*, which has been used as a name for racehorses (e.g. *Waitui Gem*, *Waitui Pearl*), and a late 19th century Sydney yacht. Perhaps the location may have been named after one of these? (See also **2.2.3 *Malua Bay*** below).

The second possibility is that it is an Indigenous name, because the Geographic Names Board of NSW declares the location was previously known as *Wytooee*. The Composite Gazetteer of Australia also accepts this as a variant form. Is this a rendition of an Aboriginal word, or an imaginative way of respelling *Waitui*?
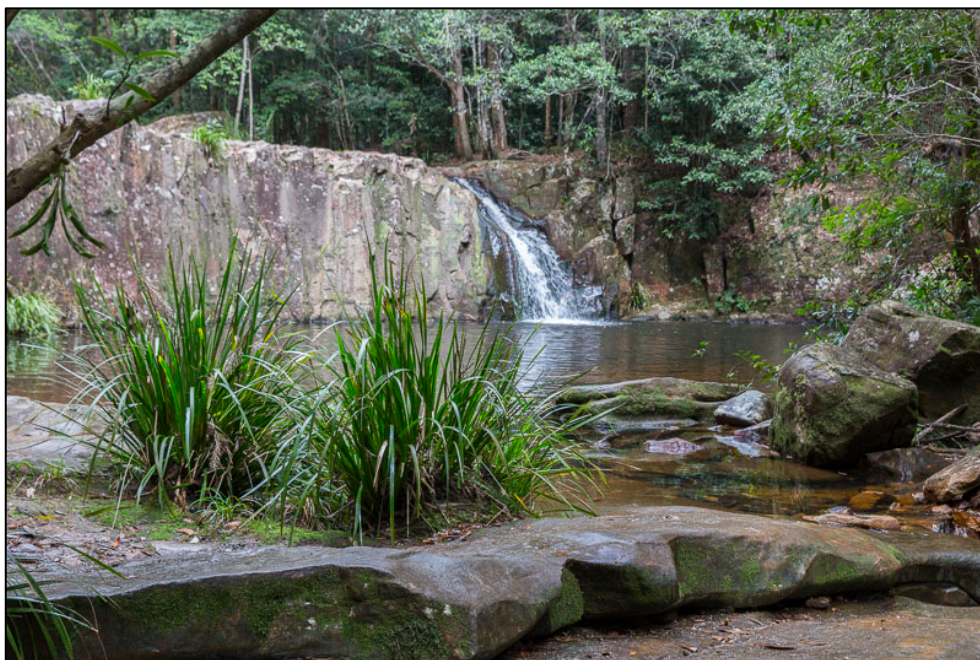
Figure 11.
Waitui Waterfalls
(Source: Beyond Purgatory ~ A Photographer's Paradise
https://beyondpurgatory.wordpress.com/2016/03/26/waitui-falls/)

A search of various published vocabularies of the Birrbay language (the Indigenous language of the region) does not reveal any word approximating *wytooee*. One source that offers quite an extensive list of Indigenous toponyms from the region is Ryan (1964), but it presents no viable candidates. Phonologically, though, it seems a possible Indigenous word, because Ryan's toponyms include ones that have an initial *Wy-*, or a medial *-oo-*, or a final *-ee*. Since a very large number of Indigenous placenames do not come from the region where they occur on present-day maps, *Wytooee* may have been a name or word from another language.

The local newspapers of the district, *The Northern Champion* and *The Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of New South Wales*, spell the placename inconsistently. The first appearance of the *Wytooee* spelling is in the early 1930s. Up until then it was consistently spelled *Waitui*, which gives us a clue. Both papers report in June 1934 of the official opening of the *Wytooee* school. *The Northern Champion* of Saturday 1 June, 1935, p. 3, states:

> **Wytooee Opening of School**
> Well up among the hills and clean, running streams of fresh water, with beauty spots and scenery, and situated a couple of miles from, the sawmill and four miles from the Hannam Vale post office and store, lies this favored [*sic*] little spot, called Wytooe [*sic*], meaning waterbird, having received its name from a New Zealander named Miles, and if it were rightly spelled would have its Maori setting, but, unfortunately, this has been lost sight of by the residents in the district.

In 1913, a W. E Miles was the successful tenderer for the Hannam Vale-Waitui mail service. And it is around this time that the name Waitui first appears in the local press. Was he a New Zealander?

It should added here that *waitui* is <u>not</u> a Māori word for 'waterbird', even though both *wai* and *tui* are Maori. *Wai*, as noted above, is Māori for 'water', and *tū* refers to a 'parson bird' (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*), and just *tui* means 'thread; to stitch'. The closest Māori term I have been able to find for a 'waterbird' is *kawau tū* 'little black shag (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) (Moorfield, 2011). Intriguingly, this expression is not too different from *waitui*. *Tū* is commonly spelled without the macrons over the vowels, which could also explain the confusion.[13] So, is this perhaps, as is so often the case, an example of an alteration of the linguistic form or sense either due to a misunderstanding or bad transmission of the original? As we shall see below, no.

There were people who were aware of the inconsistent spelling of the name. For instance, the columnist Jimothy in his column 'Jottings by Jimothy' complained in *The Northern Champion* in March 1939 of the spelling of *Wytooee*, and again on 8 July (p. 7):

> OUR DISTRICT NOMENCLATURE The nomenclature of our district has some anomalies, to say the least of it. Here are three instances, out of many, that exist of wrongly named places locally. First Cattai Creek has been for a considerable time officially renamed Rawson river, yet in the newspapers and even at the Shire Council table we note it still erroneously referred to as Cattai Creek. It was changed from that name because of the confusion caused by the fact that there are other Cattais and Nattais in the State — one called Cattai Creek near Grafton. Surely we could now be correct and have Rawson river properly used as the name for this improving locality. The new bridge is the Rawson bridge, not the Cattai. Then we have Waitui. Because a contractor for the school building was not sure of the correct spelling of the name officially given to that new district a year or two ago, he spelled it Wytooee. Carelessly, if not foolishly, some people to-day call it by that name. Even a local dance is this week advertised, as under the auspices of certain "Wytooee" bodies. What a pity not to use the name the postal and other authorities have registered as "Waitui." The third instance is Koorainghat, formerly Sidebottom. After much correspondence, this new name was selected 16 months ago, yet still we see on the roadside this sign—Sidebottom. What a pity there isn't a progress association or some vigilance organisation to see that enough civic pride is in evidence to make sure that our district nomenclature is right.

Whether the contractor was the source of the purported misspelling or not is difficult to know, as Jimothy also admits in his March 1939 piece. The story may well be apocryphal. But it is interesting that the *Wytooee* form appears around the time of the school's opening, so Jimothy's theory could have some veracity. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s the spelling is inconsistent in both newspapers, though when the school is mentioned it is usually *Wytooee*, whilst advertisements for church services etc. are consistently *Waitui*.

Gow and Gow (2007) provide a further piece to the puzzle. Their book contains snippets of newspaper articles about the Waitui–Hannam Vale district. Page 71 contains a snippet from the *Manning River Times* (14 October, 1933) about the opening of the *Wytooee School* and the appointment of its new teacher. It declares *Wytooee* received its name from a settler from New Zealand and that the name means 'running water' in Māori. The author of the article felt that this name was most appropriate because 'running water […] is always found adjacent to the school site, as residents and tradesmen know only too well in times of wet weather […]'. The author got the origin of the name correct, but not its meaning.

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[13] A macron is a bar (¯) written above a vowel to indicate it is a long vowel.

Figure 12.
(Photo: Jan Tent)

The conclusive piece of evidence comes from the New Zealand paper, the *Taranaki Herald*, of July 26, 1907, p. 8. It reports on a meeting in the Kaimata Hall in the Kaimata, Ratapiko and Waitui district at which a Mr and Mrs Herlihy were presented with various tokens of appreciation. One of the presenters was Mrs W. E. Miles, whilst Mr W. E Miles acted as MC. The timing fits very nicely, early 1900s, as well as the place, *Waitui*. When Mr and Mrs W. E. Miles came to Australia, they also took with them the name of their place of origin (a lovely example of a name copy). This nicely corroborates the theories expressed in *The Northern Champion* and *Manning River Times*.

2.1.5 Papanui Rock

Places are sometimes named after ships, especially ones that foundered at the spot or nearby. *Tryal Rocks* (WA), *Zuytdorp Cliffs* (WA), *Pandora Reef* (QLD), *Collaroy Beach* (NSW), and *Maitland Bay* (NSW), immediately come to mind. **Papanui Rock** is another case. Although designated as an ISLAND by Placenames Tasmania, it is actually a submerged rock or reef. The Placenames Tasmania website (Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, Tasmania) provides no information on the naming of the feature, except to note that it was previously named *Papania Rock*, which looks suspiciously like a corruption of the name. The rock is situated a few kilometres nor-nor-west of Waterhouse Island, just off the north-east coast of the Tasmanian mainland, and was 'discovered' by the *SS Papanui* in December 1909 when she struck the uncharted shoal.

The *SS Papanui* was a passenger-cargo vessel of 6582 tons (**Figure 13**). She was built in 1898 by W. Denny & Bros., Dumbarton, Scotland, for the New Zealand Shipping Company. She was sold after striking the uncharted shoal, and was destroyed by fire at St Helena in 1911.

Figure 13.
The *SS Papanui* loading at Port Chalmers (Dunedin) on February 10, 1909.
(Photograph David Alexander De Maus)
(Source: Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa – National Library of New Zealand. Ref. 1/1-003377-G. https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22896253?search%5Bi%5D%5Bname_authority_id%5D=-123333&search%5Bpath%5D=items)

The meaning of the name is somewhat disputed, but the most logical meaning is 'Big Plain'.[14] The New Zealand Gazetteer records 23 features that bear the name form *Papanui*, one of which is a Christchurch suburb close to the city's airport, a name aptly suited to most of central Christchurch, which is one of New Zealand's flattest districts. However, there is also a *Papanui Inlet*, a *Papanui Beach* and a *Papanui Cone* on the ocean side of the Otago Peninsula to the east of Port Chalmers (Dunedin), and a *Papanui Point* near Auckland. The ship could have derived its name from any one of these locations.

2.2 Some other Oceanic names

Table 3 catalogues some other Oceanic toponyms found in Australia. A small selection of these will be considered below.

Table 3.
Other Oceanic toponyms in Australia

Akaroa	TAS	LOC
Kanaka Bore	TAS	BORE
Kanaka Creek	QLD	STRM
Kanaka Creek	QLD	STRM
Kanaka Release Creek	QLD	STRM

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[14] It is also a Māori word for 'a platform in a tree from which birds are snared' (*Te Kete Wānanga o Papanui* Library Names: the Stories of the Bilingual Names for Christchurch City Libraries https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/te-kete-wananga-o-papanui/).

Kia Ora[15]	NSW	LOC
Kia Ora Park	NSW	PARK
Kia Ora	QLD	LOC
Kia Ora	SA	HMSD
Kia Ora Creek[16]	TAS	STRM
Kia Ora Falls	TAS	WRFL
Kia Ora	VIC	POPL
Kia Ora Dam	WA	DAM
Kokoda Park	NSW	PARK
Kokoda Reserve	NSW	PARK
Kokoda	NSW	TRIG
Kokoda Field	NSW	PARK
Kokoda Bridge	SA	BRDG
Kokoda Park	VIC	PARK
Kokoda Hill	WA	HILL
Kokoda Memorial Plaque	WA	MONU
Lakemba	NSW	SUB
Mahurangi	NSW	PRSH
Malaita Point	NSW	PT
Malaita Lookout	NSW	LDGE
Malua Bay	NSW	BAY
Manuka	ACT	SUB
Mararoa	WA	HMSD
Maruakoa	SA	HMSD
Matakana	NSW	PRSH
Matakana	NSW	HMSD
Matakana	NSW	LOC
Matakana	NSW	BORE
Mount Tonga	TAS	MT
Mount Tongatabu	TAS	MT
Porirua[17]	NSW	PRSH
Roto	NSW	PRSH
Roto	NSW	LOC
Roto	NSW	HMSD
Roto	NSW	RSTA
Roto	NSW	HILL
Roto	NSW	DAM
Roto	NSW	TRIG
Tairua[18]	NSW	HMSD
Talofa[19]	NSW	LOC
Talofa Railway Station	NSW	RSTA

[15] Named after a homestead in the area. *Kia ora* is a New Zealand Māori greeting or farewell, a toast, thank you (lit. 'may you have health') /ki'ɔra, kiː'ɔːrə/, and is a cognate of Tahitian *Ia orana*.

[16] Placenames Tasmania notes: 'Dick Reed said in article in Launceston Walking Club *Langana Magazine* 1986 that Paddy Hartnett [Patrick Joseph Hartnett (1876-1944)] who had spent years in the forests of New Zealand, applied the name.'

[17] Probably named after the New Zealand city of Porirua in the Wellington region.

[18] Perhaps named after the New Zealand town of Tairua on the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula.

[19] *Talofa* is a greeting or farewell in Sāmoan. It is a cognate of the Tuvaluan *tālofa*, Hawai'ian *aloha*, and Cook Islands Māori *aro'a*. Another Sāmoan salutation *Ia ola* 'To life! Live long!' echoes the Māori *Kia ora*. The apostrophe in *ta'alofa* etc. signifies a glottal stop.

Tarawa Waterhole	QLD	WTRH
Tarawa	QLD	PRSH
Te Kowai[20]	QLD	LOC
Te Marua[21]	NSW	HMSD
Tiroroa	SA	HMSD
Toroa Patch[22]	TAS	SHOL
Turua Beach[23]	TAS	BCH
Wanaka[24]	NSW	HMSD
Wanaka	NSW	HMSD
Wanaka	NSW	HMSD
Wanaka	WA	HMSD
Wanaka	WA	HMSD
Wanaka Bay	NT	BAY
Wanaka Plantation	SA	RESV
Wangaroa	NSW	PRSH
Wangaroa	NSW	HMSD
Weraroa	WA	LOC
? Whoey	NSW	PRSH
? Whoey	NSW	TRIG
? Whoey Mountain	NSW	HILL

2.2.1 Akaroa

Akaroa is a locality in the municipality of Break O'Day on the St Helens Peninsula, on the north-eastern coast of Tasmania (**Figure 18**). Placenames Tasmania provides the following comprehensive information regarding the origin of the toponym, so no further investigation seems necessary:

> **AKAROA** – James Cannell and the background naming of Akaroa and Cannell Place, Akaroa, St Helens. After living in New Norfolk, Oatlands district and Derby, Charles and Catherine Cannell arrived in St Helens in 1892 with their six surviving children, three boys and three girls. Three sons had died and been buried at Derby. Charles was a blacksmith of some ability and was recognised for his inventions with several patented products. Several of his sons followed in his trade. Three more sons were born in St Helens and one in St Marys after the family moved there. One son, Tasman, returned to St Helens and raised his family there. Tas was a well-respected blacksmith, living and working in Quail Street. Some descendants of Tasman still live in the area. Another son James Pascal Cannell emigrated to New Zealand and married and raised a family there. In 1946 after being widowed James returned to St Helens and purchased land at what is now known as Akaroa. James had lived for some years at Akaroa

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[20] Although *Te Kowai* has the syllable *wai*, it does not belong in the list of toponyms of **Table 1.**

[21] Probably named after Te Mārua (previously *Te Marua*) a suburb of Upper Hutt in the Wellington region, New Zealand.

[22] A shoal in Port Dalrymple. Either named after the 58 ton schooner *Toroa*, or the SS *Toroa*, both of which plied the north coast of Tasmania and had various groundings. *Toroa* is a Māori word that refers to any species of albatross, but usually the wandering albatross or southern royal albatross.

[23] Placenames Tasmania notes the beach was named after a 'Fishing boat by this name wrecked here. The 40 ft fishing boat was wrecked on Feb 12, 1939.' The vessel was most likely named after Turua, a small village community on the banks of the Waihou River in in the North Island of New Zealand.

[24] 'Wanaka' homestead is adjacent the rural property Papanui. According to the current owner of *Papanui* (Di Killen, pers. comm. 19/02/2021), *Wanaka* was originally part of the *Papanui* property but 'was divided off and sold to a Mr Davis, who then gave it to his son as a wedding present when he became engaged to a New Zealand nurse who worked in the local Merriwa hospital. She named the property *Wanaka*.' Perhaps because she originally came from there.

on the South Island of New Zealand. He chose to name his St Helens property 'Akaroa', a Municipality: a word meaning 'long harbour' or 'peaceful waters'.[25] James built a cottage near the beach. In 1953 James returned to New Zealand and sold the property to Mr and Mrs Tucker. In 1997 James' grand-niece Cynthia and her husband John bought a parcel of land at Akaroa and developed a subdivision. On the original plans for the subdivision the vendor had named the proposed cul de sac Kiwi Court. To honour James Cannell, Cynthia and John successfully applied to the Break O'Day Council to change the name of the street to Cannell Place. (St Helens History Room, 2013).

Figure 14.
Akaroa road sign
(Source: Ozroads.com.au 'St Helens Point Rd'
https://www.ozroads.com.au/TAS/routenumbering/current/C851/c851.htm)

2.2.2 *Lakemba*

Although not immediately obvious, the Sydney suburb of ***Lakemba*** also has an Oceanic name, originating from the Fiji island of Lakeba /laˈkeᵐba/ (**Figure 15**). The suburb derived its name from the 22-hectare property *Lakeba* owned by Benjamin Taylor in the 1880s. He named the property after the Fiji island where his second wife's grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs Cross, were missionaries from 1835. One of the original streets of the suburb is Oneata Street, named after another small Fijian Island, close to Lakeba.

Taylor was a town clerk, alderman and Mayor of Canterbury throughout 1883-1911, and was an active member of the community. He gave permission for the railway line and railway station to be built on his property (Lakemba Club, 2018).

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[25] The sense 'long harbour' is correct, 'peaceful waters' is incorrect.

Figure 15.
The Fiji Islands, *Lakeba* circled
(Source: Bijay et al., 2012)

2.2.3 *Malua Bay*

Fiji is well-known for its laidback lifestyle and general way of getting things done (or perhaps more accurately, often *not* getting things done). This is often joked about and referred to as either *Fiji time* or *malua fever*, i.e. 'the habit of putting things off until later' (in the same sense of the Spanish expression *mañana* lit. 'tomorrow', but often used to mean 'by-and-by' or 'in the indefinite future', i.e. to procrastinate). *Mālua* means 'gently, slowly, quietly' in Fijian, but also 'a relaxed laidback attitude'.

A sleepy township on the south coast of NSW in the Eurobodalla Shire, and its adjoining bay bear the appropriate name *Malua Bay*. Malua Bay is approximately 13 km south of Batemans Bay (that is, about 280 km south of Sydney and 160 km east of Canberra). At the 2016 census, Malua Bay had a population of 1,929.

At first reckoning, the name could well derive from the Fijian word. However, there is a famous village on the Sāmoan island of Upolu that bears the name *Malua*; it is the centre for the Congregational Christian Church in Sāmoa, and the location of the famous Malua Theological College (established in 1844). The college's website declares the location was originally called *Maluapapa*, which Pratt (1984 [1893]) says means a 'sheltering rock'.[26] Pratt's dictionary, which was for many years the standard Sāmoan dictionary, was first printed at Malua. Our Fiji correspondent, Paul Geraghty, speculates that *malua* derives from *malu* 'in shadow, shaded, sheltered; shadow, shade, shelter; twilight' + the suffix {-*a*} 'containing; full of; place of', so a 'shady/sheltered place'. Indeed, there are cognates of *malu* in most Oceanic languages with the meaning 'shaded, sheltered etc.'[27]

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[26] Malua Theological College www.malua.edu.ws/
[27] Cognates are words in different languages presumed to derive from the same original word in a parent language.

Figure 16.
Malua Bay, NSW
(Source: Wyp at the English language Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3951749)

There is also a *Malua Head* (forming the northern limit of Malua Bay, NSW), a *Malua* homestead (near Gunnedah, NSW), a late-19th century residence at Elizabeth Bay (Sydney) named *Malua*, two *Malua Creek*s in Tasmania (one in the north-west and the other north of Zeehan on the west coast), a *Mount Malua* near Oodnadatta (SA), as well as a nearby RESERVE called *Malua Paddock*. Placenames Tasmania provide the following information (with a caveat)[28] regarding both the Tasmanian *Malua Creek*s:

> Malua Creek (1884) was […] named after a famous racehorse Malua (1879-1896) of Tasmanian parentage, bred by John Field of 'Calstock' in Deloraine, as a yearling was sold to Thomas Reibey the former Premier of Tasmania, with Malula one of the progeny. A Fijian word meaning 'wait awhile' or 'gently'.

The Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame website at one stage confirmed the origin of the horse's name as Fijian.[29] So, at least indirectly, the Tasmanian toponyms derive from the Fijian word. Ironically the racehorse won the 1884 Melbourne Cup, and there is a statue of him outside the Visitor Information Centre in Deloraine. Its name certainly belies its abilities.

There is also a *Malua Bay* on the island of Malekula (Vanuatu), and another in Duder Regional Park (just east of Auckland, NZ). However, there is no palpable connection between Malekula's and the NZ *Malua Bay*s and ours. It cannot be a Māori name because it contains an /l/—Māori has /r/, not /l/ sounds. In fact, the NZ bay derives its name from a well-known Auckland yacht, the *Malua*, which was stolen from its moorings in Auckland in December 1887 and abandoned on the beach at what became unofficially known by the owners of the adjoining land as *Malua Bay* (Murdoch, 1996, pp. 40-41, 60). *Malua* is also quite a common and (dare I say it) appropriate name for yachts.

The ultimate clue to the origin of *Malua Bay* comes from the title of Shirley Grylls' local history entitled *A Place to Linger: Malua Bay N.S.W*, 'to linger' being one way of translating the Fijian term.[30] Indeed, Grylls (1994, p. 34) claims *Malua Bay* was assigned as the geographical name under the Geographical Names Act of NSW Government Gazette No. 149 on 24 December, 1971. Earlier in 1938 *Mosquito Bay*, as it was then called, became

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[28] 'Disclaimer: The following information does not form part of the Register of Place Names. Information of this nature is typically largely unverified and is included for background information only.'

[29] The Hall of Fame entries no longer appear on the Australian Racing Museum site, but an account of rhe stallion can be in the Museum collection: https://collection.racingmuseum.com.au/persons/4466/malua

[30] I should like to thank Andrew Sergeant of the National Library of Australia for supplying scans of relevant pages of Grylls' book.

Malua Bay. Today's *Mosquito Bay* was then known as *Little Mosquito Bay*. The name *Malua Bay* was approved by the Post Master Generals Department as a postal address on 1 August, 1938. Grylls reports that some local residents thought *malua* meant 'mosquito' in the local Indigenous language. Grylls did not find any evidence for this, nor have I. Grylls says a letter from Malua Bay Pty Ltd, the company that bought the whole area of land around the bay from the King family who owned and farmed it, which later subdivided and developed the land, also claimed *malua* meant 'mosquito' citing as evidence that the bay was also known as *Mosquito Bay*.

Grylls makes a number of suggestions as to the origin of the name. One is that a wooden steamship of 30 tons named the *SS Malua*, ran aground at Port Hacking in 1886, and that this could have been the source of the name. This seems an unlikely source, as no evidence has been found to support it.

Grylls then says that upon enquiring of local residents as to the origin of the bay's name, she was told that attempts to attract holiday-makers to the area were unsuccessful, so it was suggested a competition be held to find a more suitable name to replace the perceived unappealing *Mosquito Bay*. It is said that a 'sporting gentleman' by the name of Frank McGrath won the prize money of £5 with his suggestion of *Malua Bay*. Grylls does not elaborate further on this 'sporting gentleman', but a quick search on the National Library of Australia's Trove website shows he was a well-known horse trainer of the day. He won the Melbourne Cup three times. Several newspaper articles about him report that he was a great admirer of *Malua*, the racehorse from Deloraine in Tasmania (**Figure 17**).[31]

If indeed Grylls' story is factual, then *Malua Bay* was indirectly named after a racehorse, which in turn had been named with the Fijian postverbal particle (adverb) *mālua* 'slowly, gently, later'. However, until evidence of the renaming competition and Frank McGrath's involvement can be found, a degree of scepticism should remain as to the veracity of this story. The first mention in newspapers of *Malua Bay* is in 1945, so if there was a name change, it would have had to occur shortly before this date. Grylls' reporting that the name change occurred in 1938 coincides reasonably well with that date.

Figure 17.
Statue of racehorse *Malua* at Deloraine, Tasmania.
(Source: Monument Australia
http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/animals/display/94384-malua-memorial)

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[31] *Referee*, Wednesday 14 May, 1930, p. 3; *Brisbane Telegraph*, Saturday 15 October, 1949, p. 5.

2.2.4 *Manuka*

The salubrious Canberra precinct of ***Manuka*** is well known for its oval, its eateries and up-market shopping precinct. It is named after Manuka Circle, the street which forms the northern boundary of the precinct. Manuka Circle was on Walter Burley Griffin's original plan for Canberra and named after the Māori *mānuka* for the New Zealand tea tree *Leptospermum scoparium.* The name *Manuka* has various pronunciations by local Canberrans ranging between /ˈmanəkə/ and /maˈnukə/. Interestingly, the New Zealand Oxford Dictionary also records various pronunciations for the word: /ˈmanəkə/, /ˈmanukə/ and /məˈnukə/.

When Burley Griffin developed his plans for the city in 1912, it was still thought that New Zealand might join the Federation. His plans therefore included eight avenues radiating out from Capital Hill, each named after the capitals of the six states, the capital of the Northern Territory and the capital of New Zealand, Wellington. However, before the name *Wellington Avenue* was gazetted it became apparent that New Zealand was not going to become part of the Federation, and the name was subsequently replaced by *Canberra Avenue.*

Griffin also planned that the state capital city avenues would terminate in a park, named after the generic botanical name for a native plant from that particular city. For example, *Telopea Park* is at the end of Sydney Avenue, and named after named after the waratah. *Manuka* is therefore a remnant of Griffin's nomenclature.

Figure 18.
(Source: Sonya Gee, ABC News. 'Why do Canberrans pronounce Manuka differently?' 25 July 2016)

2.2.5 Mt Tongatabu & Mt Tonga

Tongatapu is the name of the main island of the Kingdom of Tonga (*tonga* = 'south wind'; *tapu* = 'sacred; forbidden; holy; forbidden ground or object; sacredness').[32] The island lies at the southern end of the archipelago (**Figure 19**). The Kingdom's capital, Nuku'alofa, is situated there. English derives the word *taboo* from the Tongan term *tapu*,[33] which was first recorded by Cook in 1777, after which it edged its way into the English lexicon:

> 1777   J. Cook *Jrnl.* 15 June (1967) III. i. 129   [At Tongataboo] When dinner came on table not one of my guests would sit down or eat a bit of any thing [*sic*] that was there. Every one [*sic*] was *Tabu*, a word of a very comprehensive meaning but in general signifies forbidden. (*OED*)
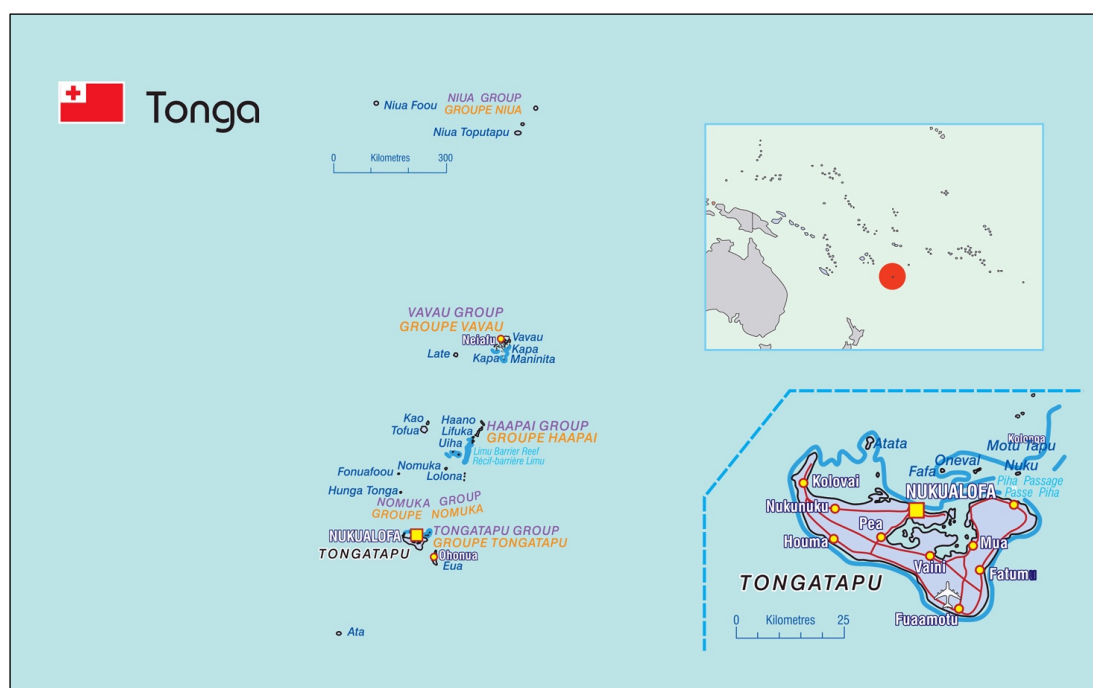

Figure 19.
The Kingdom of Tonga (Source: *Mapsland)*

There is also a *Tongatabu* in Tasmania—a mountain of 573 metres, 8 km south of Geeveston, near Port Huon on the Huon River (**Figure 20**).[34]

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[32] Like Tonga, Fiji also derives its name from a compass direction, *viti* 'east', cf. the main island's name *Vitilevu* (lit. 'big east'), and the islands *Naviti* ('the east' lit 'rising of the sun'), the *Lomaiviti (Islands)* (lit. 'centre of Fiji'), and *Tokelau* 'north'.

[33] Various cognate forms of the word are found throughout Oceania, e.g. *kapu* (Hawai'i) and *tabu* /taᵐbu]/ (Fiji). Note, the stress on these words is on the first syllable, unlike in English *taboo* where it is on the second.

[34] Geeveston is the township where the popular ABC series *Rosehaven* was filmed.

Figure 20.
Tasmania's *Tongatabu*
(Source: Denis, 'Hiking South East Tasmania',
https://hikinginsetasmania.blogspot.com/2014/04/tongatabu.html)

Placenames Tasmania's website (https://www.placenames.tas.gov.au/#p0) provides the following information regarding this toponym:

> The feature to which this name is now officially assigned was shown on Plan 15 Kent, dated 1854, as Mount Thabor or Tongataboo [sic]. There was also another feature named Mount Tongatabu overlooking Port Arthur which appeared on Admiralty Chart No 1475, the result of a survey by HMS Dart in 1893. Although there is no record of precisely how or when each name was given, it is thought probable that they derived from their being likened to the shape of that Pacific island. Tongatabu is the main island in the Tonga group. It was ascertained that most local people did not use the term 'Mount' for the Esperance feature and to eliminate the duplication the smaller Tasman feature was assigned the abbreviated 'Mount Tonga'.

The first documentary evidence of the toponym I have been able to find is in the *Hobart Town Mercury* of 1857 (**Figure 21**):

A serious accident occurred on Monday to a man, named Patrick Kenny. by the falling of a tree, while at work at Tongataboo : on the arrival of Dr Dawson, he found, that the poor man was suffering from concussion of the brain, that his left arm was broken, and that some of his front teeth were knocked out : there were other injuries of a less serious description. The patient is progressing favourably, under Dr. Dawson's care, and hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery.

Figure 21.
(Source: 'Country Districts – Franklin', *Hobart Town Mercury*, Monday 13 April 1857, p. 3)

Placenames Tasmania's comments on the origin of *Tongatabu* also mention *Mount Tonga*, near Port Arthur (**Figure 22**). It seems this name has its origins from the surveying expedition of the British hydrographic survey vessel *HMS Dart* in 1893, and appears on the Admiralty Chart 1474 showing Port Arthur (**Figure 23**). Lieut. Comm^r. H.E. Purey-Cust R.N. was master of the *Dart* during the survey of Port Arthur. Prior to his appointment on the *Dart* in 1892, he served as a hydrographer in the Red Sea, on the East Coast of Africa, in China, and in the Pacific, and may therefore have visited Tonga, whence *Mount Tonga(tabu)*'s name. However, according to Lavaka (1979, p. 59) prior to Purey-Cust's command of the *Dart*, the ship had cruised the West Pacific in 1884, and in the South Pacific between 1886 and 1893. Lavaka further claims that according to the (Tasmanian?) 'Nomenclature Board', 'Mt Tonga could have been likened by one of the *Dart*'s men to the main island of Tonga, from a certain direction, and called it Tongatabu. The Department said perhaps the same thing happened to Mount Tongatabu which is in the southwest of Hobart [...]' Although this is an attractive theory, it is unsubstantiated.
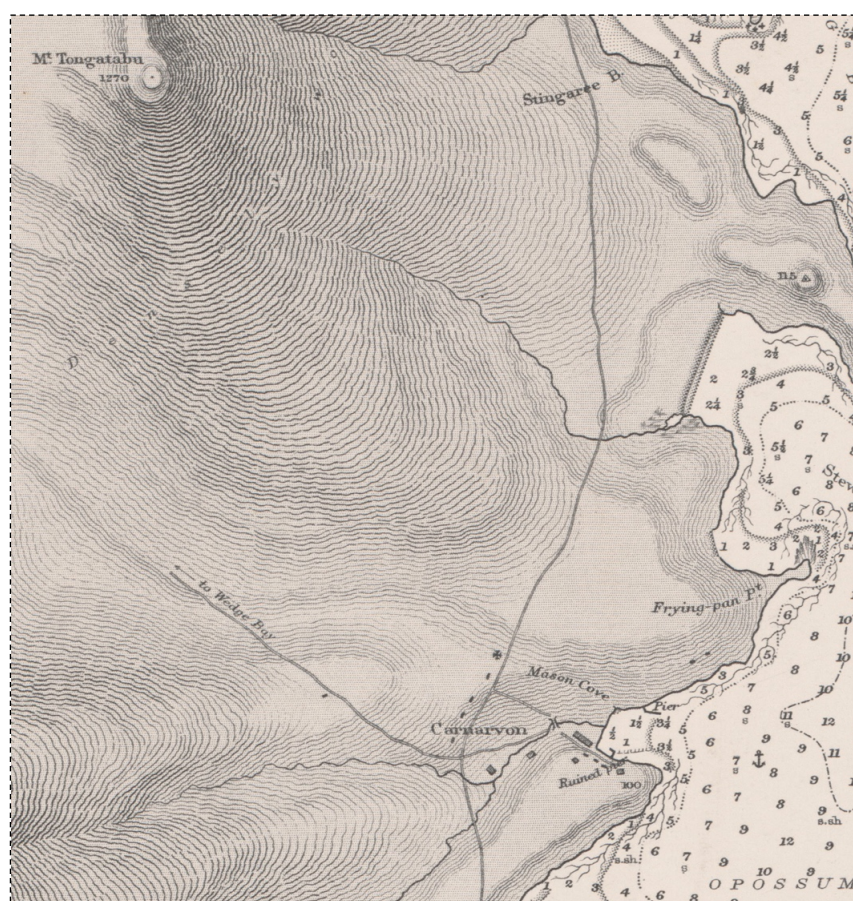

Figure 22.
Detail of Admiralty Chart 1475 showing *Mt. Tongatabu* (upper left) and Mason Cove
(site of the Port Arthur penitentiary)
(Source: Hydrographic Department, Great Britain. (1897 [1893]) 'Tasmania - South Coast. Port Arthur / surveyed by Lieut. & Commr. H.E. Purey-Cust, R.N. assisted and by Lieuts. W. Pudsey-Dawson, F.C.C. Pasco, R.A.E.H. Marescaux, R.N., H.M. Surveying Ship Dart, 1893 ; engraved by Davies & Company'. London: the Admiralty Charts, 1475. Nat. Library of Australia, MAP RM 811. https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231313799/view)

Figure 23.
Port Arthur Historic Site with *Mount Tonga* in the background
(Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Beyond_the_Neck)

Apart from the information outlined above, I have not been able to find any further information on the naming of these two mountain features. What is clear though is that *Tongatabu* was named in the early to mid-1850s, and *Mt Tonga(tabu)* some 40 years later. This is also curious because there are no mountains on Tongatapu.

There are also several other locations that bear the name *Tongatabu* and *Tonga* in Tasmania—a *Tongatabu Road* north of Hobart, and a *Tonga Place* in Ravenswood, Launceston. However, street names are not the concern of ANPS, so we shall ignore the naming of these. There are, however, various other locations in Australia whose names are perhaps derived from the Pacific kingdom—NSW: *Tonga* (PRSH), *Tonga* (HMSD), *Tonga Creek*, *Tonga Island* (LOC), and *Tonga Park* (RESV); QLD: *Tonga Mountain* and *Tonga Range*; SA: *Tonga Bore*, *Tonga Well*, *Tonga Hill*, and *Tonga Creek*. Perhaps these were named by returning missionaries? These all remain to be investigated.

2.2.6 Te Kowai

The Queensland locality **Te Kowai**, a few kilometres west of the Mackay city centre, is an altered or misunderstood New Zealand Māori name form.[35] It, in all likelihood, derives from *kōwhai~kowhai* /ˈkɔːɸai/~/ˈkɔːfai/~/ˈkoʊ(w)ai/, a small woody legume tree within the genus *Sophora* native to New Zealand.[36] The tree has yellow flowers, and has unofficially been recognised as New Zealand's national flower. *Te* is the Māori definite article.

The locality derives its name from the local railway station, which in turn obtained its name from the *Te Kowai* mill. The Mackay Historical Society claims a Thomas Henry Fitzgerald owned land in the area, and in 1874, in partnership with the marvellously named Albert Throckmorton Ball, established the *Te Kowai* plantation, which apparently was named after Fitzgerald's estate in New Zealand (Mackay Historical Society).

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[35] There is also a waterhole *Kowai Lagoon* (NT). The Northern Territory Place Names Register does not have an origin for the name (www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/placenames/view.jsp?id=14228). It is likely to be derived from an Australian Indigenous language.

[36] Nowadays, it is usual practice in New Zealand English to include the macron on long vowels in the orthography of Māori words. In the past, these were omitted. The symbol /ɸ/ represents a voiceless bilabial fricative—an f-sound made between the lips, and is represented in standard orthography as *wh*.

Fitzgerald (1824-1888) was a politician both in New Zealand and Queensland. He was also a pioneer sugar-grower. Born at Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, Ireland, he qualified as an engineer and migrated to New Zealand in 1842, working as an assistant surveyor. He also sat on the Provincial Council of Wellington in 1857-58 and of Hawkes Bay in 1859-61, and in the House of Representatives from April to November 1860 as member for Hawkes Bay. In 1862 he went to Queensland and was appointed a surveyor based at Rockhampton. In 1864-65 he surveyed the site of Mackay where, impressed with the potential for sugar-growing, he resigned and started one of the earliest plantations in Queensland (Bolton, 1972).[37]

Two advertisements in the *Mackay Mercury and South Kennedy Advertiser* calling for tenders to carry out building and land clearing work show the preparations for the *Te Kowai* plantation and mill were underway in late 1873 (**Figures 24a** & **24b**).

Figure 24a.
(Source: *Mackay Mercury and South Kennedy Advertiser*, Saturday 6 September 1873, p. 3)

Figure 24b.
(Source: *Mackay Mercury and South Kennedy Advertiser*, Saturday 6 December 1873, p. 3)

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[37] In 1879, Fitzgerald went to northern Queensland to inspect potential sites for sugar plantations. He settled on the Johnstone River, south of Cairns, and in 1880 founded Innisfail, the first plantation there. The venture failed in 1885 and Innisfail passed to a mortgagee. The town name of Geraldton commemorated him, but was changed in 1909 to *Innisfail* to avoid confusion with Geraldton in Western Australia. Fitzgerald obviously named his plantation after the poetic name for his homeland Ireland, *Inis Fáil* (*inis* 'island', *fál* 'hedge, enclosure; king, ruler').

Cane crushing began on 26th October 1874. Te Kowai also had a distillery, which closed in 1889 and the mill only crushed for short periods after that until it closed permanently in 1894 when it amalgamated with The Palms mill (Mackay Historical Society).
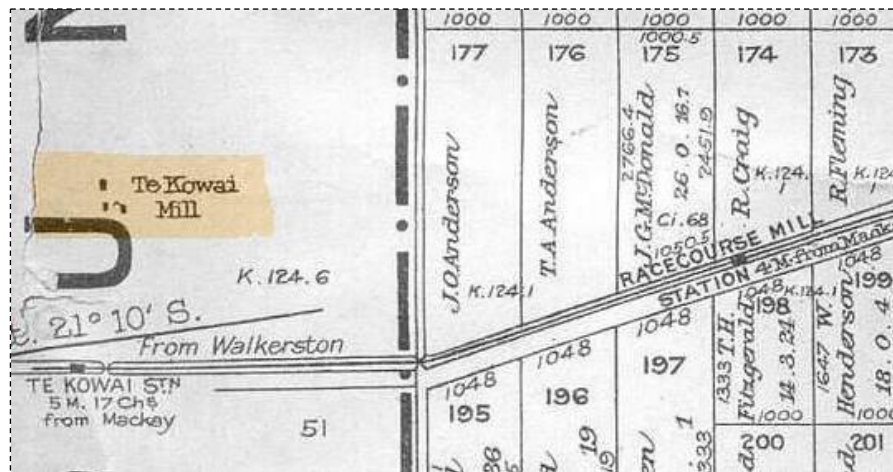

Figure 25.
Parish of Howard map (1908) showing the location of the *Te Kowai Mill*
in the neighbouring parish of Greenmount.
(Source: http://www.mackayhistory.org/research/sugar_mills/tekowai.html)

Figure 26.
The *Te Kowai Mill*
(Source: http://www.mackayhistory.org/research/sugar_mills/tekowai.html)

I have not been able to substantiate the Mackay Historical Society's claim that Fitzgerald's plantation was named after his estate in New Zealand. The New Zealand Gazetteer (LINZ) lists eight toponyms with the name form *Te Kōwhai*, none of which is located in the Hawkes Bay or Wellington regions, where Fitzgerald resided. This, however, does not refute the Mackay Historical Society's claim.

If Mackay's *Te Kowai* does originate from *Te Kōwhai* or *Te Kowhai*, the spelling change from <wh> to <w> needs to be explained. Modern Māori orthography has 15 letters, two of which are digraphs: <a e h i k m n o p r t u w> and <ng wh>. The early 19th century saw the publication of the first grammars and word lists of Māori, all of which showed significant differences in the orthographies employed. The first orthographic renderings

of Māori did not contain the <wh> digraph; instead, either <w> or <f> was used. Although <wh> had been used in some publications up until the mid-19th century, it was not fully adopted until the late 1860s when it was consistently used in the Old and New Testaments. Two reasons why the sound ultimately represented by <wh> was not agreed upon until the late 1860s was that its pronunciation was very variable throughout the country. It ranges between [f], [ɸ], [ʔw] in the Whanganui and Taranaki regions, and in the far-north of the North Island [w].[38] This difference in pronunciation was the subject of considerable debate during the 1990s and 2000s over the then-proposed change in the spelling of the name of the city *Wanganui* to *Whanganui* (Whanganui District Council).

Given the uncertainty of the pronunciation and spelling of the sound during the 19th century, it is entirely conceivable that Fitzgerald spelled his Mackay plantation as *Kowai* and not *Kowhai*. However, there may be another explanation for the spelling. The New Zealand Gazetteer (LINZ) lists 22 features with the element *kowai*, one of which can be found just north of Napier in the Hawkes Bay region—*Otakowai Stream* (**Figure 27**). It is feasible Fitzgerald had named his parcel of land in that district after that stream and used the name form for his Mackay plantation. I have not been able to ascertain a meaning for *Otakowai*, but the initial element, <O>, may represent *ō* which can function as various parts of speech or prefixes, including the plural of the definitive particle *tō* indicating possession, 'the ...of', 'those of'; or one of the prepositions: 'of, belonging to', 'from (of a place)', 'attaching to'. If this prefix is omitted, one is left with *takowai*, which rendered in English could well be /təˈkoʊwai/, giving the spelling *Te Kowai*.
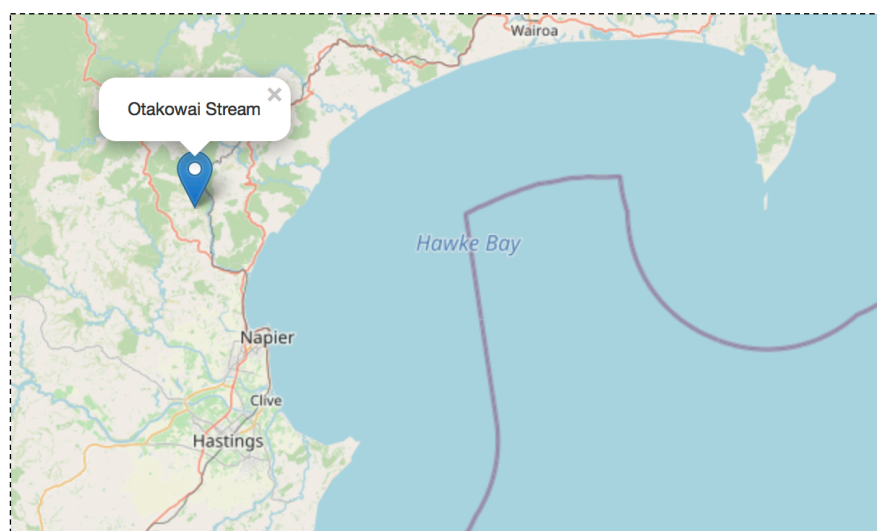

Figure 27.
Detail of map showing *Otakowai Stream*
(Source: Backpack New Zealand http://www.backpack-newzealand.com/maps/all/otakowai-stream-map-34314.php)

2.2.7 *The Riverina cluster*

In the Central West of NSW, in the Riverina District (LGAs of Carrathool and Cobar), is a cluster of former pastoral leaseholds, and now localities, parishes, hills and a railway station that most likely all owe their names to Charles Whybrow Ligar (1811-1881), who

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[38] [ʔ] represents a glottal stop

was the leaseholder of several properties in the region. He was a surveyor, soldier and grazier, and was Surveyor-General of New Zealand in 1841 (**Figure 28**). He was also a lieutenant-colonel in the Auckland Militia. He resigned from the New Zealand civil service in 1856, and visited Victoria in 1857 as land commissioner for Otago. A year later Ligar became Surveyor-General of Victoria. At the same time, he and his family invested heavily in livestock, and with three partners leased three million acres (1,214,070 ha) in the Riverina. In 1869 he resigned on a government pension of £500 and retired to Europe where he lived on the Mediterranean coast for some years before taking up a ranch in Texas. He died in February 1881 (Powell, 1971).

Figure 28.
Charles Whybrow Ligar (1811-1881) c.1859
(Source: La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, H8065)

The names Ligar assigned to his pastoral leases in the Riverina (see **Figures 29**, **30**, **31a, b, c,** and **32**, and **Table 4**) were largely Māori names he must have come across during his time as Surveyor-General of New Zealand. The names of his Riverina pastoral runs derive from the Northland, Auckland and Waikato regions.
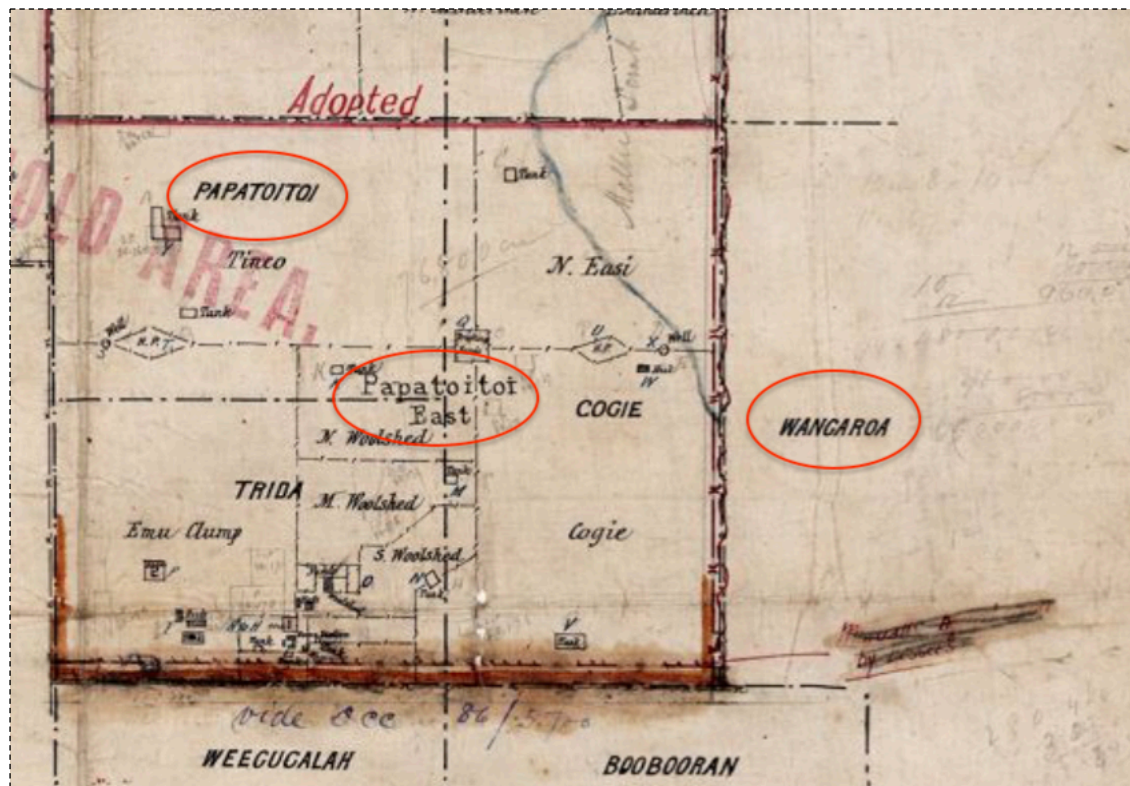
Figure 29.
Detail of pastoral lease *Trida* showing the runs *Papatoitoi* and *Wangaroa*
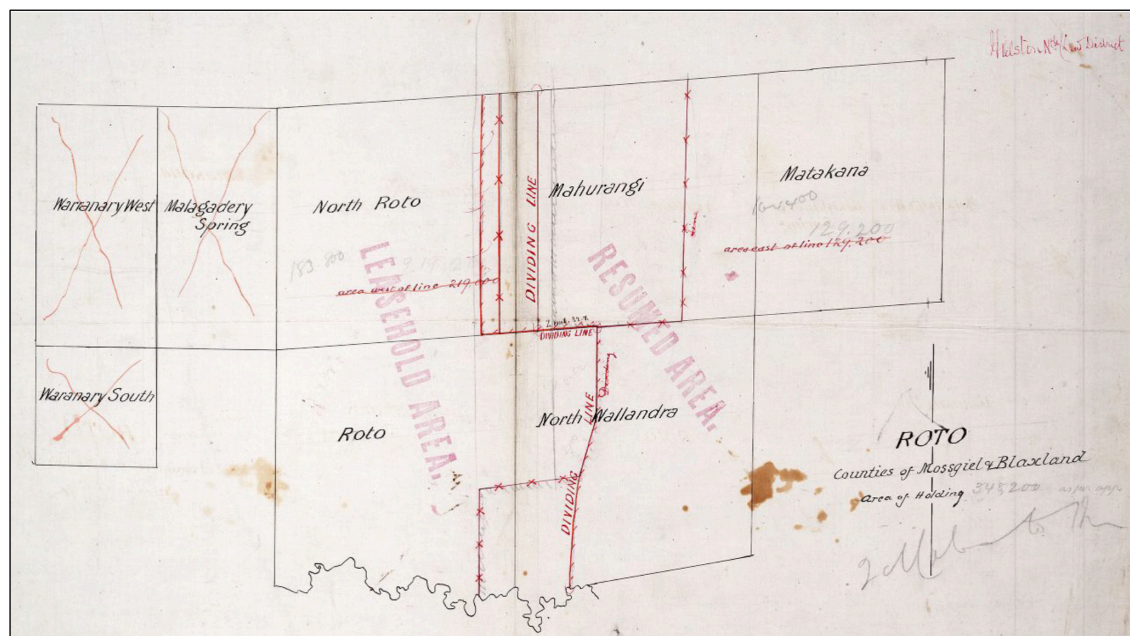(Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Historical Parish Maps **Number** 572714
https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au)

Figure 30.
Roto Station including its pastoral runs *Mahurangi* & *Matakana*
(Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Historical Parish Maps **Number** 572700
https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au)

Figure 31a.

Figure 31b.

Figure 31c.

Details of DIVISION OF PASTORAL HOLDINGS, Western Division, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 July 1885, p7. (Source: http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13593066)

Figure 32.

Detail of notice of accepted tenders for pastoral leases, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 October 1861, page 2. (Source: http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13062285)

Table 4.
The Riverina's Māori toponyms

Toponym	Designation	Derivation
Roto	HMSD	Māori *roto* 'lake; swamp'. There are many small lakes just west of Roto.
	PRSH	
	LOC	
	RSTA	
	DAM	
	TRIG	
	HILL	
Matakana	HMSD	A LOC north of Auckland
	BORE	
	LOC	
	PRSH	
	BORE	
Mahurangi	*****RUN	A LOC north of Auckland
	PRSH	
Wangaroa	HMSD	A misspelling of *Whangaroa* a LOC in the North Auckland district. Until recently, w*h*- was generally pronounced as /w/ by most non-Māori New Zealanders. Now they mostly pronounce *wh*- as /f/. Strictly speaking this is still not correct as it is actually a voiceless bilabial fricative /ɸ/
	PRSH	
Papakura	*****RUN	An Auckland SUB
Papatoitoi	*****RUN	*Papatoetoe* an Auckland SUB, formerly spelled *Papatoitoi*
?Whoey	*****RUN	Perhaps *Te Hoe* a LOC in South Auckland, or *Hoe Creek*, Gisborne
	PRSH	
	TRIG	
?Whoey Mountain	HILL	

* Name of former leasehold; no longer extant.

Figure 33.
Roto Station
(Source: https://nswrail.net/locations/photos/roto14.jpg)

2.2.8 Oceanic street names

Although the names of streets and buildings lie outside the scope of ANPS, they often provide interesting and historical insights into placenaming practices. Suburbs often have clusters of streets that are named under a specific theme. And so it is with Lethbridge Park, a suburb of Greater Western Sydney (LGA of Blacktown), which has a cluster of streets with Oceanic names. They include:

Apia Place
Awatea Place
Hawaii Avenue
Mangariva Avenue < Mangareva
Mariana Cres
Marquesa Crescent < Marquesas
Nauru Cres
Noumea Street (& Noumea Public School in Noumea Street)
Palau Crescent
Papeete Avenue
Rotorua Street
Samoa Place
Suva Place
Tahiti Avenue
Taranaki Avenue
Tarawa Road
Waitaki Street
Wangaroa Crescent

There are many other street and road names throughout Australia that bear Oceanic names, often they are associated with a nearby place that also bears the name.

3   AUSTRALIAN TOPONYMS IN THE PACIFIC

There are not many toponyms copied from Australia to the Pacific. Interestingly, three of those that have made the journey are derived from Indigenous languages,[39] and they have emerged both in Fiji and in New Zealand.

3.1 Maimai

One Australian Aboriginal word that has crossed the Tasman is *mia-mia*. However, it generally has the form *maimai* /ˈmai-mai/ in New Zealand (Tent, 2024). Why it should have this form is not clear; either the alternative form in Australia (see below) was copied in New Zealand, or it derives from the Māori term *maimai*. Williams' *A Dictionary of the Maori Language* (1985) lists it under the entry for **mai**:

Mai (iv) —
Maimai, n. A dance, or haka, to welcome guests at a **tangi**. **Maimai aroha**, (a) *Token or expression of affection.* [...] (b) *Song of affection for the dead.*

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[39] I use the term 'Indigenous derived' rather than simply 'Indigenous' to highlight the fact that almost all Indigenous words copied and adopted into English have been corrupted to some degree.

The online *Māori Dictionary* has the following entry:

> 1. (noun) song of affection for the dead, haka to welcome guest to a tangihanga.
> He waiata aroha, he waiata tangi te **maimai**. He momo haka hoki hei whakatau i te manuhiri
> ki te tangihanga (RTP 2015, n, p. 119). / A maimai is a song of affection, a lament. It is also a
> type of haka to welcome guest to a tangi. (https://maoridictionary.co.nz/word/3373)

However, in New Zealand English, *maimai* is mostly used to refer to a duck shooter's hide
(**Figure 34**). Deverson and Kennedy's (2005) entry for the word states:

> **maimai** /ˈmaɪmaɪ/ *n.* (also formerly **mia-mia**) *NZ* a duck shooter's hide. [ORIGIN: Aust.
> *mia-mia* a hut or shelter, from Aboriginal *maya-maya*.]

Figure 34.
A New Zealand duck shooter's *maimai*
(Source: Mark Purdon, 2015. National Contemporary Art Award 2015: Maimai, Lake Ngaroto, New
Zealand. Hamilton, New Zealand, Waikato Museum. http://researcharchive.wintec.ac.nz/3816/)

The *OED*'s entry provides some additional information:

> **Maimai, *n.***
>
> **Origin:** Probably a variant or alteration of another lexical item. **Etymon:** mia-mia *n.*
> **Etymology:** Probably < mia-mia *n.*, extended directly from Australian English to New
> Zealand English. Not a Maori word (compare Maori *maimai* a haka to welcome guests),
> although used of a Maori shelter; nor is Maori related to the Australian languages in which the
> etymon of mia-mia *n.* occurs.
>
> *New Zealand*
> A makeshift Maori shelter of sticks, grass, etc. Now usually: a duckshooter's hide or stand.
> 1863   S. Butler *First Year Canterbury Settl.* v. 72. The few Maories that inhabit this
>   settlement...always go on foot, and we saw several traces of their encampments—
>   little *mimis*, as they are called—a few light sticks thrown together, and covered with
>   grass, affording a sort of half-and-half shelter for a single individual.

Apart from the term being used as a duck shooter's hide, it also appears as a toponym in
a few locations. The New Zealand Gazetteer (LINZ) lists a five toponyms that bear this
name form. The first is a hill east of the capital, Wellington. No information is provided
for the origin or meaning of that name, so it is possible that the name may derive from the

Māori term for a dance or haka. The second is a location nor-nor-east of Greymouth on the north-west coast of the South Island. Associated with this location are the nearby *Maimai Plain*, and *Maimai Creek*. For the latter, the following purported origin of the name is provided:

> **History/Origin/Meaning:**
> Name submitted by the Westland Chief Surveyor, September 1969, after research in connection with the revision of NZMS1 S78. Office records showed the name Toarona Creek, but AA signage and local usage was for Maimai Creek, the local authority was unsure. Origin and meaning unknown, but presumably a duckshooting area.

There is another creek with the name form further south on the South Island. Given all these features are in relatively close proximity, this etymology likely applies to all three toponyms.

It is not uncommon for toponyms to be used as names of vessels, especially naval vessels. This has been a long standing tradition in many navies. The steam trawler *Maimai* is such a case (**Figure 35**). It began life at the yard of Stevenson and Cook Ltd, Port Chalmers in 1943, and was built for the Royal New Zealand Navy for mine sweeping duties. In 1946, she was sold to Maimai Trawling Company of Wellington and converted for fishing, and was finally broken up in 1966. Although I have not been able to find any information regarding the origin of its name, it most likely derives from the *Maimai* on the South Island. The *Maimai* was a Castle/Manuka class Mine Sweeper Trawler. A common practice in naming naval ships of a specific class, is that they are bestowed with names along a theme. There were 13 Castle/Manuka class MS Trawlers built for the RNZN, all of which were named after toponyms in the country (navypedia.org).
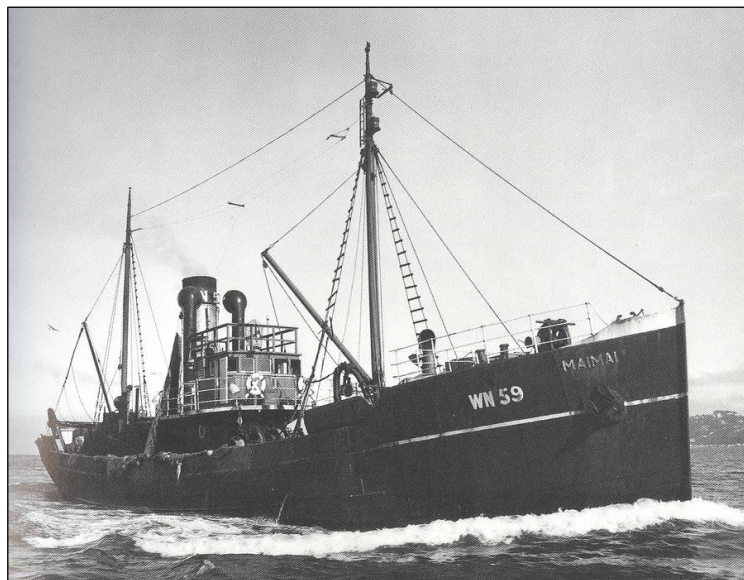
Figure 35.
Steam trawler *Maimai*, early 1960s.
(Source: Ships Nostalgia https://www.shipsnostalgia.com/)

If Deverson & Kennedy (2005) and the *OED* are correct in their etymology for *maimai*, it is appropriate that we briefly look into the origin and use of its Australian parent word.

Mia-mia or *miamia* is one of the commonly used Indigenous loanwords in Australian English for 'temporary shelter; hut; house'; others include: *gunyah* (< Dharug, NSW) (see **3.2** below), *wurley* (< Kaurna, SA), and *humpy* (< Yagara, QLD). Its entry in Dixon et al. (2006, pp. 198–199) reads:

> **mia-mia** /ˈmaɪə- maɪə/, /ˈmɪə-mie/, /ˈmai-mai/
> Formerly many spelling variants: **mai-mai**, **miam**, **miam-miam**, **mi-mi**, **myam-myam**, **mya**, and **mya-mya**. [Although the word was much used in Victoria (the earliest Victorian instance is 1838), it appears to have originated as *maya* or *maya-maya* in Nyungar, the language of the Perth-Albany region.[40]

The entry for the term in the *Australian National Dictionary* (Moore et al., 2016) provides a more specific etymology:

> [From Wathaurong and Woiwurrung miam-miam. Cf. Western Australia MIA, which some have argued (cf. B.J. Blake, *Wathawarrung and the Colac Language of Southern Victoria*, 1998) was brought to Victoria by sealers and whalers.][41]

The term *Miya* 'hut' appears in Whitehurst's *Noongar Dictionary* (1997), in Collard et al's *Nyungar Place Nomenclature of the Southwest of Western Australia Nyungar names [...]* [n.d.] as *Mya*, *maia*, *mai* 'hut', and in Moore's *A Descriptive Vocabulary or the language in common use amongst the Aborigines of Western Australia [...]* (1842) as *mya.* Therefore, the Victorian word could have been borrowed from Nyungar (WA), though it seems unlikely.

Troy (1994) also records various forms of the word being used in NSW Pidgin throughout NSW and Victoria, many noted by Mitchell in his *Aboriginal dictionary (Woradgery tongue.) [...]* (1906). Hercus (1986, p. 241) records *mai-mai* 'camp' in the Ganai language of Gippsland, and in southern Ngarigu, where she suggests it is a borrowing from Gippsland (p. 246).

It appears *miamia~maimai* was initially used in New Zealand English to denote a makeshift Māori shelter before it changed meaning to a duck shooter's hide. It then seems to have been recruited for toponymic use, and then as a vessel's name.

3.2 Miegunyah

Two Indigenous-derived Australian toponyms, *Miegunyah* and *Toorak,* now have a use as suburb names in Fiji.[42]

Semantically related to *Maimai* is the Fiji toponym *Miegunyah* (sometimes *Meigunyah*).[43] It designates a former sugarcane plantation and now a suburb of Nadi. It is situated a few kilometres east of the centre of Nadi, on the western side of the main island of Vitilevu. The road that runs along the suburb's perimeter also bears the name. A nearby mosque and primary school carry nativised versions of the name: *Maigania Masjid* and *Maigania*

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[40] They also report the term has reached New Zealand, and refers to a duck shooter's hide [1833].

[41] Although it is plausible the word was introduced into Victoria by sealers and whalers, Blake, Clark & Krishna-Pillay (1998, pp. l59–154) (in *Wathawarrung and the Colac Language of Southern Victoria*), do not specifically state the vector. Their entry for 'house/hut' merely provides the Wathawurrung term *karrung*, after which various cognates are listed. After the cognates *mimi* is noted with the comment '[WA word spread via English]', which is referenced to Griffith (1840–1).

[42] See Geraghty & Tent (2021).

[43] For a full exposition of *Miegunyah*, see Tent & Geraghty (2020).

Muslim Primary School. The local Fijian community call the suburb *Maqania* /maᵑga'niə/, whilst the local Fiji Hindi pronunciation is /me'ŋenjə/, /meŋ'genjə/ or /meŋge'niə/

Miegunyah means 'my house/home' and derives from the Dharug (Sydney Language) *gunyah/gunya* (/'gʌnjə/) 'a temporary shelter usually made of sheets of bark and/or branches; any makeshift shelter or dwelling' (Moore et al., 2016) + the prefix *mie-/mei-* (/mai/~/mi/) most likely from 19ᵗʰ century NSW Pidgin 'I/my'.[44] The name has been used in QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and WA as a homestead/rural property name, a house name, the name of a vineyard, several residential estates, and as an imprint of Melbourne University Publishing. So, how did this name find its way to Fiji?

In 1873 sugar production was established in Fiji. Initially, it consisted of a few small sugar mills that were badly managed and not profitable, many of them closing when the sugar prices fell in the 1890s. In 1879 a representative of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company arrived in Fiji to assess prospects for a sugar industry in the colony. They started operations at its first mill in Nausori (close to Suva) in 1882. In 1903, CSR established the Lautoka Sugar Mill (close to Nadi) (Moynagh 1981). It is in connection with this mill that we find the first references to the name.

The CSR documents of 1906-07 (Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited 1905-1926) include the following:

- Documents concerning Mr Reginald Arthur Harricks' subleasing in 1905 the land parcels *Wasina* and *Ione* (which were CSR freehold) 108 acres in total; the whole 950 acres of *Nasau*, leased by CSR from the Crown; and a portion (25.5 acres) of CSR's lease of *Na Buyagiyagi*, leased from the Misses Luks; comprising a total of 1083.5 acres. These parcels were subsequently named by Harricks in 1906, *Miegunyah*.
- A document entitled *Valuation of cane crops, livestock, implements &c. on Mr. Harricks' planation "Miegunyah" 1906*.
- 1905 and 1906 correspondence between R.A. Harricks and the General Manager of CSR in Sydney, regarding the subleasing of *Miegunyah* and the rental thereof, and the reimbursement of building materials for the estate (**Figure 36**).

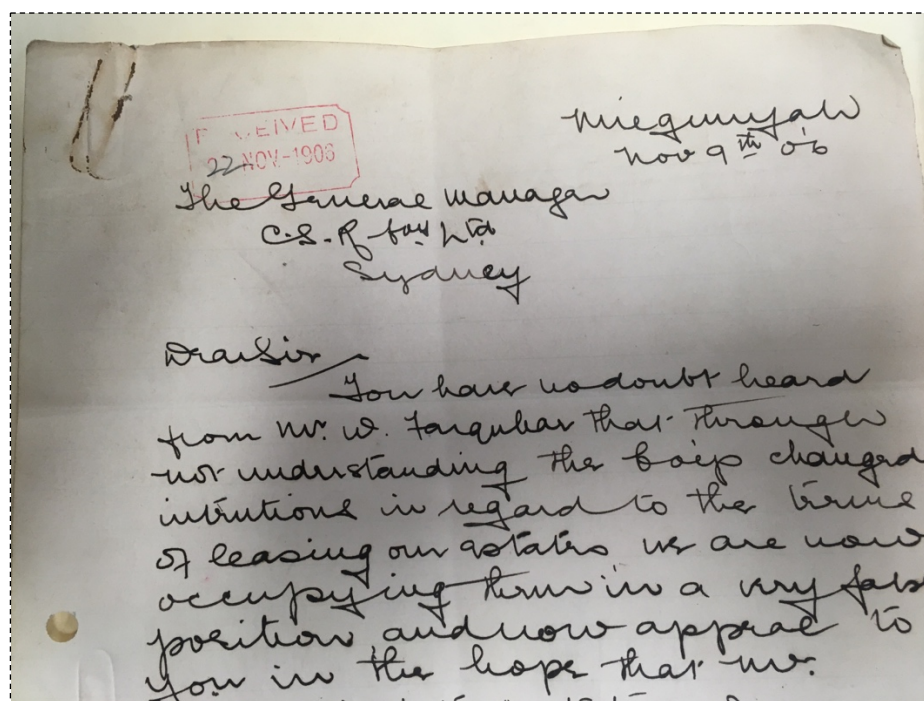[44] Also see Troy (1994) for a full exposition of NSW Pidgin.

Figure 36.
Detail of correspondence from R.A. Harricks to the General Manager, CSR
(Photo: Jan Tent)

The first public mention of *Miegunyah* is in *The Fiji Times* of 16 June, 1909:

> Nadi.
>
> … A week or so ago Mrs R.A. Harricks of 'Miegunyah' entertained her many friends at a "pink tea". The guests all wore some pink favour, the decorations and almost all the dainty tea being pink. Not the least exciting was the picturesque arrival on horse back [*sic*] of two bachelor guests who were clothed from their helmets to their shoes in pink, they were preceded by two coolies also garbed in pink and waving branches of cane flowers.

It has not been possible to ascertain why Reg Harricks named his sublease *Miegunyah*. Given he came from Maryborough, the most likely inspiration for his adoption of the name is the house name *Miegunyah* in the Brisbane suburb of Bowen Hills. It was built by businessman William Perry, the founder of Perry Bros. Ltd hardware emporium.[45] Perry built *Miegunyah* on his estate in 1886 for his sons Herbert and George. It remained in the family until 1926, after which it had several changes of ownership up to 1966. During WWII the house was requisitioned by the Government and served as an officers' club and a safe house for the men of Z Special Unit commandos. In 1967, *Miegunyah* was acquired by the Queensland Women's Historical Association, who refurbished it and opened it as a house museum dedicated to the pioneer women of Queensland. It is now known as *Miegunyah House Museum*.

Given Maryborough is only 250 km north of Brisbane, and in view of the Perry Bros. business extending over the whole of Queensland (and by association most likely into the Pacific), Harricks may well have done business with them and heard of their house's name. Indeed, the building materials for which Harricks was seeking reimbursement could conceivably have come from the Perry Bros. hardware emporium.

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[45] The Perry Bros. business extended over the whole of Queensland.

3.3 Toorak

As well as the name of the prestigious inner Melbourne suburb, *Toorak* is also the name of a Suva suburb. The name derives from the Victorian Woiwurrung language word *turrak* 'reedy grass, weed in lagoon' (Clark & Heydon, 2000, p. 218). It was first used for the name of James Jackson's Italianate residence, *Toorak House*, built in 1849, which from 1854 to 1876 served as the residence of Victoria's Governors. During World War II it served as a Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force hostel. So, how did the name make its way to Fiji?

In 1868, the Polynesian Company was established (along the practices and ideologies exercised in India by the East India Company) with the specific aim of purchasing land in Fiji for cotton growing (Anon., 1907, pp. 106-111; Brewster, 193, pp. 63-65). In 1868, it acquired a large parcel of land near what was then the small village of Suva, in a dodgy deal to pay off the American debts of Ratu Seru Epenisa Cakobau, the Vunivalu of Bau, the most powerful chief in Eastern Fiji, and mistakenly titled 'King of Fiji'. The company planned to establish on this land the town of Suva. The original town plan was however used for the layout of what would become the suburb of *Toorak*. Its name was copied from the Melbourne suburb because it was then considered to be the most desirable residential area in the new town of Suva (Usher, 1987, p. 30; Moses, 1971, p. 65). In 1877, the colonial authorities decided to move Fiji's capital from Levuka to Suva. Today, Suva's Toorak is merely a shadow of its former upmarket character.

Figure 37.
Street scene, *Toorak*, Suva
(Source: Bhaskar Rao, flickr)

3.4 Albany

It is commonly accepted that *Albany*, a northern suburb of Auckland in New Zealand, was named after Albany in Western Australia, because they were both fruit-growing areas (Mahoney, 1998; Baker, 2017), yet no hard evidence has been given to substantiate this. The website of the History Group of the New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage (https://nzhistory.govt.nz/keyword/albany) concurs with this asserted origin:

> [**Albany**] Originally called 'Lucas Creek' but renamed Albany in 1890, after the place of the same name in Western Australia, which in turn was named in honour of Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, second eldest son of King George III. Māori name is Ōkahukura – place of the Kahukura, an atua (god) related to rainbows.

Figure 38.
Albany, Auckland.
(Source: Baker, 2017)

Its original name, *Lucas Creek*, was replaced in December 1890. Several notices in the New Zealand Herald in early December 1890 by the Chief Postmaster declare the change of name. The only other reference to the renaming I have been able to find is an article in the Country News section of the *New Zealand Herald* of December 30 (**Figure 39**) which unfortunately provides no information as to the origin or motivation for the name choice.

ALBANY (LUCAS' CREEK).

IT has been for several years the unanimous desire of the residents that the name of the local Post office should be altered from Lucas' Creek (the name by which the district has been known for over 40 years) to some name more suitable. It was considered that the old name represented the good old days when settlers were few and bushmen plentiful, but now that the old order changeth, the bushmen having passed away, many to the happy hunting grounds, where the use of axe and saw is unknown, and others to the interior, where some of our much-abused forest lands still remain to be ruthlessly destroyed by axe and fire, it was thought that it would be an opportune time to inaugurate a new name to the district with the new order of settlement, which has fast been progressing the last few years. The name finally selected by the resident settlers, at a meeting held some time ago, was Albany, and I am pleased to note that their wishes have been acceded to by the postal authorities, and in future the postal address and the name of the district will be Albany.

Figure 39.
'Country News', *New Zealand Herald*, Volume xxviiii, Issue 8451, December 30, 1890, p. 6
(Source: https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/)

3.5 Sydney Island

Sydney Island (aka *Manra*), in the Phoenix Islands of the Republic of Kiribati (**Figures 40a** and **40b**), may also be an Australian derived name. Little information is available on its ultimate origin. It was first charted and named *Sydney* by T. Emmett in 1823, after his ship the *Sydney Packet*. She was originally an American ship, taken in prize c.1814 under another name, then sold on to Alexander Birnie & Co. She sailed to New South Wales, and then made three voyages as a whaler. She first appeared in 1815 in *Lloyd's Register* in 1815 (Seq. № S1007) and the *Register of Shipping* (Seq. № 465), and gave her trade as London-Port Jackson and London-Botany Bay respectively. It therefore seems plausible that the ship was named after the fledgling colony. There were two other ships bearing the name *Sydney Packet*—the first foundered at sea in November 1816 while sailing from New South Wales to London (*Lloyd's List* № 5153); the second was a two-masted schooner of 84 tons, built in Sydney in 1826 and wrecked at Moeraki, Otago, New Zealand, in 1837. The existence of these two ships with the same name adds some weight to the first being named after the town of Sydney. Naming geographic features after ships, which often were themselves named after their home ports, was a common practice among mariners.
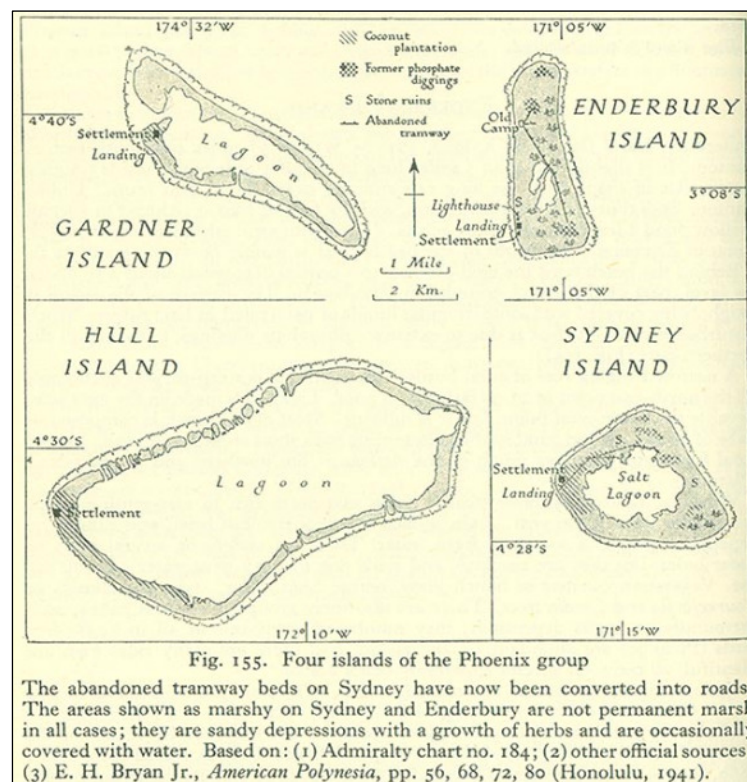

Figure 40a.
The Phoenix Islands
(Source: Public Domain image from the Perry-Castañeda Library, originally published in Pacific Islands 1943-1945, Volume II.
https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/pacific_islands_1943_1945/phoenix_group.jpg)

Figure 40b.
Manra (*Sydney Island*)
(Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/54/Manra.jpg)

CONCLUSION

In a fresh statement of ANPS toponym typology, Blair and Tent (2020) implemented certain refinements. Underlying these was a re-examination of the naming process itself. We identified three stages in that process: the primary **motivation**, the **intention** of the naming, and its **expression**.

We believe the primary **motivation** for naming a place is 'to distinguish' it from other places (see Locke, 1690: Book III, ch. 3, §5; and Stewart, 1954, p. 86).[46] In other words, the naming process is a contrastive one. The second stage is the **intention** of the naming. The questions underlying this are: Is it to commemorate something or someone? Is it to foreground a physical characteristic of the feature? Or is it to reflect feelings of the namer at the occasion of the naming? Or, indeed a combination of more than one intention? The third stage is the **expression** (or linguistic form) of the **intention**. What kind of name should be used? An eponym, a descriptive word, or an invented, new name that seems pleasingly appropriate to the place? The theoretical choices may be more clearly displayed in the following table.

Table 4.
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**

Unlike most other categories of Australia's toponyms, Oceanic ones seem to have a limited number of **intentions** underlying them. In general, the Oceanic words and toponyms used in Australia can be seen as **expressions** suggesting *exotic* and/or *euphonious* appellations to developers of new estates, or communities wishing to change the name of their town or locality to a more appropriate or mellifluous one.[47] Examples are:

- *Malua Bay*
- *Waikiki* 'A developers name which was officially Gazetted on 5th April 1974. It was named after the popular Hawaiian holiday resort which is famous for its surfing beaches.' (Landgate, Western Australia)

Other Oceanic names (**expressions**) may have underlying them what could be termed *nostalgic* or *reminiscent* **intentions**, such as in:

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[46] Stewart (1954, p. 86) argues '[...] that all place-names arise from a single motivation, that is, the desire to distinguish and to separate a particular place from places in general.'

[47] Although not an Oceanic toponym, *Copacabana* (on the Central Coast of NSW) is another example of an exotic developer's appellation: 'It wasn't until 1954 when Gosford Shire Council granted North Coast Realty Pty Ltd permission to create the subdivision and developers named Copacabana after the world famous Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro's Brazil.'(Central Coast Australia. www.centralcoastaustralia.com.au/info/towns/copacabana/)

- *Akaroa*
- *Lakemba*
- *Malaita Point* (< *Malaita Island*, Solomon Islands) 'Named around 1931 [...] Dr Northcote Deck M.B. who lived at 'Culverden' Oak Street, Katoomba was a medical missionary with the South Seas Evangelical Mission, Solomon Islands between the years 1909-1924. He brought a Solomon boy back home with him. The boy came from the island of Malaita and was employed in making a path around the point.' (Fox, 2001, p. 109)
- *Te Kowai* (?)
- *Wairewa*
- *Waitui*

While yet others have a clear *commemorative* **intention**:

- *Papanui Rock* < *SS Papanui* that foundered there in 1909
- *Kokoda* ... (< Kokoda Track campaign, PNG, July-November 1942)

... and possibly

- *Tarawa* (? < Battle of Tarawa, Kiribati, November 1943)

Two Māori toponyms in Australia are non-copied toponyms. They are what we have classed as 'Innovative', i.e. introducing a new linguistic form as a toponym, in particular creating a new linguistic form or importing a word from another language to produce a toponym of pleasing sound, positive connotation or appropriate meaning. They are:

- *Kia Ora* < the Māori greeting literally meaning 'have life' or 'be healthy', used as an informal greeting equivalent to "hello", or an expression of thanks similar to "cheers".
- The Riverina's *Roto* < the Māori term for 'lake; swamp'. Directly west of the locality *Roto* are a multitude of small lakes.

***

Toponyms are a valuable resource for all who are interested in researching the cultural landscape of a country—historians, geographers, anthropologists, sociologists and linguists—because they can reveal much about a region's historical, geographical, social and linguistic background (see Tent, 2017, 2019a, 2019b; Tent & Slatyer, 2009). Toponyms also offer insights into the belief and value systems of the name-givers, as well as the political and social circumstances at the time of giving a place a name. In many instances, they reveal the chronology of exploration and settlement. Comparable to people's given names, toponyms are more than just labels for identification—they also define both people and places. A country's history is revealed through its toponyms.

Oceanic toponyms in Australia do all of the above. They also show that the majority derive from New Zealand, indicating that our links with New Zealand were stronger and more plentiful than those with other Pacific islands from the mid-19th century onwards. Tables 1, 2 and 3 show that there are currently at least 139 Oceanic toponyms on the Australian map. About 24% of these (*n*. 33) can be said to be copied from a nearby feature, often a HOMESTEAD. Of the 106 initial Oceanic toponyms, 58% are in NSW and Queensland (43% NSW, 15% QLD), which correlates quite well with European settlement patterns

from the mid-19ᵗʰ century onwards (see **Figure 41**). HOMESTEADS comprise the majority of features with an Oceanic name, *viz.* 43%.
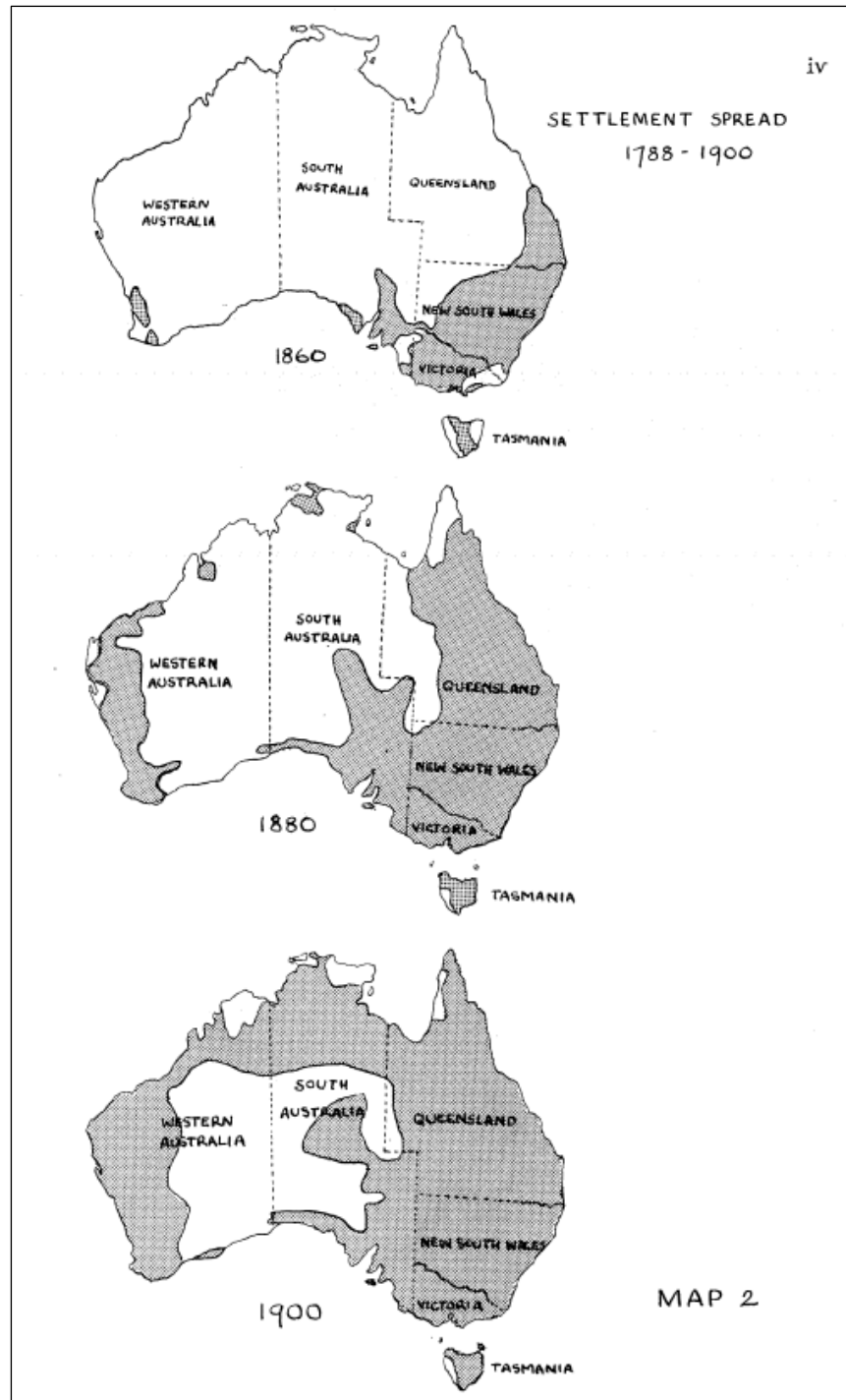

Figure 41.
Map of European settlement spread, 1860-1900
(Source: Troy, 1994, iv. https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/112648)

No doubt there are more Oceanic toponyms to be identified on the Australian continent. Many of the ones itemised above were very obscure and were only identified by pure chance.

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