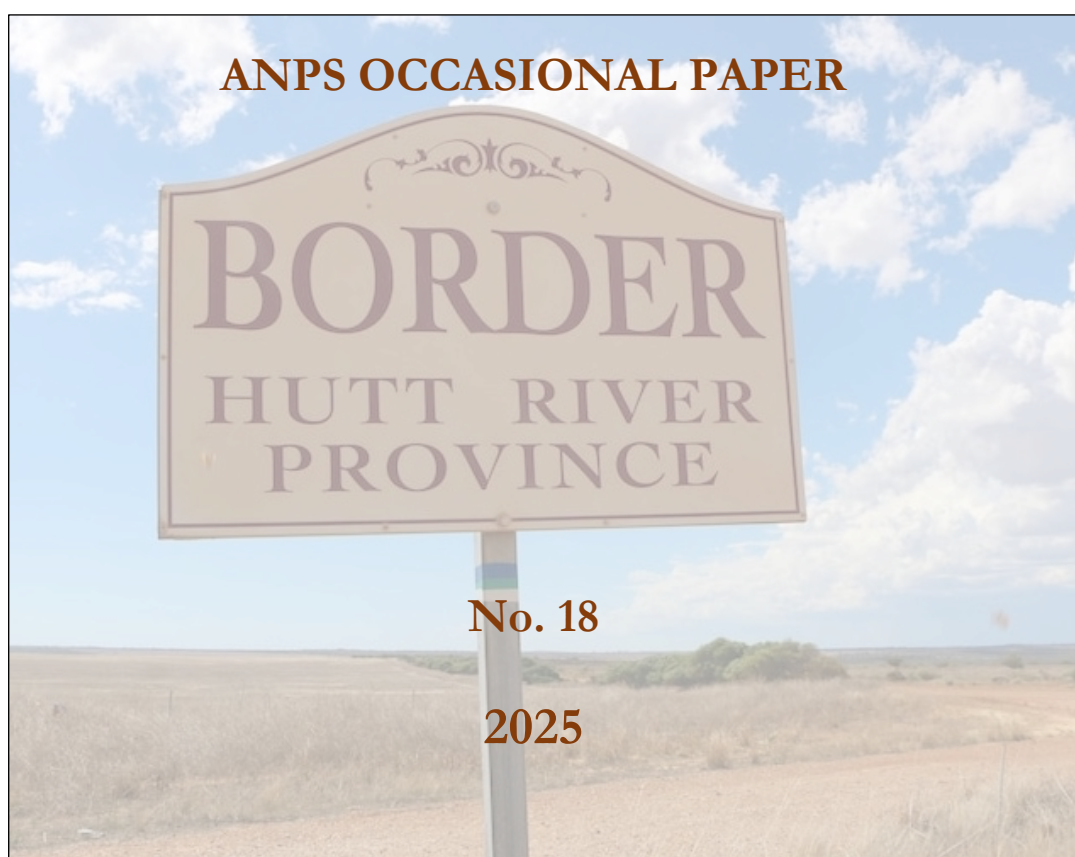


An analysis of Australia's micronation names



AN ANALYSIS OF AUSTRALIA'S MICRONATION NAMES

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Source: Borrello, E. (2017). 'Hutt River Principality: Malcolm Turnbull declines "royal" invite as Prince Leonard set to cede throne.' ABC News, Friday 10 February.
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1 Preamble

The Australian National Placenames Survey has determined that its scope of research includes microtoponyms, those informal names for features which may be small and may be known only by a few local residents. (Some examples were reported in the December 2014 and March 2015 issues of *Placenames Australia*.) But there is another kind of microtoponym upon which we have not previously reported: namely, the names of the various micronations in Australia. Since ANPS also records information on ‘imaginary’ places (such as the *Black Stump*) as well as features known to have existed but of uncertain location, it seems only reasonable to include micronations. It is said that Australia boasts more of these offshoot nations than any other part of the world (Fickling, 2002; Norrie, 2004; Lattas, 2005; Judd, 2020; Mudditt, 2022), and it is said that they number at least 32.

A micronation is an entity that does not enjoy legal recognition by governments. Most are geographically tiny, and may range in size from a few square metres, e.g. the original *Empire of Atlantium*, to more than a million square kms, e.g. *Westarctica* (in Antarctica). Or, indeed, they may only exist in cyberspace, e.g. *Lixbekistan*. They were usually established as acts of protest or defiance against governments and banks with whom there was a legal dispute. On occasion, they were created purely in jest, e.g. *Empire of Atlantium*. Some were set up as scams, e.g. *Principality of Camside and State of Sherwood*, and some are transient in terms of where they are located, e.g. *Sovereign State of Aeterna Lucina*. Three examples illustrate the desire of Indigenous peoples to have a claim to their own sovereignty, e.g. *Murranwarri Republic*. Apart from this last group, which can be said to be political projects, it is fair to say that the activities of micronations are almost always trivial (hobbies or works of art), and are therefore usually ignored by the governments in whose jurisdictions they are located. Many micronations are short-lived. And there is a subset of them that are purportedly linked, generally of a dubious nature and said to be scams.

Unsurprisingly, what interested me was their names: What were the origins of their names and what do they mean? Naturally, none of them appear in any official gazetteer, but some do have Wikipedia entries. I won’t dwell on their *raison d’être* and histories, but will just concentrate on their naming and who established them. The basis of my list is Lattas (2005), who lists 22 micronations with a little information on each. However, I have found 10 additional ones. Where possible, I have included their locations and dates of their formation. For many, it is not known whether they are still extant.

In a previous paper (Tent & Slatyer, 2009, p. 5), we observed that placenames form an integral part of the cultural and linguistic heritage of a nation, and that they frequently offer insights into the value systems of the name-givers, as well as the political and social circumstances at the time of naming. The names of some micronations provide good examples of this.

2 The micronations

Sovereign Principality of Acworth (QLD) (2001–?). Established by Trevor and Diane Acworth on their Country Retreat and B&B property in Ipswich. Linked to the ***Independent Sovereign State of Australia*** (*ISSA*) (Lattas, 2005). The toponym is ‘Eponymous’ (6.1.1), after the founders.¹

Sovereign State of Aeterna Lucina (aka *Sovereign Humanitarian Mission State of Aeterna Lucina*) (NSW) (1978–2006). Established by Paul Robert Neuman. Initially located near Byron Bay. It then moved temporarily Neuman’s Curl Curl residence, before its final relocation to a 14 km² rural property near Cooma (Yarrow, 2020). <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SovereignStateofAeternaLucina>
The name is clearly Latin, *Aeterna* ‘eternal’ + *Lucina*, the epithet given to the goddess Juno, in her role as goddess of childbirth who safeguarded the lives of women in labour. *Lucina* is also a poetic reference to the Moon. The toponym is therefore ‘Eponymous’ (6.4).

Principalities of Argyll, Cochrane and Woodlands (QLD) (2004 –?). Near Gatton. Established by Cecil Herbert Sempf and Sidney Esme Adel Sempf (Lattas, 2005). Linked to the ***Independent Sovereign State of Australia*** (*ISSA*). I have not been able to find any information on the origins of the names. However, given their name forms, they are most likely to be ‘Copied (5.1). *Argyll* is the name of a rural locality in the Central Highlands Region, but nowhere near Gatton. There is a parish and a creek named *Cochrane*, neither of which are anywhere near Gatton. However, there is a locality near Gatton called *Woodlands*. There is also a county *Argyll* in Scotland (west of Glasgow) and is the region where the Clan Cochrane resided. These two names may therefore linked in some way. → ***Bora of Dalungbara Aboriginal People, Principality of Range View***.

Empire of Atlantium (NSW / cybernation) (1981–). Initially located in Hurstville, later Kings Cross, then transplanted to a 200 acre rural property at Reids Flat in the Lachlan River valley. Established by George Cruikshank, Geoffrey Duggan and Claire Duggan when they were teenagers (Lattas, 2005; Bartlett, 1985; Mudditt, 2022; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EmpireofAtlantium>; <http://www.atlantium.org>). The name ‘was intended to be broadly symbolic of western or “Atlantic” (i.e. European + North American) civilisation, as the inheritor and modern-day analogue of ancient Rome. The “-ium” suffix was intended to Romanise the name, and lend weight to the name. The name has no relationship to Plato’s mythical continent of Atlantis, or to the myth of Atalanta.’ (George Cruikshank, pers. comm. 26/04/2022). The name can therefore be considered as ‘Innovative’ (7.2). George Cruikshank declares: ‘Essentially, Atlantium is a type of sustained performance art project.’ (Gilbert, 2015).

Principality of Ausfreeborough (NSW) (n.d.). Established by Joseph Richard Bryant (Lattas, 2005). No information seems to be available for this microtoponym. The name, however, is clearly an ‘Innovative’ one based on humour (7.1).

¹ The classification categories of the toponyms are enumerated in Table 2, p. 14.

Independent Sovereign State of Australia (ISSA) (QLD) (?2000–?). Centred around Moorooka (Brisbane). Established by Donald James Cameron (Meade, 2004, p. 5; Lattas, 2005). Cameron and his associates were charged with fraud. I have not been able to discover any useful information regarding this micronation, except that it is associated with a number of other micronations. The name can be classified as ‘Copied’ (5.1), in the sense that it has retained the name of its surrounding territory.
→ *Principality of Caledonia, Principality of Camside and State of Sherwood, Bora of Dalungbara Aboriginal People, Principality of Marlborough, Principality of Range View, Province of Sundowner*

Grand Duchy of Avram (TAS) (1981–). Does not claim any physical territory. Established by John Charlton Rudge, who declares it is not a micronation, but a bank. Its website (<http://www.royalbanker.org/kabalah.htm>) claims *Avram* means ‘he who possesses, the basis of the world’ and ‘is sometimes a symbol of all that radiates from the sun. Avram is he, who, having gone through many layers of differentiation, receives the pulsation of life, which transfigures that proliferation on a level with cosmic action.’ (Yarrow 2020; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GrandDuchyofAvram>). Rudge claims the name *Avram*, which he pronounces as [ˈɒvrəm], is one Hebrew form of *Abraham*. The choice of name is based on Rudge’s claim that he can trace his family’s DNA back to Abraham. The name, then, is ‘Eponymous’ (6.4). Rudge also claims to have set up *Principality of Hutt River* for Leonard Casley (John Rudge, pers. comm. 27/04/2022).

Principality of Breffni (NSW) (n.d.). Located in Sydney suburb of Balmain (Bartlett, 1985). This micronation is somewhat of an enigma. I have not been able to discover any further information on it. The name *Breffni* is an anglicisation of the medieval Irish *Kingdom of Breifne* or *Bréifne*, now covering County Leitrim, County Cavan and parts of neighbouring counties. By the 11th century it was ruled by the *Ua Ruairc* (O’Rourke) clan. Cavan is often referred to as the *Breffni County*. The name is sometimes used as a boy’s name or as the name of houses and businesses. There is an historic home in the Sydney suburb of Warrawee by the name (<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/documenting-nsw-homes/breffni>). I have therefore classified this name as ‘Copied’ (5.1).

Principality of Brougham (?) (n.d.). Established by Ralph Brian Smithers (Lattas 2005). No information appears to exist for this micronation or its location. The name may be derived from one of the two parishes that bear the name *Brougham* (QLD & NSW), or the *Brougham River* that flows into *Brougham Inlet* on Lake MacIntosh (TAS). It seems unlikely the name derives from the latter two features because the area is wilderness. There are also various streets and prominent houses in Australia that bear the name. The name of the micronation may derive from any of these. Alternatively, the name may derive from *Brougham* in Cumbria, UK. Consequently, I have classified the name as a ‘Copied’ (5.1), though this is speculative.

Province of Bumbunga (SA) (1976–c.2000). Located on a 4 hectare property at Bumbunga, near Snowtown. Established by Alex Brackstone (Bartlett, 1985; Lattas, 2005; Yarrow, 2020; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ProvinceofBumbunga>). The name can therefore be categorised as a ‘Copied’ (5.1).



Figure 1 Entrance to the former *Province of Bumbunga*
(Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=845026>)

Principality of Caledonia (?) (1993–2001). Established by Edward James Renton. Disestablished in August 2001 and replaced in December 2001 by the ***Principality of Camside*** by Peter Rettke, who appointed David Siminton Governor of ***Sherwood***, in association with David Icke. (Lattas, 2005). Linked to the ***Independent Sovereign State of Australia*** (*ISSA*). The name is ‘Copied’ (5.1).

Principality of Camside and State of Sherwood (VIC / cybernation) (?2007–?). Established by Peter Rettke and David Siminton at South Yarra (Russell 2007). Linked to the ***Independent Sovereign State of Australia*** (*ISSA*). The first name is somewhat of an enigma. However, the English horror fiction writer Ramsey Campbell may provide a clue to the name’s origin. In Campbell’s story *The Render of the Veils*, *Camside* is home to the occultist Henry Fisher. The town’s paper, the *Camside Observer*, is also mentioned in the story, as well as in *The Room in the Castle*, which also notes that the town was the home of the character of James Phipps, until he was expelled in 1800 for practicing weird science, resettling in Clotton. Camside is in Campbell’s fictional Severn Valley, the setting for several of his stories (Figure 2). Perhaps Rettke and Siminton obtained the name from Campbell’s fiction. If this is correct, the name can be considered ‘Eponymous’ (6.4). *Sherwood* is perhaps a little less enigmatic, perhaps being derived from Sherwood Forest in England. If so, it could be regarded as ‘copied’; but in this context it seems more fitting to link it to the mythology of Robin Hood and see it as also ‘eponymous’. However, these aetiologies must be viewed as speculative. → ***Principality of Caledonia***.

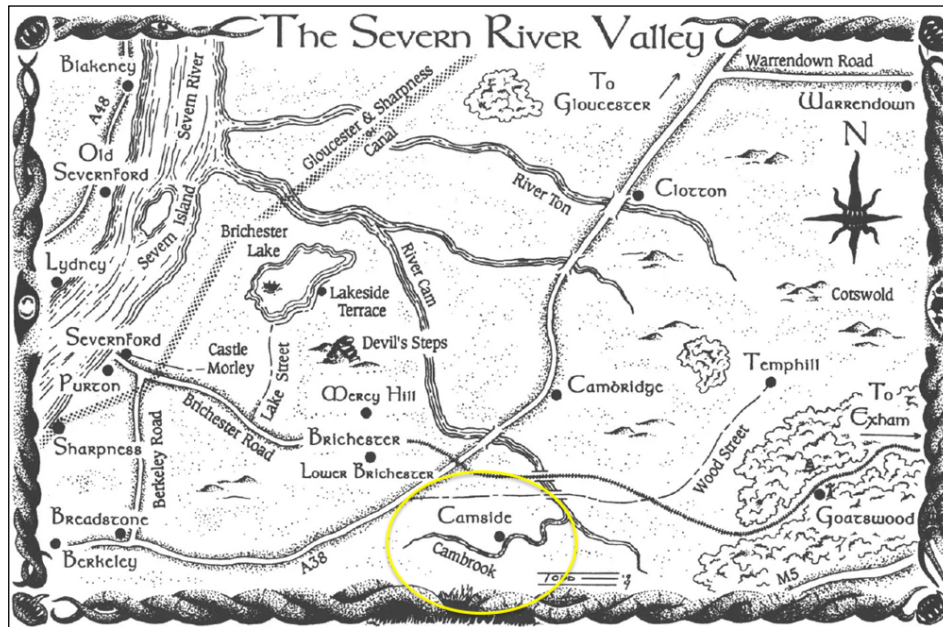


Figure 2 The fictional Severn River Valley. *Camside* circled.
(Source: <https://lovecraft.fandom.com/wiki/SevernValley#Camside>)

Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands (CSIT, AU) (2004–2017). In Australia's external overseas territory of the Coral Sea Islands, established as a symbolic political protest by a group of gay rights activists. It was dissolved on 17 November 2017 following the 'Yes' vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey legalising gay marriage. The name is unusual in that, while the specific element retains the name of its surrounding territory (so 'Copied') the generic—which does not participate in our typology classification—is creative and might otherwise be regarded as 'Associative' (2.2).
(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GayandLesbianKingdomoftheCoralSeaIslands>).

Bora of Dalungbara Aboriginal People (QLD) (?1997–). South-east Queensland and Frazer Island/Wide Bay area. Established by Lyall Sempf of Gatton and John Dalungdalee Jones of Spring Hill (Lattas, 2005). The name derives from the Indigenous Dalungbara clan, and is therefore 'Eponymous' (6.1.5). Linked to the ***Independent Sovereign State of Australia*** (ISSA). → ***Principalities of Argyll, Cochrane and Woodlands*** and ***Principality of Range View***.

Principality of Dubeldeka (NSW) (2000–?). A two-storey, heritage-listed residence near Mittagong, built in 1876 owned and operated by Vasudeo (Vas) Khandekar and Doreen Khandekar as a commercial guesthouse, bar and restaurant, *Braemar Lodge*, since 1988. Established in protest to the local council's intention to lay a sewer pipe through the property, which the Khandekars believed would have destroyed the fragile building they wished to restore (Henkle, 2010; ODT, 2010). The name is clearly a pun based in part on a contraction of the owners' name. Perhaps the <dubel> element derives from the two storeys of the hotel, or that it was owned by the couple. Either way, it is one of the more original names. The motel no longer operates and the building seems to be in disrepair. Interestingly, an article in the *Canberra Times* of Sunday 20 January 1991 (p. 17) claims the owners were Vas and

Doreen Forknall. So the origin of the name remains somewhat enigmatic, and on the basis of Henkle (2010) and the *ODT* article (2010), there are two possible interpretations. It would be seen either as 'Eponymous' (6.1.5) or as 'Innovative / Humour' (7.1).

Principality of The Hebrides (NT?) (n.d.). Established by Denis Wilfred Collins (Lattas, 2005). I have not found any other reference to this micronation. A conspiracy theorist, Collins advocated burying guns in the desert in response to the Fabian Socialist World Bank conspiracy. In later years he joined the One Nation party. It is difficult to know whence this name originates. With the absence of any information, it is impossible to make an interpretation as to the origin of the name. Given the name-form, though, however, it is probably 'Copied' (5.1).

Principality of The Highlanders (?) (n.d.). Established by Wilfred Vernon Taylor (Lattas, 2005) who was a former Country Liberal Party politician in the NT Legislative Assembly (b. 1941). I have not found any other reference to this micronation. It is difficult to know whence this name originates, and with the absence of any information regarding this micronation, it is impossible to make a definitive interpretation as to the origin of the name.

Principality of Hutt River (WA) (1970–2020). A rural property on the Hutt River, near Northampton, north of Geraldton. It was established by Leonard Casley, then dissolved August 2020 by Casley's son, Graeme, due to mounting debt and the Corona Virus pandemic. Australia's oldest and most well-known micronation (Lattas 2005; Yarrow 2020; Zhou & Doherty 2020). The name is 'Copied' (5.1). <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PrincipalityofHuttRiver>



Figure 3 The grand entrance to *Principality of Hutt River Province* (Bäras; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18129722>)

Principality of Lairds Corner (NSW) (1985–?) Centred around the Robertson Pie Shop. Established by its owner, John Bleeker, as a result of a dispute with the local council. It was as much a ratepayer's strike as a secession that grew out of a gut feeling and disgust about what he saw as injustices practised by the local government against him (Yarrow, 2020). The name derives from the microtoponym *Laird's Corner*, the name of the bend in the road where the pie shop is located (Staff of the pie shop, pers. comm. 29/4/2022), and is therefore 'Copied – locational' (5.1).



Figure 4
(Photo: Jan Tent)

Lixbekistan (Cybernation) (1996–?). Established in Paris by Australian artist Liz Stirling (Lattas, 2005). This is clearly an Innovative name (7.2) with an eponymous element.

Sovereign Principality of Lockyer and Capricornia (QLD) (2004–?). Established by Gary and Kathryn Friend (Lattas, 2005) at *Lockyer Waters* (< *Lockyer Creek*) near Ipswich, in the Lockyer Valley region, and either the *Tropic of Capricorn* or the *Capricornia* district, further to the north of the state. The non-generic part of the name (*Lockyer*, *Capricornia*) retains the name of its surrounding territory, so is 'Copied' (5.1).

Principality of Marlborough (QLD) (1993–2004). Established on a rural property in Rockhampton by George and Stephanie Muirhead (Lattas, 2005; Yarrow, 2020); https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principality_of_Marlborough. It is linked to the *Independent Sovereign State of Australia (ISSA)*. Most likely named after the nearby town of Marlborough, and is therefore a 'Copy' (5.1).

Murrawarri Republic (NSW-QLD) (2013–). Straddling the border of the two states. The traditional homeland of the Muruwari~Murrawarri people, and covers some 81,796 km² (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murrawarri_Republic). The name derives from the local Indigenous Murrawarri clan, and is therefore 'Eponymous' (6.1.5).

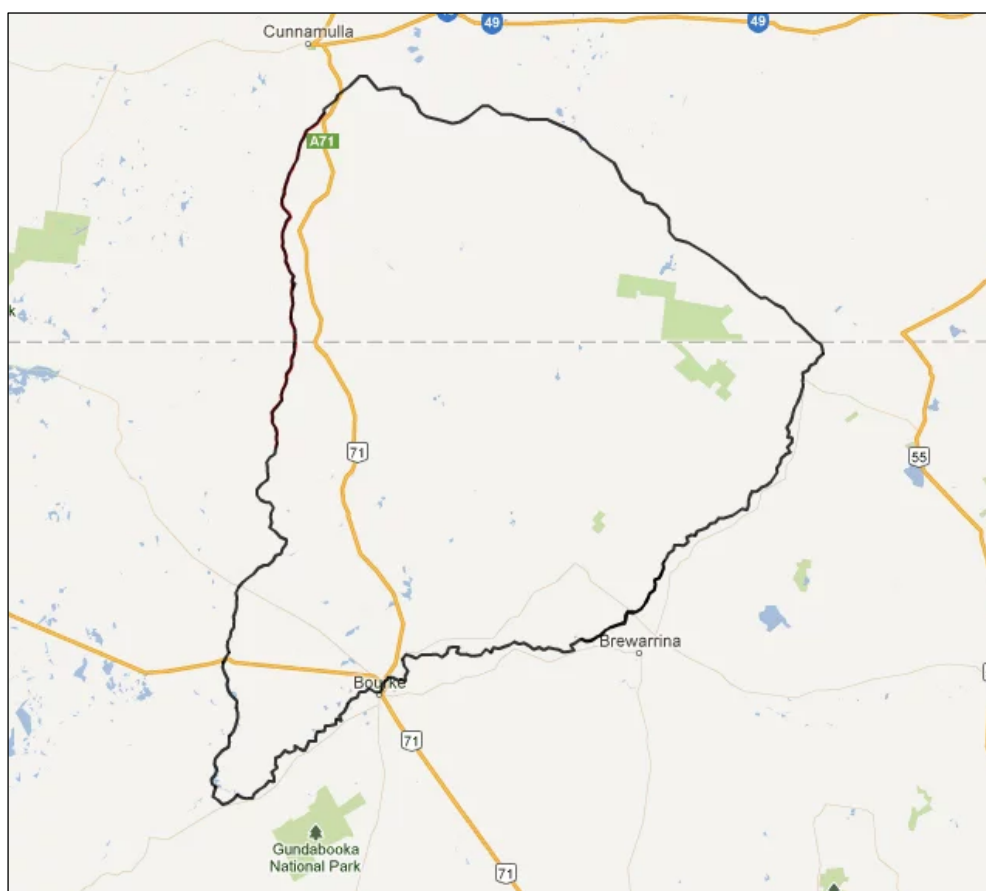


Figure 5 *Murrawarri Republic* claimed area

(Source: <https://kyliegibbon4.wixsite.com/murrawarri-republic/map>)

Principality of Ponderosa (VIC) (1994–?). A 24 hectare property near Shepparton. The property is run by ‘Little’ Joe Rigoli and his father Virgilio Rigoli (Fickling, 2002). The name appears to be copied from the Ponderosa Ranch that belonged to the Cartwrights in the TV western series *Bonanza*, in which the character ‘Little Joe’ played a leading role. The name is ‘Eponymous’ (6.4).

Independent State of Rainbow Creek (VIC) (1979–?). Located near Cowwarr and the Thompson River. In 1952, the river flooded and carved a new breakaway course which was named *Rainbow Creek*, which is now the main channel of the river (Lattas, 2005; Yarrow, 2020). The name is therefore an example of ‘Copied’ (5.1). <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IndependentStateofRainbowCreek>.

Principality of Range View (QLD) (2004–?). Near Gatton. Established by Lyall Sempf (‘white’ member of the Dalungbara Aboriginal Tribe) Linked to the ***Independent Sovereign State of Australia (ISSA)*** (Lattas, 2005). There is a *Rangeview Railway Station* just north of Toowoomba and west of Gatton. There is also a *Rangeview Drive* in Gatton, which is given as the address of Lyall Sempf. So, the micronation’s name probably derives from this address, and is likely to be a ‘Copy’ (5.1). → ***Bora of Dalungbara Aboriginal People*** and ***Principalities of Argyll, Cochrane and Woodlands***.

Principality of Runnymede (?) (n.d.). (Lattas, 2005). No information on this micronation seems to be available. Since its locality is not known, we cannot speculate as to the exact source of the name. However, it may come from one of the parishes or locations in Australia that bear the name. However, the name may have been chosen because of the symbolic importance of *Runnymede*, the water-meadow alongside the River Thames in Surrey, where King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215. However, this is purely conjectural. Either way, the name is 'Copied' (5.1).

Principality of Snake Hill (NSW) (2003–?). Near Mudgee. Established by Paul Jensen (Lattas 2005; Siegel 2012). I have not been able to obtain any information regarding the name of this micronation. However, George Cruikshank from the *Principality of Atlantium* tells me Paul Jensen's daughter Paula bestowed the name and it was entirely a made up one (George Cruikshank, pers. comm., 27/4/2022). The name may therefore be 'Innovative' (7); whether it is by humorous intent or not, cannot be said.

Province of Sundowner (QLD) (2003–?). Located in Millmerran, near Toowoomba. Established by Christopher Lawrence Smith. A province of the *Independent Sovereign State of Australia (ISSA)* (Lattas, 2005). *Sundowner* is an Australianism meaning 'an itinerant who makes a practice of arriving at a station about sundown under the pretence of seeking work, so as to obtain food and a night's lodging' (AND, 2016). However, it seems unlikely anyone would want to name their micronation after a term with a negative connotation. So, perhaps it is a 'Copied' name. But, there is no toponym near Millmerran bearing that name, except for a street in Toowoomba. Given the *Principality of Range View* seems to have derived its name from *Rangview Drive*, *Sundowner* may also have taken its name from the street. However, this is purely speculative. I have tentatively classified it as 'Copied' (5.1).

Principality of United Oceania (NSW) (2003–2005). A 66 hectare bushland block, 200 km north of Sydney, near the small town of Medowie. Established by Peter Gilles after a dispute with Port Stephens Council who refused permission to build a house there, due to aircraft noise from the nearby RAAF base (Norrie, 2003; Lattas, 2005; Yarrow, 2020). Name most likely taken from the geographic region named *Oceania*, which incorporates Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, and is therefore 'Copied' (5.1). However, this aetiology is conjectural.

Principality of Wy (NSW) (2004–). Established by Paul Ashton Delprat in Mosman. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PrincipalityofWy>; Delprat, 2020; Yarrow, 2020). The name is a contraction of the neighbouring *Wyangine Point*. It is also a pun on the interrogative adverb 'why'. Delprat (2020) claims that 'w[h]y' is not the question, but the answer. The name is thus essentially 'Innovative' (7.1), even though linked to a nearby geographical name.

Sovereign Yidindji Government or Yidindji Tribal Nation (QLD) (2014–). An Indigenous declared micronation established when Murrumu Walubara Yidindji and members of the Yidindji nation renounced legal ties with Australia. The name clearly derives from the Indigenous clan name and is therefore 'Eponymous' (6.1.5) (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SovereignYidindjiGovernment>).

3 Analysis of the names

A common feature of the names of nations is that they are often noun phrases with the structure NOUN + QUALIFIER (with the qualifier being a PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE), e.g.

Kingdom of the Netherlands

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Democratic Republic of the Congo

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

People's Republic of China

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

The United States of America

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Federal Republic of Germany

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Commonwealth of Australia

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Principality of Andorra

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

United Kingdom of Great Britain

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Plurinational State of Bolivia

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Union of the Comoros

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

Federated States of Micronesia

NOUN PREP. PHRASE

The initial NOUN in such structures identifies the kind of state the country purports to be (though not always with any veracity), and can be viewed as the toponym's generic element (akin to a family name), whilst the PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE (with the structure *of* + NOUN) is its specific element (akin to a given name), distinguishing it from other states of the same type. In the list of micronation names above, we see that the majority follow the common NOUN + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE structure. When classifying toponyms we concentrate on an analysis of the specific elements, based on an interpretation of the evidence and/or

supporting documentation of the naming of the place. Therefore, the ultimate typological classification is linked to the interpretation of the specific element, not to the toponym itself. In some of the names, the PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE is compounded: for example, 'Principalities of *Argyll, Cochrane and Woodlands*.' I have resisted the temptation to count the specific as three separate examples of COPIED, instead treating the toponym as having a single COPIED element. A similar analysis has been made of an even more unusual toponym, '*Principality* of Camside and *State* of Sherwood', which has a compounded but separated generic element.

Because scant or no information was able to be found on the naming of several micronations, it was difficult to provide definitive name classifications for these. The *Principality of the Highlanders* and *Principality of Snake Hill* are the most enigmatic. If we are to believe the information provided by George Cruikshank on the naming of the *Principality of Snake Hill*, then it is probably an 'Innovative' name, but it is impossible to know to what subcategory it belongs. The *Principality of the Highlanders* has no available history that might permit any sort of interpretation, and it has therefore been left unclassified. Other names are somewhat less opaque and a reasonably educated guess can be made on their name-types. Those that I have labelled as 'Copied' were mainly done so on the basis of other locations bearing those name-forms.

Table 1 lists each micronation name together with my classification of the name-type of their specific elements according to the revised ANPS Toponym Typology (Blair & Tent, 2020 [2021]).

Table 1.
Micronation names classifications

Name of micronation	Classification
<i>Sovereign Principality of Acworth</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.1.1 Namer
<i>Sovereign State of Aeterna Lucina</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.4 Literary/mythical/biblical entity & 7 Innovative – 7.2 Aptness
<i>Principalities of Argyll, Cochrane and Woodlands</i>	? 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational + ? 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational + ? 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Empire of Atlantium</i>	7 Innovative – 7.2 Aptness
<i>Principality of Ausfreeborough</i>	7 Innovative – 7.1 Humour
<i>Independent Sovereign State of Australia (ISSA)</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Grand Duchy of Avram</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.4 Literary/mythical/biblical entity
<i>Principality of Breffni</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Brougham</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Province of Bumbunga</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Caledonia</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Camside and State of Sherwood</i>	? 6 Eponymous – 6.4 Literary/mythical/biblical entity + 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Bora of Dalungbara Aboriginal People</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.1.5 Associated person/people
<i>Principality of Dubeldeka</i>	? 6 Eponymous – 6.1.1 Namer & 7 Innovative – 7.1 Humour
<i>Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands</i>	2 Associative – 2.2 Occupation/activity & 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of the Hebrides</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of the Highlanders</i>	?
<i>Principality of Hutt River Province</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Laird's Corner</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Lizbekistan</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.1.1 Namer & 7 Innovative – 7.1 Humour
<i>Sovereign Principality of Lockyer and Carpentaria</i>	? Copied – 5.1 Locational + 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Marlborough</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Murrawarri Republic</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.1.5 Associated person/people
<i>Principality of Ponderosa</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.4 Literary/mythical/biblical entity
<i>Independent State of Rainbow Creek</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Range View</i>	? 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Runnymede</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Snake Hill</i>	? 7 Innovative – ?
<i>Province of Sundowner</i>	? 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of United Oceania</i>	5 Copied – 5.1 Locational
<i>Principality of Wy</i>	Partial 5 Copied – 5.1 Locational & 7 Innovative – 7.1 Humour
<i>Sovereign Yidindji Government</i>	6 Eponymous – 6.1.5 Associated person/people

The three enigmatic micronations: *Principality of Caledonia*, *Principality of The Hebrides*, and *Principality of The Highlanders* listed by Lattas (2005) without locations or any other information other than the names of their founders, seem to have their names derived from or associated with Scotland. I do not know whether this is coincidence, or if these micronations are connected in some way as those of the *Province of Sundowner*, *Independent Sovereign State of Australia*, *Principality of Range View*, *Principalities of Argyll, Cochrane and Woodlands*, *Principality of Camside and State of Sherwood*, and the *Sovereign Principality of Acworth* seem to be. The etymology of *Caledonia* is interesting in its own right. According to Zimmer (2006), the name derives from the tribal name *Caledones* (or *Calidones*), which he claims to have meant ‘possessing hard feet’, which alludes to stead-fastness or endurance, ultimately from the Proto-Celtic roots **kal-* ‘hard’ and **pedo-* ‘foot’.² Perhaps this original meaning hints at the ultimate choice of the name.

Table 2 shows the ANPS revised typology (Blair & Tent, 2020 [2021]) and the number of micronation names in each category and subcategory. Although the number of micronations listed in Table 1 is 32, one micronation name (*Principality of the Highlanders*) remains unclassified, so the total number of classifications in Table 2 totals just 31.

² The symbol * before a word-form indicates a reconstructed/hypothetical form.

Table 2

Primary Class	Secondary Class	<i>Tertiary Class</i>	Number of instances (percent)
1 Descriptive	1.1 topographic		—
	1.2 relational		—
	1.3 locational		—
	1.4 functional		—
2 Associative	2.1 environment		—
	2.2 occupation/activity		—
	2.3 structure		—
	2.4 social/ethnic group		—
3 Occurrent	3.1 incident		—
	3.2 occasion		—
4 Evaluative	4.1 commendatory		—
	4.2 condemnatory		—
5 Copied	5.1 locational		16 (52%)
	5.2 linguistic		—
6 Eponymous	6.1 human	<i>6.1.1 namer</i>	1 (3.5%)
		<i>6.1.2 notable person</i>	—
		<i>6.1.3 colleague</i>	—
		<i>6.1.4 family member or friend</i>	1 (3.5%)
		<i>6.1.5 associated person/people</i>	3 (10%)
	6.2 other animate entity		—
	6.3 non-animate entity	<i>6.3.1 notable abstract entity</i>	—
		<i>6.3.2 named concrete entity</i>	—
		<i>6.3.3 expedition vessel</i>	—
	6.4 literary/mythical/biblical entities		4 (13%)
7 Innovative	?		1 (3.5%)
	7.1 humour		4 (13%)
	7.2 aptness		1 (3.5%)

If we distil the toponym classes in Table 2 to just the primary classes of toponyms, we end up with the data presented in Table 3.

Table 3

Primary Class	Number of instances (percent)
5 Copied	16 (51.5%)
6 Eponymous	9 (29%)
7 Innovative	6 (19.5%)

Although in the completed classification there is only a small sample of names (31), not enough to draw any statistically valid or reliable conclusions, some interesting naming practices may nevertheless be discerned. The first is the lack of much creativity in their names. Twenty of the 31 micronation names (64.5%) have the generic 'Principality', and 22 of the specific elements of the names (71%) seem to derive their names, either entirely or partially, from another toponym. I find this curious given the ostensive primary motivation for establishing the majority of micronations. If one is wanting to secede it would seem reasonable to choose a name not associated with the jurisdiction from which one wants to secede. To me, this shows a lack of imagination. On the other hand, the *Principality of Wy*, which does partially derive its name from the neighbouring *Wyargine Point* (Mosman Municipal Council), makes this into an interesting pun on the interrogative adverb *why* (Delprat, 2020), which does illustrate not only a sense of humour but also creativity.

Two of the micronation names employ Latinate names, *Aeterna Lucina* and *Atlantium*, and are in that sense 'Innovative'. The first literally means 'Forever/Eternal Lucina' (which is reminiscent of a motto) and is in reference to *Lucina*, an epithet to Juno, the goddess of childbirth. The name's poetic reference to the Moon is more cryptic. *Atlantium* is less opaque. The root of the name derives from 'Atlantic' [...] because it affords an immediate and identifiable historic link to the culture upon which the political structures and state symbolism of the Empire are based' (i.e. Europe and the USA, in other words, 'Western civilisation'). To this root was added the productive Latin suffix *-ium*, which is often used in nouns borrowed from Latin, and coinages of new names (usually scientific) on a Latin model.

The next highest tally of name specifics are the 10 'Eponymous' ones (32.5%), which are almost evenly spread between the names of their founders, people associated with the micronation (i.e. Indigenous-derived names referring to the names of clans), and literary/mythical/biblical entities.

4 Envoi

I am left with a question though: Can we actually label names of micronations 'toponyms'? They are, after all, unofficial appellations, do not appear in gazetteers, and are not legally recognised. They can also be transient in terms of where the micronation is located, e.g. *Empire of Atlantium*, and some exist only in cyberspace, e.g. *Lizbekistan*. So, can these be legitimately labelled 'toponyms'? Is a tweaking of our definition of 'toponym' perhaps in order, to either include or exclude micronation names? They are very similar to microtoponyms, which are also excluded from gazetteers, but unlike microtoponyms, micronations vary in size from a small plot of land to an extensive region, e.g. the *Murrambarri Republic*. Micronations remind me of house names, which also are bestowed by their owners, and do not appear in gazetteers and are not legally recognised. House names are like the names of homesteads – 'A house with its attendant outbuildings, on a large rural property.' (Blair & Tent, 2015. p. 13) – which by extension also refers to the rural property upon which they are located. Homestead names do appear in gazetteers, however.

Like so many other phenomena in this world, toponyms form a continuum where there is a grey area between identified categories. But that is a topic for another occasion, just as a full understanding of the naming practices of micronations is. For the latter we would first need a much larger sample to analyse, perhaps one incorporating those found throughout the world, and have documentary evidence of their aetiologies and etymologies.

If you are interested in reading more about micronations, Ryan, Dunford and Sellars (2006) might be worth a look. However, of the 31 micronations covered in that book, only three are from Australia.

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