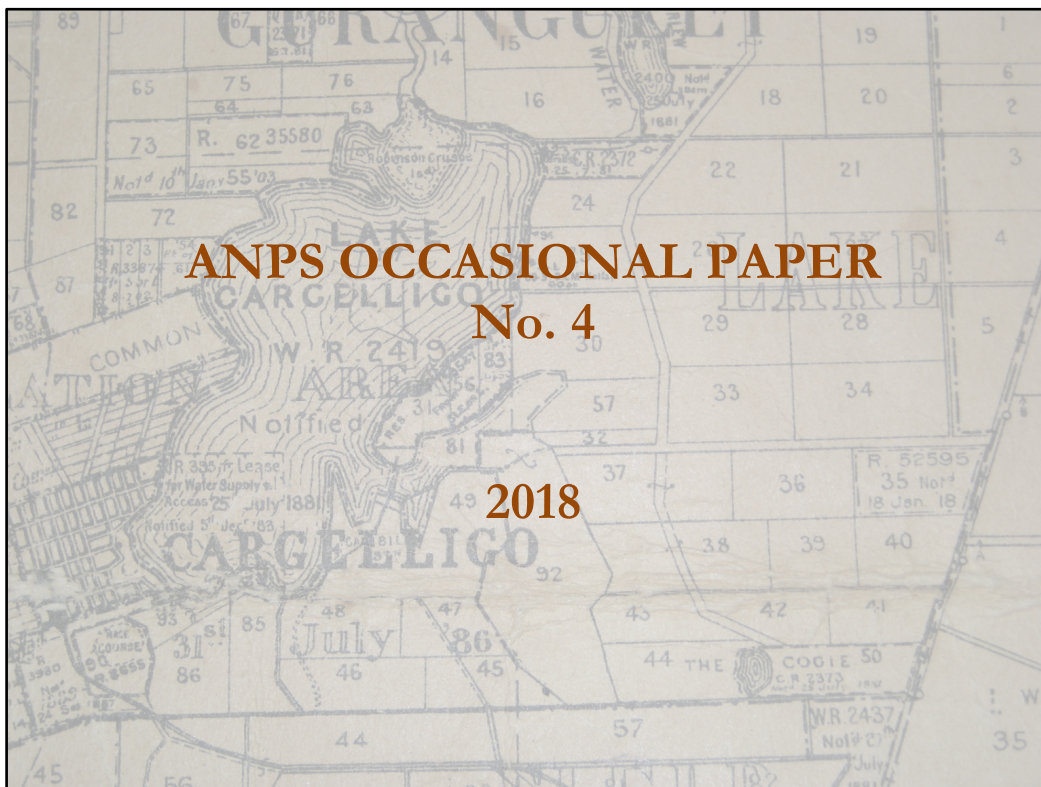


The Cogie:
the case of a conflated name?



THE COGIE:
THE CASE OF A CONFLATED NAME?

Jan Tent

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Lake Cargelligo (and The Cogie – bottom right)

Source: Map of the County of Gipps, Central Division, NSW, 1894)

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1 Introduction

As in all regions with a colonial history, Australia has two toponymic systems: the indigenous and the introduced. The indigenous system of placenaming has been in place for at least 40,000 years, but is largely unknown by non-indigenous Australians. The introduced system has its origins in 1606 when Willem Janszoon charted the top 300km of the west coast of Cape York Peninsula.

The introduced toponymic system naturally comprises toponyms bestowed after 1606 by mariners, explorers, settlers (and their descendants), and later, by government agencies. This system includes toponyms with indigenous elements. These have three structures:

- names with indigenous specifics (e.g. *Wangaratta*, *Burrabong Creek*)
- names with an indigenous term functioning as a generic (e.g. *Chambers Warrambool*)
- names with both (e.g. *Yabra Billabong*)

Of the second type, names containing *billabong* ('a river branch that forms a backwater or stagnant pool') or *bombora* ('an area of large sea waves breaking over a submerged rock shelf, reef, or sand bank'), are probably the most widely known, and are used throughout the country. However, some indigenous terms used as generics have only localised usage and are less well-known. They include: *yarp* ('lake' in WA), *comal* ('small lake, swampy hollow' in NSW and QLD), *warrambool* ('watercourse, overflow channel, stream' in NSW), *vari* ('stream' in SA), and *gnamma hole* ('rockhole' in WA). It is worth noting that all but one of these terms denotes an inland water feature (a source of fresh water). Indeed, Australian feature types with the highest percentage of indigenous name elements are rockholes, soaks, springs and waterholes (see Tent, 2017), thus highlighting not only the importance of fresh water to indigenous people but also reflecting the generally arid topography of the country.

This paper explores the origin and meaning of yet another inland water feature generic—*cogie*. Like most of the terms just listed, it too has a localised usage—in this case very localised—ranging from Hillston to Lake Cargelligo, in south-west NSW (a range of approximately 100km). The question is: Is this an introduced term, an indigenous one, or an amalgam of the two?

2 *Cogie* in Australia

Nash (2008) considers the origin of *comal*, and concludes the term is of Aboriginal origin (from the Wiradjuri language). However, following the Gazetteer of Queensland's entry for *Comal Creek* in which it claims it 'is of Scottish origin and is not Aboriginal',¹ Nash explores the notion that it was derived from Scottish, in particular the word *kyle* 'narrow strait, sound channel between two islands or an island and the mainland' (< Gaelic *caol*).

A similar conundrum involves the toponyms *The Cogie*, *Native Dog Cogie* and *Dead Dog Cogie* ['kəʊgi], all of which refer to the same geographic feature (Lat. -33° 18', Long. 146° 26'), a few kilometres south-east of the township Lake Cargelligo, and designated as a DEPRESSION by the NSW Geographic Names Board (see Figures 1 & 2).²

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According to local folklore, the depression was initially known as *Native Dog Cogie* or *Wild Dog Cogie* because of the abundance of dingoes to be found around it.³ After they were poisoned or shot, the depression became known as *Dead Dog Cogie*; later, it was simply referred to as *The Cogie*.

Lake Cargelligo is a small service centre in the Riverina district of NSW some 590km from Sydney. The township is adjacent the southern end of the lake from which it derives its name. The traditional landowners of the region are the Wiradjuri and Ngiyambaa people. The first European name for the lake was bestowed by John Oxley, Surveyor-General of NSW, on July 26, 1817: 'The first lake seen yesterday was named the Regent's Lake, in honour of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.' (Oxley, 1964 [1820], p. 131) However, in his survey of the district in 1836, Surveyor-General Major Sir Thomas Mitchell renamed it *Cudjallagong* after the purported local name.

The first European settler in the district was Francis Oakes who took up the 'Gagellaga' run in 1841 and renamed the property 'Cargelligo' in 1848. A town-site was reserved on the property in 1850 but settlement did not really proceed until gold was discovered near the south-western side of the lake in 1873. Mining was abandoned by 1881 because returns were unviable. In 1902, the flow of the Lachlan River was regulated by the construction of a series of levee banks, channels and weirs, making Lake Cargelligo an important water storage area. In 1919 the township of *Cargelligo* was renamed *Lake Cargelligo* (Lake Cargelligo & District Historical Society, 1996, p. 6).

The entire surrounding region is extremely flat and semi-arid, and thus the lake is quite shallow (3-4 metres in depth). It is surrounded by circular depressions or basins that filled with water during floods prior to the construction of the weir. Indeed, there is ample evidence from Aboriginal habitation sites around some of these basins that they habitually held water. Nowadays they rarely contain water. When Thomas Mitchell passed through the district he remarked upon the 'remarkable character of the lakes' noting that they were:

June 26

...nearly all circular or oval, and that a very regularly curved ridge... In three of them the water was salt, and the greater number had no communication with the river; but between it and the others there was a narrow creek or gully, but accessible only to the highest floods. The northern margin of one of the salt lakes consisted of a bank of white sand on which grew thickly a kind of pine, different from the trees around. The channels between the river and the lakes seemed neither to belong to the original arrangement of watercourses, nor to anabranches of the rivers; for they frequently extended upwards in directions opposed to that of the river's course. The fact being established that some of these lakes have no obvious connection with the river, it becomes probable that they are the remains of what the surface was before the fluvial process began to carry off its waters... (Mitchell, 1839)



Figure 1
Dead Dog Cogie in 2007, partially filled with water
(Photo: courtesy of Jan Johnson, Lake Cargelligo)



Figure 2
Dead Dog Cogie in December 2011, in its now usual arid state
(Photo: Jan Tent)

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These 'lakes' or depressions are known locally as 'cogies'.⁴ The local newspaper, the *Condobolin Lachlander*, in 1902 used a similar term (presumably pronounced ['ku:giz]?), when it reported on the damming of the Lachlan River:

All around the lake [Lake Cargelligo] are large basins or coogees, capable of holding vast quantities of water, some of which, strange to say, through being protected by high banks which excluded flood water, have never contained any water.

and further on,

From The Curlew (which by the way is one of the several coogees that has never contained any water), number 3 cutting commences...⁵

Another spelling of the feature appears in the local history booklet, *The Dusts of Time* (Back to Lake Cargelligo Centenary Celebrations Committee, 1973, p. 60), which cites 'Native Dog Cougee.'

Another cogie, between Curlew Water and the lake's eastern shore, is variously known as *McInnes' Cogie* or *McInnes' Basin* (see Figure 3).

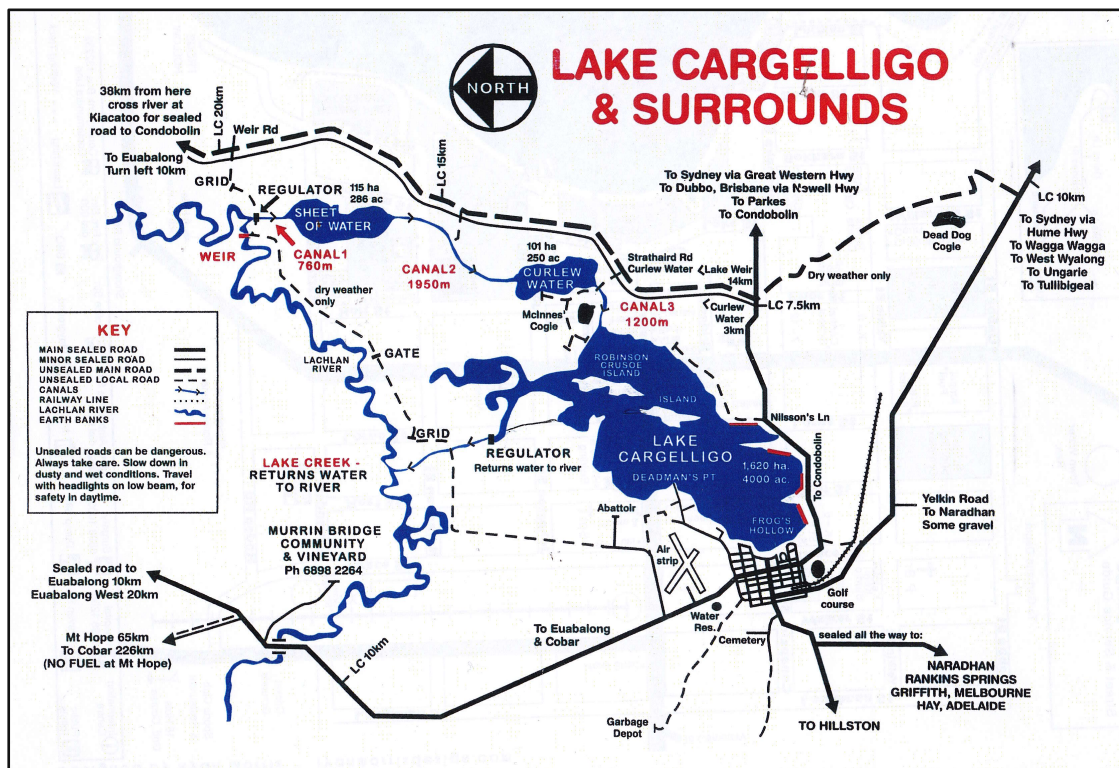


Figure 3

Locally published tourist map showing *McInnes' Cogie* and *Dead Dog Cogie*.

The Secretary of the Lake Cargelligo and District Historical Society, Jan Johnson, maintains that the district's cogies are part of the Lachlan River water system: in good times they hold water for a short while, and become very boggy when wet. Jan and her

husband, Steve, leased *Dead Dog Cogie* during the 1990s and early 2000s, and used it as a pasture for their draught horses. She claims the cogies grow nice feed.

There is also a *Cogie* pastoral property (see Figure 4), between settlements Trida and Roto, a *Cogie Creek* (Figure 5) that runs through the property, and a *Cogie Parish* some 200 km west of Lake Cargelligo (NSW Lands Department).⁶

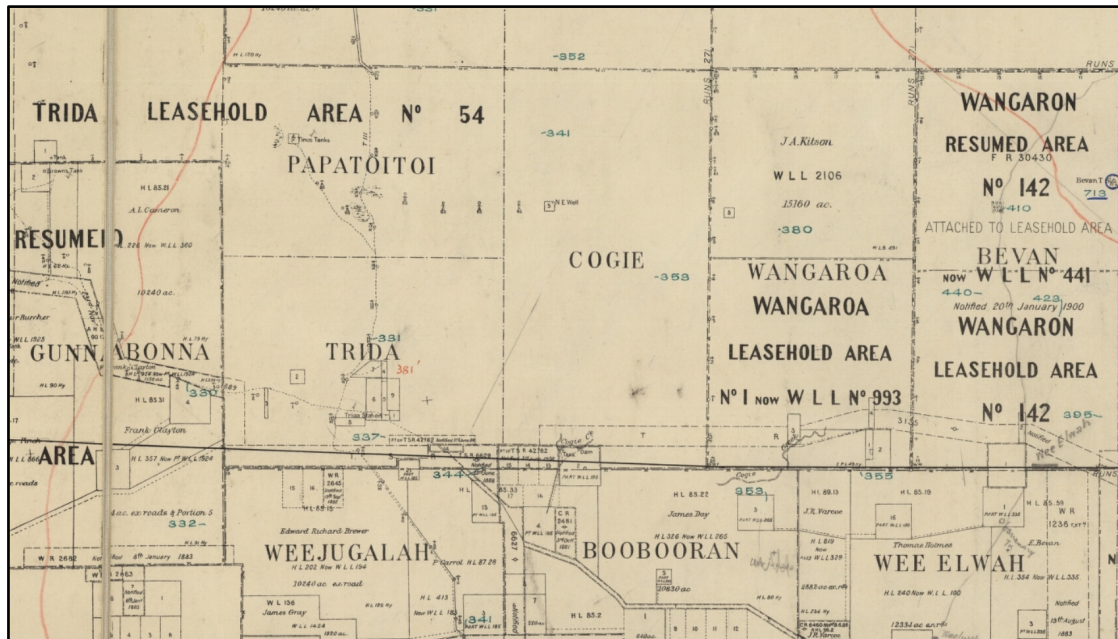


Figure 4
Cogie Leasehold

(Source: Map of the County of Mossgiel, Western Division, Land District of Hillston North, NSW, 1911.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-233953918>)



Figure 5
Cogie Creek
(notice the dry cogies along its course)

3 What is a *cogie*?

In geological terms, the so-called ‘cogies’ of Lake Cargelligo are playas or lunette lakes. The geographical and geological literature on this formation does not show much consensus over the use of the terms *playa* and *lunette lake* (see Barth, 2001), but the term *playa* will be used here.

A playa is a round basin or intermittent inland fresh water lake found in arid or semi-arid areas. Playas in Australia generally follow the margins of rivers and act as catchments of internal drainage. When dry, they appear as flat beds of clay, often encrusted with precipitated salts. Playas in Australia occur across the south and south-east of the continent, and although some contain water today most are now permanently dry or, at best, ephemeral.⁷ One distinctive feature of playas is the occurrence of clay or sandy dunes on their eastern margins (Bowler, 1976, p. 289). These dunes are always transverse to the prevailing westerly winds, and since they follow the lakeshore margins they are crescentic or lunate in shape, from which the term ‘lunette’ is derived (Bowler, 1973, p. 325). Lunettes represent a special and important group of Aeolian deposit with their crescentic shoreline, they vary widely in composition from well sorted quartz sand, through clayey sand, gypseous sandy clay to almost pure gypsum (Bowler, 1976, p. 289). The designation *playa* (Spanish for ‘beach’) for this geological feature stems from the ‘beach’ formed by the lunette dune.⁸

Lake Mungo (S-W NSW) is also a playa lake. The lunette sand dunes on its eastern margin are known as the *Walls of China* (Figure 6).

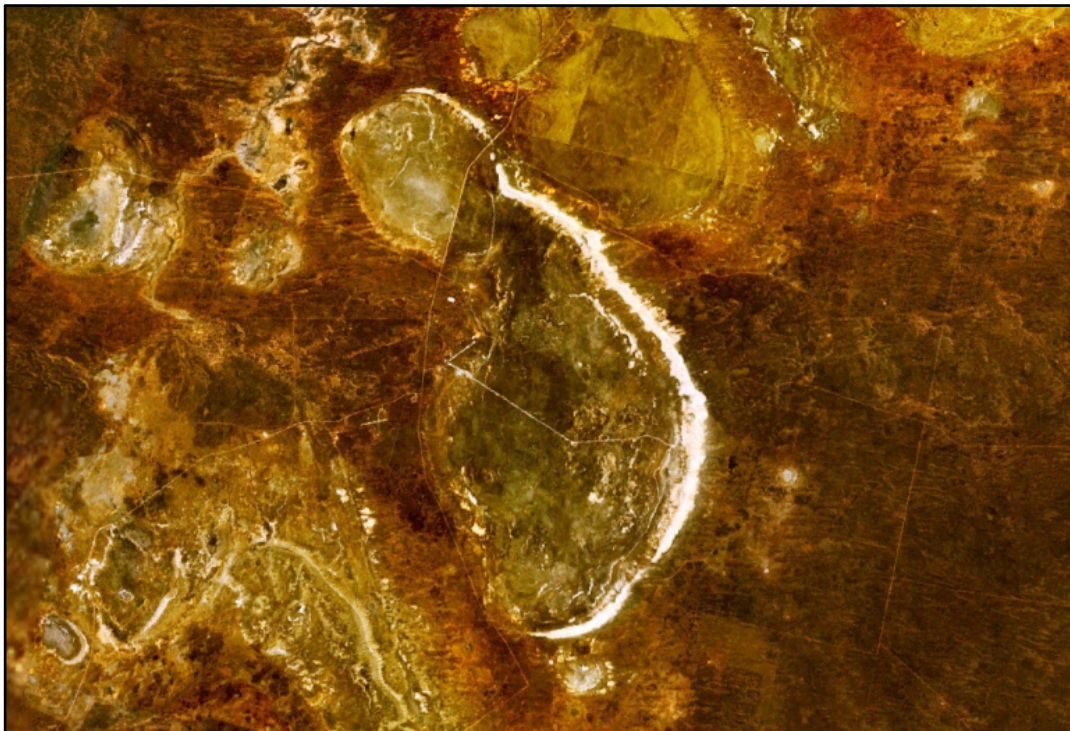


Figure 6
Landsat 7 image of Lake Mungo (NSW)
(Source: Worldwind, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=482432>)

An enquiry at *Cogie Station* as to the origin of its name did not produce any results, as the current owners had no idea of its origin, let alone of its meaning. The many cogies adjacent and following *Cogie Creek* and on the property itself were referred to by the owners of the station as ‘gilgai’ holes.⁹ Gilgais are small, ephemeral ponds or lakes formed from a depression in the soil surface, generally measuring only a few metres across and less than 30cm deep; however, in some instances they may be several metres deep and up to 100 metres across. Gilgais are common and widespread throughout Australia,¹⁰ and were an important source of water for indigenous Australians which enabled them to seasonally forage over areas that lacked permanent water (Wilson, 1964; McManus, 1969). The use of *gilgai* to refer to the cogies or playas on *Cogie Station* is misguided because gilgais don’t have lunettes and are formed by a completely different geological process.

The following three sections will consider the etymology of the term *cogie*.

4 A Scottish origin?

The *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, cites *cogie* or *coggie* [ˈkɔːɡɪ] as a Scottish term referring to ‘a small *cogue*; a small wooden bowl; the contents of such a vessel’, *cogie/coggie* being a diminutive form of *cog*. Its origin is uncertain, although the *OED* entry for *cogue* or *cog* [kəʊɡ] Sc. [kɔːɡ], [kɔːg] claims it is chiefly used in Scotland, is first cited in 1568, and denotes:

- (1) A wooden vessel made with staves and hoops, used in milking cows or ewes, and for other purposes. The *cogue* or *cogie* now or recently used in the south of Scotland is 12 inches deep, 18 inches in diameter at the bottom, narrowing to 15 at the top, with three polished iron hoops, and one of the staves continued as an upright handle.
- (2) A small drinking-vessel or cup, of wood; also a cogueful, a ‘dram’.
- (3) A dry measure.



Figure 7
A 19th century cogie/coggie
(Source:
<http://www.onlinegalleries.com/art-and-antiques/detail/antique-treen-19th-century-pine-cogie/279924>)

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Jamieson (1867) speculates on the etymology of *cog* and its variants *coag*, *coig* and *cogue*, and claims they derive from Germanic *kauch* ‘a hollow vessel’; *cawg* ‘a bason’ from Welsh; and/or from Gaelic *cauchan* or *coggan* ‘a bowl, a cup.’ In his *Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language* (1879), Jamieson adds: ‘It is probable that this word is allied to Suio-Gothic *kegge*, English *cag*, a wooden vessel containing four or five gallons; Danish. *Kaag*, a small boat, a trough or tray; and also to Scottish *cog*, *cogge* q.v.’

The *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (*DSL*) entry states:

COG, Cogue, Coag, Cogg, Cowg, Coug, Kog, *n.* Also dim. *cog(g)ie*, *cong(e)*. Cf. *Cag*. [kɔg, kog Sc.; kɔug Cai. (see P.L.D. § 149)] 1. A wooden vessel, made of staves and girded with metal bands, used in milking cows, carrying water, or in drinking or eating. One or two staves longer than the rest form the handle or handles. Angus *Gl.* (1914) gives the form *keg* for Sh. Used also to indicate the contents, as in Eng. *cup*. “A small tub used by fishermen” (Cai. 1934, *coug*). Gen.Sc. [O.Sc. *cog*, *coge*, *cogue*, a wooden vessel made of hooped staves, first date 1502 (*D.O.S.T.*). Origin uncertain; prob. from O.N. *keggi*, a keg or cask, and cogn. with Eng. *keg*, earlier *cag*.]

Perhaps the most detailed treatise of the etymology and senses of *cog* is to be found in Joseph Wright’s *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898), which provides detailed and extensive etymologies for the various senses of *cog*. However, Wright does not add anything further to what is already supplied by the *OED* and the *DSL*.

The link between these senses and the geographic feature under discussion can be found in *Place-Names of Kinross-shire*, under the headword **Cogfauld** where the following is stated:¹¹

Sc. *cog* ‘a wooden vessel, made of staves and girded with metal bands, used in milking cows, carrying water, or in drinking or eating’. It is not clear what the exact significance might be of this word in combination with Sc. *fauld* ‘fold, pen; enclosed piece of ground used for cultivation, small field’. It may refer to the shape of the piece of land originally attached to the small-holding of the name. It is a rare element in Scottish place-names, but compare **Cog Rig**, **Cogbrae**, **Coghill**, and the strangely named **Bride’s Coggie**, containing the diminutive of *cog*. This last is the name of a bog in Glen Clova...

In reference to the bog in Glen Clova, we find that it is in the Angus foothills of the Grampian Mountains. By the roadside just east of the Gella Bridge is the round depression called *Bride’s Coggie* (Figures 8 & 9). The feature is described in Dorward (2001, p. 91) thus:

A cog is a Scots word for a wooden pail or bowl, and the landscape-feature here referred to is a large circular bit of marshland: it was at one time fertile, and traditionally was used for growing corn, the crop being given as a bride’s tocher or dowry. A more likely possibility is that the ‘coggie’ was at one time used for retting flax.



Figure 8

Bride's Cogie

(Image taken from Google Earth street view, courtesy of Guy Puzey)

Marnie (1966: 22) describes the *Bride's Cogie* as:

...a large circular marsh, stone-lined and now full of sphagnum moss. There are several explanations of the name—one, that a bride coming home from her honeymoon was catapulted into the marsh and drowned when the horse bolted and upset the gig; another, that this circle was sown with corn and given as a dowry to a bride before the Repeal of Corn Laws. A 'cogie', of course, was a small tub or a bowl. But the Bride's Cogie was really a pond for retting flax—separating the fibres from the woody part of the stem—and stagnant water was the most suitable for this operation. All the way up the glen, at certain seasons can be seen the shadow and outline of these flax-retting ponds...

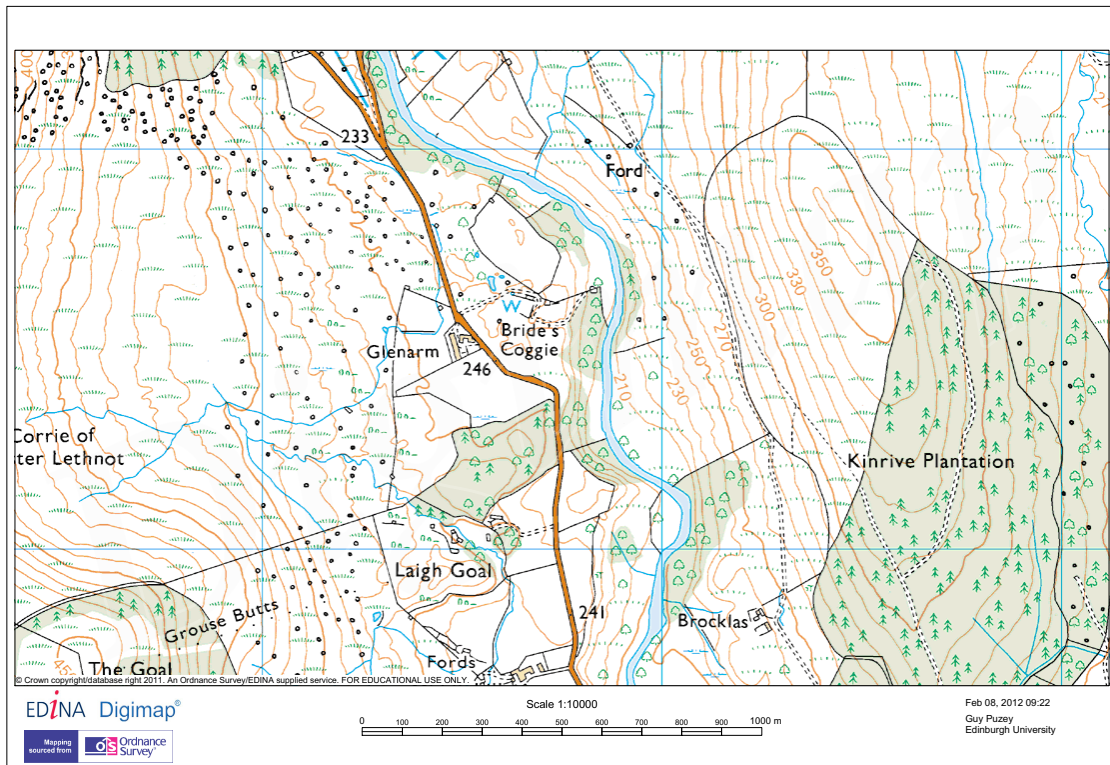


Figure 9
Ordnance survey map of *Bride's Coggie* area
(Courtesy of Guy Puzey)

Clearly *Bride's Coggie* is not a playa with a lunette. Certainly, it is round and boggy, but was not formed in the same way the playas in south-east Australia were formed, nor does it occur in an arid or semi-arid region. Indeed, *Bride's Coggie* was most likely a constructed feature given it is stone-lined, was used for retting flax and as Marnie says: 'All the way up the glen, at certain seasons can be seen the shadow and outline of these flax-retting ponds.'

5 Other cognates

Venturing further afield, it should be noted that many Scottish words have cognates in Dutch, German and Danish. The Dictionary of the Dutch Language (*Woordenboek der Nederlandsche Taal*) documents the forms *koog*, *caech*, and *kaag* referring to a 'polder' (a tract of low land reclaimed from the sea or other body of water and protected by dykes), or the land directly beyond the polder's protecting dyke, especially in West Friesland. There are still several places in the Netherlands bearing the toponymic element *koog*, e.g. *Koog aan de Zaan*, *De Koog*, *Valkkoog*, and *Schager Kogge Polder*.



Figure 10

Road sign: 'Koog on the Zaan [River], North Holland'

(Source: <https://www.ingredientsnetwork.com/tate-lyle-celebrates-150th-birthday-of-koog-news046925.html>)

There are also various placenames with the element *koog* in the Dithmarschen region of Germany (along the North Sea coast), e.g. *Westerkoog*, *Augustenkoog*, *Beltringharder Koog*, *Dieksanderkoog* (formerly *Adolf-Hitler-Koog*), *Gotteskoog*, *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Koog*, *Reußenkoog*, and *Hauke-Haien-Koog* (Figures 11 & 12).¹² As the name *Dithmarschen* indicates, the region is known for its marshes. Indeed, *koog* in German means 'polder' or 'marsh'.



Figure 11

Honour Gate at the entrance to *Adolf-Hitler-Koog* on the Stöpe, 1935.¹³

(Source: http://www.thirdreichruins.com/misc_sites7.htm)



Figure 12

Hauke-Haien-Koog Protected Area

(Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hauke-Haien-Koog_01.jpg)

In Danish and Jutish, the words which convey a corresponding meaning of a rounded (watery) depression are *kog* and *kåg* respectively. Peder Gammeltoft (pers. comm.) explains that the term is a loan from either the Friesian or Low German *koog* ‘dyked-in field’, and that Danish *kogs* are usually fields or land claimed from the shallows of the Wadden Sea. Both these terms are used as generics in placenames.¹⁴

6 A Wiradjuri / Ngiyampaa origin?

As mentioned above, the traditional landowners of the region where *Dead Dog Cogie* is located are the Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa people. Given Nash’s (2008) conclusion that *cowal* is of indigenous origin, it seems prudent to consider an indigenous origin for *cogie*. Often, toponymists are all too ready to assign a non-indigenous origin to a toponym when its spelling suggests it. The reverse is also common.¹⁵

- Günther (1839 ms) **guggi** ‘any kind of vessel orig: a wooden basin’
- Günther (1892) **guggé** ‘any kind of vessel’; **gadyal** ‘hollow’; **cudgel** ‘junction of creek’, **Gogeldrie** [placename]; **cadjal dura** ‘canoe made out of a hollow tree’
- Nash (1897: 17) **coogee** ‘hole in rocks, or pot’
- Richards (1902-03: 82) **god’zel** ‘scoop or bowl of wood’; **god’yee-god’yee** ‘water bag of skin’
- Mathews (1904) **kuttyül** ‘vessel for drinking with’
- Donaldson (1977: 23) **gadjal** ‘wooden water vessel’
- Grant and Rudder (2005) **gudyi** [gud̥i] ‘bucket, basin’; **gugi** ‘basin or shallow vessel, a bucket (of bark)’

All the above give the gloss for their various renditions of the term as ‘basin, vessel, pot, bowl, bucket’ etc. In other words, some kind of water container. Only Nash (1897) and Günther (1892) give glosses for geographic features. It is not at all clear whether Australia’s indigenous people used metaphorical extension of artefacts to name a geographic feature, as is so common for Europeans, either as a specific or generic (e.g. *Sugarloaf Mountain*, *Wineglass Bay*, *Bald Knob*, *Narrow Neck*). Is there a parallel in the indigenous Australian ‘Weltanschauung’? If Nash’s polysemous gloss for the Wiradjuri *coogee* ‘hole in rocks, or pot’, is correct, then this provides evidence of metaphorical extension. Indeed, this is an example of what Evans (1992, p. 478) describes as ‘metonymic polysemy’.¹⁶ If we consider the containment of water either in a bowl (or pot, bucket, basin, cup or coolamon), or in a rockhole (or some other naturally occurring feature, such as a pond, lake or swamp) as a specific domain or semantic field, and if *coogee* can refer to either, then we may justifiably claim that this is a case of metonymic polysemy. Evans (1992) provides various examples from Australian indigenous languages from all over the continent of this phenomenon.

The origin of the name for the lake and town, *Cargelligo*, is discussed on a number of websites. The NSW Geographic Names Board’s website declares the following:

Derived from Wiradhuri and Ngiyambaa ‘gajal’ for water container with suffix ‘lugu’ for ‘her’ or ‘his’. (Appleton [& Appleton] 1992). Said to be a corruption of the Aboriginal [sic] word ‘Kartjellakoo’ meaning ‘he had a Coolamon’. A coolamon is a shallow wooden dish.

(http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place_naming/placename_search/extract?id=anqwWyKmMn)

Wikipedia echoes this etymology, taking it third hand from the GNB; however, it does justifiably question the etymology:

Its name is said to be a corruption of the Aboriginal word ‘Kartjellakoo’ meaning ‘he had a coolamon’. A coolamon is a shallow wooden dish. Alternatively it is derived from Wiradhuri and Ngiyambaa ‘gajal’ for water container with suffix ‘lugu’ for ‘her’ or ‘his’. ^[*dubious – discuss*]

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Cargelligo,_New_South_Wales)

A NSW Government website declares that it is:

[...] said to derive from ‘Cudjallagong which would eventually become Cargelligo, words which are said to derive from the local Aboriginal word Kartjellakoo which means shallow water dish’.

(<http://about.nsw.gov.au/view/suburb/Lake%20Cargelligo/>)

And the Aussie Towns website claims the NSW Surveyor-General, Thomas Mitchell:

[...] renamed the lake ‘Cudjallagong’ which he claimed was a Wiradjuri word meaning ‘large lake’ or ‘water container’.

(<http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/lake-cargelligo-nsw>)

The latter claim is demonstrably false. Mitchell does not give a meaning for the name in any part of his journal, nor does he hint at one.

As can be seen, there is considerable variation in form between a number of the attested terms listed above. This is most likely due to the different levels of linguistic skill of the recorders themselves, that the terms were recorded from different lects, or a combination of both. Nevertheless, these attested forms are perhaps the strongest evidence for a possible source for *cogie*.

Similar terms (perhaps cognates?) have been attested in what Lissarrague (2006) describes as the ‘Hunter River and Lake Macquarie’ Language (HRLM), spoken by Awabakal, Kuringgai and Wonnarua peoples:

- Threlkeld (1834) **ko-ke-i; wim-bi; win-núng** ‘vessels made of the bark of trees &c., used as baskets or bowls’
- Lissarrague (2006) **kuka** ‘coolamon or wooden water bowl’ *n.* M[iller], F[awcett]: **koka**; M[ann]: **kooka**¹⁸

7 Issues to be resolved

With the exception of Rudder and Donaldson, none of the authors cited above had any linguistic training, at least not in the modern sense. This would partly explain their widely varying spelling renditions of the Wiradjuri word. We cannot know how different Grant and Rudder’s *gudyi* is to any of the other representations. It is uncertain whether the first vowel is [a], [u] or even a mid-back vowel between [o] and [ɔ].

There also appears to be some uncertainty regarding a palatal versus a velar articulation of the medial consonant of *cogie*, (i.e. [d] or [j] in *gadyal*, *cudgel cadjal dura*, *god’yee-god’yee*, *kuttyül*, and *gudyi* on the one hand and [g] in *guggi*, *guggé*, and *gugi* on the other). It is not clear what Nash’s (1897) *g* in *coogee* indicates. Grant and Rudder’s transcriptions, *gudyi* and *gugi*, seem to suggest variation exists in the articulation of the term, unless of course the variation indicates an important distinction in the terms’ meanings, something they have missed.

Günther’s (1892) *cudgel* and *cadjal dura*, Mathews’ (1904) *kuttyül* and Mitchell’s *quany* highlight the difference between Aboriginal languages’ tendency not to distinguish between [b]~[p], [d]~[t], and [g]~[k], distinctions crucial in English. Since Wiradjuri does not have [k], the initial consonant in say *gudyi*, *gugi*, or *guggé* may be interpreted as [k] by an English speaker, because Aboriginal [g] sounds were often interpreted as [k] by English speakers.

Another question is whether there has been a shift in the spelling, independent of the variable pronunciations or representations of the Wiradjuri pronunciations. Today, we have *cogie* [ˈkɔʊgi], but the 1902’s spelling of the *Condobolin Lachlander*, *coogee*, and the 1973 spelling in the local history booklet, *coogee*, may just as easily have represented [ˈku:gi], [ˈku:ji] or [ˈkuji]. Indeed, if that was the case, the possibility arises that there was a link with Mitchell’s *Cudjallagong*.

And finally, to add a further issue to the term’s form and pronunciation, a local Indigenous lady told Jan Johnson that her mother was born on *Cogie Station* at Trida, but didn’t think it was a Wiradjuri word. However, this may be explained by the term’s pronunciation having altered so much over time that it is no longer easily recognisable as a Wiradjuri word (see section 6, above). Jan’s many enquiries around the district revealed

that most people believed it to be an Aboriginal word meaning ‘large depression’. This corresponded with the previous lessee of *Dead Dog Cogie*, who told Jan that his grandmother had told him the name was an Aboriginal word meaning a ‘large depression in the ground’. However, he said his great grandmother spelt it *Koughbar* (suggesting [ˈkugə], [ˈkuga] or [ˈkuga:]) but of which the local Indigenous people have no recollection. Once again this may be due to a change in pronunciation, or may simply be the result of locals ascribing the designation of DEPRESSION to the feature.

8 A case of phono-semantic matching (PSM)?

A third possible etymology of *cogie*, as it is currently used in the Lake Cargelligo district, is that it is the result of an amalgamation of the Wiradjuri and the Scottish words into a hybrid.

In his seminal 1950 paper on linguistic borrowing (or ‘linguistic copying’ as I like to call it),¹⁸ Einar Haugen expounded a typology of lexical copying (loanwords). He categorised copying into two distinct processes, either ‘substitution’ or ‘importation’. In the latter, ‘[i]f the loan is similar enough to the model so that the native speaker would accept it as his own, the borrowing speaker may be said to have IMPORTED the model into his own language, provided it is an innovation in that language.’ (p. 212). In the former case, if the borrowing speaker ‘has reproduced the model inadequately, he has normally SUBSTITUTED a similar pattern from his own language.’ (p. 212). However, Ghil‘ad Zuckermann (1999, 2003) has identified copied words that are simultaneously substitutions and importations. He sees these as a type of ‘camouflaged’ copying, and terms the process ‘phono-semantic matching’ (PSM). It is the incorporation of a word into one language from another, where the word’s non-native quality is hidden by replacing (matching) it with phonetically and semantically similar words or roots from the adopting language. Thus, the approximate sound and meaning of the parallel expression in the source language are preserved (see also Mailhammer, 2008: 182). The process for *cogie* may be schematically represented thus:

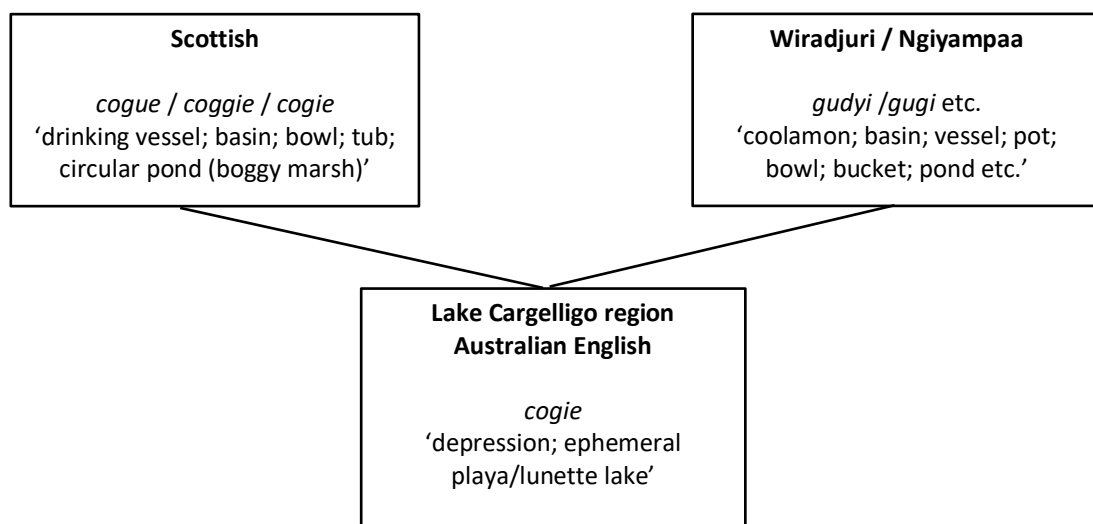


Figure 13
Phono-semantic matching of *cogie*

Scottish *Cogie* / *coggie* / *cogue* ‘drinking vessel; basin; bowl; tub; circular pond; boggy marsh’ is phonetically and semantically similar to **Wiradjuri** *gudyi* / *gugi* etc. ‘coolamon; basin; vessel; pot; bowl; bucket; pond etc.’ The resulting PSM gives us *Cogie* ‘DEPRESSION / playa / lunette lake’ as used in the Lake Cargelligo region.

The current spelling and pronunciation may also be seen as lending support to the notion that *cogie* is a PSM in that a Scottish influence appears to be at play here.

9 Conclusion

It is difficult to come to any definitive conclusion regarding the etymology of *cogie*. In order to preference a Scottish origin over a Wiradjuri/Ngiyampaa one, what is needed is to show local settlement by a Scottish person(s) and evidence that the term had been introduced by them. Indeed, a Scottish family by the name of McInnes did settle in the district at some time in the mid-19th century. Their name lives on in the eponymous *McInnes’ Cogie*. Immigration records show they McInneses arrived in Australia in 1850, and hailed from Eileen Shona, Moidart, Inverness Shire. (Rod McInnes, p.c.)

Having established this, it also needs to be shown that the McInneses (or perhaps some other Scottish person(s)) introduced the term *coggie/cogie* into the district, and perhaps used it to refer to the ubiquitous playas in the district. It is tempting to connect *McInnes’ Cogie* with the introduction of the term by one or more of the family; however, none of this can be verified.

For a Wiradjuri/Ngiyampaa origin we firstly need to show that metaphorical extension of artefacts to name geographic features was used by the Wiradjuri people. Secondly, it needs to be firmly established that the Wiradjuri/Ngiyampaa terms recorded above were used to denote playas as well as the artefacts in their glosses. Nonetheless, given the disparate forms and meanings recorded by various authors noted above, it is not so straightforward establish this.

What seems to be the most compelling scenario is the case for dual heritage; that is, for a phono-semantic match between Scottish and Wiradjuri/Ngiyampaa. The current spelling and pronunciation seem to support this.

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Endnotes

- ¹ Queensland Government, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. <https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/place-names/search>
- ² *Cogie* is not a geographic feature name recognised by any of the naming authorities in Australia, i.e. Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM), Australian National Placenames Survey (ANPS), Permanent Committee on Placenames (PCPN), or in any other international jurisdiction consulted, e.g. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).
- ³ It can be argued that the presence of dingos at this location provides further evidence of habitual aboriginal habitation around the cogie, because dingos often co-habited with these people.
- ⁴ The term is unknown in neighbouring townships.
- ⁵ The article also refers to ‘McInnes’ basin’.
- ⁶ The Mossgiel county map 1937 shows *Cogie Parish*. *Cogie Creek* runs along its southern border and flows towards the village of Trida. *Cogie Parish*; ID: NSW77073; Status: Unofficial; Lat. -32° 99’, Long. 145° 08’ (Geoscience Australia).
- ⁷ *Dead Dog Cogie* and *The Cogie* are designated as ‘depressions’ by Geographic Names Board of New South Wales, thereby reflecting their usual state of aridity.
- ⁸ For further details on playas and lunettes refer to Bowler (1973, 1976, 1986) and Twidale & Campbell (2005).
- ⁹ A Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi language term for ‘waterhole’ (Appleton & Appleton 1992:114).
- ¹⁰ In the United States these landforms were called *bogwallows* in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- ¹¹ This is currently being compiled with the aid of a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under the project title *Scottish Toponymy in Transition: Progressing County Surveys of the Place-Names of Scotland*.
- ¹² The German word *Koog* has the same sense as the Dutch *koog* (i.e. *polder*).
- ¹³ The *Adolf Hitler Koog* was a model farming community built in 1933-35 on the coast of the North Sea in Schleswig-Holstein (a *Koog* is an area of land reclaimed from a body of water, separated from the sea by dikes; also called a *polder*; further north were two similar areas called the *Hermann Göring Koog* and *Horst Wessel Koog*). The period postcard above shows the main entrance into the area; the road gates through the dikes could be closed off in case of flooding.
- ¹⁴ This information was kindly supplied by Associate Prof. Peder Gammeltoft.
- ¹⁵ An example of an indigenous toponym that was formerly considered as introduced is *Moent* (Tent 2006). An example of the reverse is *Ulimaroa* (See Tent & Geraghty 2012).
- ¹⁶ A *coolamon* is an elongated basin-shaped wooden dish. The term derives from the Kamilaroi language and has been adopted into the general vocabulary of Australian English.
- ¹⁷ That is, Fawcett (1898a); Fawcett (1898b); Mann (n.d.); Miller (1886).
- ¹⁸ The term *borrowing* is problematic because it implies the ‘borrowed’ word will be ‘returned’ at some stage, which is largely not the case. The term ‘copying’ was coined by Crowley (1997: 240-242).