

Placenames Australia

Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey

an initiative of the Australian Academy of Humanities



A laidback place with a laidback name

Fiji is well-known for its laidback lifestyle and general way of getting things done (or perhaps more accurately, often of *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’. This is a similar usage as the Spanish *mañana*, lit. ‘tomorrow’, which is 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’. So, when I came across the placename *Malua Bay* (NSW) it naturally intrigued me, and set me wondering how it got this name. It designates a sleepy township on the south coast (Eurobodalla Shire) and its adjoining bay. The traditional custodians of the region are the Yuin people of the Walbunja clan, their languages being Dhurga and Walbanga. Malua Bay is approximately 13 km south of Batemans Bay, about 280 km south of Sydney, and 160 km east of Canberra. At the 2021 census, Malua Bay

had a population of 2372. Where does its name come from? That’s the question.

My first guess was that it was a Polynesian or Oceanic name. There is a famous village on the Sāmoan island of Upolu that bears the name *Malua*, and 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 website¹ declares the location was originally called *Maluapapa*, which Pratt (1984 [1893]) says means a ‘sheltering rock’. 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 cognates² of *malu* in most Oceanic languages with the meaning ‘shaded, sheltered etc.’.



Malua Bay, NSW

(Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3951749>)

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From the Editor



Our former Director and regular contributor Jan Tent said to me the other day that there was a distinct Oceanic flavour about this issue. It's hard to disagree: there's Jan's article on **Malua**, a name which looks rather Fijian; and of course there's Paul Geraghty's piece on **Yasawa** (#28 in his series on Fiji's island names).

David McDonald's article on **Doughboy** recalls some old rural Aussie cuisine that I didn't know about, from the world of damper and swaggies and billabongs. David is now becoming a regular contributor on placenames with a strong connection to local history. Don't forget—if you have something *you* can add to our store of knowledge, either in these pages or for our Database, do let me know!

David Blair
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Do you know?

Goulds Falls

Goulds Falls is a waterfall on Acacia Creek in the NSW LGA of Tenterfield. Could it have been named to honour the famous ornithologist John Gould? asks Stuart Watt. It looks quite possible, from the research that Stuart has done. Gould himself never visited the area, but his associate John Gilbert did in 1844. We have not been able to confirm any record of the naming. If you have any further information, ANPS (and Stuart) would love to hear from you—email the [Editor](#)!

In the media

Wordplay

Our favourite language maven, David Astle, writes a weekly 'Wordplay' column in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, as well as his famously-difficult cryptic crosswords (which we are determined never to speak of again here). We sent the ANPS elves to dig into our ANPS Database for him so that David could introduce his readers to some of our strangest toponym stories recently: *Peter the Swede*, *River Lett*, *Yo-Yo Creek* were three that the elves came up with. Keep an eye out, because 'Wordplay' has not finished with placename stories.

YouTube

David Astle also pointed us in the direction of Philip Mallis and his YouTube channel. Apart from local history and transport planning, Philip makes excursions into placenames—such as this video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAnolrc9FCQ>

Fact or fiction in the *Herald's* Column8?

Column8 carried a contribution recently that reported the following names, all from the NSW MidNorth Coast: **Dongdingalong**, **Bucambeablebee**, **Billybang**. We have no record of them. Can you confirm or deny, anyone?

Puzzle answers - (from page 10)

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Zodiac Cay | 6. Venus Bay | 11. Antares Rock | 16. Pleiades Lakes |
| 2. Comet Well | 7. Meteorite Dam | 12. Crater Bluff | 17. Jupiter |
| 3. Eclipse Archipelago | 8. Starlight Waterhole | 13. Half Moon Creek | 18. Carina Bend |
| 4. Centaurus Ridge | 9. Moon Billabong | 14. Mercury Passage | 19. Aurora Tank |
| 5. Orion Beach | 10. Neptune Islands | 15. Southern Cross | 20. Sunny Corner |

This newsletter is published quarterly by
Placenames Australia (Inc.)
ISSN: 1836-7976

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The *Malua* name is quite widespread across Australia, in fact. As well as the local feature name for Malua Head which forms the northern limit of Malua Bay, there's a 'Malua' homestead (near Gunnedah, NSW), a late-19th century residence at Elizabeth Bay (Sydney) named *Malua*, two *Malua Creeks* 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 regarding both the Tasmanian *Malua Creeks*:

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 the Hall of Fame website confirm the origin of the horse's name is from Fijian.⁴ So, at least indirectly, the Tasmanian toponyms derive from the Fijian word. The racehorse won the 1884 Melbourne Cup, and there is a statue of him outside the Visitor Information Centre in Deloraine.

Further afield, 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 *Malua Bay* and ours. The same applies to the NZ *Malua Bay*. 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 a not uncommon 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.⁴ Indeed, Grylls (1994, p. 34) notes that *Malua Bay* was assigned as the geographical name under the Geographical Names Act of NSW Government Gazette No. 149 on 24 December 1971, as currently recorded in the NSW Register. Earlier it had been known as *Mosquito Bay*, and the name-

change to *Malua Bay* was confirmed by the Post Master General's Department as a postal address on 1 August, 1938. (Today's Mosquito Bay was then known as *Little Mosquito Bay*.) 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, and later subdivided and developed the land, also believed *malua* meant 'mosquito', citing as evidence that the bay was also known as *Mosquito Bay*.



Source: Monument Australia

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's Wata Mooli Creek in June 1886,⁵ and that this could have been the source of the name. Although shipwrecks are a common source of coastal features, there is no evidence to support the connection in this case. (It is, however, intriguing—and perhaps instructive—that the name of New Zealand's Malua Bay arose from a stolen yacht's grounding there at about the same time.) The distance between Wata Mooli Creek and Malua Bay, over 250 km, would seem to make such a proposed origin particularly problematic.

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

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£5 with his suggestion of *Malua Bay*. Grylls does not elaborate further on this ‘sporting gentleman’, but a quick search on Trove shows he was a well-known horse trainer of the day. His horses won the Melbourne Cup three times. Several newspaper articles on him report that he was a great admirer of Malua, the racehorse from Deloraine (TAS).⁶

If indeed Grylls’ story is factual, then Malua Bay was indirectly named after a racehorse, which was named after the Fijian word *malua* ‘to linger’. However, until I am able to find evidence of the renaming competition and Frank McGrath’s involvement, I shall remain somewhat sceptical of this story, particularly as it had been more than fifty years since the racehorse concerned had been a Melbourne Cup winner. The first independent mention in newspapers of *Malua Bay* was in 1945, so if there was a name change, it would have had to occur not long before this date—and indeed Grylls’ dating of the name change in 1938 might well be seen as confirmation of that.

So, not an altogether satisfying result, but one that is nevertheless possible.

Jan Tent

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Endnotes

- ¹ <https://malua.edu.ws/about-us/#history>
- ² Cognates are words in different languages presumed to derive from the same original word in a parent language.
- ³ <https://collection.racingmuseum.com.au/persons/4466/malua>
- ⁴ I’d like to thank Andrew Sergeant of the National Library of Australia for supplying scans of relevant pages of Grylls’ book.
- ⁵ NSW Dept of Environment, *Maritime heritage database*.
- ⁶ *Referee*, Wednesday 14 May, 1930, p.3; *Brisbane Telegraph*, Saturday 15 October, 1949, p.5.

A Bendigo in New Zealand?

Yes, indeed—it’s a locality (pictured below) in Central Otago. The name was transported from the Victorian to the New Zealand goldfields, reversing the usual direction of travel for placenames in the two countries. In our September issue, Jan Tent will refresh our memories on how **Bendigo** got its name.



Doughboy: From dumpling to toponym

In NSW, close to the eastern border of the ACT, lies Amungula Creek. It flows for about 7 km from the ACT border to the creek's confluence with the Yass River. 'Amungula Creek' is the toponym registered by the NSW Geographical Names Board. Before it received that appellation, however, it was called *Road Side Creek/Roadside Creek* and, before that, in the first half of the 1800s, *Doughboy Creek*. The toponym 'Doughboy' is the focus of this note.

It is recorded that:

One of the immediate effects of free selection [commencing in NSW in the early 1860s] was the creation of communities in places where previously there were only a few stockmen and shepherds. One such place was 'The Doughboy', about eleven miles out of Queanbeyan on the Gundaroo-road, where Doughboy Hill and Doughboy Creek (now Amungula Creek) gave the name to the locality. Prior to the 1860s the area was occupied by outer paddocks of Woodbury and the farthest-flung paddocks of Duntroon beyond the Honeysuckle. A few tenant farmers had existed there for years and the oldest identities were the family of William Gambell who came there during the 1830s. Nine other families made starts on selections at the Doughboy in the early sixties, but of the first selectors only George Gifford, William Bingley and William Gambell's sons survived the frightful challenges of the decade (Lea-Scarlett, 1972, p. 45).

It is evident from national data that Doughboy Creek and Doughboy Hill were not the only places to be given the name by the earliest Europeans to take up land that had been in the custodianship of Aboriginal people for millennia. Indeed, the *Composite Gazetteer of Australia* (<https://placenames.fsdf.org.au/>) lists 46 occurrences of 'Doughboy', with 19 entries in SA, followed by NSW (16), Qld (4), Tas (4), Vic (2), and ACT (1).

The relative frequencies of the features to which the name is attached are of interest. Of the 46 entries, 14 are watercourses, followed by bore (5), hill (4), dam (4), island (3), survey marker (2), plus 1 each for conservation park, park, historic site, hut, mine (underground), mountain, locality, stockyard, wetland, range, plain, ridge, cape, and sea channel (marine).

What of the etymology of 'Doughboy'? The *Australian National Dictionary* (2016) is instructive: it defines the term as 'A flour dumpling, usually boiled or fried', and explains that it derives from British dialect *doughboy* 'a dumpling, dough made into a pudding without fruit' (EDD) and nautical slang 'a boiled flour dumpling' (OED). The earliest known Australian usage in print dates from 1827.

One might speculate that, since by far the largest proportion of the 'Doughboy' entries in the national *Composite Gazetteer* (14 of the 46 entries) refers to watercourses, it may reflect places where people camped and made and cooked doughboys as part of a meal. Such speculation must remain tentative, but the clustering of the name around watercourses is suggestive. This in turn invites comparison with 'damper', a type of bush bread made from similar ingredients and serving a comparable dietary role. The *Composite Gazetteer* has 34 entries for 'Damper', a broadly similar number to the 46 for 'Doughboy', while 13 of the 34 'Damper' entries are for the feature 'watercourse'.¹

David McDonald

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- OED = *Oxford English Dictionary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (online).

Endnote

- ¹ 'Doughboy' toponyms are not unknown in New Zealand: the New Zealand Gazetteer records 11 placenames, official or unofficial, with that element. 'Damper' is less common, with only 5 records.



Bulimba Creek in suburban Brisbane, originally known as Dobby Creek or Doughboy Creek (Wikipedia)

On being misled...

Before one embarks upon any toponymic research, some cautionary notes are in order. One of the most common traps the budding toponymist can fall into is being misled by a name's orthographic form, which may lead to drawing inferences about its etymology and/or aetiology.

Many toponyms seem to have transparent meanings or designations: in particular, those that appear to be descriptive. However, it is easy to mistake their meanings or designations. A fine example of this is provided in the *Fiji Times*' 'Letters to the Editor' of 17 June 2015, by our Fiji correspondent, Paul Geraghty:

RAJESH Lal (FT6/6) tells of a friend of his who, presumably tongue in cheek, suggests that the toponym (place-name) *Calia*, near Navua, is derived from the Fijian words *ca* 'bad' and *lialia* 'stupid'.

The origin of this place-name is rather more prosaic: it is simply the word for a channel in the river. It derives from the verb *cali* 'to flow' and the nominalising suffix *-a*, hence meaning 'place where water flows'. A more common variant is *salia*, which features in many village and locality names in eastern Fiji such as *Salia*, *Nasalia* and *Saliadravu*, and is used in Lau to mean a channel through the reef, and in Macuata to mean the ocean. [...]

ANPS publications, as well as many others in academic journals, have reported on names whose surface forms have given rise to grammatical/morphological reanalyses (i.e. 'folk-etymologising'). The topic of this vignette highlights a nice example of such a trap that I recently stumbled into.

I was trying to extend our small catalogue of examples of toponym type **1.4 – Descriptive (Functional)** (see Blair & Tent, 2020), where the name is descriptive of the place's function (e.g. *Australian Capital Territory*, *Memorial Park*). Such names are uncommon, but are nevertheless

worthy of noting and categorising. Anyhow, my search led me to the Victorian township of *Serviceton*, and I felt a faint flicker of self-satisfaction thinking I'd discovered another example of a **1.4** toponym. Unfortunately, my delight was premature and short-lived. Let me explain.

Serviceton, now a rural village, is a former railway township 2 km east of the Victorian-South Australian border. It was established in 1889 to serve as overnight accommodation, a refreshment stop, a customs office, and a change-over point for train crews and locomotives. Therefore, my immediate thought was that the name reflected the location's purpose.¹ However, upon checking I discovered the township was actually named after James Service (Premier of Victoria from 1883 to 1886)! All in all, then, an apt coincidence. I then wondered whether there was an onomastic term for toponyms whose appellation contradicts its perceived meaning or designation.

To start, there is a term for personal names which (humorously) denote or reflect a person's profession or personal characteristics *viz.* an 'apronym/apronym' (or less frequently 'euonym').² Examples are plenty—a few of which will suffice here: *Ian Bishop* (Church of England bishop), *Mark De Man* (Belgian football defender – marking an opposing player), and *Tennys Sandgren* (American tennis player), etc. However, I could not find any equivalent (apt?) terms for toponyms that function in the same way, most likely because such toponyms are rare. I am not here referring to general intentional descriptive toponyms (e.g. *Bordertown* (SA), *Launching Place* (VIC), *Loading Ramp* (NSW), *The Crossing Place* (NSW) and *Landing Ground* (NT), etc.) which resemble **1.4** toponyms. The inspiration for these names rests



Serviceton station (Source: www.kaniva.org/serviceton-station.html)

continued next page

...by a toponym's form

solely in that they were on the SA-VIC border, are places for launching, loading crossing or landing, etc. There is a palpable difference between these intentional descriptive toponyms and the *Serviceton* example. Unlike *Bordertown* and the others, the outward aptness of a name like *Serviceton* is unintentional, although the initial inspiration for its naming was of course intentional (i.e. to honour James Service, thus making it toponym type **Eponymous, 6.1.2 Notable person**) (see Blair & Tent, 2020). So the question is, are the categories 'apronym/apronym' or 'euonym' applicable to toponyms, or should a specific term be coined for them?

The coining of a suitable onomastic term for toponymic apronyms is a bit knotty. If we follow the commonly used lexical schema, we are basically left with three options, all of which I feel are either phonologically and/or morphologically cumbersome: 'aprototonym/aprototonym' or 'euotonym'—the latter perhaps being the least awkward sounding, although its meaning is more opaque. Perhaps the best and most efficacious solution is to simply employ the terms 'apronym/apronym' or 'euonym' to toponyms as well.

Further to this, it should not surprise the reader to learn that 'apronym' has an antonym, which was coined by *The Washington Post's* humourist columnist Gene Weingarten (2006). He labelled names that were ironically unsuitable or inappropriate for the person to whom they referred 'inapronym', e.g. *Rob Banks* (a British police officer), *Larry Playfair* (ice hockey player known for fighting), and one that everyone knows, *Jaime Sin* (the Catholic prelate, who upon being made a cardinal gained the additionally inapronymic title of 'Cardinal Sin').

Well, if we now have an accepted term for unintended unfortunate personal names, we might want to coin one for unpremeditated inopportunistically named toponyms.

If we follow the Weingarten model, we would end up with 'inaprototonym/inaprototonym' or perhaps 'pseudoapt(ron)onym'.³ Either way, real mouthfuls. Perhaps simply 'pseudoapt(ron)onym' would suffice. Before you ask, such toponyms do exist, although they are once again rare. The one that immediately comes to mind (though not in Australia) is *Neversink*, a former town in New York state that was submerged by the Neversink Reservoir in 1953 (Taylor, 2022). The town was



established on the Neversink River which was later dammed. The river's name comes from the name of the local Indigenous *Navesink* (*Navisink*, or *Nave Sinck*) people—yet another example of an Indigenous toponym having undergone morphological reanalysis.

Whatever we decide to label toponyms that are 'apt(ron)onymic' or 'pseudoapt(ron)onymic', it is important to recognise and understand the true meanings and designations of these toponyms, if only to highlight the complexities of toponomastics.

I should be very interested in hearing from our readers whether they have come across any aptotonyms or inaprototonyms themselves, either in Australia or elsewhere.

Jan Tent

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Endnotes

- ¹ The *-ton* element deriving from the common Anglo-Saxon *tūn* 'enclosure', 'settlement', or 'farmstead'. Many English language placenames have this element, which has often morphed from the generic *town*, e.g. *Geeveston* (TAS) originally known as *Geeves Town* in 1861 (Whitworth 1877, pp. 82–83). Often the *Town* generic eventually becomes unstressed, making it [tɒn] or [tən] which is then expressed in the spelling.
- ² 'Aptonym' (*apt* + *onym*) < Latin *aptus* 'fitting, suited, appropriate'. The insertion of the *-r-* in 'apronym' is probably an analogue to 'patronym' (*OED*). 'Euonym' (*eu-* + *-onym*) < Latin < Greek εὖ (*eú*) 'well, good'.
- ³ 'Pseudo-' < Greek ψευδής (*pseudēs*) 'false, lying'.

Yasawa...

In the previous instalment in this series, we concluded our extended study of the island of Qamea, to the northeast of Taveuni in northeastern Fiji, suggesting that its name may have meant ‘place of crabs’. This time, we turn our attention to the next in line: **Yasawa**, a long spindly island in the northwest of the Fiji group, with an area of 32.5 square kilometres.

Yasawa is the most northerly island in the Yasawa Group (*Yatu Yasawa*, often referred to as *Yatu Yasawa balabalavu* ‘the long chain of Yasawa islands’), which also comprises, from northeast to southwest, the inhabited islands of Nacula (earlier known as *Drola*), Matacawalevu, Yaqweta (standardised as *Yaqeta*), Naviti, Viwa, Waya and Wayasewa (*Wayalailai* in Standard Fijian) and many small islands, mostly with a resort or uninhabited. The largest of these islands is Naviti, which we focussed on two years ago, proposing that it meant ‘land in the east’, a name that suggests that it may have been the first island in Fiji to be settled.

In Fiji, Yasawa is famous as the purported source of two large sailing canoes that followed Captain William Bligh and his loyal crew members as they were on their way to Batavia (modern Jakarta) after the mutiny on the *Bounty* in May, 1789. It is popularly believed that the canoes were full of cannibals who were frantically chasing the longboat in order to obtain the meat for their next meal, but the truth is nobody knows why they were following Bligh and his men, and it might well have been pure curiosity. After they had given up the chase, Bligh noted in his diary: *Whether the canoes had any hostile intentions against us is a matter of doubt. Perhaps we might have received great relief from them... When the canoe left us there did not appear many hands in her. I therefore suspect we were alarmed without a cause.*

Internationally, the Yasawa group is famous as a tourist destination with many sandy beaches and swaying coconut palms and a number of exclusive resorts and backpacker hostels. The island of Yasawa was the location for two major films, versions of *The Blue Lagoon*, the earlier (1949) starring Jean Simmons and Donald Houston, and the more recent one (1980) starring Brooke Shields and Christopher Atkins. Another popular film, *Cast Away* (2000) starring Tom Hanks, was shot on Modriki (officially *Monuriki*) in

the Māmānuca group, just to the south of the Yasawas.

Yasawa is a volcanic island approximately 22 km (14 miles) long and from 0.73 to 1.6 km (800 yards to a mile) in width, with small westward pointing peninsulas at both ends. There is relatively little rain, so the hills are mostly covered with reeds and smallish trees. The whole group is frequently hit by hurricanes, so much so that the traditional house has a lower pitched roof than in other parts of Fiji. There are six villages on the island of Yasawa: Yasawairārā in the far north, Bukama north of centre, and Tamasua (often misspelt *Tamasua*) and Nabukeru in the south, all of which speak a communalect closely related to that of the next island, Nacula. Two villages in the centre, Teci and Dalomo, speak a communalect more closely related to that of Tavua on the Vitilevu mainland to the southeast, to which they have historical ties.

As mentioned with regard to Qamea, the seaworm *balolo* (*Eunice viridis*, the same as Samoan *palolo*) is looked forward to every year in Yasawa, the worms rising in their millions from the base of the reef to the surface of the sea to be scooped and eaten raw or cooked in various ways, with some taken to friends and relations who live in places which have no *balolo*. However, Yasawa is unique in Fiji in that the *balolo* can rise three times a year, whereas elsewhere it is either once or twice. The reason is probably latitude: the further north, the hotter the weather, the sooner the *balolo* rises, so Yasawa is the only place where it can rise as early as September. This early rising is referred to as the *balolo kei Tui Yasawa*—the *balolo* for Tui Yasawa, the king of Yasawa, who resides in Yasawairārā, the northernmost village. Unlike elsewhere in Fiji, the *balolo* in Yasawa never rises in December.

As is the general trend in Fiji, the names of places in the east were recorded earlier, many in the eighteenth century, largely because they are close to Tonga, which was visited by Cook and a number of other navigators. Bligh obviously had no opportunity to record any place-names and the next visitor to the Yasawas, the American Captain Barber in 1794, likewise recorded none. The honour of being the first to record the name *Yasawa* goes to Captain Brumley, of the New England trading vessel *Hope* owned by Edmund Fanning, who published a list of names of islands in Fiji compiled around 1807. Most of the names are from the east, but two are from the west:

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...placenames of Fiji #28

Assavo 'Yasawa' and Levo-Callow 'Lewakalou'. This latter is the Fijian name of 'Round Island', an uninhabited isolated rock about 23 km (14 miles) northeast of the northern point of Yasawa. As to why these are the only places in western Fiji that made it onto this list, the answer is that the passage between these two islands is the only safe passage from Fiji when heading west, as trading vessels would when taking cargoes of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer to sell to middlemen in Manila.

The French explorer Dumont d'Urville produced a map of Fiji in 1827, but it failed to mention Yasawa. The American Commodore Charles Wilkes compiled a more detailed map in 1840, and this included 'Awakalo' (Lewakalou), 'Asau' (Yasawa) and a number of other islands in the Yasawas.

Note that the absence of 'y' and (partially) 'w' in

two lists indicates that the names were provided by Tongan speakers, since these semivowels are not part of the Tongan sound system. Tongans were often taken on by traders working in Fiji because of their knowledge and presumed trustworthiness.

The Reverend David Hazlewood's more comprehensive gazetteer of 1850 provides the following information: *Yasawa, the name of a nearly straight range of islands, the most westerly in Fiji, extending seventy miles north-east and south-west; it is about thirty miles from Naviti Levu; Yasawa or Yasawa-i-rara is the longest island in the Y group.* Sadly, we must leave Yasawa at this point, but we can look forward to learning of its etymology next time, and its unexpected occurrence in another part of the Pacific!

Paul Geraghty



A welcoming party preparing kava in the village of Teci, with a house in the background showing the typical pitched gables of a Yasawa house, designed to be resistant to hurricanes.

(Source: German Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0)

Placenames Puzzle Number 98

Per ardua ad astra. *Stargazing placenames are contained in this issue's quiz. For example: (QLD) A hill northwest of Charleville. Answer: Milky Way Hill.* Can you struggle your way to the stars?

1. (QLD) A cay in Swain Reefs off Mackay
2. (SA) A well on the Eyre Peninsula
3. (WA) An archipelago off the Kimberley Coast
4. (TAS) A ridge in the Western Arthur Range
5. (NSW) A beach in Jervis Bay
6. (VIC) A township southwest of Leongatha
7. (NT) A dam southwest of Alice Springs
8. (QLD) A waterhole northeast of Normanton
9. (NT) A billabong on the Mary River
10. (SA) A group of islands off Eyre Peninsula
11. (VIC) A rock southeast of Warrnambool
12. (NSW) A bluff in the Warrumbungles
13. (ACT) A creek in the southern half
14. (TAS) A passage off the east coast
15. (WA) A town east of Perth
16. (WA) A group of lakes east of Leonora
17. (QLD) A parish near Croydon
18. (NSW) A bend in the Murray River
19. (SA) A tank southwest of Coober Pedy
20. (NSW) A village northwest of Lithgow

[Compiled by
Christopher Woods
Answers on page 2]

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Articles for *Placenames Australia*

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Supporting photographs or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.

Closing dates for submissions are:

March Issue: 15 January

June Issue: 15 April

September Issue: 15 July

December Issue: 15 October