Waitui: Fijian, Aboriginal or Māori?

Some time ago I wrote about the difficulty in determining whether a name is Polynesian or not (Tent, 2019). Sometimes such names look Polynesian but in fact have an Australian Indigenous origin. And, of course, the reverse also occurs! One toponym I mentioned in that article was *Waitui*, a locality north of Taree (NSW), and the nearby *Waitui Waterfalls* on the Stewarts River in the Coorabakh National Park. The original custodians of the region were the Birrbay people.

Where does the name *Waitui* come from? I shall take you through my journey of investigation.

Fijian?

My first guess was that it was of Fijian origin, because *waitui* is the Fijian word for 'sea' or 'saltwater' (*wai* 'water' + *tui* 'salt'), although at first sight that seems an unlikely name for an inland locality and waterfall. But Fijian and Polynesian placenames have often been used as names for yachts, steamships, homesteads, and even racehorses, with no apparent reason other than that they are euphonious. A good example is *Ulimaroa*, which has been used as a name for a location in Queensland, a steamship, a residential mansion in Melbourne, a racehorse, and even as a name for the Australian continent (Geraghty & Tent, 2010). And so it is with *Waitui*, which has also been used as a name for racehorses (e.g. *Waitui Gem*, *Waitui Pearl*), and for a late nineteenth century Sydney yacht (a great name for a boat, I must say).

Waitui Waterfalls
Source: Beyond Purgatory ~ A Photographer's Paradise
https://beyondpurgatory.wordpress.com/2016/03/26/waitui-falls/

Indigenous?

The second possibility is that it is an Indigenous name, because the Geographic Names Board of NSW declares that a variant name for the locality was *Wytooee*. Is this a rendition of an Indigenous word, or an imaginative way of representing *Waitui*?

The local Indigenous language is Birrbay, so I have searched various published vocabularies of this language but have not found any word approximating *wytooee*. One source that offers quite an extensive list of Aboriginal toponyms from the region is Ryan (1964), but it presents no viable candidates. Phonologically, though, it seems a possible word, because Ryan's toponyms do include ones that have an initial *wy-*, or a medial *-oo-*, or a final *-ee*.

From the Editor

As usual, we're reporting on the whys and wherefores of our placenames. Jan Tent's article on *Waitui* shows how embedded in our culture is the connection with New Zealand—but also how tricky it can be to unpack that connection, sometimes.

Both *Ballengarra* (p. 10) and *Mount Willieray* (p. 11) show, too, the value of more research for some names: we've returned to them, to follow up information in previous issues.

Thanks to John Schauble for drawing out attention to all the Bin Chicken Islands in Australia. Who knew?

The fact that none of them are officially-named might indicate the degree of opprobrium this ibis meets; read John's report on page 5.

In contrast to these discussions of individual names, Jan Tent has responded (p. 6) to a reader's request to say more about a particular instance of terminology: the contrast between *endonyms* and *exonyms*. We hope it helps; to be honest, Jan and I have enjoyed chatting further about these terms and we agree there's even more that could be said. But that will have to wait until a later issue of *Placenames Australia*!

David Blair
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Hit by a hallucination

Last September I received an email from a researcher in Iran who was investigating colour toponyms in that country. Could I send him a copy of my 2015 article 'Colours in Geographical Names: A Global Survey,' *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 32 (2): 143–218, he asked, because he hadn't been able to download it? This left me scratching my head, because I had never written or published such an article in any journal. I had to admit, though, that the topic did sound very much like something I might have written. So I checked that issue of the journal, but found nothing there that even remotely resembled the requested article. David Blair and I set out on a joint internet search, looking for something that might have been it. Result: total failure!

I told the researcher that such an article did not exist, and asked where he had got the reference from. The reply came back: 'Chat GPT'.

There have been many recent reports—in the press, in fact-checking websites, and in academic journals—of imaginary references appearing. (See: 'How fake citations appeared in RFK Jr.'s MAHA report: Here are generative AI's red flags in studies' in the journal *Politifact*; 'The fabrication problem: how AI models generate fake citations, URLs, and references' in *Medium*; and 'A systematic review of the limitations and associated opportunities of ChatGPT' in the *International Journal of Human–Computer Interaction*). This last reports on a 2023 study which found 63.8% of Chat GPT's references in response to radiology questions were fabricated.

Such fake references are referred to as 'hallucination' references, and people are becoming much more aware of this AI phenomenon. But this is the first time we've struck it in toponymy!

Jan Tent

Puzzle answers - (from page 12)

1. *Yellow Waters*
2. Yellow Bay
3. Little Red Head
4. Red Beach
5. Red Cliff
6. Yellow Bluff
7. Yellow Rock
8. Yellow Marsh
9. (The) Red Bridge
10. Red Bluff
11. Red Bluff
12. Yellow Bluff
13. Red Rock Falls
14. (The) Yellow Rock
15. Yellow Beach
16. Red Rock
17. Yellow Patch
18. Yellow Sandbanks
19. The Red Cliff
20. Red Island

Since a very large number of Indigenous placenames do not come from the region where they occur on our maps, *Wytooee* could be a name or word from another Indigenous language.

On the other hand, if the original name was *Wytooee*, why would its spelling have been changed to the current Pacific-looking spelling?

Māori?

My third port of call was New Zealand. Māori names sometimes feature on our maps (e.g. *Waitara*, *Wainui*), so could *Waitui* be another such case? Once again, our cousins across 'The Ditch' also have toponyms that bear the name *Waitui*—a locality, a bay and two streams—so the NSW name could come from one of these, just as the name of the Sydney suburb of *Waitara* has.

The answer

For once, the answer is quite straightforward—although it did take some digging. But first, the evidence.

The National Library of Australia's **Trove** facility is always a good place to start research, and once again it has proven to be an invaluable resource.[1] I found some very enlightening information there. The local newspapers, *The Northern Champion* and *The Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of New South Wales,* spell the placename inconsistently. The first appearance of the *Wytooee* spelling is in the early 1930s. Until then it was consistently spelled *Waitui*, which gives us a clue. In June 1934, both papers reported the official opening of the 'Wytooee' school. T*he Northern Champion* of Saturday 1 June, 1935, p.3 reports:

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

In 1913, a W. E Miles was the successful tenderer for the Hannam Vale–Waitui mail service. And it is around this time that the name *Waitui* first appears in the local press.

I should add here that *waitui* is not a Māori word for

a 'waterbird'. *Wai* is Māori for 'water',[2] and *tūī* means 'parson bird' (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*), and just *tui* means 'thread; to stitch'.[3] The closest Māori term I was able to find for a 'waterbird' is *kawau tūī* — 'little black shag' (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) (Moorfield, 2011). Intriguingly, this expression is not too different from *waitui*. *Tūī* is commonly spelled without the macrons over the vowels,[4] which could also explain the confusion. So, perhaps, as is so often the case, *Waitui* is an example of an alteration of the linguistic form or sense, due either to a misunderstanding or to bad transmission of the original. However, this has proven not to be the case. Read on…

There were people who were aware of the inconsistent spelling of the name. For instance, the columnist Jimothy in his column 'Jottings by Jimothy' complained in *The Northern Champion* in March 1939 of the spelling of *Wytooee*, and did so again in July. (I'll quote the latter in full since what he says contains other items of toponymic interest.)

> OUR DISTRICT NOMENCLATURE The nomenclature of our district has some anomalies, to say the least of it. Here are three instances, out of many, that exist of wrongly named places locally. First Cattai Creek has been for a considerable time officially renamed Rawson river, yet in the newspapers and even at the Shire Council table we note it still erroneously referred to as Cattai Creek. It was changed from that name because of the confusion caused by the fact that there are other Cattais and Nattais in the State — one called Cattai Creek near Grafton. Surely we could now be correct and have Rawson river properly used as the name for this improving locality. The new bridge is the Rawson bridge, not the Cattai. Then we have Waitui. Because a contractor for the school building was not sure of the correct spelling of the name officially given to that new district a year or two ago, he spelled it Wytooee. Carelessly, if not foolishly, some people to-day call it by that name. Even a local dance is this week advertised, as under the auspices of certain "Wytooee" bodies. What a pity not to use the name the postal and other authorities have registered as "Waitui." The third instance is Koorainghat, formerly Sidebottom. After much correspondence, this new name was selected 16 months ago, yet still we see on the roadside this sign—Sidebottom. What a pity there isn't a progress association or some vigilance organisation to see that enough civic pride is in evidence to make sure that our district nomenclature is right.
>
> (*The Northern Champion* 8 July, 1939, p. 7)

Whether the contractor was the source of the purported misspelling or not is hard to discern, as Jimothy also admits in his March 1939 piece. The story may well be apocryphal. But it is interesting that the *Wytooee* form appears around the time of the school's opening, so

Jimothy's theory could have some veracity. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s the spelling is inconsistent in both newspapers, though when the school is mentioned it is usually *Wytooee*, whilst advertisements for church services are consistently *Waitui*.

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

The conclusive piece of evidence comes from a New Zealand paper, the *Taranaki Herald* (26 July1907, p.8).[5] It reports on a meeting in the Kaimata Hall in the Kaimata, Ratapiko and Waitui district at which a Mr and Mrs Herlihy were presented with various tokens of appreciation. One of the presenters was Mrs W. E. Miles, whilst Mr W. E. Miles acted as MC. The timing fits very nicely—early 1900s, as well as the place—Waitui. When Mr and Mrs W. E. Miles came to Australia, they also took with them the name of their place of origin (a lovely example of a copied name). This nicely corroborates the theories expressed in *The Northern Champion* and *Manning River Times*.

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Endnotes

[1] To quote Wikipedia: 'Trove is an Australian online library database aggregator; a free faceted-search engine hosted by the National Library of Australia, in partnership with content providers including members of the National & State Libraries Australasia. It is one of the most well-respected and accessed GLAM [galleries, libraries, archives, and museums] services in Australia, with over 70,000 daily users.

[2] Indeed, *wai* is the word for 'water' in many Oceanic languages—Fijian and Polynesian languages being a member of that subgroup of languages.

[3] The Māori word for 'sea' is *tai*; *wai tai* means 'salt water' (Moorfield, 2011).

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

[5] https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TH19070726.2.85

Placenames on the internet

Jan Tent has reminded us of **two useful resources** that your web browser can take you to.

In years past if we wanted the ABC's advice on how to pronounce our placenames, we needed to take our dusty copy of *A guide to the pronunciation of Australian place names* down from the shelf. Now it's all on the website: **ABC Pronounce:** https://pronounce.abc.net.au

A blog that's recently marked its 10th anniversary on the web: e-Onomastics blog: https://e-onomastics.blogspot.com/

And we've mentioned previously the PBS blog on YouTube, *Otherwords*. One 7-minute clip that will be of interest is focused on toponymy. It's presented by Dr Erica Brozovsky, and it's entitled The most extreme place names.

Welcome to Bin Chicken Island

It's overpopulated, seriously denuded of vegetation and—if you get up close—very smelly. Welcome to **Bin Chicken Island**, just a dot on some maps. But, like the birds after which they are named, there are many such islands: at least four in Victoria and others noted in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and probably elsewhere.

In all cases, the naming is for the mass nesting of ibis, mostly the Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*, pictured right), but with a sprinkling of Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*) thrown in for good measure. The ibis is an Australian native bird and so is a protected species; but it has adapted spectacularly well to urban living and they thrive along waterways, in parks and garbage dumps. Noted scavengers, the White Ibis has perhaps unfairly earned the nickname 'bin chicken' for a propensity to shamelessly poke around in public and domestic rubbish bins. (They are sometimes also referred to as 'tip turkeys' and 'picnic pirates'.)

The best-known Bin Chicken Island in Victoria is probably the one in suburban Coburg, situated in the Coburg Lake along the Merri Creek. (It even has its own but not well-subscribed Facebook page). Others can be found at Broadmeadows to the north and Jells Park in the eastern suburb of Wheelers Hill, where it is also known by the more formal name of *White Ibis Island*.

*Not a bin chicken, but a member of the Praetorian Guard of Silver Gulls (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) that protect Bin Chicken Island at Lake Guthridge in Sale, Victoria. Or maybe he just wanted chips?*

A personal favourite is Bin Chicken Island located on Lake Guthridge in the Gippsland town of Sale, where the large stick nests constructed by the birds are evident between August and November on this grossly overpopulated dot on the map. While never officially named, this man-made island dates to 1930s depression era sustenance works. It has previously been known informally as *Travis Island* and later *Ronchi Island*, after a shire engineer and a local councillor respectively.[1]

Bin Chicken Island at Lake Guthridge in Sale, Victoria

In rural areas, many farmers welcome ibis as natural eradicators of pest insects and pasture grubs such as cockchafer beetle larvae. This has earned them the more endearing nickname of 'farmer's friend'.

While none of the Victoria's Bin Chicken Islands appear to have been formally registered by Vicnames (Victoria's Register of placenames), Google Maps (left) appears far less discerning and is happy to apply the soubriquet.

John Schauble

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[1] Ann and Peter Synan. (2010). *Summer Walk: Sale Botanic Gardens & Lake Guthridge*. Sale: Lookups Research. p.77.
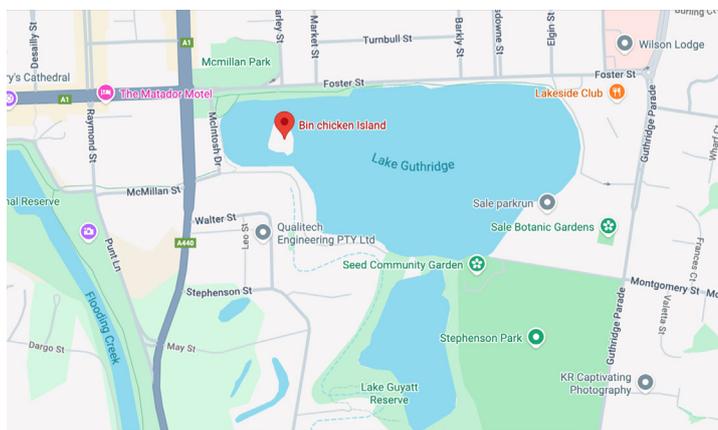
Of endonyms and exonyms...

In June last year, our loyal reader David McDonald sent us an email explaining he had been documenting the etymologies of the road names in his area. He classified them under the categories 'Indigenous', 'Indigenous-derived' and 'Introduced' in line with my two previous articles on this topic (Tent, 2023a, 2023b). David noted that he felt there was some degree of overlap between these three terms and the terms 'endonym' and 'exonym'. Indeed there is. Since David was not all that *au fait* with the latter terms he asked whether we could clarify the similarities and differences between the two sets of terms so as to assist non-specialist readers like him to use them appropriately. Since I have covered the first three terms in the two 2023 articles, I shan't do so again here, but just concentrate on the latter two.[1] They have numerous definitions, interpretations and applications.[2] In general, when applied to toponyms, they may be defined as:

endonym [< Gr. *εντός* (endon) 'within' + *όνομα* (ónuma) 'name'. Also known as 'autonym'] A name of a geographical feature in one of the languages occurring in that area where the feature is situated (also 'autonym'). Examples: ***Москва*** *'Moskva'* = Moscow; ***Deutschland*** = Germany, **กรุงเทพฯ** *'Krung Thep'* = Bangkok; الأقصر *'Al-Quṣūr'* = Luxor; 日本 *'Nihon/Nippon'* = Japan.

exonym [< Gr. *ἔξω* (éxō) 'without'] A name used for a geographical feature in a specific language situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used by the language(s) of the area where the geographical feature is situated. Examples: *Wien* (endonym) > ***Vienna, Вена*** *'Vena'* (Russian), ***Wenen*** (Dutch); Lietuva > ***Lithuania, Litouwen*** (Dutch), ***Lituanie*** (French), ***Lithwania*** (Welsh).[3]

Exonyms were coined for three main reasons:
- Historical – explorers and colonisers, unaware of existing Indigenous names, bestowed names in their own languages;
- Pronunciation – problems in pronouncing Indigenous placenames led to the bestowal of names that were easier to pronounce for non-Indigenes;
- Distribution – geographical features (e.g. mountain ranges, rivers) often extended over more than one country/region, with different names in each; having a single name for such features made it easier for the outsider.

Just to complicate matters a tad more, in recent times state placenaming authorities have been replacing Introduced placenames (some of which are offensive) on prominent geographical features with what is considered by the non-Indigenous authorities as appropriate Indigenous or Indigenous-derived names. The renaming of *The Grampians* in Victoria to *Gariwerd* (from the western Kulin language of the Mukjarawaint, Jardwadjali, and Djab Wurrung people) is a typical example. However, the Dhauwurd Wurrung language speakers called the mountains *Murraibuggum*, while Wathawurrung speakers used the name *Tolotmutgo*. Are these names for the same feature endonyms or exonyms? In respect to this question, the choice of the new name was therefore very contentious, with each nation making a claim for their endonym to be the new name.

The endonym/exonym terms have been, and are, extensively discussed among linguists and toponymists, as witnessed by the plethora of publications and websites dedicated to the topic. Most important, perhaps, is the debate that has been conducted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) since the early 2000s (See UNGEGN, 2006). This is a principal concern of the UN because the reduction and standardisation of the world's exonyms is needed in order to foster effective and unambiguous international communication (see: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/mandate/, https://ungegn.zrc-sazu.si/Home, and Jordan, Adamič & Woodman, 2007). The romanisation of exonyms is a major ingredient of this undertaking.

Endonyms and exonyms reflect political and historical contexts of places. Two recent examples include Ukraine's modification of the spelling and pronunciation of its capital's name from the Russian exonymic *Киев* ('Kiev') to the Ukrainian endonymic *Київ* ('Kyiv'). This was an overt and strong symbolic act of resistance to the Russian invasion of 2022. The second is the Turkish government's request in May 2022 to the UN and other international organisations to officially use the Turkish endonym *Türkiye* instead of the exonymic *Turkey* on English language maps (Wertheimer, 2022). In doing so, Türkiye has become one of the few countries whose

...Of endonyms and exonyms

endonym is used on international maps as its country name (see Figure 1).[4]

Figure 1. Google Maps

Some issues to consider for 'exonym' & 'endonym'

It is not uncommon for Indigenous speech communities to not have a name for their own region or indeed for a geographic feature (e.g. NZ, Tasmania), but to have exonyms for neighbouring or external communities. Take, for instance, the ancient Egyptians who named the Nile Valley (their home), *Kēmet* or *km.t* (⬛︎ ⊗), which meant 'the black (earth)', and *Ukraine*, which derives its name from the Old Slavonic *u-kraina,* 'in country' or 'my country'. And then there is the African nation of *Rwanda* which derives its name from the Kinyarwanda language word for 'land', which literally means 'the surface occupied by a swarm or scattering / a large space'. Our planet is another prime example. We call it *Earth,* which like the names just mentioned is nothing more than a common noun given the status of a proper name. *Earth* (meaning of course 'land, soil, dirt, ground', derives from ancient Greek ἔρα-, as in ἔραζε 'to earth, towards the earth') is exactly the same as the *Ukraine* and *Rwanda* cases. And just as all other peoples have names for neighbouring countries and regions, we have specific names for Earth's planetary neighbours—*Mars, Venus, Neptune,* etc. (even though these are relatively recent and learned coinages).

We must not forget the so-called pristine regions and features (i.e. former and currently uninhabited regions, and features such as islands, e.g. *Antarctica, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island, Heard Island, McDonald Islands*). Such places naturally had no endonyms, but may have had exonyms bestowed upon them by a variety of external speech communities, just as has happened with Antarctica. Once settlers and explorers arrived in these areas, they unsurprisingly started to bestow names on geographic features, and as they developed, on civic features. Do we count these as endonyms?

Then there are toponyms such as *Tom Groggin* (in the Kosciuszko National Park), which apparently derives from the Dhudhuroa language, *tomagarin* 'water spider'; this of course is not a toponym but became one. Should it be considered an endonym because the name was bestowed by the English-speaking community?

What if there is an Indigenous toponym for a feature but it has been corrupted by an occupying speech community and this corrupted name is now the toponym (i.e. Indigenous-derived), e.g. *Canberra* < Ngunnawal/ Ngarigo *kambarra / nganbirra*. Is it an exonym or endonym?

What about the copied name (from Māori) *Waitui* in northern NSW, discussed earlier in this issue? Did the place originally have a Birrbay name? If so, then is *Waitui* an exonym? if not, is it an endonym, even though it is a copy of a Māori toponym?

We can ask the same question of all copied placenames, *Perth, Newcastle,* etc. So, if we don't know the original name for a place, then any name bestowed upon it by the colonial powers must be considered an exonym, right? But how are we to know this? Can, for example, *Humula* in southern NSW (see Tent, 2014)— an Innovative name (7.2 Aptness) (see Blair & Tent, 2020)—be considered an endonym? Or the Sydney suburbs of *Belrose* or *French's Forest*?

In our discussion, we should also include the Indigenous-derived names occasionally appearing as alternatives to Australia's city names in some ABC television programs:

Cairns = *Gimuy*	Brisbane = *Meeangin*
Sydney = *Warrane*	Melbourne = *Naarm*
Hobart = *nipaluna*	Adelaide = *Tarntanya*
Perth = *Boorloo*	Broome = *Rubibi*
Darwin = *Gulumerrgden*	

None of these civic features existed before British colonisation, and therefore could not have been blessed with any Indigenous name. These names have been imposed on the map in recent times by non-Indigenous folk. Should these be considered endonyms, or exonyms?

...Endonyms and exonyms

We can ask a multitude of other questions regarding this issue. When does an exonym become an endonym? Does the romanisation of an Indigenous endonymic toponym turn it into an exonym, or is it still an endonym? So, as you can see, the issue is a vexed one. No wonder there is a special Working Group on Exonyms and Endonyms in UNGEGN.

Where does that leave us?

Many of these questions can only be answered depending upon your 'standpoint'. In other words, the point-of-view or standpoint of a speech community will determine whether a toponym is exonymic or endonymic. For example, *The Grampians* is an endonym for a speaker of the Australian English speech community who will see it as part of the Australia-wide naming system; *Gariwerd*, on the other hand, will be seen as an exonym because the speech community who use this name is considered outside that system. For someone in the Kulin speech community, the viewpoint is reversed—*Gariwerd* is the endonym whereas *The Grampians* is the exonym.

And this very example brings into focus David McDonald's query about the apparent intersection between the concepts of endonym/exonym and Indigenous/Indigenous-derrived.

Perhaps the following statement about the basic nature of the endonym/exonym contrast helps to clarify the issue and to remove some of the uncertainty about the possible answers to the questions posed above:

An endonym is *our* name for one of our places; an exonym is *their* name for one of our places.

And if we move our standpoint from our domestic context to an international one, we can see that the statement still applies. Endonyms are the names used within a culture for its own placenames; exonyms are those used for the same features by other cultures and languages.

Jan Tent

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A bilingual roadside mileage sign is shown along the Sea to Sky Highway in Squamish, British Columbia. The signs have been erected written in both English and the language of the Squamish and Lil'Wat First Nations bands who traditionally lived in the area between Vancouver and Whistler.

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[From CBC Radio-Canada]

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Endnotes

[1] *Exonym* was coined by the Australian geographer Marcel Aurousseau in *The Rendering of Geographical Names* (1957). *Endonym* was coined in the 1970s as retronymic antonym for *exonym*. Both terms are now often used to include the proper names for languages, ethnic groups, and denizens (aka demonyms).

[2] Wikipedia has a good general introduction to the terms, and includes many examples: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endonym_and_exonym, but see also: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jpRtgnNADk

[3] 'Exonym' does not apply to calques, literal word-for-word translations, e.g. *Mar Pacífico* (Portuguese/Spanish), *Stille Oceaan* (Dutch), *Stillehavet* (Danish), *an tAigéan Ciúin* (Irish), *y Môr Tawel* (Welsh) for *Pacific Ocean*. Also, the omission of diacritics generally does not turn an endonym into an exonym, e.g. *Sao Paulo < São Paulo*.

[4] For an interesting map showing the endonyms of the world see: Bethmallory (2020) 'Endonyms of the world'.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Endonyms_of_the_World.svg;
Wikimedia Commons https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0

Money Shoal

I have recently been entering data into the ANPS Database from P. P. King's journal.[1] Phillip Parker King (1791-1856), the son of Philip Gidley King, Governor of NSW from 1800 to 1806, was educated in England and joined the Royal Navy in 1802, being Commissioned a Lieutenant in 1814.[2] In 1817, he was assigned to survey that part of the Australian coast not already explored by Matthew Flinders.

Whilst cross-checking placenames in his journal against the Admiralty Chart BA 1044[3] which showed King's exploration (1819-21) with additions by Commanders Wickham and Stokes (1839), I came across **Money Shoal** on the chart, about 100 km north of Croker Island off the Northern Territory coast.

Money Shoal on the chart is followed by the date '1841', indicating it had been named subsequent to the surveys of both Commander King and Commanders Wickham and Stokes. As the chart shows no explorative surveys which might have passed by the shoal, I started looking elsewhere and finally came across a letter which appeared in a Melbourne newspaper in 1842, written by S. Green, the 'Late Commander of the ship *William Money*'.

> **The Money Shoal – Arafura Sea**. The following is an addition to the charts of this sea. – "Dean March, Bristol, Sept. 21, 1841 --Sir, --I take the liberty of sending you information of a coral shoal which I passed over in the ship *William Money*, on my late voyage from Sydney to India, by way of Torres Strait... the said shoal lies in 10 deg. 19 min. S. latitude, and 132 deg. 47 min. E. longitude, its extent about five miles, …"

I think we can draw the conclusion from this that Green, on his return to England in 1841, had informed the Admiralty of the location of the shoal and had recommended that it take the name of his vessel.

The Maritime Gazetteer of Australia confirms the existence and location of Money Shoal (MGA ID 9842) within the Arafura Marine Park, with the coordinates 10° 19.810 S, 132° 43.540 E.

Stuart Duncan

Endnotes

[1] King, P. P. (1825). *Narrative of a survey of the intertropical and western coasts of Australia: performed between the years 1818 and 1822.* London: John Murray. (https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks/11203)

[2] 'King, Phillip Parker (1791–1856)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 2. National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 1967. https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/king-phillip-parker-2310/.

[3] *Chart of the north coast of Australia. Sheet IV / by Phillip P. King, Commander R. N., 1819-21; with additions by Commanders Wickham and Stokes, 1839.* London: Hydrographical Office of the Admiralty, 16th May 1825, 1839. http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-233812164. The chart is recorded above as being first published by the Admiralty with later revision; in view of the '1841' annotation on the chart it is likely that the edition in the National Library was released in the mid- to late-1840s.

[4] Shipping Intelligence. *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser,* Monday 21 February 1842, p. 2.
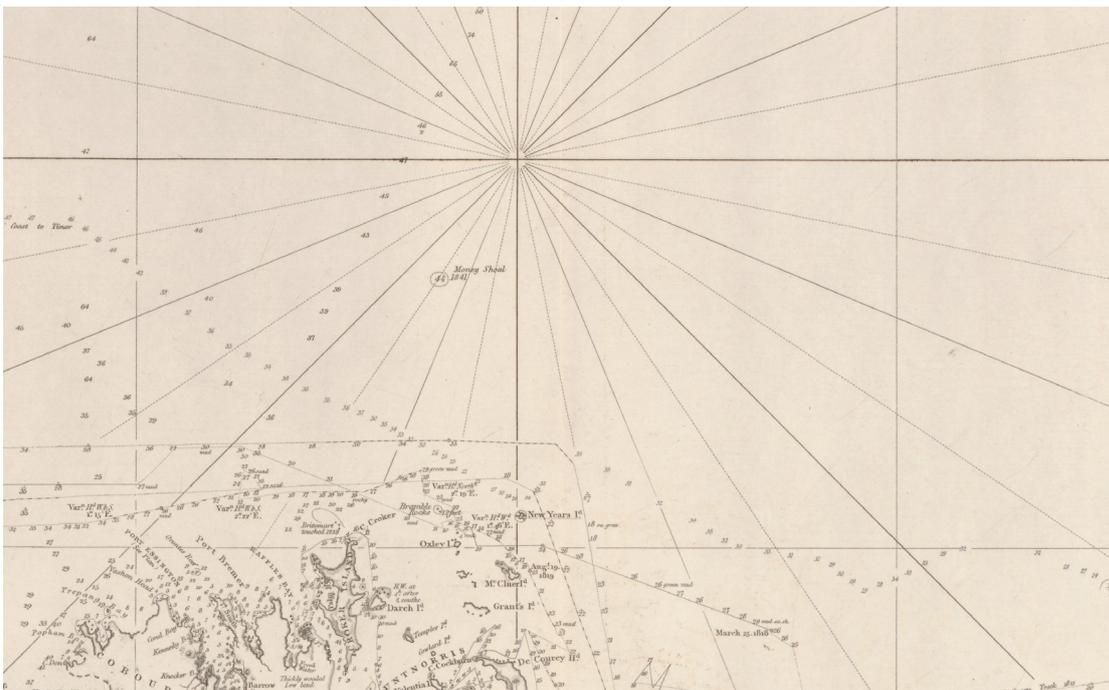
'Money Shoal' on Admiralty Chart BA 1044 [detail]

Ballengarra—Irish or Indigenous?...

Tony Dawson's *ANPS Occasional Paper 19*, featured in the December 2025 issue of *Placenames Australia*, is entitled 'Ballengarra—Irish or Indigenous?'. Tony concluded the paper by regretfully saying that 'no unequivocal answers have emerged'. The following observations may help to progress the investigation.

There are quite a few places in Australia with names similar to *Ballengarra*:

Belingra	QLD	Bolungerai	NSW	Bellinger Island	WA
Ballangarry	QLD	Bulingary	NSW	Bilingurr	WA
Balyngara Creek	NSW	Bellangry Park	NSW	Billingara	WA
Bellangry	NSW	Balingeru Creek	NT	Boilingarra Swamp	WA
Bellinger River	NSW	Boullanger Bay	TAS	Boullanger Island	WA
Belongery Gap	NSW	Balingarri Community	WA		

as well as various others.[1]

Here are some possibilities for an Indigenous source, taken from the Bayala databases.

	Australian	Respelt	English	EngJSM	Source
1	Bul´-lân ngoó-rij-jee	balan-[n]guri-dyi	from the woman	woman-from	M&E: GGA 1900 [:267:3.1] [Gga] [nsw] [1900]
2	bōlōngrō	balangaru	... a large snake ...	snake	Tkld KRE c.1835 [:140:11.1] [Kre] [nsw] [c.1835]
3	Bulungury	balanguri	To die	die	SofM 19120401 [p.251 Multiple] [:251:33.1] [Wira] [nsw] [1912]
4	balingora	balingura	Thigh	thigh	Curr 3 #188 Miller [3:357.1:10] [Wnra] [nsw] [1887]
4.2	bulonkoro	bulanGuru	thigh	thigh	Schmidt, P.W.: NORTH [:115.5:19] [Awa/Kgai?] [nsw] [1919]
5	bullinguringu	balinguringu	Belly	belly	Mathews NRGU 1908 [:337:24] [Nrgu] [nsw] [1908]
6	Bil´-lung-ree	bilangari	the black oak tree	oak black	Enright GDG 1900 [:110:28] [Gdg] [nsw] [1900]
7	[bul´lar-ngoo-ra]	bula-ngura	[wilt sit down thou middle-at woman-two]	two-in company with	M&E: GGA 1900 [:267:20.24] [Gga] [nsw] [1900]
8	Bulloongoor	bulangur	(twins)	twin	SofM 19090600 [p.40 Anon] [:40.1:21] [Wira] [] [1909]

The locations of the words above are given in the *Source* column:

Gga: Gundungarra (Blue Mtns Sydney region)
Kre: Karree (Lake Macquarie)
Wira: Wiradhuri (central inland NSW)
Wnra: Wonnarua (central coast)

Awa: Awabakal (Lake Macquarie)
Kgai: Ku-ring-gai (Sydney)
Nrgu: Ngarigu (south coast NSW)
Gdg: Kattang (central coast)

Given that Ballengarra, the subject of the paper, is in the Port Macquarie coastal region of northern NSW, a number of the rows in the table above might be eliminated from consideration, such as rows 3, 5 and 8 (Wira and Nrgu), and probably 1 and 7 (Gga). That would leave the four remaining rows in the table overleaf.

...*Ballengarra*

Australian	Respelt	Source	English
bōlōngrō	balangaru	Karree	snake
balingora	balingura	Wonnarua	thigh
bulonkoro	bulanGuru	Awakabal/Ku-ring-gai?	thigh
Bil´-lung-ree	bilangari	Kattaang	oak black

A place name based on a body part, 'thigh' seems unlikely, which leaves just 'snake' and 'oak'.

On the approximate language area map alongside, Port Macquarie is shown in the middle of these remaining language areas, and about equally close to Kattang (Gadang) and Awabakal (Hunter River–Lake Macquarie).

So based on these findings, if *Ballengarra* should be an Indigenous word, which seems likely, it might mean either 'snake' or 'black oak'.

Jeremy Steele
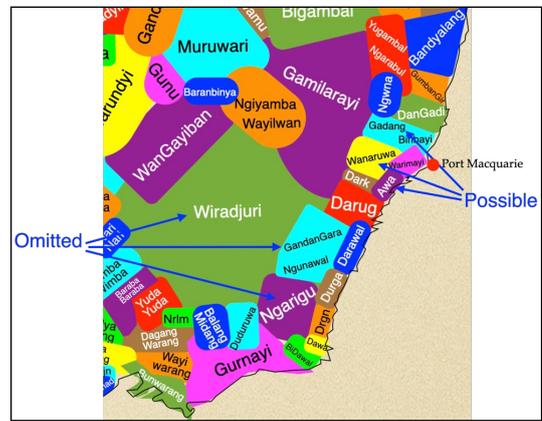
Endnote

[1] Source: *Gazetteer of Australia*: https://researchdata.edu.au/gazetteer-australia-2010-release/3420744

Mount Willieray

In my article 'The elusive Mount Willieray' in last September's issue of *Placenames Australia*, I mentioned that the Northern Territory Place Names Register entry for *Mount Willieray* said:

> Research indicates no person who worked on the line was named Willieray. The name could be a cojoin of 2 names Willie and Ray. Only research of the journals of the construction and survey teams will determine the source and origin of the name.

Fellow researcher David Nash has since advised that Alfred Giles on the 2nd last page of his book *Exploring in the 'Seventies,*[1] published around 1926, wrote:

> In 1870 Mr. Ray Parkin Boucaut left Adelaide with a party to join the telegraph construction parties on the far northern and tropical sections. When leaving Adelaide he purchased a bottle of Hennessey's brandy for medicinal purposes. This he carried rolled up in his swag, continuously jolted about on packhorses, wagons, and buggies. Marooned on Maria Island, and back to Adelaide on the Omeo, but never uncorked. On arrival at his home in Adelaide Mr. Boucaut decided not to open the bottle until his eldest son became of age, but, when this date was reached, his son determined it should not be uncorked until such time as he might have a son become of age, and, sure enough, this came to pass in due course, and still that bottle remains tightly corked and never opened, and is still in possession of the first named eldest son, Mr. Willie Ray Boucaut, of Glenelg.

Close inspection of the actual image of the W. A. Crowder diary reveals that *Mt Willieray*, rather than *Mt Witheray,* is the correct transcription; so Crowder's text ('which Ringwood has called *Mt Willieray*, one of Alfred Giles names') indicates that Mount Willieray was probably named by Alfred Giles and recorded by Ringwood.

The *Biographical Index of South Australia* confirms that Ray Parkin Boucaut's first-born son was named Wm Ray Boucaut (c.1865-1953); and the Register entries[2] for Boucaut Crescent (Darwin) and Boucaut Street (Alice Springs) indicate that Ray P. Boucaut, as part of his role during the construction of the Overland Telegraph line, was continuously travelling its length.

So it seems to be confirmed that **Mount Willieray** was named after William (Willie) Ray Boucaut by Alfred Giles around 1872.

Stuart Duncan

Endnotes

[1] See *Exploring in the 'seventies and the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line, by Alfred Giles.* Digital copy on Trove: https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-211081884/view?partId=nla.obj-211101579#page/n0/mode/1up

[2] Entries from the NT Place Names Register -
Boucaut Crescent: https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/placenames/view.jsp?id=5346
Boucaut St: https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/placenames/view.jsp?id=5345

Placenames Puzzle Number 97

Red and yellow. *Red and yellow are the colours contained in the names of places in this issue's quiz. For example:* (QLD) A marine rock in the Lindeman Islands. Answer: *Yellow Rock*

1. (NT) A billabong in Kakadu National Park
2. (VIC) A small bay in Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, near Lakes Entrance
3. (NSW) A small headland south of Newcastle
4. (WA) A beach on the western shore of Port Musgrave
5. (NSW) A precipice just north of Gerringong, on the South Coast
6. (TAS) A headland and precipice on the eats coast of Bruny Island
7. (NSW) A suburb directly south of Albion Park, south of Lake Illawarra
8. (TAS) A swamp west of the Tamar River
9. (TAS) The oldest surviving brick arch bridge in Australia, built in 1838 using convict labour, crosses the Elizabeth River at Campbell Town.
10. (TAS) A point on the east coast of Flinders Island
11. (WA) A cliff at the northern tip of Kalbarri National Park
12. (WA) A point on the southern tip of a peninsula in Macquarie Harbour (Strahan)
13. (QLD) A waterfall in the Lamington national Park, on the NSW-QLD border
14. (NSW) A Rock on Merimbula Point
15. (TAS) A beach on the east coast of Hunter Island
16. (NSW) A hamlet on the Corindi River, north of Woolgoolga
17. (QLD) A location on the tip of Moreton Island
18. (TAS) A sand bank on the north shore of the spit separating Moulting Lagoon and Great Oyster Bay
19. (NSW) A precipitous point, just north of Brooms Head
20. (WA) An islet to the east of Esperance

[Compiled by **Jan Tent**]

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