

Placenames Australia

Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey

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The ephemeral *Alexandra Land*

Before the current designations and names of Australia's states and territories became official, there were a number of suggestions that really never saw the light of day, or were fleetingly ephemeral. One such was *Alexandra Land*. It was proposed by the explorer John McDouall Stuart, after whom the 2,834 km highway that runs from Darwin to Port Augusta was named.

Stuart had successfully traversed central Australia from Adelaide to the Arafura Sea in 1862. His expedition mapped out the route which was later followed by the Australian Overland Telegraph Line. The following year, the Northern Territory was annexed by South Australia. Stuart proposed to call the newly explored region after Princess Alexandra of Denmark, who became Princess of Wales (1863-1901) (when she married Albert Edward, Prince of Wales and heir apparent of Queen Victoria) and Queen consort (1901-1910). In a letter Stuart declares: '[...] that in exercise of the usual right of explorers [I] have named the portion of the continent of Australia recently discovered... Alexandra Land, in honour of the Princess of Wales.' (Manning [n.d.]). Moreover, the 'Advertisement to the Second Edition' of Stuart's journal states:

Since the first edition of this work was published Mr. Stuart has arrived in England, and at a recent meeting of the Geographical Society he announced that, taking advantage of his privilege as a discoverer, he had christened the rich tract of country which he has opened up to the South Australians Alexandra Land.

December 1st, 1864.



Detail of John Sands [1886]. Australia. Sydney: J. Sands. Nat. Lib. of Australia, MAP RaA 25 Plate 3, <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231051974/view>

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From the Editor



We've majored in old northern history in this issue, it seems: Jan Tent has taken us to Arnhem Land and the short-lived Alexandra Land, and Stuart Duncan has taken us to a mountain named (or maybe not) Mt Willieray. Further south, there's microtoponyms in the Darling Downs, and a Sydney name which may be either Scottish or Aboriginal.

Occasionally we like to surprise you with a bit of innovation: this month we have a Literary Page. Yes, it's a poem about placenames; and no, it's not Lucky Starr's *I've been everywhere, man*—see page 6 for Geoff Phillips' ode to toponymy.

On a more prosaic note: we've at last joined the modern world of payments—Supporting Members can now use our card payment facility. Details on the back page. *David Blair*
<editor@anps.org.au>

Cullerin—anybody?

Our correspondent Geoff Minett has asked if ANPS knows how his birthplace got its name. **Cullerin**, then just a railway siding, is a locality between Gunning and Goulburn, NSW. We had to tell Geoff that, apart from the fact that the original spelling had been *Cullarin*, we knew nothing!

We enjoyed reading Geoff's recollection of events, and the story has a nice onomastic twist. Geoff's father was a railway employee at Cullerin, but was refused leave to take his wife to hospital for the birth; so his mother caught a train to Goulburn and walked the final 2 miles to the hospital. There was much excitement at the fettlers' camp when mother and baby returned: the tent 'next door' had a family with three little girls who delighted in baby Geoff. They made up a little ditty as they played: *Geoffrey Lynn from Cullerin with his nose pushed in...*

We asked Geoff where his middle name came from. From the ditty, he replied—the girls made it up, just because it rhymed with Cullerin. And Mum and Dad liked it so much, they named him Geoffrey Lynn. Anyway—we (and Geoff) would like to hear from any of our readers who know how **Cullerin/Cullarin** got its name.

For the record

Yeo Yeo Creek (June 2025, p. 1)

The ANPS Database now has two entries for Yeo Yeo Creek, since it has become clear that we are dealing with two toponyms.

Yeo Yeo Creek (ANPS 464418) is an old variant of *Manna Creek*, a watercourse about 11 km long which rises at Lake Cowal in the NSW LGA of Lachlan. *Yeo Yeo Creek (ANPS 80970)* is a variant of *Bland Creek*, a stream which rises about 6 km NW of Frampton, flowing about 110 km into Lake Cowal.

Puzzle answers - (from page 12)

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Kurrajong | 6. Wattle Grove | 11. Willow Tree | 16. Coolabah |
| 2. Palm Beach | 7. The Oaks | 12. Pencil Pine Bluff | 17. Mount Grevillea |
| 3. Cabbage Tree Bay | 8. Fern Tree Gully | 13. Lemon Tree Passage | 18. Cedar Party |
| 4. Casuarina | 9. Fig Tree | 14. T-Tree | 19. Melaleuca |
| 5. Red Gum Swamp | 10. Mount Quandong | 15. Banksia Grove | 20. Hawthorn |

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Stuart also named a parrot after the princess, *Polytelis alexandrae* ('Princess Parrot', 'Princess Alexandra's Parrot', 'Gould princess parrot', 'Alexandra's Parrot', 'Pilpul').

The name *Alexandra Land* was gazetted in 1865 and designated the portion of the territory between 16°S and 22°S (see map). Although it appeared on several maps and in some publications, from 1863 to 1908, the area was officially known as the Northern Territory of South Australia.

A rather scathing editorial on the naming of Alexandra Land, expressing quite an enlightened point of view for the times (apart from the presumption of *terra nullius* and the somewhat cynical Gallophobic comment, but these are hardly surprising), appeared in the *South Australian Register* of 2 May, 1865. I quote it here in full because it offers quite a rare insight into place-naming attitudes in the Colony at the time, and makes for very interesting reading.

"ALEXANDRA LAND."

The evils which godfathers and godmothers sometimes inflict upon helpless infants—a subject ably touched upon in "Tristram Shandy"—are not greater than those which discoverers of new countries very often impose upon unfortunate communities. Mr. J.M. Stuart, in exercise of a privilege generally conceded to successful explorers, has bestowed the awkward name of "Alexandra Land" on the central portion of the vast territory lately added to this colony. Her Majesty's subjects are therefore informed by official notice that such is the name which henceforth belongs to Central Australia. Mr. Stuart has desired it, and the Secretary of State will take the first opportunity of recording it in Acts of Parliament.

However, we must be thankful that it is no worse. The name might have been geographically absurd, like that of our own colony, or it might have extended over the whole of the country discovered by Mr. Stuart, in which case it would have been brought into immediate use by the settlers at Palmerston. But as matters stand "Alexandra Land" applies only to the country lying between the latitudes of 26° south and 16° south—a country which probably will never be inhabited, for it consists of the inhospitable region situate between the boundary of South Australia and the Victoria River.

At the same time settlers in new countries ought not to be exposed to the danger, of being made ridiculous by fanciful designations invented in England. Once get a bad name and there is no escaping from it. See our own case, for instance. A member of Parliament has lately suggested that the Constitution shall be amended, if only for the purpose of correcting the blunder which has been perpetrated by giving this colony a name which geographically belongs to another, and which misdescribes our position on the map of the world. But the process of rebaptism is not easy. Besides, people laugh at communities changing their names as they do when John Thomas Bugg advertises in the Times that he is about to become Augustus Fitzwilliam Clifford.

The world is apt to think, too, that you have done something wrong, and that you want moral purification—as might have been the case with Van Diemen's Land when she threw off the slough of transportation, and came forth as the free colony of Tasmania. Such changes, it is true, are easy enough in French colonies, for they take new names every time there is a change of dynasty in the mother-country. The fortunes of war decide the matter with them; they follow the Bourbons, the Orleanists, or the Bonapartes, just as circumstances may require.

In our own case it was not from want of a sturdy remonstrant that the infant colony was christened "South Australia." Dr. Lang, who wrote a book in 1847 to prove that "Cookslane" ought to be the name given to the colony now called Queensland—a book written in vain—took occasion at the same time to show that he was in London when South Australia was about to be established; that he saw the projectors, and proposed 'Williamsland' as the proper name for the colony; that the projectors were stubborn, and that they persisted in calling the child South Australia. This, he says, "was as absurd a name for a colony in any such locality as if the British colony of Demerara had been called South America, or the Island of Ireland West Europe. It was neither distinctive nor appropriate, as every proper name ought to be; not distinctive, because it applies equally to any part of the extensive coast-line from Cape Howe, the south-eastern, to Cape Leuwin [sic], the south-western extremity of the Australian land—a distance of not less than 2,000 miles; not appropriate, because a large portion of the neighbouring province of Port Phillip to the eastward is considerably further south than any part of what is now called by authority South Australia." The Doctor then roundly abuses the projectors, the Secretary of State, and the two Houses of Parliament. His language is not complimentary. Still, circumstances have justified his opinion that South Australia was a bad name for the young colony.

It is a pity there is no right of patent to a useful name when it has been adopted. "Alexandra," by itself is a good word; but in a few years it will probably be found in all parts of the globe, as "Victoria" now is. Everything depends upon the chapter of accidents as to what name a country will get, or how long its undisturbed possession will continue. The sailors who first touched at Lord Auckland's Island called it "Wapping," and probably if a settlement had taken place the colonists would have been proud of the name.

On the whole, then, Mr. Stuart has not done badly. Thanks to his loyalty, we have at least escaped the danger of having the greater part of the continent dedicated to either the Smiths, the Browns, or the Joneses.

Jan Tent

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The curious van Dijk map...

The National Library of Australia holds in its map collection a little-known and rather unconventional map. The map originates from a turgid and densely written book by an equally turgidly named Ludovicus Carolus Desiderius van Dijk (1824-1860), a nineteenth century Dutch historian. His book was published in 1859 and bears the title: *Mededelingen van het Oost-Indisch Archief No.1. Twee*

toigten naar de Golf van Carpentaria, J. Carstensz. 1623, J.E. Gonzal 1756, benevens iets over den togt van G. Pool en Pieter Pietersz. [‘Communications from the East India Archive No.1. Two voyages to the Gulf of Carpentaria, J. Carstensz. 1623, J.E. Gonzal 1756, thereunto something little about the voyage of G. Pool and Pieter Pietersz.']. The map (**Fig. 1.**) is found at the end of the book, and depicts the east and west coasts of the Gulf of Carpentaria, the northern end of the Northern Territory, Torres Strait, and part of New Guinea, Seram

and surrounding islands. It also shows the locations called at and named (some with dates) by a number of Dutch explorers. The map was printed by Carl Wilhelm Mieling, a well-known nineteenth century lithographic printer and publisher in The Hague.

The most curious features of the map are:

- its ostensive title: *Golf van Carpentaria of liever Pera's Golf* ['Gulf of Carpentaria or preferably Pera's Gulf'], which appears in the gulf itself
- the west coast region of Cape York Peninsula which had been known from at least 1644 as *Carpentaria*, is labelled *Carstensz. Land*

- the question *Waarom?* ['Why?'] after the toponyms: *Arnhemsland* ['Arnhem's Land'], *Wezel of Wesseleiland* ['Wezel or Wessel Island'], *Arnhem's baai* ['Arnhem's Bay'], and *Kp. Arnhem* ['Cape Arnhem']

Explanations for some of these curiosities are found in van Dijk's introduction, where he provides a *raison d'être* for the book, as well as for the stance he assumes. He declares

that Carstenszoon is a largely forgotten figure in the annals of Dutch exploration of the Great Southland and that he has been misrepresented. Van Dijk bemoans the fact that many of the toponyms bestowed by Carstenszoon (in addition to those of other Dutch explorers) had arbitrarily and unjustifiably been replaced on maps by the British.

Furthermore, he complains that various toponyms bestowed by the Dutch, still surviving on contemporary maps, were inaccurately located. These injustices and

inaccuracies needed to be rectified according to van Dijk; hence his book and the publication of Carstenszoon's journal within it. However, van Dijk goes further than just wanting to set the historical facts straight: he allows his own prejudices to overshadow the facts as he saw them at the time of compiling his book.

For instance, the title of van Dijk's map emphasises his belief that Carstenszoon should have the honour of having *Carpentaria* named after him, and the gulf named after the ship he sailed in (the *Pera*), not after Pieter de Carpentier (then Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies). Van Dijk's inclusion of the adverb *liever*



Figure 1. van Dijk (1859) *Golf van Carpentaria of liever Pera's Golf*. Koninkl. lith. v. C.W. Mieling te 's-Gravenhage. Nat. Lib. of Australia, MAP RM 816. [<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231314481/>]

...of the Gulf of Carpentaria

['preferably; rather'] is unusual. If a place has alternative names or was known by a previous name, it is normal practice just to use the conjunction *or* (in the case of Dutch, *of*). The job of an historian or cartographer is to be objective and not to express his or her own predispositions on the merits of the name(s) of a place.

In addition, van Dijk is undoubtedly showing his displeasure with the naming of *Arnhem Land*, even though it was first charted by van Coolsteerdt in the *Arnhem* (the second ship of the Carstenszoon expedition); and his addition of the question *Waarom?* ['Why?'] after the toponym, like the adverb *liever*, is unconventional, if not somewhat comical. He maintains the name *Arnhem* does not deserve to be conferred upon any places on the map because, he argues, no record of van Coolsteerdt's journal exists, and as a result questions his so-called discoveries. Furthermore, van Dijk is of the belief that van Coolsteerdt does not deserve recognition because he showed little appetite to continue the voyage, and absconded from it without prior warning to Carstenszoon. Van Dijk's scepticism regarding van Coolsteerdt's discoveries is unfounded given the cartographic and ample documentary evidence available to van Dijk at the time proving van Coolsteerdt's discoveries (e.g. see Leupe, 1868).

Apart from questioning various contemporary toponymic labels applied to particular geographic features, van Dijk adds the interrogative *Waarom?* ['Why?'] after *Wezel of Wesseleiland* ['Wezel or Wessel Island']. He acknowledges that Pieterszoon in 1636 explored the west and central coast of what is indicated as VAN DIEMANSLAND on his map, and correctly points out that Pieterszoon did not venture as far to the east as *Wezel of Wesseleiland*. In addition, on page 28 of his 53 page narrative and commentary, van Dijk refers to the island *Adi of Wezelseiland* ['Adi or Wezels Island'] off the coast of Bomberai Peninsula (in today's West Papua), named by Pool and Pieterszoon. In a footnote, he proposes:

On the maps of Bogaerts, Stieler and others there is a Wessel-island (on Bogaerts even two), near the so-called Arnhems Land. Would not this be a mistake? Probably the island discovered by Pool is meant.

Van Dijk is incorrect in his assertion that the Bogaerts map (1857) shows two Wessel islands; it actually shows *Wessel Eilanden* ['Wessel Islands'], a *Kp. Wessel* ['Cape

Wessel'], off the north-eastern coast of Arnhem Land, and labels either current Raragala Island or Elcho Island as *Wessel Eil.* No other *Wessel Eil.* can be discerned on this map, and Pulau Adi is denoted as *Adie*, not as *Wessel Eil.* Stieler's map (1826), on the other hand, inaccurately shows a series of tiny islands approximately at the location of the current Wessel Islands and labels them with a plural generic *Wessel Iⁿ*. The last sentence of van Dijk's footnote refers to the *Adi of Wezelseiland* on his map. In an oblique way, van Dijk is correct to suggest the Arnhem Land *Wessel Eilanden* were confused with the Bomberai Peninsula *Wesel(s) Eiland*. Cartographically, over time, there had been some confusion as to where it was located, and this ultimately led Flinders to confer the name to the islands off Arnhem Land (see Tent, 2019, for a full examination of this confusion). His footnote seems to imply that Bogaerts and Stieler made the mistake and designated the name to the islands, when they were merely adhering to Flinders' naming and charting. From this standpoint, Flinders' journal entries of 19 February and 6 March, 1803 (Flinders, 1814, pp. 234, 246), explaining the naming of the islands, more than adequately answer van Dijk's question, *Waarom?*

It is likely van Dijk did not have access to Flinders' journal, otherwise he would not have questioned the naming of the Wessel Islands in this way. The only mention he makes of Flinders is via a secondary source to the existence of Torres Strait. If van Dijk had read Flinders' journal he would have understood why this island chain bears this name. Besides, by the mid-1800s, all Dutch maps depicting northern Australia recognise the *Wessel Islands*.

Van Dijk's questioning of the naming of *Cape Arnhem* and *Arnhem Bay* may also be directly answered by Flinders' journal entries of 11 February and 5 March, 1803 (pp. 220, 244). The two geographic features did not have any new names attached to them, but Flinders was enlightened enough to give them names related to the Dutch naming of the region.

Jan Tent

*This is **Part 1** of an abridged version of Tent (2020). Part 2 will appear in our next issue.*

references continued next page

Beacons on a Map

If you want to make a bluestone axe,
Go to Undarra, Uridalla or Ulladulla
Where the flint stones fly
And sit nice and dry
In a pleasant basalt cave
Near Bundoora and Bundara
To dream of Bunda people
And the dances that they made

But when there is a “High in the Bite”
And the big sou’easters roar
Past Perambulla and Merrimbulla
The spanish mackerel shoals by the score
Past the Coolangatta’s
One in either state
Offshore from the Barrattas
To meet a northern winter mate

Yet on the rocky river beds of
Burrabogie, Burrum Heads and Burrumbuttock
The mullet run in schools
To the sandy mouth of Currumbin and Currumban
Around the peninsulas at Metung and Meanjin
Away from the watery flats of Bing Bong and Bung Bong

Still further up the range
Between the mountains at Ghin Ghin and Gin Gin
You can see the coastal plain
From Toowoomba and Twimba

And lower down the hillsides of Towong, Tawonga and
Toowong
While inland the westerly waters run
From Kuranda, Cowra and Cooma
The long way to the sea.

Before the outback sears your mind
At Menindee and Meningie
The quiet shallow lakes
Atop and bottom, of the Murray Darling drain.
Along the bendy river you call the Murrumbidgee
There are places like Murrumbool, Murrumburrah and
Murrumbena

So pick the bend that suits you at Arramong, Durrangong,
Billabong, Bogolong, Mogongong, Bungalong,
Tyagong and Gooloogong
Before relaxing on the watery stretches of Corryong and
Koetong

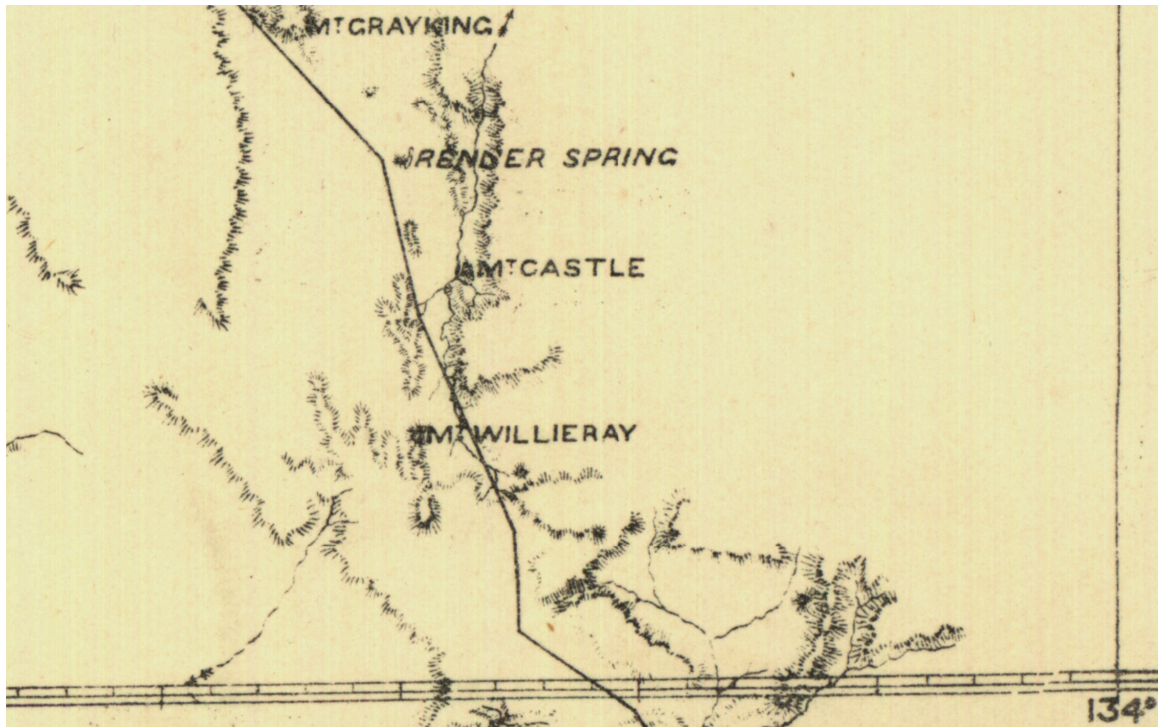
Or could you prefer
A mountain forest fair?
At Mongarlowe, Bungalow or Buckendore
And the open pines of Kallangur and Kalingur
And if you seek meaning in this mish mash of words
Stand with me atop
A place in the world
Where the crisp air holds you

Geoff Phillips

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The elusive Mount Willieray



Ringwood's map of the Overland Telegraph Line 1873 [extract]. <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/C+1093/2>

The Northern Territory Place Names Register has a hill in the vicinity of Tomkinson Creek, between Tennant Creek and Renner Springs, named *Mount Willieray*.¹ The Register tells us that:

Mount Willieray appears to have been named during the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line in 1873, as the name appears on Ringwood's plan of the line signed by Charles Todd.

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.

However, when I was entering placenames information mentioned in John McDouall Stuart's journal² into the ANPS Database, I came across Stuart's naming of Mount Primrose in the same vicinity of Tomkinson Creek, but no mention of the name in the NT Register. Stuart had written:

Monday, 29th April, [1861] Tomkinson Creek. Had a late start this morning in consequence of my having to take a lunar observation. Started at 10.30 a.m. At 2.10 p.m. reached the top of a high hill; from this we could see a gum creek. Started at 2.30 to examine it; found water, and camped at 4. I have named the hill Mount Primrose, after John Primrose, Esquire, of North Adelaide.

As the NT Register mentions the need to check journals of members of the Overland Telegraph Line, I went looking at various journals and came across the *Diary of*

W. A. Crowder,³ which states:

Friday 28 June [1872] Fine. Mr King little better, but did not go to work, but he brought us our dinner. Giles & our camp shifted on to water in creek about 4½ miles on, past the red cliff hill, close to a Mount we found the other day, & which Ringwood has called Mt Witheray, one of Alfred Giles names.

The spelling of *Willieray* and *Witheray* are so similar that one could be a misrepresentation of the other.

As Alfred Giles was very prominent in the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line and afterwards in Northern Territory pastoral industry, I searched for any mention of Giles' nicknames or other names, but found nothing.

Based on the location of Mount Willieray as depicted in the NT Atlas in its reference to Tomkinson Creek, I believe both Mount Primrose and Mount Willieray / Witheray could well be names for the same hill.

Stuart Duncan

Endnotes

¹ <https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/placenames/view.jsp?id=15879>

² *Explorations in Australia, The Journals of John McDouall Stuart, during the years 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, & 1862, when he fixed The Centre Of The Continent And Successfully Crossed it from Sea To Sea*, Edited by William Hardman, 1865

³ State Library of South Australia: D 8065/1(L) *Diary of W.A. Crowder* transcribed and researched by volunteers at the State Library of South Australia in 2007

Way back in the September 2005 edition of *Placenames Australia*, I wrote about micro-toponymy on 'Bon Accord', a property on Queensland's Darling Downs established in the 1870s. In that article I was able to use early documentation such as a 1930s map of the privately-owned station. But recently I came upon a record of some much earlier placenaming on a similar rural property: 'Cressbrook' station, 90 miles to the north-west of Brisbane. David McConnel took up the lease of 240 square miles on 15 July 1841. He named the property *Cressbrook* after his elder brother's family farm in Derbyshire. He also named Cressbrook Creek. Today the Cressbrook name in the district is retained in the Queensland Government records as a Locality, a Creek, a Lake and a Parish. McConnel returned to England, married Mary McLeod of Edinburgh on 25 April 1847 and travelled again to Queensland on the *Chaseley* in May 1849. The McConnells established a house in Brisbane where the suburb of Bulimba now stands, and spent long periods at 'Cressbrook'.

It is with thanks to David McConnel's wife, Mary, that much is known about life on 'Cressbrook' station. Her short memoir, 'Memories of days long gone by', written in 1905 when she was a very old lady, is available on Trove. With the discomforts of a new colony, accidents, illness and perilous voyages to and from England including a shipwreck, it is a wonder that she lived into her eighties.

Below is an edited version of the chapter dealing with placenaming on 'Cressbrook' in the early days of settlement. The placenames on the 1930s map of 'Bon Accord' were nearly all paddock names, established to facilitate life on a working station. The names on 'Cressbrook' station listed below by Mary McConnel are quite different, due perhaps to the much earlier period of development, limited infrastructure and of course the perspective of the owner's wife. Mostly features in the landscape are listed, and they record happy events. Life could be difficult for a young mother on the isolated property and such times, it seems, were worth recording. None of the names mentioned below are now included in official government lists, but it would be interesting to know if any of them are still known in the district.

Dale Lehner

INCIDENTS RELATING TO PLACE NAMES ON CRESSBROOK

I must devote a chapter to an account of certain incidents that occurred at Cressbrook long years ago, which no one can tell of but myself, and I wish them to be remembered by my children and grandchildren, to whom alone they will be interesting.

BRUMMY'S WATERHOLE

In 1850, my husband and I with our baby son, who was born in April of that year, went on a visit of some months to Cressbrook. I had no bath there for him, and to my surprise one of the men brought me a pretty bathtub, oval, painted blue outside, and white inside. Later he brought a little table and chair for my son and a footstool for me. I thanked him much for his kind thought; he had made it all himself. He came from Birmingham and the men dubbed him 'Brummy'. The hawkers travelling from station to station with their wares slyly bought kegs of rum, and poor Brummy at such times got very drunk; wishing to avoid the snare he built himself a bark hut close to a deep waterhole; it was beautiful clear water, and no drought ever reduced its quantity. Moreover, it was a very pretty spot, about a mile from head station. It became known as 'Brummy's Waterhole'.

MAGGIE'S DELIGHT

Once on our return voyage from England we took charge of a young girl returning from school, the daughter of a friend, Mr. George Raff. She came to pay us a visit. About three miles from the house there was a beautiful spot by clear running water, there we picnicked one day. Our young friend was simply enchanted with the beauty of the place, in memory of her visit we named it 'Maggie's Delight', and so it is still called.

MRS. BARNEYS ROCKS

Once a dear old friend came on a visit, she was very delicate and very frail – the widow of Captain Barney – she had ridden much in her youth, and said to my husband that she would dearly like to have one more ride. My husband selected a quiet easy horse. Mrs. Barney put on my riding skirt and away they went. They went some little distance across the river, ascended by a bridle-track a rocky hill from which there was a fine view, then they turned homewards. In remembrance of this we called the place 'Mrs. Barney's Rocks'.

...on 'Cressbrook' station

DAYSPRING

Again, my earliest friend in the Colony – Madge Buttenshaw – came to visit us with her husband, Mr. W. H. Day. We had a long picnic-ride one day, a very stiff one, right among the hills. At the top of one was a fresh gurgling stream of water, surrounded by beautiful native plants and wild fruits. Our visitor admired it much, and we there and then called it 'Dayspring', and that is its name now.

THE TWA JEANIES

During the Christmas holidays we usually had a number of young people staying with us. One year we had two young girls, Scotch, among others, called Jeanie. On one of our riding excursions we halted to picnic by two conical hills, very similar to each other; it was a very happy day, and to commemorate it we named the hills after our two young friends, 'The twa Jeanies', and they have never lost their name.

BESSIE'S NOOK

Another time when we had visitors from Brisbane with us, we asked the Mt Brisbane party to join us in a picnic down the river, half way between their station and ours. First we bathed, the gentlemen riding a mile lower down to do the same. After lunch we played at 'Aunt Sally',

then we had songs and a good deal of chaffing. Mrs. Bigge was the life of the party, and we called the place after her, 'Bessie's Nook'. It's a pretty spot by the river and still bears her name.

THE K.C.B. TREE

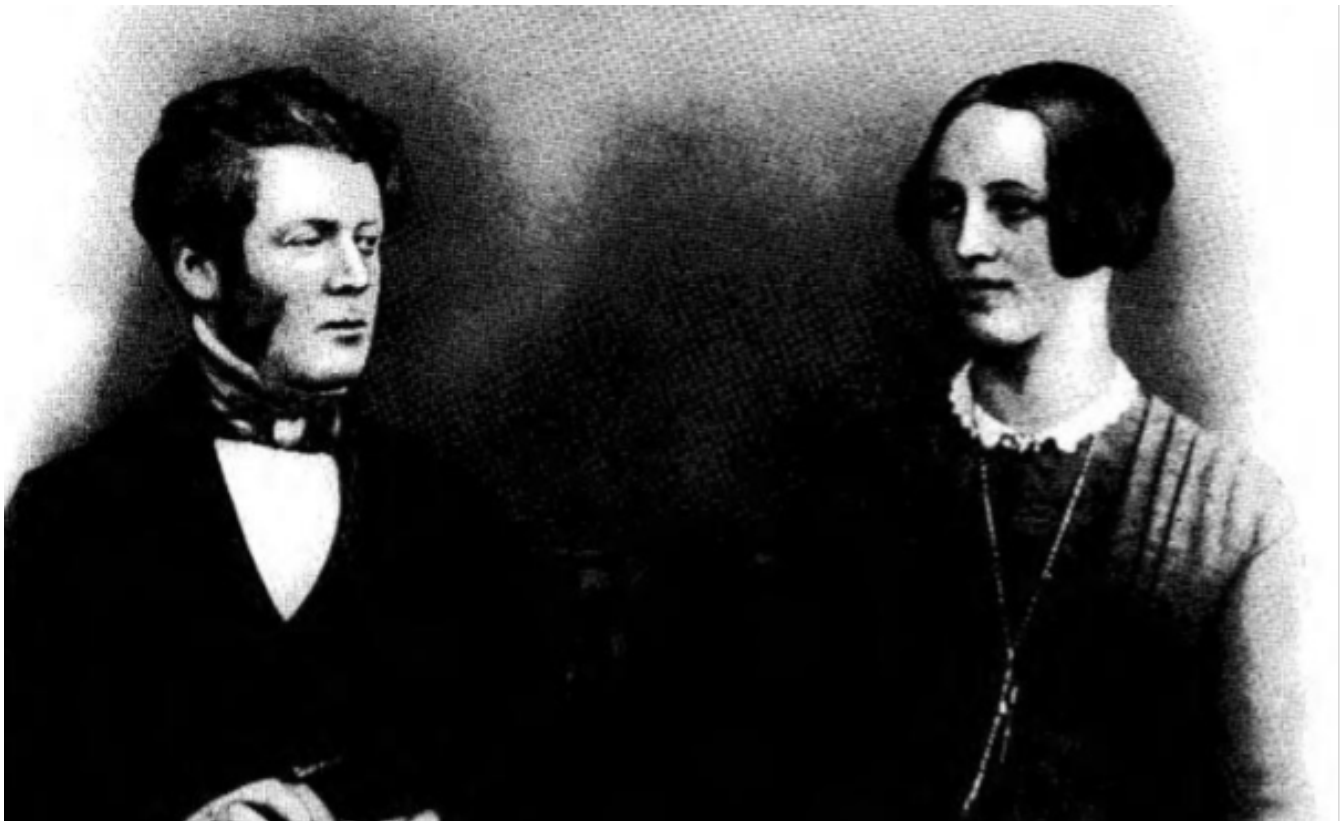
Another time the three stations, Kilcoy, Cressbrook and Mt Brisbane all gathered by a large tree, at a point where these three stations touched each other. We were a merry luncheon-party, and before leaving gave the place the appropriate name of 'The K.C.B. Tree', so it is now, although it no longer forms a boundary.

MISS McLEISH'S WATERHOLE

One more remains to be accounted for. We had a governess – Miss McLeish – she was fond of riding alone. She had one favourite ride – about four miles. I suppose one day she went exploring and lost herself. We found her by a waterhole in which wild ducks were swimming. She got a good deal teased on her return, and ever since the waterhole is called by her name.

Mary McConnel, *Memories of days long gone by. By the wife of an Australian Pioneer*. 1905, pp. 53-55

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-52767712/view?partId=nla.obj-87876875#page/n38/mode/1up>



David and Mary McConnel

The meaning of...

Your Amateur Researcher (YAR) happened to go to **Glenorie** recently, a rural suburb in the northwest of Sydney. On the way he wondered about the name. Was it Aboriginal? It looked more Scottish. On arrival he had the chance to consult Google. This is what came up:

The name Glenorie, a suburb in Sydney's northwest, has two possible origins. One suggests it's an Aboriginal name meaning "much water," while another proposes it's named after a town in Scotland. The name was officially adopted in 1894, after being suggested by a local resident along with another name, Hazeldore, which was rejected.

Wikipedia said much the same, including:

At a meeting in December after an 'animated discussion' the majority of members decided on two names from a list: 'Hazeldean' and 'Glendorie'.

adding:

One local source identifies the name as an Aboriginal word meaning 'much water'. Other sources claim Glenorie was named after a town in Scotland (though no actual place has been identified).

Glenorie, in the north-west of the Sydney Basin, is in Dharug country. Let us explore the possibility of an Aboriginal origin, beginning with the initial 1893 suggestion of 'Glendorie'. First, we note that the word 'Glendorie' can be divided into two parts, 'Glen-dorie', and further note that the second part resembles a common suffix in the Wiradhuri language. (Wiradhuri country lies relatively nearby, just the other side of the Blue Mountains and stretching across much of New South Wales.) This suffix was referred to in a book about the Wiradhuri language (Fraser, 1892), in an appendix with the following table which listed ten 'cases' in Wiradhuri nouns.

	Case	Terminations	Meaning
1	Nominative		the simple form
2	Nom. agent.	-du, -dyu, -gu, lu, -ru	the agent form
3	Genitive	-gu	'of'; 'belonging to'
4	Dative	-gu	'to,' 'for,' 'towards'
5	Accusative	the same as nom. 1	the direct object
6	Vocative	prefixes <i>ya</i> to nom. 1	
7	Locomotive	-dyi, -li, -ri	place from which
8	Conjunctive	-durai or -durei	'together with'
9	Locative	-da, -dya, -ya, -la, -ra	'in,' 'on,' 'at'
10	Instrumental	-durada	'by means of'



The 'case' highlighted, featuring the suffix *-durai* or *-durei*, was called in this work 'conjunctive', with its function explained as meaning 'together with'.

Kamilaroi is another language of inland New South Wales, just to the north of Wiradhuri country, and it has a somewhat similar suffix, as described in Ridley (1875, p. 14):

From "yul" (food) come "yul**arai**" (full, satisfied) and "yuljin" (hungry); from "kolle" (water) "kollejin" (thirsty). From "yinar" comes "yinar**arai**" (having a wife); from "giwir" comes "giwir**arai**" (having a husband) ; from "gulir" comes "gulir**arai**" (having a spouse)—three terms for married.

The suffix **-arai** (having) is applied by the blacks to the English word milk, to make "milimbrai" (milkers, i.e., cows giving milk). [bold blue type by YAR].

Linguistics scholars call this suffix, or ending, 'propriative', and give its function as meaning 'having', just as Ridley described it in the passage just cited. When a consistent modern spelling is adopted, these suffixes would be rendered as *-arayi*, as well as sometimes as *-barayi*, *-darayi*, *-garayi*, *-warayi*. So this second part of 'Glen-dorie' or 'Glen-orie', could mean 'having'. But what about the first part, Glen-...?

The first thing to realise is that Aboriginal languages generally do not permit 'consonant clusters'—that is, words with two or more consonants together. Many other languages do allow this, but generally Aboriginal languages do not. So 'Glen-' would normally have to be rendered as, say, 'Galen-'. The next point is that Aboriginal languages are also generally written in modern times using only three vowels, *a*, *i*, *u*, so 'Galen-' would today be transcribed as *galin-*.

At this point it is necessary to recall that both internet sources, Google and Wikipedia, gave an interpretation of **Glenorie** as meaning 'much water'. A table showing a selection from many similar records for words for *water* follows; ten are from Wiradhuri, with one from the nearby and related Ngyiamba language. The first two columns in the table are particularly relevant.

...Glenorie

Australian	respelt	English	EngISM	source
" <u>kolle</u> "	<u>gali</u>	"Water"	water	Curr 3 #190b Rouse [3:371.1:34.11] [Wira] [nsw] [1887]
" <u>C�lle</u> "	<u>gali</u>	"Fresh water"	water fresh	Mitchell, T.L.: 5: Lachlan R [3:379.5:26] [Wira] [NSW] [1839]
" <u>kulli</u> "	<u>gali</u>	"Water"	water	Mathews NYMBA 1904 [227.1:2] [Nymba] [NSW] [1904]
" <u>kullen</u> "	<u>galin</u>	"Water"	water	Curr 3 #190b Rouse [3:371.1:34.12] [Wira] [nsw] [1887]
" <u>Calleen</u> "	<u>galin</u>	"Fresh-water"	water fresh	Larmer (RSNSW) UpLchn [227.3:5] [Wira] [NSW] [1834]
" <u>kalindyu</u> "	<u>galin-dyu</u>	"NOM AG: water"	water-ERG	G�nther (Fraser) [58:82] [Wira] [NSW] [c.1838]
" <u>kaling</u> "	<u>galing</u>	"NOM: water"	water	G�nther (Fraser) [58:81] [Wira] [NSW] [c.1838]
" <u>kalin</u> "	<u>galing</u>	"water"	water	HALE pace WATSON [510:3] [Wira] [NSW] [1842]
" <u>gulling</u> "	<u>galing</u>	"Water"	water	Mathews WIRA 1904 [300:67] [Wira] [NSW] [1904]
" <u>kalin</u> "	<u>galing</u>	"water"	water	KAOL Ridley [WIRA] [124:26.2] [Wira] [NSW] [1875]
" <u>kullung</u> "	<u>galang</u>	"Water"	water	Curr 3 #190j Cameron [3:387.1:34] [Wira] [nsw] [1887]

The words *galin* and *galing* are so similar they can effectively be regarded as records of the same word, while *gali*, also very similar, might be a dialectal difference. All are very much like the respelt and retranscribed form of ‘Glen-’ (*galin*) noted above.

Now taking the two parts of ‘Glen-orie’ together, and assuming an Aboriginal origin, we have *galin-(d)arayi*, and this would be interpreted as ‘water-having’. As the somewhat curious term ‘having’ might in more colloquial terms be expressed as ‘got’, we could be talking about a place ‘that’s got water’, an idea effectively the same as ‘much water’, the suggested translation that we find when we search internet sites.

Is there in fact much water in Glenorie? Not especially. It rains there, like anywhere else.

There is, though, a watery spot nearby where Cattai Creek sometimes floods the road. The sign there today has **Maraylya**; in 2020 it showed **Glenorie**.

Although the ‘Glen-’ of ‘Glenorie’ might lead you in the first instance to the conclusion that Glenorie is named after a place in Scotland, the possibility of an Aboriginal origin is hard to dismiss. How else to deal with the

uncanny coincidence of the two halves of the name yielding an interpretation from the historical linguistic records (‘water having’) with a meaning matching the one (‘much water’) given by folklore?

Jeremy Steele

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Ridley, William. (1875). *Kamilaroi and other Australian languages*. Sydney, [New South Wales] Thomas Richards, Government Printer.



Placenames Puzzle Number 95

Arboreal toponyms. *In this puzzle the clues refer to places named after tree species. For example: A bay near Bobbin Head on Cowan Creek, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (NSW), named for the genus *Malus*.*
Answer: *Apple Tree Bay*.

1. A small NSW town 75 km NW of Sydney named for the *Brachychiton populneus*
2. A Sydney suburb and beach 41 km N of the CBD
3. A marine protected area on the northern side of North Head, Sydney, named for the *Cordyline australis*
4. A town in the Tweed Shire (NSW), named for the 'native pine'
5. A swamp SE of Horsham (VIC) in the Jallumba Wildlife Reserve named for the most widespread eucalyptus species of all
6. A suburb of Perth named for the genus *Acacia*
7. A town 13 km W of Camden (NSW), named for the genus *Quercus*
8. A suburb of Melbourne, 27 km E of the CBD, named for the *Cyathea australis*
9. An inner suburb of Wollongong (NSW), named for the 'Australian banyan'
10. A mountain SW of Proserpine (QLD), named for the *Santalum acuminatum*
11. A small NSW village in the Liverpool Plains, 14 km S of Quirindi, named for the genus *Salix*
12. A mountain near Mount Inglis (TAS) in Cradle Mountain National Park, named for the *Athrotaxis cupressoides*
13. A village 4 km SSW of Soldiers Point in Port Stephens (NSW), named for the tree that bears a yellowish acid fruit
14. A town on the Stuart Highway 193 km N of Alice Springs (NT), named for the *Cordyline australis*
15. A suburb N of the Perth CBD, named for the tree named after Cook's botanist
16. A small village in western NSW, 76 km N of Nyngan, named for the the swagman's camp
17. A mountain NW of Bundaberg (QLD) named for the shrub that produces 'spider flowers'
18. A small town (with an unusual name) NNW of Taree (NSW), named for the national tree of Lebanon
19. A remote locality (former settlement) NNE of South West Cape (TAS), named for the 'paperbark'
20. A Melbourne suburb, 6 km E of the CBD, named for the genus *Crataegus*

[Compiled by **Jan Tent**
Answers on page 2]

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