

## OH YOUNG LOCHINVAR IS COME OUT OF THE WEST .....

.....and now this name of the hero of Sir Walter Scott's much-anthologised poem of 1808 adorns plaques on the outskirts of the small town of Lochinvar in the Lower Hunter Valley and streets in several States.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) was one of the major figures of the Romantic Movement. A monument was erected to him in 1844 which today still towers over Princes Street, Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup>

At the time of Scott's birth Captain Cook was exploring the eastern seaboard of Australia. By the early 1800s Scott was establishing himself as a writer.<sup>2</sup> As his fame grew, handsomely bound sets of his Waverley novels could be found in many homes throughout the English-speaking world. The names of the novels were also fashionable as house names.<sup>3</sup> The **Waverley** novels take their name from Edward Waverley, the wavering Romantic hero of *Waverley* (1814), the first historical novel. Scott's invention of the historical novel had enormous influence, and his use of picturesque Scottish settings helped to give them worldwide popularity, not least with immigrants wishing to adorn their new estates with reminders of a real or imaginary 'old country', in the early years of a new colony. Examples of the name '**Waverley**' have ranged from an Edinburgh railway station and pen nibs, to houses, streets and place names.

Well-documented is the origin of the name of the Sydney suburb **Waverley**. In 1821 the enterprising merchant Barnett Levey arrived in Sydney – the first free

Jewish settler in the colony and one of its early building promoters. Following various successful business ventures in the city, including establishing a free lending library, he set about creating the first theatre in Australia at the rear of his property in George Street in 1828. Several years later he opened the Theatre Royal, George Street, Sydney. Meanwhile in 1827 he was having a splendid residence built for him which became a historic building. From the early days of his settling in Australia he interested himself in the cultural activities of Sydney and it was on account of his love for the writings of Sir Walter Scott that he named the house Waverley House. The suburb adopted the name

**Waverley** when it became a municipality in June 1859.<sup>4</sup>

Around 1811 Scott bought a small farm situated in the Scottish Borders between Kelso and Melrose and near to a 12th century abbey. Scott changed its name from *Cartley Hole Farm* to *Abbotsford*.<sup>5</sup> There are at least two suburbs named **Abbotsford** in Australia. One is in the City of Canada Bay,

Sydney and follows the pattern of naming a suburb after a magnificent property in the area. *Abbotsford House* was built in 1878 by Sir Arthur Renwick (1837–1908) who came to Australia from Scotland as a child in 1841. He eventually became an eminent doctor, a high profile businessman and a parliamentarian. One of his favourite authors was said to be Sir Walter Scott and he named his house *Abbotsford House*. The house was eventually sold and one of its subsequent owners was one of the founders of Grace Bros. department stores. In 1917 it became the property of Nestlé's. Today it is on the register of the National Trust of Australia.<sup>6</sup>

(Continued on Page 3)

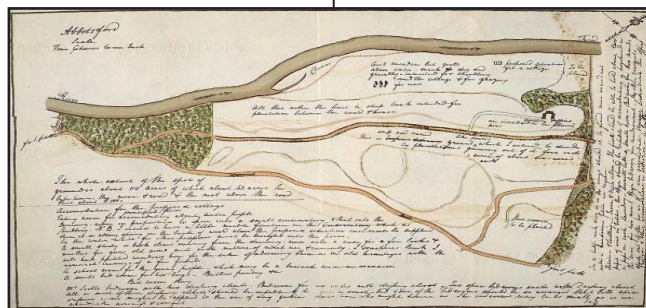


Figure 1. Abbotsford plan dates from 1811. Reproduced by permission, by Dr Paul Barnaby Project Officer Walter Scott Digital Archive Edinburgh University Library. [www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk](http://www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk)

## From the editor . . .

### Upcoming Event:

The *Annual General Meeting* of Placenames Australia will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Rydges Hotel, 112 Burelli Street, **Wollongong**, NSW 2500, as part of a joint Australian National Placenames Survey/Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia workshop on gathering, storing and analysing cultural toponymic data.

The day will begin at 9.30 am with coffee and muffins and end with afternoon tea. Activities in between will include presentations on local and thematic case studies, demonstrations of databases and websites, planning for future collaboration, and the election of Placenames Australia officers and committee for the year ahead.

There is no charge for participation, but registration is essential. If you would like to attend, please let organizer Jan Tent know by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September via email ([jan.tent@ling.mq.edu.au](mailto:jan.tent@ling.mq.edu.au)), phone (02 9850 9659) or mail (Placenames Australia, Linguistics Department, Macquarie University, NSW 2109).

Accommodation at Rydges for 10<sup>th</sup> and/or 11<sup>th</sup> October may be reserved at the discounted price of \$129 per standard room; please contact the hotel direct (02 4220 7800) and mention that you are part of the Placenames group.

**We look forward to seeing many of you there!**



#### **DISMAL**

'Dismal Swamp' is not the most appealing name for Forestry Tasmania's attraction in north-west Tasmania. (ABC News: Simon Cullen)

## In this issue

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### DISMAL name change

Forestry Tasmania may change the name of one of its tourist attractions.

Forestry believes the name '**Dismal Swamp**' is putting visitors off.

The year before last, the **Dismal Swamp** slide in Tasmania's north-west lost \$200,000, contributing to a slide in Forestry Tasmania's profits.

Forestry is keen to entice more visitors to the site, but feedback shows **Dismal Swamp** is not the most enticing name.

It hopes to make a decision on whether to change the name in the next couple of months, and is inviting input from the public.

Forestry Tasmania's Ken Jeffreys says one idea is to incorporate 'Tarkine' into the name.

"Having said all of that, **Dismal Swamp** will never disappear because **Dismal Swamp** is actually a place name," he said.

"If the community has views about the name, then we'd like to hear them and we'll couple those with the research we've done and we'll end up making a decision probably in the next six weeks or two months."

Today, Forestry is holding a workshop with tourist operators to develop a plan for another tourist hub at Maydena in the Derwent Valley.

ABC News  
Monday 4 August, 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/04/2323186.htm>



(Continued from Page 1)

Another place named **Abbotsford** is a suburb in north-eastern Melbourne. This, according to local records, was named after *Abbotsford House* which was built by John Orr on land he bought along the Yarra, Melbourne's river, in 1842. Twenty-one years later the house and grounds were purchased for use as the Convent of the Good Shepherd. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd believed that the house was named after Sir Walter Scott's house in Scotland. The original Australian *Abbotsford House* was later demolished.<sup>7</sup>

**Ivanhoe** (1819) was Scott's first novel to be set in England. It is a blend of myth and romance set in the Middle Ages and proved to be his most popular.<sup>8</sup> It is hardly surprising that it appears to have led to several places bearing its name. **Ivanhoe** NSW lies on the Cobb Highway between Hay and Wilcannia on land purchased around 1870 by George Williamson who opened a store. The Ivanhoe Hotel opened in 1872, followed by a Post Office two years later. Williamson was one of a number of Scots living in the area where, as many settlers looked to their country of origin when looking for a suitable name, it is thought that Williamson named **Ivanhoe** after Scott's novel.<sup>9</sup> There are several places in the area e.g. Melrose and Darnick, which were named after Scottish towns located near Scott's home.

Victoria has **Ivanhoe** and **Ivanhoe East**, suburbs to the north east of Melbourne. According to a local history written by Donald S. Garden, there was a reference to "The most westerly of the estates sold by Thomas Walker... was that purchased by Archibald Thom (1786-1862) and named **Ivanhoe**....." and an advertisement in March 1840 "...contains what appears to have been the first use of the name 'Ivanhoe'". The author suggests that the name should be attributed to Archibald Thom. However a Thomas Walker, merchant, banker and benefactor had bought a considerable amount of land in the area in the late 1830s. He was born in Scotland and came to Australia in 1822. It could therefore be that he named the land as a reminder of the country of his birth.<sup>10</sup>

The **Kenilworth** in Queensland comes from Scott's novel *Kenilworth*, published in 1821. The story involves murder in Elizabethan England and was so named as part of the action takes place in Kenilworth, Warwickshire – a name recorded as *Chinewrde* in the Domesday Book and *Kenillewurd* in the Pipe Rolls of 1190. It could have been derived from a woman's name.<sup>11</sup> In 1850 Richard Smith established a cattle run on the east bank of the Mary River. At the time his wife was reading the novel *Kenilworth* and she decided to name their property after the novel. As often happens, a town developed and in 1921 took the name **Kenilworth** from the property.<sup>12</sup>

Although it is not known whether **Mannering Park** on the shores of Lake Macquarie, NSW, is actually named from the romance *Guy Mannering* published in 1815, there were subsequent connections to Scott in this area. In 1911 James Vinrace Vale acquired 640 acres of land known as Garths Point which his wife Adelaide named **Mannering Park**. The nearby stream is still known as **Mannering Creek**. Adelaide was apparently a woman of some social standing who was raised in Balmain and before moving up-country the Vales had lived in a beautiful home in Eastwood. It is therefore quite likely that she was well read. About 1890 much of the land had been surveyed into small lots known as the Abbotsford subdivision. As mentioned, *Abbotsford* was the name of Scott's home on the River Tweed in Scotland and the streets in the subdivision were subsequently named after his books.<sup>13</sup>

## OH YOUNG LOCHINVAR ! ...

**Lochinvar** lies on the New England Highway north-west of Maitland, NSW. In 1822 Leslie Duguid emigrated to Australia from Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Acquiring grants of land in the Lower Hunter Valley, he established a property and named it *Lochinvar*. Whether he was a lover of Scott's poetry or whether he was following the pattern of other Scottish emigrants in bestowing names which reminded them of their country of origin is not known. Duguid became a successful businessman and a founding Director of the Commercial Bank of Sydney. In 1840 his extensive landholding was subdivided into smaller farms and a village, and the area acquired the name of a major local property.<sup>14</sup>

The popularity of the works of Sir Walter Scott lives on in Australia, evinced by the continuing use of the titles of his works as house names, street names and placenames.

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**Figure 2.** Sir Walter Scott. Engraved by Abraham Raimbach after Sir Henry Raeburn 1811. Reproduced by permission, by Dr Paul Barnab, Project Officer Walter Scott Digital Archive, Edinburgh University Library. [www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk](http://www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk)

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# PLACE-NAMES OF FIJI

## Part 8 ‘Little Votua’ – how a folk etymology became official!

The story so far: In recent instalments of this series, we have looked at the Fijian place name Votua, which consists of *votu*, meaning ‘emerge’ or ‘appear above the surface of the water’, and the nominalising suffix *-a*, so means ‘place which has emerged from the water’. This is the name of a number of villages, including one in **Korolevu** on the coast of Nadroga in southwest Vitilevu – now known to tourists as the Coral Coast.

Next to Votua is another village, known to all, including contemporary map-makers and officialdom, as **Votualailai**, literally ‘small Votua’. There are, however, problems with this name. One is that it is bigger than Votua. The second problem is that the word *lailai* meaning ‘small’ is an Eastern Fijian word, whereas Votua is in Western Fiji, where the word *lailai* is not known. This is not an insurmountable objection, since languages change and it is possible that *lailai* was used in Western Fijian many centuries ago, but the fact that *lailai* is not found in any other place-name in Western Fiji argues against this suggestion.

The biggest problem, though, is simply that the local people do not call the village **Votualailai**! They may use this name for official purposes, or when talking to non-locals, but among themselves they use a different name: **Vajuolalai**, a name which is truly Western Fijian, and translates as “the stones of Lalai”. The reason they give for this name is roughly as follows.

Once upon a time, there lived in Vatulele, an island to the south-west, a beautiful princess. When Lalai, a prince of Busa, inland of Votua, came to hear of her, he determined to win her hand, and prepared a quantity of the finest food from his part of the country - cooked prawns. To get to Vatulele, he built a causeway. Sadly the Princess was not impressed with his gift. She threw the prawns away, and they came back to life in the pool where they landed, and remain there to this day, as the celebrated red prawns of Vatulele. Lalai was so disappointed that he tore up the causeway, leaving only the ends, which can still be seen, one end in Vatulele, the other on the Coral Coast of Nadroga. It is this rock formation that gives the nearby village of Vatuolalai (pronounced locally **Vajuolalai**) its name: “the stones of Lalai”.

This legend is quite similar to one concerning the famous Giant’s Causeway in Antrim, Ireland, which is said to have been built by a giant who wanted to cross the sea to Scotland.

So, if the original name of the village is **Vajuolalai** – “stones of Lalai”, when and why did it become, for some people at least, and now officially, **Votualailai** – “small Votua”?

The first reference to the village I have come across dates to 1827, when an important exploring and scientific expedition came to Fiji, led by Dumont d’Urville. Considering the length of time the French were in Fiji, and the fact that they had no anchor at the time, they did remarkably well in recording masses of valuable information.

One of the most useful documents from that expedition is a list of place-names given to the scientists by the ‘King of Nadroga’, the district in which **Vatuolalai** is situated. He came on board between Vatulele and Nasigatoka and was asked to give a list of places he knew in Fiji. He provided a list of over a hundred places, all in or near the main island of Vitilevu, most of which are recognisable today, as long as it is borne in mind that the King

was speaking in Nadroga (but in some cases tending to Eastern Fijian, which was even then considered a kind of standard Fijian language) and the scientists were recording in French. It is of course an extremely valuable historical resource, since it tells in detail which places are likely to have been occupied way back in 1827, and gives their names with remarkable accuracy.

The list begins around the Mamanuca group, then goes to the Yasawas, and finally wends its way to the Nadroga coast. It’s not quite in order, as the poor King was evidently trying his best to think of all the places he knew and would suddenly remember ones he’d left out and return to mention them. In the Korolevu area of coastal Nadroga, he listed ‘Koringamo’ (Koroiqamo, an old village site), then ‘Oumbousa’ (Busa, another old village, by the bay of the same name, the home of Lalai who went wooing to Vatulele). Next he mentioned the name of the village under discussion, and it was written in French as ‘**Vato-lalai**’. The conflation of the vowels ‘u’ and ‘o’ as simply ‘o’ is understandable, and the second part leaves no doubt that the village bore the name of its ancestor god Lalai in 1827, and was called Vatuolalai, not **Votualailai**.

Census reports in Fiji began with colonisation by the British in 1874. Up until 1921, the village name was correctly recorded as **Vatuolalai**. By the next census, 1936, it had been changed to ‘**Votualailai**’, and has so remained ever since, in officialese at any rate. A 1953 official map showing the recently re-defined provincial and district borders also lists the name as the innovative **Votualailai**.

The anthropologist Cyril Belshaw did fieldwork in the area in the early 1960s, and was told the legend of Lalai, but the new official name was by then so well established that he ended up with a compromise name, **Votualalai**, which he referred to in the text of the ensuing publication, ‘Under the ivi tree’, while the map therein lists only the new name, **Votualailai**.

Why it was changed is probably impossible to determine now. I am tempted to guess that it was some cloth-eared eastern imperialist bureaucrat, but that might be a bit harsh, because it might be simply a reflection of popular usage. It could well be that the people of Suva, Fiji’s capital, were becoming more familiar with the Nadroga coast (though there was still no road there in the 1930s), and it was they, being only familiar with Standard Fijian, who presumed that **Vatuolalai** was just a smaller version of the preceding village, rather than a Korolevu version of the Giant’s Causeway.

Such is, of course, an explanation but no excuse. It may not be of national importance, but it would be nice if we could get the name right again!

□ Paul Geraghty  
University of the South Pacific

# PLACENAME HISTORIES

Laura Kostanski

**A**re you a Victorian toponymist? Have a passion for placenames in Victoria? Well then, there's a new website for you!

If you've ever wondered how Echuca got its name, or if in your historical research you came across information on who named the 'Barry Mountains', then you should become acquainted with the VICNAMES website.

VICNAMES is the online Register of Geographic Names in Victoria and is available at [www.land.vic.gov.au/vicnames](http://www.land.vic.gov.au/vicnames). VICNAMES holds the names of more than 190,000 placenames and roads, including lakes, mountains, rivers; suburbs, localities, towns, cities, regions; roads, reserves and schools.



## Launching the upgraded VICNAMES website:

*Philip Reed - Under-Secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Laura Kostanski - Geographic Placenames Officer at DSE, and Mr John Tulloch - Registrar of Geographic Names and Surveyor-General of Victoria.*

A recent upgrade of VICNAMES means that for the first time historical information on placenames can be submitted by public users and naming authorities. This historical information can also be searched and downloaded for all those enthusiastic toponymists out there! The upgraded website was launched on Wednesday 5 March 2008 by the Under-Secretary for the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Mr Philip Reed in conjunction with the Registrar of Geographic Names and Surveyor-General of Victoria, Mr John Tulloch.

## Adding & Searching Information

The website works a little bit like an online encyclopaedia of placenames. Public users can now go to the website and add historical information gathered from books, maps, manuscripts, statues, plaques, oral history sources....the list goes on.

In addition, it is now possible to add historical names to the VICNAMES system, which means you, can add those old town names you find in birth records from the nineteenth century!

As historians we all understand that the facts of the past can often be disputed. The great thing about this website is that it allows for multiple historical records and details to be registered and viewed for each placename. This means that compared to most placenames books previously published you can now see multiple placename translations and meanings at the click of a button.

Details on how to use the system are available from the website in the comprehensive User Guide. If you, want specific information at your fingertips, you might also be interested in one of the 8 bite-sized User Notes which cover topics such as 'Contributing Historical Information' and 'Adding Historical Name'.

VICNAMES is only available as an online web-based program. But, for all the budding toponymists out there who don't have regular access to the internet when searching through library archives, you can download and print out data entry forms to work with. Using these sheets means you won't forget vital research details that you'll need when inputting the information through the internet database.

## Register your Association's Research Interests

There are many placenames research groups currently involved in various projects around Victoria, and it is possible that your research will involve an area of placenames which is located close to another research group. Therefore, before you begin any research project on placenames we do ask that you contact your local Historical Content Administrator (HCA) and inform them which area you are planning to research. By informing your local HCA, it will help ensure that you are not duplicating the work of another group.

The HCA will be able to help you with any queries you have about finding placename information, and how to fill out the data entry forms.

## Verifying Information

So, we hear you asking: "But what about verifying the information, you're not just going to let a whole heap of historical information go on a government website unchecked are you?" Well, fear not, because historical information provided by the public is first verified by Historical Content Administrators (HCAs) before it is viewable by the general public.

You can use VICNAMES to search for and contact a local Historical Content Administrator

HCAs are members of the Victorian Committee for the Australian National Placenames Survey. They are linguists, historians, cartographers who all have years of research experience behind them which ensures they know what they're looking for when vetting information for VICNAMES.

Each HCA will check information for specific municipal areas in Victoria. For example, each time historical information is entered for placenames in the Ballarat region, RHSV members Assoc. Prof. Ian Clark and Dr Fred Cahir, are sent an email informing them that as HCAs for Ballarat they need to verify the information before it will be uploaded to the website.

You can find out who the HCA responsible for your research region is by going to the website and clicking on 'Historical Content Administrator'.

## Wanted: More HCAs

Each municipal area in Victoria has been assigned an HCA, but the Committee are always looking for new HCAs to join the fold! Ideally, HCAs have a proven track-record in historical research, preferably with relevant academic qualifications and computer/internet skills.

If you're interested in becoming an HCA, please contact Laura Kostanski at the Registrar of Geographic Names Office on (03) 8636 2530 or [geo.names@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@dse.vic.gov.au).



# Placenames Australia

## ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2008

Placenames Australia is a voluntary association which supports the work of the Australian National Placenames Survey (ANPS). The aims of the ANPS are to investigate the history, meaning and motivation of each name ever current for a topographic feature or inhabited locality in Australia, and to make public the results of these investigations. Placenames are symbols of our past, and a comprehensive record of them helps us to understand our history and culture. In documenting this aspect of our nation, Australia lags behind most countries with comparable educational and research facilities.

The ANPS began as a national research endeavour sponsored by the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and research was at one time supported by the Australian Research Council and by Macquarie University but has been unfunded since the end of 2006.

During the first half of 2007 Placenames Australia was incorporated in New South Wales as an association, with membership by subscription, which would support the ANPS administratively and financially. The first annual general meeting of the association, held in Ballarat in November 2007, confirmed the appointment of an executive committee consisting of Colin Yallop (President), Joyce Miles (Vice-President), Jan Tent (Secretary and Treasurer), Michael Walsh and Greg Windsor. Since that AGM this committee has met in Sydney on 4 February, 12 May and 4 August.

The ANPS Newsletter has appeared quarterly, on schedule, with articles on placenames of Australia and on matters of general toponymic interest as well as items of news. The association is grateful to all those who contribute to the Newsletter and special thanks go to the editorial committee members, David Blair, Flavia Hodges, Dale Lehner and Greg Windsor, and to the new editor in 2008, Tricia Mack. Greg Windsor and the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales have provided much valued support in publishing and distributing the Newsletter.

Flavia Hodges has taken particular responsibility for organising workshops to provide information about the recording and registration of placenames in Australia and to serve as a forum for the presentation and discussion of research

findings. The 2008 workshop is being held in Wollongong on 11 October, in conjunction with the association's 2008 Annual General Meeting.

Other volunteers who have helped with the administration of the association in 2008 and whose assistance is gratefully acknowledged are Mary Feely and Michele Lang. Michele is coordinating the work of Placenames Research Friends in Queensland.

2007-8 has seen further substantial development of the ANPS database. The register (the list of toponyms with their descriptions and technical details) now includes the official placenames of every State and Territory – and Norfolk Island. Many historical and unofficial names have also been added, to give a total of almost 300,000 toponyms. The work of documenting the origin of these names is proceeding slowly but steadily, and the database now contains several thousand items of documentation.

Early in 2008 the Registrar of Geographical Names in Victoria launched a Historical Information addition to the VICNAMES website. This new facility both elicits and displays historical information about the placenames of Victoria. Placenames Australia has welcomed this development and has committed the ANPS to work with States and Territories who decide to implement a similar program.

Placenames Australia is now affiliated with the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), an international society with membership open to "anyone engaged in scholarly work involving names". Placenames Australia has the honour of being the first association listed among affiliates on the ICO website ([www.icosweb.net](http://www.icosweb.net)).

A separate financial report for the year 2007-2008 gives details of Placenames Australia's membership and income and expenditure. More details of the aims and work of the ANPS can be found at [www.anps.org.au](http://www.anps.org.au).

Colin Yallop  
President  
August 2008

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Balance 1/07/2007		\$0.00	
Bank Interest		\$0.00	Bank Charges
			\$0.00
<b>Membership</b>			
Individuals	\$1,125.00		
Corporate	\$480.00		
<b>Total Membership</b>		<b>\$1,605.00</b>	
<b>Total Income to 30/06/2008</b>		<b>\$1,605.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
Opening Balance		\$0.00	Closing Balance
		<b>\$1,605.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>A/C 131212649</b>			
<b>As at 30/06/2008</b>		<b>\$1,605.00</b>	

## Placenames puzzle no. 27

### All Very Fishy

The clues reveal placenames connected with fish and fishing (disregard spelling)

E.g. (SA) Place where ornamental fish are kept in a garden  
.....Ponde

1. (VIC) Circumnavigated Tasmania with Matthew Flinders and discovered a Strait
2. (VIC) Tinned with oil or tomato sauce; small stream
3. (VIC) Fish eggs, to come ashore from a ship
4. (VIC) Cape in Mass. USA near landing place of Pilgrim Fathers, finger jewellery, 16cwt
5. (VIC) An Angler's curve in the road
6. (NSW) Wicker lobster traps; a decimal mark
7. (NSW) Food to lure fish, a harbour of shelter and safety
8. (NSW) A gem obtained from an oyster; stretch of sand
9. (NSW) A densely packed group of fish; type of window
10. (NSW) The same imperial measurement as a pole or a perch; the sharp end of a pencil
11. (QLD) Is put on the end of a fishing line; "no man is one"
12. (QLD) An imaginary marine creature, half woman, half fish; Muddy, the 20th century US blues singer
13. (QLD) Infantry weapon superseded by the bayonet, valley
14. (QLD) Not a jelly but an airborne one; a needle has a sharp one
15. (QLD) A smoked herring-circular band of metal
16. (WA) Pink in colour, can be bought raw, smoked, or tinned; some eucalyptuses
17. (WA) Description of one who loans money at an excessive rate of interest; a hunting hound's bark
18. (TAS) Sign of the Zodiac for those born late June – late July; a wattle or a palm for example
19. (TAS) Yabby; small inlet
20. (TAS) Luxury edible marine bivalve mollusk; *coll.* a man/fellow/chap

## KEYS BRIDGE



The Hunter River flows from the Mount Royal Range, NSW, and enters the sea at **Newcastle**. It was discovered in 1797 by Lieutenant Shortland who named it in honour of the then Governor, Captain John Hunter, RN.<sup>1</sup> On the western outskirts of **Muswellbrook** it is crossed by the **Keys Bridge** on the Bengalla Road which leads to what is now the complex of the Bengalla Mining Company.

The bridge was constructed in 1997 and named in honour of John Hudson Keys.<sup>2</sup> Originally from Northern Ireland, John Keys immigrated to Australia in 1837. On the voyage over he met, and later married, Mary Irving Hetherington from Scotland.

Together they founded the Keys dynasty in **Muswellbrook**. John Keys acquired many thousands of acres of land in the **Muswellbrook** area and contributed much to **Muswellbrook** and district.<sup>3</sup> He was hailed as one of the State's "most progressive pastoralists" by the *Pastoral Review*, pioneering the export of live cattle from Australia to England.<sup>4</sup> Drought eventually overtook the land which is now mined by the Bengalla Mining Company. John Keys' great-great-grandson, Brian Straton-Ferrier, remembers playing as a child under the trees in the garden of Bengalla Homestead, now the conference centre of the Bengalla Mining Company.<sup>5</sup>

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### Reference

<sup>1</sup> Geographical Names Board, ref. 24501

<sup>2</sup> Muswellbrook Shire Council, *Gazettal Notice 2 October, 1998* (8065)

<sup>3</sup> Information supplied by Brian Straton-Ferrier

<sup>4</sup> *Bengalla Staff Newsletter*, March 2005

<sup>5</sup> Straton-Ferrier, *op.cit.*



1. Bass 2. Sardine Creek 3. Rowland 4. Codrington 5. Fishermans Bend 6. Potts Point 7. Batehaven 8. Pearl Beach 9. Shoal Bay 10. Rodd Point 11. Hook Island 12. Mermaid Waters 13. Pikedale 14. Flying Fish Point 15. Kippa-Ring 16. Salmon Gums 17. Shark Bay 18. Crabtree 19. Crayfish Creek 20. Oyster Cove

Answers

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31 January for the March issue	31 July for the September issue
30 April for the June issue	31 October for the December issue