

MORETON BAY - THE BAY THAT MOVED

A recent oil spill has drawn attention to the large island which shelters Brisbane from the waters of the Pacific. The island is, of course, Moreton Island; but some of our readers may have been intrigued by the absence of any placenames in the reports on the spill which despoiled the eastern shore of that island. A report from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* is typical:

OIL SPILL THREATENS MORETON ISLAND

THOUSANDS of litres of fuel oil from the container boat *Pacific Adventurer* are washing ashore on the eastern side of Moreton Island, north of the Gold Coast, causing severe ecological damage to the fragile island. *Gold Coast Bulletin*, March 12th, 2009

Compilers of dictionaries are very aware that while new words in the language announce their arrival with a degree of fanfare, old words often slip silently away, their demise unremarked. Toponymists, perhaps, are just beginning to realize that the same is true of placenames. Moreton Island and its surrounding waters provide a very good example of the phenomenon.

By May 1770, Lieutenant James Cook in *HM Bark Endeavour* had made good progress in his northwards navigation of Australia's eastern coast, and on the 17th of that month he had reached a point to the east of present-day Brisbane. His journal records:

Thursday, 17th. Winds Southerly, mostly a fresh breeze, with which in the P.M. we steer'd along shore North 3/4 East, at the distance of about 2 Leagues off. Between 4 and 5 we discover'd breakers on our Larboard bow; our Depth of Water at this time was 37 fathoms. At sunset the Northermost land in sight bore North by West, the breakers North-West by West, distant 4 Miles, and the Northermost land set at Noon, which form'd a Point, I named Point Lookout, bore West, distant 5 or 6 Miles (Latitude 27

degrees 6 minutes). On the North side of this point the shore forms a wide open bay, which I have named Morton's Bay, in the Bottom of which the land is so low that I could but just see it from the Topmast head. [Wharton text]

Point Lookout is the north eastern tip of North Stradbroke Island; Cook did not realise that the shore to the north was part of another island, separated from the first by a channel (now known as South Channel). But Cook's account has two other remarkable features. Firstly, he used the spelling Morton (or Morton's) for the bay, as well as for the cape which formed the northern bound of the bay. Secondly, as anyone familiar with Brisbane will be aware, Moreton Bay is to the west of Moreton Island, not to the east.

So the toponymist's questions are three-fold. First, how did Morton's Bay and Cape Morton become Moreton Bay and Cape Moreton? Second, how did Moreton Island get its name? (We know Cook wasn't responsible, as he didn't realise it was an island.) Third, how did Moreton Bay move from east to west?

Morton or Moreton?

Cook named the bay and Cape Morton after James Douglas, 14th Earl of Morton. Lord Morton was the President of the Royal Society, a wealthy supporter of science and astronomy, and a member of the Board of Longitude. Although he had died in October 1768, the *Endeavour* had left London in May of that year, and Cook would naturally have been unaware of Morton's death.

Cook's journal was in triplicate. Although the Admiralty required only that a duplicate copy of a captain's journal be forwarded to London at regular intervals, in this case it appears that a third copy was prepared for presentation to George III, who took considerable interest in this scientific voyage. All three copies of the journal use the Morton spelling for the two geographic features which Cook named in his 17th May entry.

(Continued on Page 3)



Moreton Island - photo courtesy of Tourism Queensland

From the editor . . .

“We Wish We Knew.....”

The Vale of Ah

Professor G.A. Wilkes has replied to our call for help about the name of Sydney’s **Vale of Ah**:

As a former Bankstown resident, I recall a piece of folklore current in the 1930s about the Vale of Ah. The dignitary presiding at the ceremony had a memory failure at the crucial moment. He said: “I have pleasure in naming this [site] ‘The Vale of... ah’.” He recovered to give the official name, but the place was known thenceforth as the vale of Ah. The local paper, The Torch, may have a record if his really happened.

Armed with this clue, we shall continue our investigations!

“Can You Help”



Ghost Hunting: Does anyone know of any towns (or other places) in Australia that are named after ghosts, or otherwise have some connection in their naming with a ghost story? (Fishers Ghost Creek, near Sydney, is the sort of example we’re thinking of). Joyce Miles is planning an article on such placenames, and we’d love to hear of your suggestions. Email editor@anps.org.au if you can help.

In this issue

Moreton Island	1
From the Editor	2
A La Carte of Placenames	4
Western Australia from Top to Bottom	5
Out & About	6
Placenames puzzle no. 30	7
Placenames Australia Membership	8

“Baby News”



We’re delighted to hear the news from Laura Kostanski of our Victorian State Committee—Laura’s brand-new baby son, Charlie, arrived just after midnight on Tuesday 14 April. Both mother and “ruggedly handsome” son are doing well and enjoying life hugely. Congratulations, Laura!

“Who’s doing What-Our Research”

Our members are involved in various toponymy projects this quarter.

David Blair is continuing his analysis of Lord Howe Island placenames, and is recording Captain Cook’s placenames from his 1770 journal.

Dale Lehner is incorporating Ron Potter’s database of South-East Queensland placenames into the ANPS records.

Jan Tent is continuing to work with David Blair on an effective and practical typology for Australian placename

specifics; with friend Mark Oldrey, trying to discover the origin of the name Khancoban; and with colleague Helen Slatyer, starting research on early European place-naming practices in the South Pacific.

Joyce Miles is researching placenames beginning with “The” and those with ghostly connections. She is also investigating placenames in the Orange-Cowra area.

Future issues will keep you up to date on the work of our staff and Research Friends.

(Continued from Page 1)

There was a huge amount of public interest in Cook’s voyage, as well as within the scientific community; and on Cook’s return it was decided that a comprehensive published account of the expedition was called for. So the captain’s journal and the journals of Banks and Solander were edited by Dr John Hawkesworth and published in three volumes as *Voyages in the Southern Hemisphere* in 1773. And in this first published account, while the printed chart reproduces Cook’s *Morton Bay*, the text shows *Moreton’s Bay* and *Cape Moreton*.¹ Hawkesworth’s version, although incorrect, was the only published edition available and was the source of the spelling change.

Moreton Island

In mid-1799 Matthew Flinders was commissioned by Governor Hunter to sail north in the sloop *Norfolk*, to further “explore Glass-house and Hervey’s Bays”. Glass-house Bay, in fact, was what Cook had named the stretch of enclosed water to the south-west of Cape Moreton. Flinders left Port Jackson on 8 July, and by the 14th of that month he had established that the stretch of land to the north of Point Lookout was an island. He spent a fortnight exploring the water and rivers to the west of the island, as well as repairing a leak in the *Norfolk*. While there, he took the opportunity to bestow a name on the island, recognising Cook’s early nomenclature in the area.

*The long slip on the east side [of Glass-house Bay], which I have called Moreton Island, as supposing it would have received that name from captain Cook, had he known of its insularity, is little else than a ridge of rocky hills...”*²

So thirty years after Cook had introduced his commemorative toponyms to what we now know as Brisbane’s coastline, Matthew Flinders continued the pattern by naming Moreton Island; but as he did so, he reinforced Hawkesworth’s misspelling.



Map of Moreton Island
compiled and supplied courtesy of
Graham Taylor

Who Moved the Bay?

As we can see from Flinders’ report of July 1799 (published in 1814), the bay on the western side of Moreton Island still bore Cook’s chosen toponym, *Glass-house Bay*. But sometime within the next 30 years or so, *Glass-house Bay* fell into disuse and was replaced by the toponym that Cook (and Flinders) used for the eastern waters of the island, *Moreton Bay*. As the entry for Moreton Bay in the records of the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water indicates, “the name was transferred at a subsequent date (between 1814 & 48) by the Hydrographer, British Admiralty, and later charts show Glass House Bay and its southward extensions as Moreton Bay.”³

In fact, we can narrow the range of years slightly. It is clear that the name had been transferred by 1842 at the latest,

because Robert Dixon’s map of Moreton Bay, dated that year and printed shortly thereafter, is a map of the waters to the west of Moreton Island, not to the east. The eastern shore of Moreton Island is named on the map only as *Sandy Beach*, which may be a description rather than a toponym. A current sketch map of Moreton Island, recording toponyms in present-day use, is notable for the absence of both *Moreton Bay* and *Sandy Beach*. (The beaches marked with yellow diamonds are approved and current toponyms—others are placenames which can be found in current use but which are not formally approved and registered as Queensland toponyms.)

In the apparent absence of further information, we are left unsure as to who was responsible for shifting the toponym to the west of Moreton Island, or exactly when it happened. Nor is it clear why such a significant alteration to the local toponymy took place, particularly as its effect was to leave a geographical feature without a name. Hindsight and reference to the map may suggest two factors at work.

Firstly, it is likely that the placename *Glass-house* (or *Glasshouse*) Bay fell into disuse, leaving a toponymic gap that needed to be filled. And from Brisbane’s point-of-view (as opposed to a navigator’s view from the ocean), the bay was associated with Moreton Island rather than with the Glasshouse Mountains to the north.

Secondly, the eastern shore of Moreton Island forms such a shallow crescent that one hesitates to call it a “bay” at all. Cook was no doubt influenced by his perception that Point Lookout was the southern bound of the “bay”; but once it becomes clear that Point Lookout is in fact the north-eastern tip of North Stradbroke Island, the eastern shore looks much more like a bight of very slight concavity. The loss of the placename does not appear to have been keenly felt by Brisbane residents: no-one, to our knowledge, has complained of a toponymic gap that needs to be filled for this feature.

A Classification Problem

The loss of an original toponym, however, does pose a problem for the Survey’s classificatory system. Wherever a single feature in the ANPS Database has more than one toponym associated with it, each of those toponyms is tagged with one of eight Relationship Categories. Those categories record the toponym as

- an alternative
- an assigned equivalent
- a discontinued form
- a former name
- an indigenous equivalent
- an introduced equivalent
- the preferred form, or
- a minor variant in spelling or pronunciation

(Continued on Page 7)

A La Carte of Placenames



Menu selected by our celebrity chef, Joyce Miles

Western Australia from Top to Bottom

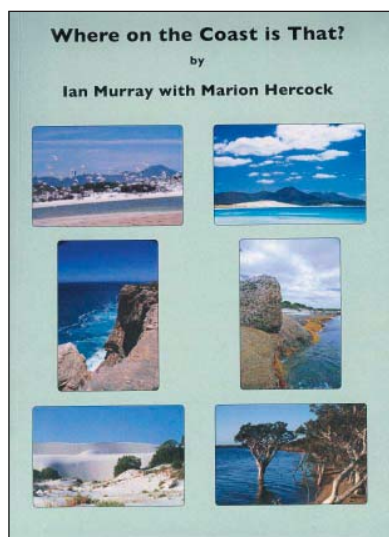
In our March 2009 issue we reported the publication of Ian Murray's monograph *Where on the Coast is That?*, a compendium of some 4000 WA placenames, which he and Marion Hercock jointly published through Hesperian Press. The book is the second in a series, and follows *Araluen to Zanthus: A Gazetteer of Perth Suburbs and Western Australian Towns*, which Ian co-wrote with Brian Goodchild and published in 2003.

Ian has been a dedicated researcher in toponymy for nearly 50 years, and is becoming a prolific author in the field. He now has a database of over 100,000 names, including Aboriginal toponyms, sourced from mining; land settlement, surveyors' and prospectors' records.

Placenames Australia has already noted Ian's 2006 publication on *Aboriginal Corporations, Communities and Outstations*. He reports that in the current series the next volume is planned to cover all the towns, sidings and small localities, and will record their alternative and Aboriginal names. A further two volumes will cover all the geographical features of WA. All information comes from documented, not oral, sources.

The stated aim of *Where on the Coast is That?* is to locate, describe and explain the origin of placenames on the coast and islands of Western Australia. 'Coastal' is taken to include all features within 100 metres of the coastline. The preliminary pages include (as well as an introduction) a 'How to Use This Book' section, a list of Acronyms and Abbreviations, a useful Chronology of European exploration on the west coast of Australia, and a Select Bibliography (or, as it is actually headed, a list of Selected References).

Each entry in the alphabetical listing of placenames includes: 1. the toponym; 2. an identification field containing a) the local government area, b) the AUSLIG map reference, and c) approximate latitude and longitude; 3. a description/explanation paragraph, where possible containing answers to the key toponymic questions 'who', 'when' and 'why'. A typical entry is that for **Bouvard Reefs**:



Where on the Coast is That? by Ian Murray with Marion Hercock

Hesperian Press, 2008. xiii, 336pp. ISBN 978-0-85905-452-2
Available from Hesperian Press, PO Box 317, Victoria Park 6979 WA

Offshore reefs located about 16.3 km south of Cape Bouvard (City of Mandurah) and 8km north west of Preston Beach. Sighted by Baudin on June 17 1801, when he recorded: '... as it is the only danger we have encountered off Leeuwin Land I have named it "L'Unique".' Shown as 'Butchers Reef' on Arrowsmith's map of 1839 and referred to as 'Butchers Reef' in the *Government Gazette* of 16 April 1841. Shown, but unnamed, by F.T.Gregory in May 1848. Shown as 'Bouvard Reefs' in 1881, the name being taken from Cape Bouvard. The appropriate cross-reference entries appear at **L'Unique** and **Butchers Reef**, although the latter is given a slightly different latitude and longitude reference.

A degree of initiative is expected on the part of a reader who may wish to follow up any of the references given in the paragraph. Baudin's name, for instance, does not appear in the bibliography; and the 1848 F.T. Gregory documentation presumably appears in the A.C. Gregory and F.T. Gregory *Journals* of 1884, which is indeed listed in the Selected References.

This monograph is an outstanding presentation of fine scholarship. The documentation on which it is based, and the format in which it is presented, is in full accord with the highest standards of placename research. The book will be invaluable to those who are interested in WA placenames; but more than that—it stands as an excellent exemplar of scholarly toponymy.

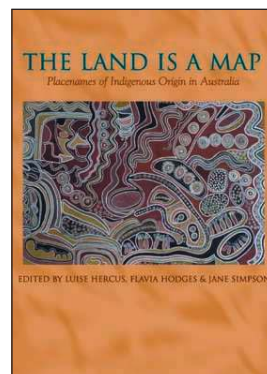
The Land is a Map

Placenames of Indigenous Origin in Australia

Edited by Luise Hercus, Flavia Hodges and Jane Simpson

The book which resulted from one of our early ANPS workshops, and which was published by Pandanus Books in 2002, is now freely available as an electronic text from ANU E Press. Individual chapters, as well as the whole book, may be downloaded as PDF files. Or you can order a Print-on-Demand copy.

Go to http://epress.anu.edu.au/land_map_citation.html for further details and for downloads.



OUT AND ABOUT

CESSNOCK NSW



Photograph of Cessnock Castle Courtesy of East Ayrshire Libraries, Burns Monument Centre, Kilmarnock

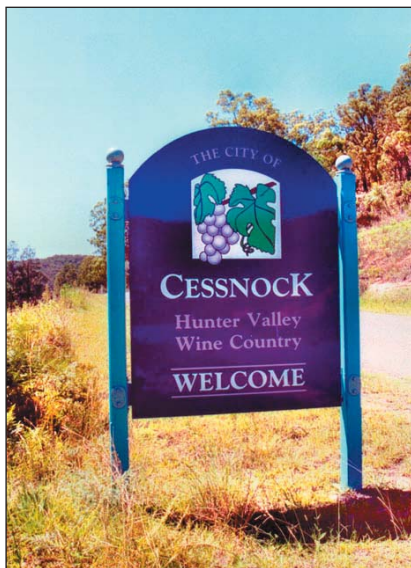
The City of **Cessnock** lies on the Great North Road in the Hunter Valley. Coal mining has long been established in the area and one of its main attractions now is the wine industry. **Cessnock** began with the provision of a grant of land to John Campbell in 1829¹. He was a descendant of the lairds of a Scottish estate in Ayrshire² and he named his property **Cessnock** after his ancestors' baronial home Cessnock Castle³. The town that subsequently developed took the name **Cessnock**.

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Photo: Joyce Miles

References

- 1 A. Walker, Coaltown. *A Social Survey of Cessnock*. Melbourne University Press, 1945, p.103
- 2 W.S. Parkes, Jim Comerford and Dr Max Lake, *Mines, Wines and People. A History of Greater Cessnock*. Greater Cessnock Council, 1979
- 3 Walker, p.103



WHY MARX HILL?



Travellers along the Waterfall Way may wonder why **Marx Hill** is so named. It lies about 5km to the east of Bellingen, NSW, and its name commemorates a family who, through their efforts, became widely respected in the local community.

Concerns over political unrest in Germany in the second half of the 19th century led the Marx family to sell up their properties in the Grand Duchy of Baden, buy a boat and set sail for Australia. On arrival they made their way first to the Macleay, but eventually they carried on to the Bellingen Valley on foot through difficult terrain, eventually choosing to settle at Fernmount in 1863. At first Johannes became a storekeeper, but he was able to purchase a great deal of land as it is said that he had brought with him the large sum of £2000. Unfortunately, money was scarce in the area and he was owed so much that he was eventually forced to sell both the store and his properties at a huge loss¹.

Nevertheless he and his family moved to a house on the hill which now bears his name. Here he started to grow grapes with enormous success, producing prize wines at the international Colonial Exhibition in London. Meanwhile he had erected three family houses on the hill, valuable properties alleged to have “one of the finest views in the Southern Hemisphere”. He became a deacon of the Catholic Apostolic Church² and the first postmaster of Bellingen³.

He died in May 1889 in his wine cellar – either after falling from a scaffold or as the result of being struck by a piece of falling timber while carrying out repairs. He was buried by the Fernmount to Bellingen roadway which originally went over the top of Marx Hill, but a deviation was opened in 1903⁴.

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Photo: Tricia Mack

References

- 1 Norman Braithwaite and Harold Beard (Eds.), *Pioneering in the Bellingen Valley*, Bellingen Valley Historical Society, 1978, n.p.
- 2 Braithwaite and Beard
- 3 Stan Day (Ed.) *Place names in the Bellingen Valley from Brinerville down*, Bellingen Valley Historical Society, c1999, p.17.
- 4 Day, p.17

Concerning Transport

The clues reveal placenames connected with transport. (Disregard spelling)

E.g. (TAS/WA) International airport near Limerick, Ireland
Shannon

1. (QLD) Motor vehicle, past participle of ‘be’
2. (QLD) Air transport, touch down
3. (QLD) Horned animals once used to draw wagons; Model T
4. (QLD) US Space Centre for launching astronauts
5. (QLD) Riders of the waves; an ideal place
6. (NT) Pushcart for street vendors and gardeners; small stream
7. (VIC) Vehicle for carrying oil, a score or speed of a hundred
8. (VIC) When jumping from an aircraft this should open (*abbrev.*)
9. (VIC) One of a breed of strong draught horses originally raised in Scotland
10. (VIC) An Australian stagecoach company, male sheep
11. (VIC) Rounding this point off Tierra del Fuego by boat is a tourist attraction
12. (TAS) One-humped desert animal used for riding and racing
13. (SA) Usually drawn by a horse
14. (SA) Transport for cars and people across a river, etc., wild beast’s lair; designated place for leaving a car
15. (NSW) Freight usually transported in the hold of a ship
16. (NSW) Main pre-18th century means of conveying a person; large inland body of water
17. (NSW) Large sea-going vessel, the sheltered side.
18. (NSW) Sit on and manage a horse or a bicycle
19. (NSW/TAS) Small vessel for rowing or sailing; a safe haven for vessels
20. (NSW/QLD) UK railway station where a travelling bear was found

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(Continued from Page 3)

In the case of Moreton Bay, Cook’s toponym for the eastern side of the Island is most appropriately tagged as a *former name*—defined by the Survey’s Database as “a previously-used, though never legislated, form of [the currently assigned or preferred name X]”. The difficulty here, of course, is that there is *no* “currently assigned or preferred name” for the feature in question. Our design of the Database did not conceive of the possibility that some places might lose their original names and thereafter remain nameless.

If Moreton Bay is a unique case, it poses a minor problem for the Database which can be ignored. On the other hand, if other similar instances come to light, the Relationships tagging in the ANPS Database may require some degree of re-design.

Acknowledgment

Thanks are due to Graham Taylor, Department of Natural Resources and Water, Queensland, for information on the documentary evidence for Moreton Bay, and for compiling the sketch map showing current toponymy.

Bibliography

Dixon, Robert. *This map of Moreton Bay / compiled from authentic surveys and containing all the latest discoveries made by exploring parties is most respectfully dedicated to His Grace the Duke of Cleveland by his most obedient servant Robert Dixon, 1842* [Sydney: Printed and published by W. Baker, 1843-1846] National Library, Bib ID 3660987.

Flinders, Matthew. *A voyage to Terra Australis; undertaken for the purpose of completing the discovery of that vast country, and prosecuted in the years 1801, 1802, and 1803...* London: G. & W. Nicol, 1814

Hawkesworth, John. *An account of the voyages undertaken by the order of His present Majesty for making discoveries in the Southern hemisphere, and successfully performed by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain Cook, in the Dolphin, the Swallow, and the Endeavour / drawn up from the journals which were kept by the several commanders, and from the papers of Joseph Banks, esq.* London: W. Strahan & T. Cadell, 1773. 3 vols.

Wharton, W.J.L. (ed.) *Captain Cook’s journal during his first voyage round the world made in H.M. Bark “Endeavour” 1768-71. A literal transcription of the original MSS.* London: Elliot Stock, 1893.

Footnotes

¹ The relevant section of Hawkesworth’s edition may be viewed via the National Library on-line editions, at the URL <http://nla.gov.au/nla.cs-ss-jrml-hv23-513>

² Flinders, vol. 1, p. 199

³ See <http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/property/placenames/detail.php?id=22810>

Answers: 1. Carbeen 2. Plainland 3. Oxenford 4. Kennedy 5. Surfers Paradise 6. Barrow Creek 7. Tankerton 8. Chute 9. Clydesdale 10. Cobram 11. Cape Horn 12. Dromedary 13. Karte 14. Ferryden Park 15. Cargo 16. Horse Lake 17. Shipley 18. Ryde 19. Boat Harbour 20. Paddington

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Contributions

Contributions for *Placenames Australia* are welcome. Please send all contributions to the Editor, Tricia Mack, by email: [<editor@anps.org.au>](mailto:editor@anps.org.au) Electronic submissions and photographic or other illustrations are greatly appreciated. Closing dates for submission are:

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