

Place Names of Casey and Cardinia

Casey Cardinia Libraries have compiled this list of place names and their meanings from the City of Casey and Cardinia Shire and related neighbouring areas.

It includes early schools in the area, as school names often reflected the fluidity of town names in the early days. They also indicate the locations of towns that no longer exist.

Army Road, Pakenham

Army Road marks the location of the Salvation Army boy's home established in Pakenham in 1900. It subsequently became a home for Girls and then an Old Men's Home. The home closed in the 1920s. The Army Road School, No.3847, operated intermittently from 1914 until 1947. (W, V)

Avonsleigh

John (J.W) and Anna Wright owned a guesthouse called Avonsleigh House at the corner of Emerald-Macclesfield and Emerald Roads. The name was adopted in 1911. The area was previously known as East Emerald. See also Wright Railway Station. (C)

Balla Balla

The Balla Balla run on Rutherford Inlet was taken up in 1839 by Robert Innes Allan. The meaning is uncertain. Ballarat is Aboriginal for resting or camping place from balla 'resting on one's elbow; and arat 'place', so it could mean 'resting'. Another possible meaning is 'mud'. There is a Balla Balla river, near Whim Creek, in the Pilbara Western Australia which was first recorded by Surveyor, Alexander Forrest in 1879. The name is thought to be derived from the Aboriginal word parla, from the Kariyarra language, meaning 'mud'. (B)

Ballarto Road

John Bakewell retained ownership of the Tooradin run in 1856 when his partnership with John Mickle and William Lyall dissolved. In the early 1860s Bakewell subdivided the Tooradin run into smaller runs amongst which were Ballarto, Sherwood and Yallambie. The town of Bullarto, near Daylesford,

comes from the Aboriginal for 'place of plenty'. Ballarto was the original name for the Cardinia School. See also Cardinia. (B, G, Ca, V)

Bangholme

From the Aboriginal word for 'hut'. The name is taken from the cattle run, on the Bigning waterholes, taken up by Joseph Hawdon in 1837. Bigning was also known as Bangholme, Bangam or Barnham. (B, G, U)

Bayles

Named after Frederick Bayles (1884-1915), the first member of the Railway Construction Branch to be killed in World War One. Frederick arrived in Melbourne in August 1913, enlisted on August 20th, 1914 and was killed in action at Gallipoli on May 8th, 1915. Bayles was the station on the Strzelecki line (opened June 29, 1922) for the Yallock Village settlement. The Bayles Railway Station closed February 1959. (B, G)

Beaconsfield

Named after Benjamin Disraeli, the Earl of Beaconsfield. Disraeli was the British Prime Minister 1868, 1874-1880. Some sources say that on the day he died in 1881 (April 19) a deputation waited on the Victorian Minister of Railways to have a station built at what is now Beaconsfield, however this incorrect as the railway station had opened December 1, 1879. The Post Office had opened on October 1st, 1878. Beaconsfield means "open land near a beacon or signal fire". The town was originally called Little Berwick. (B, O, W)

Beenak

From the Aboriginal word for "hand basket". Mount Beenak School, No.3764, operated intermittently between 1912 and 1928. (B, V, W)

Belgrave

Early European pioneers, Stephen and William Benson, called their property Mount Belgrave, after a chapel in Yorkshire, which their parents, Mr & Mrs R.G Benson, had attended in the 1840s. In 1904 the local railway station was renamed Belgrave, replacing the name of Monbulk. (C)

Bembridge

Bembridge School, No.4557, operated from 1937 until 1953, on a site on the Tooradin-Tyabb Road. After the school was closed, students transferred to the Pearcedale School. Bembridge comes from the Old English and means “place lying this side of the bridge” (B, O, Pe)

Berwick

Captain Robert Gardiner, one of the first European settlers, selected land in 1837. Gardiner named his property Melville Park, after his father Melville William Gardiner. The Gardiner family had a connection to Berwick-upon-Tweed in the United Kingdom and this influenced the naming of town of Berwick. (E)

Blind Bight

Named because it is “blind” or hard to spot from the sea. First settlement in the town took place in 1974. (T)

Botanic Ridge

Formerly part of Cranbourne South. The City of Casey voted to create a new suburb known as Botanic Ridge on May 20th, 2008. The area is bounded by Pearcedale Road, Browns Road, Craigs Road and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne. The name reflects the proximity to the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Bowman's Track

The track was established by Mrs Bowman, of the Gippsland Hotel on the Cardinia Creek, to link Beaconsfield to the Yarra track. It went from the inn yard around Mt Misery, O'Neil Road, Hughendon Road, Telegraph Road, then followed the ridge on what is now Beaconsfield-Emerald road, followed Paternoster Road ridge then along high ground to the east of Mount Burnett. It then reached the watershed dividing the Yarra basin and the creeks running to the Bunyip River, finally it followed what is now East Road and Beenak Road to the Upper Yarra country. (E, W)

Bunyip

The Buneep Buneep cattle run was taken up by Henry Jennings in the early 1850s. The Bunyip, according to Aboriginal legend, was the “monstrous, swamp-dwelling creature with the harsh call” (B, W)

Caldermeade

Calder is Gaelic for “wood by stream” and mead is a “meadow”. The town was named after Archibald McMillan’s property Caldermeade. The area and the railway station, which opened in February 1890, were originally known as Mac’s Lane (from McMillan’s Lane). (B, G)

Cannibal Creek

The original name for Garfield. The term Cannibal Creek is believed to refer to the killing of dogs by dingoes and was the name of an early cattle run, also called Coonabul Creek, based around Mount Cannibal. Another interpretation is that the term comes from a corruption of the Aboriginal couna meaning “forehead” and bal meaning “he” or “she”. This possibly referred to the shape of Mount Cannibal, which was thought to resemble a head. (B, Fr, Wa)

Cannons Creek

There are two suggested origins for the name of Cannon Creek, firstly that it was named for the Cannon family, early European settlers. They owned land around current day Glenalva Parade in Cannons Creek. Blake suggests that the town may have been named after one of “several public officers of this name during the 1860s” The first permanent resident of the town was Bert Watson in 1940. (A, B, T)

Cardinia

There are two meanings listed for this name, related but slightly different. One version is that it comes from the Aboriginal “look towards the rising sun”, the other version suggests it means “sunrise”. The first school at Cardinia, and the area itself, was known as Pakenham South. This school, No.2139, operated in Bould Road, from 1873 until 1906. Cardinia School, No.3689, was opened in 1911 and was originally called Ballarto State School. The Shire of Cardinia was created from areas from the City of Cranbourne and the Shire of Pakenham and came into existence on December 15th, 1994 at 4.00pm. (Ca, G, V, VAACL)

Carrington

The railway reached Lang Lang in February 1890 and Carrington was the original name of the Lang Lang Railway Station and the town that developed around the station. It was renamed Lang Lang in December 1890. Carrington was named after Charles Robert Carrington, the third Baron Carrington, who was Governor of New South Wales from 1885-1890. Carrington was later created the Marquess of Lincolnshire. Carrington had the honour of being the first living person, other than Queen Victoria, to ever appear on an Australian postage stamp. He and Governor Arthur Phillip jointly appeared on a New South Wales stamp in 1888. See also Lang Lang and Tobin Yallock. (Bo, L)

Carrum Downs

Carrum Downs was in the Shire of Cranbourne, but became part of the City of Frankston in the 1994 Council amalgamations. It takes its name from the Carrum Swamp, which was reclaimed when channels were created to take the waters of the Dandenong and Eumemmerring Creeks to the Bay. These creeks were connected to the man-made Carrum Outfall, now the Patterson River. The drainage works commenced in 1869. The Gareem Gam run was taken up by Dr James Bathe and T.J Perry in 1840. This was also known as Gurn Gurn or Carrum Carrum. Gareem Gam is thought to be Aboriginal for boomerang. (B, G)

Casey

The City of Casey was named in honour of Lord Casey (1890-1976). Lord and Lady Casey lived at Edrington in Berwick. Lord Casey was a diplomat, a politician and the Governor General of Australia from 1965 until 1969. The City of Casey was created from the City of Berwick and parts of the City of Cranbourne. It came into being on December 15th, 1994 at 4.00pm. (A)

Catani

Named after Carlo Catani, Public Works Department Engineer. Catani (1852-1918) was in charge of the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Drainage Scheme from 1893. The Catani Railway Station opened June 29, 1922 and closed in April 1950. the Catani State School, No. 4154, opened in January 1923 and closed around 1995. (G, V)

Centreville

Centreville was a locality in Cranbourne South bounded by Cranbourne-Frankston Road to the north, Centre Road to the west, Pearcedale Road to the east and McKays Road to the south. There was a Centreville general store. (Ho, M)

Chinaman Island, Western Port Bay

Chinese fishermen were said to live on this island. They "fished for the type of fish eaten by the Chinese, dried them and sent them to China" (Ba)

Clematis

The railway station on the Puffing Billy line was called Paradise Valley when it opened in 1902, the name was shortened to Paradise in 1908. The area was known as Paradise until 1921 when a public meeting voted to change the name to Clematis, after the wild clematis creeper that grew prolifically in the area. An early settler, Michael O'Connor, named his farm Paradise and his house Eden House, which became the Paradise Hotel c.1926. (B, C, Fid)

Clyde

Named after the River Clyde in Scotland. The name was originally given to a watercourse that divided the Mayune and the Garem Gun runs. Clyde was initially based north of the existing town along Berwick Road, basically between Patterson Road and Hardy's Road. When the railway went through in 1888, the town which developed around the railway station became known as Clyde and the original town was called Clyde North. (Cl, G)

Cockatoo

Named Cockatoo Creek in 1859 by gold diggers, because of the abundance of cockatoos. The town was settled in the 1870's. The railway station was originally called Devon when the Puffing Billy line opened in 1900. It changed to Cockatoo Creek in 1901 and then shortened to Cockatoo in 1904, though the Post Office retained the name of Cockatoo Creek until the First World War. (B, Fid, W)

Cora Lynn

Cora Lynn was originally called Koo-Wee-Rup Central and renamed Cora Lynn on July 1st, 1907, when the Progress Association requested that the newly established postal service be established under the new name of Cora Lynn, to prevent the confusion of the name with Koo-Wee-Rup. Joe Dineen had recalled that it was the Head Teacher of the school, John McGibbon, who proposed the name, after the scenic rocky gorge and popular picnic area on the North Esk River, just out of Launceston in Tasmania. The name Cora Lynn comes from the Gaelic coire meaning "cauldron or kettle" and linn "pool". (B, D)

Cornucopia

A locality near Tynong North. Cornucopia was the name of a property owned by Arthur and Inez Weatherhead at Tynong North and later on the name of a Folk Museum, also at Tynong North, established by their son Max. Cornucopia comes from the Latin "horn of plenty", a mythical horn able to supply whatever is desired. (We)

Cranbourne

There are two possible origins of the Cranbourne name. The Ruffy brothers were the first Europeans to settle permanently in the Cranbourne area, on the Mayune run, and they operated the Cranbourne Inn. The Inn was named after a town in Berkshire, England. Gunson suggests that Cranbourne was named for Viscount Cranborne (no u), the brother of the British Prime Minister. Viscount Cranborne was born in 1821 and developed blindness as a very small child. He died in 1865, and thus his brother succeeded to the title and then became the Marquis of Salisbury in 1868 when their father died. Salisbury was the British Prime Minister on three occasions between 1885 and 1902. The word Cranbourne means “stream frequented by cranes or herons” (B, G, O)

Crouch’s Beach

Les Crouch was one of the early European settlers at Warneet. He had a shack/ holiday house on the beach from 1925. The area was locally known as Crouch’s Beach until it was officially called Warneet. See also Warneet. (Ba, T)

Dalmore

Named after Duncan McGregor’s estate. Previously called Koo-Wee-Rup West and renamed Dalmore in 1909. The Dalmore Railway Station was firstly known as Peer’s Lane, then Koo-Wee-Rup West and finally Dalmore. Dalmore comes from dale “valley” and more “pond”. Peer’s Lane (now Dalmore Road) was named after a local land owner Frederick Peers. (B, Bo)

Dandenong

From the Aboriginal meaning “lofty mountain”. Early survey maps spelt the name Tanjenong or Tangenong. (U)

Devon Meadows

The land was originally part of the Sherwood run, until it was sub-divided by owner Benjamin Cox. Cox named the estate Devon Meadows and donated five acres of land for a Mechanic’s Institute and School. Devon is an English County. (B, G, R)

Dewhurst

Hurst means "wooded hill". The town was established in the 1920s and the area now forms part of the Cardinia Reservoir. The Dewhurst School, No. 4522, operated from 1934 until 1953. (B, O, V, W)

Doveton

Named after Captain John Doveton and Mrs Margaret Doveton, early European settlers. Captain Doveton (1843-1904) and Margaret (1844-1941) were first cousins, their fathers were brothers. They married at All saints Church in St Kilda in 1873. The suburb was officially named in September 1954. Residents in the area previously used Eumemmerring or Dandenong or Grassmere as an address. (Do, RB, U)

Emerald

Local historian, Frank McGuire, says that the Emerald diggings were so named at a meeting on March 12, 1859, on the basis that the discoverers of the gold diggings were predominantly natives of Ireland, the Emerald Isle. However, Helen Coulson, says the town derived its name from nearby Emerald Creek, which had been named after an early prospector Jack Emerald. Emerald, the town, was first officially known as Main Ridge. Gold was found in the Emerald area in 1858. Emerald, the town, was first officially known as Main Ridge. Gold was found in the Emerald area in 1858. The first Emerald school, No.2110, was located on what is now Avon Road in Avonsleigh. The existing primary school, Emerald Township School, No.3381, was opened in 1901 and moved to the current site in 1909. In the 1871 Census, the Emerald gold field was referred to by Government officials as Irishtown to distinguish it from the township of Emerald. The lush vegetation apparently reminded some people of Ireland. (B, C, V, Wa and personal correspondence from Frank McGuire)

Endeavour Hills

Named after the Endeavour, Captain Cook's ship. The area was officially gazetted as a suburb on July 14th, 1971. First land sales took place on November 24th, 1973. Other suggested names for the area were Piney Ridge after a property in the area or Pine Hills in recognition of the many pine trees in the area. (A)

Eumemmerring

From the Aboriginal "we are pleased to agree with you". Ummemmering "was the Native name given to that part of the district just over the Dandenong Creek outside the township of Dandenong" (Uhl). The Doveton and Hallam area was previously known as Eumemmerring. School, No.244, began in 1858 as the Eumemmerring Denominational School, then became a State School, changed its name to Hallam's Road in 1906 and to Hallam in 1923. The modern suburb of Eumemmerring was gazetted on May 20th, 1981. See also Hallam. (Do, U, V)

Evans Inlet, Western Port Bay

Named after Matthew Evans (1836-1909), early settler at Tooradin. (T)

Fielder Railway Station

A station on the Puffing Billy line, between Cockatoo and Gembrook. It opened in 1929. M.T Fielder is listed on the Parish Plan as a landowner in the area. (Fid, P)

Five Mile

A town on the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp, five miles from the Main Drain outlet on Western Port Bay. Also known as Koo-Wee-Rup North. The Koo-wee-Rup North School, No. 3198, opened on July 7 1894 and closed in November 1959 when the students were transferred to Pakenham Consolidated School. (V)

Five Ways

Descriptive name. Road junction where Clyde Road, Fisheries Road, Finsbury Road meet the South Gippsland Highway. (M)

Fountain Gate

The Fountain Gate housing estate was designed in the 1960s by architect Robin Boyd in conjunction with developer Isador Magid. There is a fountain at the entrance to the estate. Isador Magid also developed the Mountain Gate estate at Knox. (He, Ste)

French Island

Originally named Ile des Francais (Island of the French people) by the 1802 French scientific expedition led by Captain Nicholas Baudin. The island was renamed French Island as early as 1826. (Co)

Garfield

The town was originally called Cannibal Creek. Renamed Garfield in honour of the assassinated American President, James Garfield, who was shot July 2nd 1881 and died September 19th ,1881. Garfield Railway Station was originally known as Hopetoun, after Lord Hopetoun (1860–1908), the seventh Earl of Hopetoun and first Marquess of Linlithgow. Lord Hopetoun was the Governor of Victoria and later on the first Governor-General of Australia. The term Cannibal Creek is believed to refer to the killing of dogs by dingoes and was the name of an early cattle run, also called Coonabul Creek, based around Mount Cannibal. Another interpretation is that the term comes from a corruption of the Aboriginal couna meaning “forehead” and bal meaning “he” or “she”. This possibly referred to the shape of Mount Cannibal, which was thought to resemble a head. (B, Fr, Wa)

Gembrook

Gem stones were found in a creek by the Gembrook Mining Company. Albert Le Souef, part of the Company, named the creek Gem Brook. The town itself was pegged out in 1874. There have been five schools called Gembrook. Gembrook, No.2506, began in 1879 as the part time school No.2110 and became full-time in 1889. Classes took place in the Union Church from 1884 until it moved to the Main Street in 1906 and to the present site in 1915. Pakenham Upper School, No.2155, was called Gembrook South from 1879 until 1916. Gembrook West, No.3211, operated for just over a year from August 1894 until October 1895. The second Gembrook West School, No.4073, operated from 1921 until 1923. Finally Gembrook South East, No. 3468, opened half time with Nar Nar Goon North in March 1904 and closed in December 1908. (P, V, W)

Gippsland

Named in honour of Sir George Gipps, Governor of New South Wales from 1838–1846. The Cardinia Creek was the boundary between the Port Phillip District and Gippsland. Thus the Central Hotel (on the Cardinia Creek) was at one time called the Gippsland Hotel. The Gippsland boundary is now the Bunyip River. (B, E, W)

Grassmere

Grassmere was name of the 1200 hectare (3000 acre) property of Thomas Power, which was subdivided and sold in 1888. The land was on the east of the Dandenong Creek, essentially where Doveton is today. The area was still called Grassmere by locals until it was changed to Doveton. Captain and Mrs Doveton (see Doveton) also called their property Grassmere. Grasmere (sic) is the name of a village in Cumbria, England and comes from the Old English gres “grass” and mere “lake”. (Do, O, U)

Guys Hill

Named after a former storekeeper. It was initially known as Inebriates' Hill after a home for male inebriates in the area. It was then known as Commins Hill after an early settler and then finally Guys Hill. (E, W)

Hallam

Hallam is a relatively new name for this area, dating only from 1905. Before that, the district was known as Eumemmerring, then Hallam's Road, named after William and Mary Hallam who moved to the area in 1856. The Hallam Valley School, No.4407, in Centre Road, was opened in 1929 to accommodate the children of a Closer Settlement Board subdivision. See also Eumemmerring. (St, V)

Hampton Park

Rate-payers in the area, which is now called Hampton Park, were listed variously as living in Eumemmerring, Dandenong or Lyndhurst. The area was locally known as Garner's Paddock, after the owners, the Garner family of Dandenong. Hampton Park was subdivided in 1917–1918 and this subdivision was named the Hampton Park estate by the developer Edward Victor Jones of Somerville Road, Footscray. (G, RB)

Harkaway

There are several theories as to the origin of the name. There was a famous English race horse by the name in the 1830s. Another theory is that the word is a relic of the call to the dogs as the shepherds urged them to shift sheep from the densely wooded hills. Zion's Hill was a name suggested by some settlers in the early 1860s but it lacked popular appeal. (E)

Heath Hill

Descriptive name, heath covered hill. The Heath Hill Railway Station opened June 29, 1922 and closed in August 1941. The Heath Hill State school, No. 3225, began life as Protector's Flat school in April 1895 at Lang Lang East. It was moved to Heath Hill in 1914 and its name changed to Heath Hill at the same time. The School name was changed again in 1951 when it became Yannathan South School. It closed around the 1980s. See also Yannathan. (B, V)

Iona

Named after the Hebridean island off the Scottish coast. The isle of Iona was where Christianity was introduced into Scotland by Columba and his followers. The area was originally known as Bunyip South and officially became Iona in July 1905. The Iona Riding of the Shire of Berwick was established in 1901. The Iona State School, No.3201, which is actually at Vervale, was known as Koo-Wee-Rup North when it opened in 1894, then Bunyip South and changed to Iona in October 1905. (I, RB, V, W)

Island Road

Island Road is named because it becomes an island when the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp floods. Island Road School, No.3952, was opened in 1919 as Dalmore East. It changed its name in 1935. (B, V)

I.Y.U Station

I.Y.U Station (sometimes called J.Y.U) was owned by Dr William Kerr Jamieson and established on the Toomuc Creek in 1838. Mickle quotes a reference to the I.Y.U Station from the Koo-Wee-Rup Sun of 8/11/1928. "The name I.Y.U was the nearest approach to the pronunciation of the name by the Aborigines to the creek running through the estate" (Mi, W)

Jam Jerrup

From the Aboriginal words jham meaning “separated” and jerrup meaning “friends” (Ha)

Junction Village

Residential area south of Cranbourne. Unsure of origin but based at the junction of the South Gippsland Highway and Ballarto Road. (M)

Kallista

From the Greek word meaning “beautiful”. The town was originally called South Sassafras. As the town grew there was agitation for a new name and a prize was offered for a suitable name. Kallista was suggested by a Miss Eastaugh and officially came into being on April 1st, 1925, when a satin ribbon, stretched across the main road, was cut at a small ceremony .(B, C)

Koo-Wee-Rup

Aboriginal for “blackfish swimming”. The railway station at Koo-Wee-Rup was named Yallock when it opened in 1890 and it was renamed Koo-Wee-Rup in 1892. There have been five primary schools called Koo-Wee-Rup and ironically the original Koo-Wee-Rup State School, No.2629, was actually called Yallock, until 1903 when it was changed to Koo-Wee-Rup. The Cora Lynn State School, No. 3502, was known as Koo-Wee-Rup Central when it opened in January 1907 and changed its name to Cora Lynn in September of that year. The Modella State School, No.3456, was known as Koo-Wee-Rup East when it opened in January 1904. The Koo-Wee-Rup North State School, No.3198, at Five Mile, was initially called Koo-Wee-Rup South when it opened in July 1894. Finally the Iona State School, No 3201, was originally known as Koo-Wee-Rup North. See also Five Mile. (B, Bo, V)

Labertouche

P.P Labertouche was the Secretary to the Commissioner of Roads and Bridges from 1858 and later Secretary for Railways. Another suggested origin is that the town was named after Henry Labouchere, first and last Baron Taunton. Labouchere (1798-1869) was a Member of the House of Commons and held various government posts. (B, Lo)

Lang Lang

The first store and hotel were built c.1867 by William Lyall and located on part of the Tobin Yallock (or Torbinurruck) squatting run on the junction of McDonald's Track and the Grantville Road (as the South Gippsland Highway was then called). This store and hotel became the nucleus of the town of Lang Lang, as it was officially known, though the locals called it Tobin Yallock. Tobin Yallock would eventually have a church, a Post Office, Mechanics' Institute and other stores. Its decline began with the coming of the railway when the station, called Carrington, was built east of Tobin Yallock. By about 1894 most of the businesses and public buildings had transferred to the new Lang Lang based around the railway station. There are two published meanings of Lang Lang. Blake says that the term Lang Lang comes from the Aboriginal word for "group of trees". However, the VACL website states that Lang Lang is Aboriginal for "stones or stony". See also Carrington, Nyora and Tobin Yallock. (B, Bo, G, L, VACL)

Langwarrin

Langwarrin was the original name of Pearcedale. When the Mornington and Stony Point railway lines opened in the late 1880s, the railway station near the Military Camp (now a Flora and Fauna Reserve) was named Langwarrin. A new town developed east of the railway station and was locally called New Langwarrin. The name comes from the squatting run called Lang Waring or Long Waring, leased by William Willoby from 1843. Blake says the name Long Waring comes from "long waiting" as it took Willoby a long time to obtain his run. There have been three schools called Langwarrin. The Langwarrin Railway Station School, No.3023, was opened in 1890 on the corner of McClelland Road and Golf Links Road. The name changed to Mornington Junction in 1906 and finally to Baxter in 1919. It moved to the six cross roads at Baxter in 1954. Langwarrin, No.3531, commenced in 1907, moved to Warrandyte Road in 1913 and was known as Langwarrin North until 1955, when the North was dropped. Finally, Langwarrin School, no.2961, opened in 1889 in what is modern day Pearcedale, closed in 1892, re-opened 1902 and in 1908 changed its name to Pearcedale. (B, Sc, V)

Lisbaun

Lisbaun State School, No.4196, was located on the St Germain's property in McCormack's Road in Clyde North. It operated from 1924 until 1937. Lisbaun is the name of a town in County Antrim in Northern Ireland. (B, Ca, V)

Longwarry

From the Aboriginal for "divided waterhole". The name came from an early pastoral lease, called Longwarre. The area was earlier known as Fraser's Siding after the siding created by Donald Fraser, a timber mill operator. (Bu, Lo)

Lyall's Inlet, Western Port Bay

Named after William Lyall (1821-1888) owner of the nearby Harewood property.

Lynbrook

Area originally part of Lyndhurst. Lynbrook was named a suburb by the State Government Place and Names Committee in February 2001. (A)

Lyndhurst

Bald Hill was an early name for Lyndhurst. Bald Hill School, No.732, started in 1863 and closed in 1869. It reopened as Lyndhurst in 1873. Lyndhurst was named after John Singleton Copley, Lord Lyndhurst (1772-1863). Lord Lyndhurst was the Lord Chancellor of England on three occasions between 1827-1846. Lyndhurst means "wooded hill growing with lime trees", from Old English lind "lime tree" and hyst "wooded hill". (B, G, O, V)

Lysterfield

Named after William Saurin Lyster, one of the early European selectors. Lyster donated land for the Lysterfield School, No.1866, in 1874. Lysterfield was originally regarded as part of Narre Warren and was then known by the descriptive name of The Flat. It was named in honour of Lyster in the mid 1870s. (C, V)

Macclesfield

The locality was said to be named by a miner called Stringer, after the town of Macclesfield in Cheshire, England. Macclesfield comes from a combination of the Old English personal name of Maccel and feld – open country, thus open country or field belonging to a man called Maccel. (C, O)

Maryknoll

Father Pooley, a Catholic Priest, established Maryknoll as a rural community based on the principles of religion, family life and co-operative enterprise. The first families moved to the 213 hectare (528 acre) site, at what was then Tynong North, in 1950. The settlement was known as St Mary's until 1955 when the name was changed to Maryknoll to avoid confusion with other towns called St Mary's. Maryknoll means Mary's hill or knoll. (W)

McDonalds Track

In 1860, a track was developed between Tobin Yallock (Lang Lang) and Moe, over Mount Worth, with the aim of providing a stock route through to Sale. It is named after George McDonald, who surveyed the track between 1860 and 1862. (L)

Menzies Creek

Named after John Menzies, an early gold prospector who remained in the area long after other miners had left. The area was known as Aura by Robert H. Kerr, a local Councillor, during 1917-1923. Aura is Irish for "beautiful" and was the name of the Kerr property. (B,C)

Modella

There are various theories as to the meaning of Modella. Blake says it is from the Aboriginal word for "strike you". The name Modella was taken from Modella Park, a farm owned by James Douglas. One interpretation is that the name is a corruption of "model" because Modella Park was a "model" farm, and another theory is that it comes from the name of a famous race horse of the time. The Modella School, No.3456, and the area itself, were initially known as Koo-Wee-Rup East. The school name changed in February 1905. (B, Ut, V)

Monash Freeway

Named after Sir John Monash (1865–1931) Engineer, General and Chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. He oversaw the erection of the Yallourn Power station. (Adb)

Monbulk

There are two interpretations on the meaning of Monbulk. One is that it comes from the Aboriginal word monbolloc “hiding place in the hills” or “sanctuary”. The other is that it comes from the word for “lake”. The Monbulk School, No.3265, was known as Dandenong Forest Village Settlement when it opened in 1897, but changed its name to Monbulk the next year. (C, V, VACL)

Monomeith

From the Aboriginal word for “pleasant or agreeable”. The town was named after the estate owned by John Mickle (1814–1885), which had originally been part of the Yallock run owned by Mickle and his partners John Bakewell (1807–1888) and William Lyall (1821–1888). The original name of the Monomeith Railway Station (opened February 1890) was Glasscock’s, named after George Glasscock who had purchased part of the Monomeith estate after Mickle’s death. (B, Bo)

Moola

Moola was a town surveyed on the “Puffing Billy” line between Wright and Cockatoo in 1913. It was never developed and was rescinded in 1952. Moola comes from the Aboriginal word for “shade”. (B, Fid)

Moody’s Inlet, Western Port Bay

Named after Christopher Moody (1833–1920) Koo-Wee-Rup land owner and Cranbourne Shire Councillor.

Mount Ararat

Ararat is the resting place of Noah’s Ark in the Bible. Three runs were registered on the Ararat Creek in 1844, a total of over 9,300 hectares (23,000 acres) (B, W)

Mount Burnett

Named after James Charles Burnett (1815 - 1854) who was a Surveyor under the Surveyor General, Sir Major Thomas Mitchell (1792 - 1855) You can read about James Charles Burnett here, in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

(B)

Mount Cannibal

See Cannibal Creek.

Mount Carney

An early name for Mount Misery, named after early settler Mr Carney who lived at the base of the hill (E)

Mount Misery

Mount Misery was originally known as Mount Carney after an early settler, Mr Carney, who lived at the base of the hill. It was named Mount Misery "owing to the light nature of the soil, growing sparse herbage for grazing purposes"

(E)

Nangana

From Aboriginal "to compare or examine". Nangana is also a Parish in the County of Evelyn. (B)

Nar Nar Goon

From the Aboriginal word for "native bear" or koala. A correspondent to the Pakenham Gazette in December 1965, states that when he first arrived in Nar Nar Goon in about 1906 "the legend was that the natives said the place was

"No No Good." This is not confirmed with any other sources. (B)

Narre Warren

There are three interpretations of the origin of Narre Warren. One definition is that it is a corruption of the Aboriginal words for "little hills". Another definition is that it is a corruption of the Aboriginal words for "no good" from the belief that the creek water was brackish and "no good" for drinking. The VACL website suggests that it comes from the word meaning "red ochre". Narre Warren originally referred to the township of Narre Warren North, which was surveyed around 1860. This was later known as Old Narre Warren to distinguish it from New Narre Warren which developed around the Railway Station. The name was used in the area as early as 1837 when the Native Police Force was established at Nerre Nerre Warren, this area later became an Aboriginal Protectorate to protect the Aborigines from the white settlers. It is now the Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve. Narree Worrان is a Parish name in the County of Mornington. (B, C, E, Th, VACL)

Nobelius Railway Station

A station on the Puffing Billy line. Carl Nobelius established a very successful nursery at Emerald around 1892 and exported fruit trees all over the world. The nursery was called Gembrook Nurseries, due to its location in the Parish of Gembrook. The station was opened in 1926, though there had been an earlier siding to cater for the Nursery business. (C, Fid)

Nyora

From the Aboriginal word for "wild cherry tree". The area was originally known as Lang Lang East until the Great Southern Railway line went through from Dandenong to Port Albert, and the railway station built in the area was called Nyora. This line was opened as far as Lang Lang in February 1890 and it was opened to Nyora and Loch in November 1890. However the actual township site had been proclaimed on December 23, 1886 and it was surveyed in 1887 by John Lardner an assistant surveyor on the Lands Department. (B)

Officer and Officedale

Named after the Officer family, early European settlers. The railway station was originally called Officer's Wood Siding, due to the timber being cleared from the land and railed to Melbourne as firewood. Officer School, No.2742, was initially called Officers Siding, when it opened in 1886. The Officedale State School, No.4242, which operated intermittently from 1925 until 1951, was on the corner of Cardinia and Lecky Roads. (Fr, V)

Pakenham

In the Wake of the Pack Tracks suggests Pakenham is named after Major General Sir Edward Michael Pakenham (b.1788) who served with the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula War and was killed in 1815 at the Battle of New Orleans. Blake, however, suggests that Pakenham was named for "General Pakenham who served in the Crimean War". This is probably Lieutenant-Colonel Edward William Pakenham (1819-1854) who was killed at Inkermann during the Crimean War. The Lieutenant-Colonel was the son of Sir Hercules Pakenham who was the brother of Major General Sir Edward Michael Pakenham. There are two other suggested sources for the name. Firstly that it was named for Catherine Pakenham, who was the wife of the Duke of Wellington. Secondly that it was named for "Rev Pakenham of Dublin". This is most likely the Very Reverend Henry Pakenham, who was Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin from 1843-1864. Catherine and Henry were siblings of Sir Edward and Sir Hercules. Their father was the second Baron Longford. Blake also suggests that the area was once called Longford. Pakenham was originally based around the Princes Highway and Toomuc Creek and the town that developed around the Railway Station from 1877 was known as Pakenham East. It was still referred to as Pakenham East well into the 1960s. (B, Fi, Re, W)

Pearcedale

The town was known as Langwarrin or Langwarrin Estate or Old Langwarrin until December 1905. A meeting of rate payers was held in November 1905 and it was voted to rename the town Pearcedale to avoid confusion with the new settlement based near the Langwarrin Railway Station. Pearcedale was named after Nathaniel Pearce, an early European settler. See also Langwarrin. (G, Pe)

Princes Highway

The Road was originally known as the Gippsland Road, but was changed in 1920, after the visit of Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII, then the Duke of Windsor. The Prince was born June 1894 and died May 1972, he is the uncle of Queen Elizabeth). The Princes Freeway took it's name from the Highway. (Re)

Protector's Plain and Protector's Flat

Protector's Plain was the name of State School No. 2899 which opened on the Westernport Road in 1888. The school community was re-located onto the current site in Lang Lang, with a new building and the new name of Lang Lang, in June 1891. Protector's Flats was named after a camp used in the late 1830s and early 1840s by William Thomas, a Protector of Aborigines. Andrew Hudson held this land in the 1860s and 1870s and called his property Protector Park. See also Lang Lang. (G, L)

Puffing Billy

The railway line between Ferntree Gully and Gembrook. Puffing Billy is an affectionate name for the "little trains" that operated on the narrow gauge line. Cuffley says it was used as early as 1903, but became dominant in the 1950s when the campaign began to re-open the line after it was officially closed in 1954. (Cu, Fid)

Quail Island, Western Port Bay

Name taken from the birds on the island. Originally called Harris Island, which was named during Lieutenant James Grant's trip to Western Port Bay, in the Lady Nelson, in March 1801. Surgeon John Harris was a Magistrate and member of the New South Wales Corps. (Co, T)

Ripplebrook

Descriptive name. The stream the name refers to is the Musk creek which flows past the Ripplebrook School house. Formerly called Longwarry South. (Bu)

Rowville

Named in 1903 after the Row family of Stamford Park, early European settlers. Frederick Row was a partner with the wool-brokers, Goldsborough, Row and Company, and is said to have been the first man to bring sparrows to Australia. The area was previously part of Lysterfield. (C)

Rutherford Inlet, Western Port Bay

Named for Thomas Rutherford. Rutherford took out the licence for the Bourbinandera run, of 1800 hectares (4480 acres) in 1842. (G)

Rythdale

A Soldier Settlement area, south of Pakenham, based around Soldier's Road and Hobson's Road. The School, No.4231, was known as McGregor's Estate when it opened in 1924 and changed its name to Rythdale in September 1926. The School closed in September 1951 and the children went to Pakenham Consolidated School. Rythdale is a coined name and doesn't have any particular meaning. Duncan McGregor was the owner of the 1618 hectare (4000 acre) estate Dalmore, part of which formed the Soldier Settlement subdivision. (B, Ca, V, W)

Sawtells Inlet, Western Port Bay

Named after Melbourne merchant, Edwin Sawtell in 1840. (B)

Selby

Selby had been regarded as part of Menzies Creek, until a new railway station was established on the Puffing Bully line in 1900. The Railway Commissioners named the station after George W.Selby, local Councillor and Chairman of the Gembrook Railway Trust. (C)

Sherbrooke

Named after the Canadian birthplace of one of the early settlers, R.W.Graham, a "leading spirit in the early settlement, who may be justly described as the father of Sherbrooke." (Coulson) (C)

Sherwood

The Robin Hood Hotel was built at Sherwood about 1870 and the Sherwood State School, No.1993, operated from 1878 until 1882, on the southeast corner of Fisheries Road and Tooradin–Baxter Road. Sherwood is the name of a Parish in the County of Mornington and was also the original name of the Tooradin Railway Station. Sherwood Forest is the home of the legendary Robin Hood. See also Ballarto. (Bo, G, V)

Skye

Skye changed its name to Lyndhurst South in 1903 (although some sources list the date as 1894) after a murder brought unwelcome attention to the area. It changed back to Skye in 1964. Many of the early settlers had come from the Isle of Skye, an island off the north–west coast of Scotland. (B, G, Mo)

Somerville

Named for Sir William Meredyth Somerville (1802–1873), Chief Secretary of Ireland, 1847–1852. (J)

The Gurdies

Named after the Hurdy Gurdy run, first leased by John Thom in 1838 (L)

The Patch

Isaac Simmons, a timber worker, cut down a patch of trees in the 1880s. When settlers returned to the bush ten years later they found a “patch” of grass growing on the site, which became a camping spot until they were able to clear their own land. (C)

Tobin Yallock

For a history of Tobin Yallock, see Lang Lang entry. There are various possible meanings for Tobin Yallock. Blake says that Tobin Yallock (sometimes written as Torbinurruck) comes from the Aboriginal toorberneen “stars” and yallock “water”. Butler says that Tobin Yallock is Aboriginal for “bird’s wing”. VACL website defines Yallock as meaning “creek, stream or river”. (B, Bu, VACL)

Tonimbuk

From the Aboriginal word for “to scorch or burn”. VACL website defines it as “burn or cook” Tonimbuk State School, No. 3363, opened on July 1, 1900, it closed in January 1906, re-opened September 1910 and closed in 1947. (B,V,VACL)

Toomuc Creek

From the Aboriginal word timuk “preparing animal hides for bag or cloak”. Toomuc Valley School, No.3034, was called Pakenham North when it opened in 1890. It operated intermittently and in 1914 changed its name to Toomuc Valley and closed in 1951. (B, V)

Tooradin

From the Aboriginal word too-roo-dun “swamp monster” or “bunyip”. The Tooradin (initially spelt Toorodan) run was taken up Frederick and Charles Manton in 1840. (B, G)

Troup’s Creek and Troup’s Flat

John Troup owned a property in Narre Warren North and was elected to the Berwick District Road Board in 1862. The creeks were man-made and part of an effort to drain the low-lying flats. (Ste)

Tynong

From the Aboriginal word for “plenty of fish” Tynong State School, No. 2854, opened in teh4 Mechanic's Institute in August 1887. It closed in 1892 and then re-opened in the Tynong Hall in May 1905. In 1908 the School moved onto its own site into a building relocated from Cardinia School, No. 2139. This building was replaced in 1915 and the School was closed in April 1951 and the students went to Pakenham Consolidated School. This was also the fate of the Tynong North School which opened in June 1930 and closed in Decemver 1951 (B, V)

Vervale

Vervale probably means “green valley”. In the Shire of Berwick Rate books, ratepayers in the area were listed as living in Cora Lynn or Iona until 1916, when some of these same rate payers had Clarke’s Post Office as their address. This had changed to Vervale in 1917. Vervale was first written as Vere Vale. (B, RB)

Warneet

From the Aboriginal word for “river”. The first land sales at Warneet were held in the 1930s. The area was originally known as Crouch’s Beach. See also Crouch’s Beach. (B, Ba)

Watson Inlet, Western Port Bay

Named after John Watson, whose property ‘Freehall’, was near to the Inlet. John Watson was the owner of considerable property in the Parish of Tyabb, a prominent citizen and a member of the Mt. Eliza District Road Board. A Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Ward is named after him. (Personal correspondence from historian, Valda Cole)

Western Port Bay

Named by George Bass on January 5th, 1798, because of “its relative situation to every other known harbour on the coast” (Co)

Wright Railway Station and Wright Forest

The Puffing Billy station, opened 1904, was named after the operators of the near-by guesthouse Avonsleigh House, John and Anna Wright. The station was established in 1904 to accommodate the guests. See also Avonsleigh. (Fid)

Yallock

From the Aboriginal word for “creek stream or river”. Yallock was the original name of the Koo-Wee-Rup Railway Station. There have been two schools called Yallock. The first, No. 2629, opened on the corner of Bayles Road and Bethunes Road in 1884, changed its name to Koo-Wee-Rup in 1903 and was moved into the town of Koo-Wee-Rup in 1911. The second school, No.3420, started in 1902 as the Yallock Village Settlement School and later changed its name to Yallock. The Yallock Village Settlement was based around Fincks, School, Hall and O'Briens Road off Koo-Wee-Rup Longwarry Road. The Bayles Railway Station, which opened in 1922, was the station closest to Yallock. (B, Bo, V)

Yannathan

From the Aboriginal word to “to walk about”. There have been four schools called Yannathan. Yannathan, No.2422, opened in 1883. Yannathan Upper, No.2492, began its life as Lang Lang North in 1883, changed its name to Yannathan Upper in 1906 and closed in 1912. Yannathan South, No.2510, operated between 1882 and 1890. In 1895 Protector's Flat School, No.3225, opened at Lang Lang East, it was relocated in 1914 to a more central site, and became known as Heath Hill and then changed its name again in 1951 and became Yannathan South. The Yannathan Railway Station opened June 29 1922 and closed April 1950. (B,V)

Yellingbo

The township of Yellingbo was gazetted in March 1896 however, Helen Coulson, said the area was originally called Claxton, then Parslows Bridge. J.Claxton operated a store, Post Office and a wine saloon near the Woori Yallock creek. When Claxton's daughter and her husband took over the store, the area became known as Parslow's or Parslow's Bridge. Helen Coulson says in her book, published in 1959, that 'in recent times' the area became known as Yellingbo after the last Aboriginal known to have frequented the area, however the evidence suggests that the name was in use for much longer than that. This is another example of the fluidity of town names in the early days of European settlement. Yellingbo means “today” or “this day” (B,C)

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