The stories behind the names of the Macquarie Harbour region

Angel Cliffs
Named by Archie Ware, a piner of the early 1930s, in reference to a calcite feature of the cliffs which resembles an angel with outstretched wings.

Baylee Creek
Named after Major Perry Baylee, last Commandant of Sarah Island, 1831-33.

Birchs Inlet
Named by Captain James Kelly in 1815 after merchant Thomas William Birch, who financed Kelly's journey.

Briggs Creek
Named after Captain James Briggs, Commandant of Sarah Island, 1829-1831.

Butler Island
'Discovered' by an exploring party aboard the brig, *Cyprus* in 1829, the island is named after Captain James Butler, Commandant of Sarah Island, 1825-29.

Cape Sorell
Named in honour of Lt. Governor William Sorell. It was Sorell who proposed the establishment of a penal settlement on Sarah Island.

Charcoal Burners Bluff
Named in reference to the charcoal burner operated by convicts from the Sarah Island penal settlement.

Crotty
Named after James Crotty, entrepreneur and gold miner. Crotty paid a fellow miner's £20 debt at F. O. Henry's store in Strahan in exchange for a one third share in the Iron Blow at Mt Lyell. The mine, under Crotty's management, was to become a major producer of copper.

Cuthbertson Creek
Named after Lt. John Cuthbertson, first Commandant of Sarah Island, 1822-1823.

Elizabeth Island
Named by James Kelly in 1815 after the wife of James Gordon, who lent the whaleboat (also named *Elizabeth*) for Kelly's journey.

Farm Cove
Named in reference to the farming plots established in 1824 to provide food for the Sarah Island penal settlement.

Franklin River
Named by surveyor and track-cutter, James Calder, in 1840 after Governor Sir John Franklin. It was Calder who cut the track over which Sir John and Lady Franklin travelled to Macquarie Harbour in 1842.

Frenchmans Cap
Believed to have been named in reference to its resemblance to that item of a Frenchman's attire. The origins of the name are obscure, but may have been given by early occupants at the Sarah Island penal settlement. An Aboriginal name for the mountain is Trullennuer.

Garden Point
Named by James Kelly in 1815, after his party 'sowed a quantity of garden seeds' at this point.

Gordon River
Named by James Kelly in 1815 after Mr James Gordon who provided the whaleboat for Kelly's journey.

Grummet Island
Formerly known as Condemned or Small Island, the present name may be an allusion to the shackles of the prisoners who endured confinement on this small island. A grummet is a metal ring.

Hells Gates
Believed to have been so named by convicts who passed through this narrow and treacherous waterway on their journey to the Sarah Island penal settlement.

Henty River
Named by Charles Gould in 1862 after the Colonial Secretary, William Henty.

Heritage Landing
Named in reference to its official opening in 1989 coinciding with the day that the World Heritage Commission accepted the nomination of an enlargement of the existing World Heritage Area. The name was conceived by Ros Kelly MHR whilst travelling down the river to the official opening.

Kelly Basin
Named after Captain James Kelly, the first European to see Macquarie Harbour.

Liberty Point
Named by James Kelly in 1815 after his party liberated some swans that they had brought from Port Davey. Its Aboriginal name is Noperpypeen.

Lucas Creek
Named after the first harbourmaster and pilot at the Macquarie Harbour penal settlement.

Macquarie Harbour
Named by James Kelly in honour of the Governor of New South Wales, Lachlan Macquarie. The Aboriginal name for the harbour is Meebberlee.

Mount Darwin
Named by the surveyor, Charles Gould, after naturalist and co-founder of the theory of evolution by natural selection, Charles Darwin. Gould named a number of peaks on the west coast, such as Mt Lyell, Huxely, Jukes, Sedgwick and Owen, after persons involved in the evolution debate of the mid 1800's. Interestingly, the higher peaks are named after those who rejected Darwin's theory!

Picnic Point
Named in reference to its use as a favoured picnic spot by residents of Pillinger.

Pillinger
Originally known as Macquarie, the once thriving town owed its name to Alfred Pillinger, Minister for Lands and Works in 1898.

Sarah Island
Named by James Kelly after the wife of merchant Thomas Birch, who financed Kelly's voyage. The island has also been known as Settlement Island. Its Aboriginal name is Langerrareroune.

Sir John Falls
Claimed to have been named by the photographer Stephen Spurling after Sir John Dodds, Chief Justice, 1887-1898.

Soldiers Island
Named by Commissariat Officer Lempriere in 1839, presumably in reference to its popularity as a retreat for the soldiers of the Sarah Island penal settlement.

Spero River
Named by the explorer Thomas Moore in 1879, after his dog.

Strahan
Formerly known as Long Bay, Strahan was proclaimed in 1882 and named after Governor Sir George Strahan.

Teepookana
Once a major port with, a population of about 200 in 1898, this now defunct town takes its name from the Aboriginal word for kingfisher.

Wright Point
Named after Lt. Samuel Wright, Commandant of Sarah Island, 1824-1825.