

NAMING OF THE TOWN

Until the 1860's Wedderburn was still known as Korong or Mount Korong. Korong was an Aboriginal name meaning "canoe" or "boat" according to Yavra tribes usage or "plenty of water" according to tribes from the Murray.

There are four suggestions as to how Wedderburn was given its name. These are -

1. Diggers on the goldfield requested a survey of the township. This request led to Mr. Wills, of the ill-fated Burke and Wills Expedition, being appointed to survey the township. A number of educated young men from the surrounding stations were spending the evening with Mr. Wills. The name to be given to the township came up, and one of the young men suggested Wedderburn, after a stream near his native place. The suggestion was adopted by Mr. Wills.
2. The name came into being when some person, fond of Scott's poetry, named Wedderburn from the fifth canto and fourth verse of Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel" and note to the same poem, relative to Sir David Home, of Wedderburn.

Wedderburn is a Scottish name meaning "a brook running through a wood". There is a property named Wedderburn in Berwickshire, a border County in Scotland.

A family historian, Major Logan Home, writing of Sir David Home of Wedderburn, who had eight sons, seven of whom were known as "the seven spears of Wedderburn", states -

"They all fought at Flodden, where Lord Home commanded the left wing of the Scottish Army and routed the English opposed to him, chasing them off the field of battle"

There is also a place named Wedderburn in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

3. William Wedderburn, a son of an 1820 settler who settled near Salem in the Eastern Province (South Africa), suffered considerable loss in the Kafir Wars between 1835 and 1846. After fighting in these wars he went to Australia where he joined the Goldfields Mounted Police. On a survey expedition to the hills north of Melbourne, a township site was named after him. Quite oblivious to the fortune of gold that was later found at Wedderburn, Wedderburn returned to the Cape, settled in Grahamstown, married and brought up a family of seven sons and three daughters. His last surviving son - George Benjamin, died in Johannesburg in 1949 at the age of 85. A grandson, Mr. Graham Wedderburn, lives or did live at Berea, Johannesburg.
4. It has also been suggested that Joshua Rogers Gray, Wedderburn's first Post-master, changed the name, but for what reason is unknown.

For many years Wedderburn was spelt with an additional e - as Wedderburne.