The Minister for Home Affairs, King O'Malley, had fought hard for the adoption of Shakespeare, on the grounds that "Shakespeare was the greatest Englishman ever born", but Cabinet eventually decided on Canberra which had been the name of the locality for many years.

The origin of the name is obscure. Some maintain that it is an aboriginal word derived from the name of a native tribe which once frequented the district, whilst others hold that it is the corrupt form of an English place name. Whatever the truth may be, it is certain that the district was called by a number of similar names in old documents — Canbury, Canberry, and Kembery.

The correct pronunciation is "Can-bera", with the accent on the first syllable and the "e" almost omitted.

**COOK'S ATTEMPTED LANDING:**

W. D. Forsyth in his book "Captain Cook's Australian Landfalls" says: "Cook, Banks, Dr. Solander and four oarsmen had to be content to sit in their yawl outside the surf gazing at four 'exceedingly black' aborigines who sat upon the rocks watching them".

The approximate spot was marked by Bulli Rotary Club with granite inscribed tablet on the Bi-centenary afternoon of the day the event happened, now 201 years ago!

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