

Nicknames

Shirley Cook & Judith Lewis

The original Anglo-Saxon word was “ekename” meaning “also or added”. This became slurred to “nekename” and finally “nickname”. Nicknames were common in Ancient Greece and Rome especially as terms of affection. English parents gave their children long names then abbreviated them e.g. “Harold” became “Hal” and “Elizabeth” became “Betsy”.

Nicknames are usually awarded to, not chosen, by the recipient and often are based on the person’s name, physical characteristics, personality or lifestyle. Some nicknames are obvious but some need an explanation.

Some years ago Shirley Cook (Woods) sent us a comprehensive list of “Rivo” nicknames. We have added to Shirley’s list and have endeavoured to match these names with each person’s real name and, where possible, to ascertain the origin of the nickname if it is not indicative of the above criteria.

<u>Nickname</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Name</u>	<u>Origin</u>
Apples	Britton	Stanley	
Barney	Doolan	Brian	
Bats	Johnston	Bruce	Bruce was told he had ears like a bat.
Battler	Woods	Jimmy	Jimmy was a very successful boxer.
Bear	Leach	John	John was Road Captain of the Motor Bike Club. Each year the club travelled in convoy to the Bathurst Bike Races. They slept overnight at Lithgow where some of them were confronted by a local gang. John, came charging to his mates’ rescue “like a Big Bear”.
Beefie	Shields	Ronnie	
Binjo	Webster	Bob	
Blacken	Willis	Alfie	
Blueberry	Mayhew	Cyril	
Bluey	Parkes	Jack	Most Blueeys were redheads
Bluey	Rasmussen		
Bluey	Young	Graham	
Bogan	Buchan	Robert?	
Boley	Mitchell		
Bonnie	Mudiman	Ernest	
Boofa	Woods	Bill	
Borer	Brace	Albert Edward	
Boxhead	Harris	Darryl	
Bozo	Lane	Laurie	On the cricket field one of his mates said he was acting like a clown, a “Bozo”.
Brindle	Shields	Norman	
Brown	Boyd	Sam	
Buck	Burke		
Buck	Crowl		
Bulla	Ritchie		
Bung	Boyd	Gordon	
Bunger	Byrnes	Barry	
Bunty	Brown		
Butch	Drayton	Noel	Butch’s first job was as a delivery driver, with horse & cart, for a local butcher.
Charcoal	Ayhlett	Charlie	
Chummy	Greenhalgh	Samuel	

Cocky	Cook	Warren	
Coxie	Sullivan	Colin	
Crash	Craddock	John Henry	
Crow	Alderton		
Crutch	Shields	Eric	
Daisy	Fussell	Neville	
Deafie	Johnston		
Diesel	Johnston	Kevin	Kevin began driving trucks as soon as he was old enough.
Digger	Dillon	Alan	
Dill	Keegan	Arthur	
Dinky	Knight	Herbert Eric	Playing with another boy he was asked, "Do you play dinks?" "Yes." was the reply. "Well I'll call you Dinky."
Dobbo	Dobson	Ronald	
Doc	Haywood	Colin	
Donkey	Mills	Alwyn	
Doodie	Jocelyn		
Doodie	Shields	Harold	
Dosser	Drayton	Alan	
Dosser	Drayton	George Snr	Alan's father. People often inherited their father's nickname when they went to work at the Meatworks. He was a baker.
Doughy	Wallace	Norman	
Drip	Sandilands	Charlie	
Duck	Magennis	Eric	When Eric was small his grandmother had a duck which Eric used to carry around the yard. His Nan also had a Chook, called "Biddy", which his sister Barbara used to carry around. Eric still calls Barbara "Biddy".
Duck	Woods	Brian	
Duffer	Brown	Geoffrey	
Dummy	Drayton	Jack	
Dump	Hillier	Hilton	
Dump	Keegan	Kevin	
Fifty-Bob	Sheehan	Stanley	
Finny	Smith		
Flask	Welk	Kevin	
Gandy	Martin	Gordon	
Goodgie	Willis	Eric	
Goofy	Lane	Cedric	
Googa	Anderson	Reginald	As a boy Reggie had the best collection of birds' eggs.
Googie	Jackett	Harry	
Gravy	Woods	Noel	
Gudgeon	Alderton	Gordon	
Harpo	Cook	Albert	He had curly blonde hair, not unlike Harpo Marx.
Hoofna	Goddard	Alec	
Hooks	Willis	Eric	
Ike	Schofield	Leslie	
Jittery	Schoffel	Eric	
Jock	Simpson	Alexander	
Jockey	Stephens	Rowland	He had been a jockey.
Lizzie	Knott	Frederick	
Monkey	Neal	Ronald	Ron was called "Monkey" at school, "Mouse" came later.
Mouse	Neal	Ronald	
Musso	Woods	Barry	
Mutt	Haynes	Jeff	
Nabby	Jackett	Johnny	

Nick	Jackett	Neville	
Nick	Schofield	Neville	
Nugget	Spencer	Ken	
Nut	Robbins	Tony	
Ox	Buchanan	Bobby	
Paddy	Packer	Albert	
Pansy	Cartwright	Albert	
Penguin	Martin	Gordon	
Pills	Willis	Hilton	
Pinhead	Podesta	Rodney	
Pom	Alderton	Arthur	He always spoke very correctly, like a “Pom”!
Popeye	Cook	Ronald	
Poppy	Cameron	Bruce	
Prince	Greentree	Hubert?	
Pudding	Keegan		
Red	McNamara	Bill	
Red Rooster	Coull	Ken	
Rolly	Stanford		
Rowdy	Strachan	Barry	Barry was a very quiet person.
Sandy	Alcorn	Stanley	
Shota	Woods	Johnny	
Skipper	Martin	Ralph	
Smokey	Sandilands	George	
Snapper	Holloway	Ronny	
Snooksey	Cook	Albert	“Snooksey’s” nickname became “Harpo” later in life.
Snowy	Alderton	Robert Snr.	
Snowy	Holloway		
Snowy	Martin		
Sockem	Ford	Reggie	
Sparrow	Packer	Kevin	
Spider	Gordon	Richard	
Splorfoot	Johnston	Matt	He had rather large feet.
Spot	Parkes	Robert	Lots of freckles.
Sprat	Fisher	Alec	
Sproggo	Godfrey		
Squeaker	Strachan	Siddie	
Steamer	Jennings	Norman	
Sticker	Davis	Horace	
Stinky	Donoghue	John	
Stumpy	Byrnes	Kevin	
Stumpy	Cartwright	Albert	His grandson, John (who is quite tall), is also known as Stumpy.
Swanee	Harris	Les	
Tell-em-a-lie	Marsh	Ian	
Thrippence	Britton	Graham	As a very small boy Graham lived in a terraced house near the Riverstone Royal Hotel. The licensee, Paddy Morgan said he was only as big as a threepence, our smallest coin at the time. The name stuck! Son Graham also known as Tichey.
Tichey	Drayton	Arthur	
Tiger	Locke	Siddie	
Tinhare	Drayton	Noel Richard	Later known as Butch, he was “Tinhare” from schooldays as he was the fastest runner.
Tip	Davis	Arthur	
Tit	Tozer	Bobby	
Tont	Tuckwell	Teddy	

Toodles	Crowley	Frank
Toot	Johnston	Brian
Toowoomera	Beazley	Archie
Tracker	Justice	Ian? Ross?
Treacle	Alcorn	Fred
Twinny	Crouch	Barry &/or Eric
Wangi	Schofield	Colin
Waxy	Eather	
White	Charcoal	
Wimpy	Symonds	
Windy	Hall	
Wingy	Mason	Frank
Wo	Boyd	Eric
Wo	Boyd	Laurence
Wobble You	Weaver	Leslie
Wonka	Woods	Wally
Wop	Baldwin	Ray

If you can fill in, add to or correct any of the given names that we are missing, please contact us and we will update this list .

The cleverest nickname I recall was back in 1955 when I was practice teaching at Concord Public School on a Year 4 class. The boy’s surname was Bishop and his mates called him “Pub”, short for “beer shop”!

Some nicknames can be the result of a small child’s early effort to pronounce a relative’s given name. I had three close relatives on my father’s side. Auntie Ivy, Auntie Vera and Uncle Jessop. My older brother, Bill called them “Why”, “Booa” and “Sheck”. My younger brother Rob and I continued using the nicknames. Sheck was the only one to lose his name when Superman comics became popular and Rob decided he was “Superman”. Sheck told Rob that he could beat Superman because he was “Joe Palooka”, another comic book hero. Sheck from then on became “Joe”. My mother, Why and Joe all died whilst I was still at high school and Booa (now also known as “Boo”) took my mother’s place in the raising of we three children.

She remained “Boo” until her death in 1975, aged 76. My three sons, their friends and the neighbourhood folk all called her “Boo”. I doubt if some of them knew her real name. Boo was also a great one for using nicknames. Almost every week she had friends visit her home, on the corner of George and Park Streets, for a cuppa and a chat. They were “Lew”, our Nanna Lewis from Mill Street, “Orky”, Treacle Alcorn’s wife, Annie, from Market Street and “Greenie”, Mrs Green from Piccadilly Street. Boo’s dearest friend was “Chalk”, Hilda Chalker, our next-door neighbour in Park Street. Neither of them owned a TV so Chalk visited Boo each evening for a chat and Boo would walk her home each night. Boo always walked Chalk home and we were often in bed when we heard “Goodnight Boo” and “Ni-night Chalk” called out as they parted company for the night at our gateway.