MORE COINCIDENTAL SELF-SIMILARITIES

ANIL
Perth, Australia

These are similar words, some nearly synonyms, which surprisingly are not etymologically related. This article, continued from the Feb. 2004 Word Ways (p.47), is repeated, without the drawings, in the appendix of my upcoming book Strange Bedfellows vol.C: More Fun with Etymology.

Each bold headword is two unrelated words of related meaning. Bold words on the right are related to their headwords.

arbóre = 2 re trees:
1. Tree (general, esp. white cedar);
2. tree-ringed herb garden.

bráke = 2 brackens:
1. Fern, bracken;
2. bracken (or other) thicket.

briar = 2 plants:
1. Thorny bush;
2. (brier) heath plant > brier pipe.

curb = 2 restraints:
1. Check, rein
2. road container, = kérb

dent = 2 opposite marks:
1. Dint, depression
2. tooth-like notch

cearnest = 2 sincerities:
1. Sincere, serious;
2. pledge/payment in sincerity.

gate = 2 passages:
1. Passageway, door;
2. way, path; gait.

grave = 2 heavies:
1. Serious, of gravity;
2. burial site. (down with gravity)

grit = 2 coarse particles:
1. Rough gritty sand;
2. coarse meal, grits.

halt = 2 speed limiters:
1. lame, limping;
2. to stop (vi, vt).

last = 2 futures:
1. Come at end; latest in;
2. endure.

leave = 2 positionings:
1. Depart;
2. permission to stay.

lime = 2 trees:
1. Citrus,
2. linden.
links = 2 chains:  
1 A chain’s elements;  
2 chain of golf holes.

lower = 2 downs:  
1 Put in inferior place; be lower;  
2 show a down mood, frown.

mean = 2 levels:  
1 Low, stingy, cruel;  
2 average.

meter = 2 measures:  
1 Measuring device;  
2 a length measure, metre.

mew = 3 animal-related:  
1 Gull;  
2 cat’s meow, miaow;  
3 hawk moulting cage; to moult.

peel = 2 tools:  
1 Stake,  
2 shovel.

pink = 2 animals:  
1 Minnow, young salmon,  
2 chaffinch.

pip = 2 poultry related:  
1 Disease;  
2 chick’s cheep.

pips = 2 specks:  
1 Dots on cards and dice;  
2 seeds.

porter = 2 passage aiders:  
1 Carrier,  
2 doorkeeper.

pram = 2 vessels:  
1 Perambulator,  
2 boat.

punch = 2 hitters:  
1 Hit by fist,  
2 alcoholic punch.

race = 2 origins:  
1 Tribe, kinship group, ‘roots’;  
2 root, radical.

rack = 2 alcohol related:  
1 A liquor, arrack;  
2 draw wine off its lees.

rape = 2 plant products:  
1 Turnip; rape oil,  
2 grape pomace.

ribband = 2 strips:  
1 Ribbon, riband,  
2 long timber of ship.
roach = 2 animals:
1 Fish,
2 cockroach.

roe = 2 animals:
1 Deer,
2 fish eggs.

rook = 2 birds:
1 Crow relative;
2 the fabled roc.

rout = 2 crowd related:
1 Roar of a crowd (Scot.);
2 crowd, throng.

ruff = 2 animals:
1 Sandpiper,
2 fish.

salve = 2 savers:
1 Healing ointment, skin saver;
2 save, salvage, justify.

sap = 2 diminishers:
1 Drain,
2 undermine.

saw = 2 visions:
1 Was seen;
2 a maxim.

scar = 2 irregularities:
1 Protruding rock, clinker;
2 chink; wound mark.

scruff = 2 head related:
1 Nape of neck;
2 dandruff.

sect = 2 divisions:
1 Section, scion;
2 tribe, division, religious group.

shoal = 2 sea related:
1 Shallows, sandbar;
2 school of fish.

skein = 2 knitting related:
1 Yarn,
2 basketwork.

snib = 2 shut-outs:
1 Bolt or fasten a door;
2 snub, shun.

tipple = 2 drunk related:
1 Drink frequently;
2 topple over.

toll = 2 extractions:
1 Tax;
2 draw out, pull (a bell rope).
**truck** = 2 market related:
1. Move goods; the conveyor;  
2. to market, exchange, deal.

**trunk** = 2 thick ~cylinders:
1. Tree stem,  
2. elephant’s nose.

These repeats from 04-47 are also included in the book cited above.

**hold** = 2 containers:
1. Ship’s storage space;  
2. holding(s); contain in hand.

**keel** = 2 aquatic vessels:
1. Ship (poetic) <ship’s spine;  
2. type of boat, a barge.

**launch** = 2 naval:
1. Ship’s boat;  
2. initiate a ship’s voyage.

**meal** = 2 foods:
1. Ground grain;  
2. a repast.

**mole** = 3 masses:
1. Skin mass, protuberance;  
2. abnormal uterine mass;  
3. any mass > *molecule*, molarity.

**muse** = 2 thought-producers:
1. Poetic inspiration;  
2. ponder, entertain ideas, *amuse*.

**nave** = 2 central places:
1. Middle of a church;  
2. *navel*, hub of a wheel.

**net** = 2 gain/obtain
1. Catch fish etc.;  
2. make as a clear profit.

**pool** = 2 collections:
1. Water;  
2. cars/stakes/antes/prizes.

**purl** = 2 twists:
1. To swirl, eddy;  
2. needlework twisted edge.

**root** = 2 unearthing:
1. Pull up a plant by its roots;  
2. dig up earth with snout (pigs).

**school** = 2 gatherings:
1. Students;  
2. fish.

**scour** = 2 hard exertions:
1. Rub hard;  
2. run hard.

**soil** = 2 dirt:
1. Earth;  
2. to dirty.