

Place Name SUMMARY (PNS) 3/05

‘PUNDUWALLUWATINGG’

(last edited 21/3/2013)

Abstract

‘Punduwallu-watingg’ is a name of uncertain language, probably a combined adaptation by the Ramindjeri of the Kaurna names *Parndalilla* (see PNS 3/06) and *Wita-watingga* (see PNS 2/21). It was recorded in the early 1840s from Ramindjeri informants who had visited Adelaide, and referred to the area around ‘Tapley’s Hill’ (i.e. the northern side of O’Halloran Hill).

The location was given as “neighbourhood of Tapley’s” (his land extended right across the crest of Tapley’s Hill, including his Victoria Hotel). This was deep inside Kaurna-speaking lands. *Parndalilla* was also on Tapley’s Hill, and *Wita-watingga* was around Seacliff Park just below *Parndalilla*.

Watingga in Kaurna means ‘in the middle, between, on account of’. Ngarrindjeri words rarely end in *a*, and adaptation by the Ngarrindjeri would probably omit the final *a*, leaving it similar to their standard Ngarrindjeri locatives *-angk*, *-ong*, etc.

The language of *Punduwallu* is uncertain and the meaning is unknown.

Coordinates	-35.05417° Latitude, 138.549013° Longitude.
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Language Information

Meaning	‘in the middle of Punduwallu’.
Etymology	<i>Punduwallu</i> [unknown] + <i>watingga</i> ‘in the middle, between, on account of’.
Notes	Probably a Ngarrindjeri adaptation of Kaurna originals.
Language Family	uncertain: probably Yaraldic (Ngarrindjeri).
KWP Former Spelling	Punduwallu-watingga(a)
KWP New Spelling 2010	Uncertain: possibly Purntuwalu-watingg
Phonemic Spelling	Uncertain
Pronunciation	“Pundu-walu-watingga”
Pronunciation tips	Stress the 1 st , 3 rd and 5 th syllables; every ‘u’ as in ‘full’; every ‘a’ as in ‘Maori ‘haka’.

Main source evidence

Date	December 1840
Original source text	"[Sections] 76, 129, 132, 193 – Rosenberg – Thomas Tapley – [water] From Section 76 - On this property is a substantially built stone inn and hotel. "
Reference	'Statement of the Extent and Cultivation... 1840', in <i>British Parliamentary Papers: Colonies: Australia: Vol. 7 (1841-4): 80-81.</i>
Informants credited	
Informants uncredited	

Date	1843
Original source text	" Punduwalluwati-ñgg- {sic}, Neighbourhood of Tapley's. "
Reference	HAE Meyer, <i>Vocabulary of the... Aborigines of the Southern and Eastern portions of SA: 50.</i>
Informants credited	Encounter Bay (Ramindjeri) informants.
Informants uncredited	

Discussion: 'PUNDUWALLUWATI-NGG':

THE PLACE:

Tindale's map annotation "Punduwalawatingga" [sic] can be ignored: clearly it is based on Meyer (though mis-spelling the fourth vowel), rather than on original fieldwork or new information.¹

Thomas Tapley was a well-known settler who arrived in 1838, and for some years was the proprietor of 'Rosenberry (or Rosenberg) Farm' at the top of the first hill on Main South Road. Tapley's property there in 1840 included Sections 193, 132 and 129 along the hilltop, together with Section 76 across the gully eastward. "On this property [was] a substantially built stone inn and hotel",² the 'Victoria', with Tapley as the 'victualler'. It is still commemorated by a current Victoria Hotel there.

The locality is the first spur of the Mt Lofty range south of Adelaide, around today's Majors Road. It was the first unavoidable 'range' to negotiate on any journey south through the coastal regions. Because police inspector Major O'Halloran owned sections 130 and 131 immediately south of Tapley's, the area was soon officially named 'O'Halloran's Hill' (especially on the southern

¹ Tindale annotated map, Hundred of Noarlunga, AA 338/24/73, SA Museum.

² Statement of the Extent and Cultivation... 1840', *BPP: Colonies: Aust: Vol. 7: 80-81.*

approach), and the surveyors erected a trig station of the same name on section 192. But it is not surprising that Tapley's sections, lying right across the crest of the scarp and including an inn, gave the unofficial name 'Tapley's Hill' to the northern approach – hence the name of the present Tapley's Hill Road, which led there before Brighton Road and Diagonal Road were named.

'Punduwalluwati-ngg-' may have identified this hilltop area including the scarp to the north and some of the descent southward into Happy Valley; or it may have been a very specific site which we can no longer identify in the 'vicinity'.

THE NAME:

Missionary linguist Meyer collected his information at Encounter Bay from Ramindjeri informants. After the secondary list of place-names which includes this one, he wrote:

"Several of these names, especially of those in the vicinity of Adelaide, belong to the Adelaide language, as their terminations show; and, indeed, are known only to a few individuals who have been in the habit of visiting the Adelaide tribe, and who can speak both languages."³

He does not say that *all* of the names in the Adelaide vicinity are in the Adelaide language, and does not say *which* ones are. So is this name Kurna, Ramindjeri, or even a hybrid?

What can we make of the hyphen at the end of "Punduwalluwati-ngg-"?

Is it a publisher's mistake added to a word which was already complete without it?

Kurna words do not end *-ingg*, but a few Ramindjeri words do. Even so, the word could still be a Ramindjeri adaptation of a Kurna place-name with its standard locative suffix *-ngga*.

Is it a printer's error for *-ñgga*? – a suffix which occurs in five other words on the list and is clearly Kurna.

Or is the printed ending correct from Meyer, reflecting a doubt he had about the language, form, spelling and correct pronunciation?

Most of its morphemes occur in both languages *within* a known word; but neither language has all of them unequivocally as independent words;⁴ and there is no known word *pundu* or *wallu* in either language.

³ HAE Meyer, [Ramindjeri] *Vocabulary* 1843: 50.

⁴ See the File of data for Management only (PNS 3/05).

On the other hand, *wattingga* is a known Kurna suffix, 'in the middle of' or 'on account of'.

In Kurna, the earlier morphemes could be related to *buntondi* (= *pundondi*) 'to blow with the mouth'; and to words using *wadlo*: notably *wadlo wadloni* 'to be laden with, to carry a heavy weight or freight'.

The name could even be hybrid Kurna-Ramindjeri such as 'becoming the *pundu*' (Ramindjeri) + 'at the middle' (Kurna): this kind of mixed or garbled place-name was sometimes given much later by Tindale's Ngarrindjeri-speaking informants.

It could perhaps be fully Kurna, *Pundu-wallu-wattingga*; but if so we would have to leave its probable meaning no more definite than 'in the middle of *Pundu-wallu*'.

Richard Logan's property at *Parndalilla* (recorded as 'Pandulilla') was also in the immediate 'neighbourhood of Tapley's'.⁵

We might be justified in treating *Parndalilla* and *Punduwallowattingga* as local Kurna variants of one name applying to this one area. But this is unlikely because there are credible meanings for *Parndalilla* and not for 'punduwallow'.

Another known Kurna site nearby was *Wita-wattingga*, an area of Peppermint gums on the lower slopes below *Parndalilla* in the area around Seacliff Park, Seaview Downs and Seacombe Heights.

Both of these named places were on the standard approach route to Adelaide from the south, and would have been remembered by visitors as the vicinity where the first panorama of the big northern plains came into view.

Although some Ngarrindjeri speakers knew *-ngga* (it closely resembles the Ngarrindjeri locative *-angk*), there is no known evidence that they recognized the other Kurna locative *-illa*.⁶

It is likely that 'Punduwallowattingg' is an adaptation by Ramindjeri people who visited Adelaide only occasionally, and did not know the completely different language there. In memory perhaps

⁵ See PNS 3/06 *Parndalilla*.

⁶ Karlowan did not recognize *-illa* in 'Tortachilla' when he gave Tindale the spurious interpretation 'Turtotjalangga' in the 1930s: he had unwittingly added a second Kurna locative (C Schultz 2011, 'Ask the right question, then look everywhere: Finding and interpreting the old Aboriginal place-names around Adelaide and Fleurieu Peninsula', paper presented at Australian National Placenames Survey Conference, 2nd Sep 2011, Adelaide: 22).

they adapted the known name *Parndalilla* using morphemes from their own language, without much attention to meaning. In the process perhaps they confused it with *Wita-wattingga*: because the latter used a locative which they recognized.⁷

But none of this can be regarded as certain.

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End of Summary

⁷ Some Ngarrindjeri speakers in later generations appear to have a related confusion of places and names in data about an alleged 'Witu-watangk' in this general area at 'Brighton' (see PNS 2/22 Witu-wattingga).