

Place Name SUMMARY (PNS) 3/06

PARNDALILLA

(last edited: 21/3/2013)

Abstract

Parndalilla was the Kurna name for the northern scarp area of O'Halloran Hill, especially the western end as viewed from the plains. It was recorded by 1844 as 'Pandulilla', & probably means 'place of the lumbar spine'.

<i>Coordinates</i>	-35.052132° Latitude, 138.53116° Longitude.
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Language Information

<i>Meaning</i>	Probably 'place of the lumbar spine'.
<i>Etymology</i>	probably <i>Parndalla</i> 'the spine or lumbar region' + <i>-illa</i> 'at'.
<i>Notes</i>	
<i>Language Family</i>	Thura-Yura: 'Kurna'.
<i>KWP Former Spelling</i>	Parndalilla
<i>KWP New Spelling 2010</i>	Parntalilla
<i>Phonemic Spelling</i>	/parntalila/
<i>Pronunciation</i>	"Parn-da-lilla".
<i>Pronunciation tips</i>	Stress the first syllable; secondary stress on the third syllable; every 'a' as in Maori 'haka'.

Main source evidence

<i>Date</i>	1840
<i>Original source text</i>	" <i>parnda</i> 'limestone, lime'; <i>parndalla</i> 'the spine, lumbar region'; <i>parndo</i> 'a ball to play with; a large fish'."
<i>Reference</i>	Teichelmann & Schürmann 1840, 2:37.
<i>Informants credited</i>	
<i>Informants uncredited</i>	Mullawirraburka, Kadlitpinna, Ityamaitpinna, etc.

<i>Date</i>	1844
<i>Original source text</i>	“Logan, Rich., section 195, Pandulilla – [wheat] 15, [potatoes] 1. ”
<i>Reference</i>	‘Country Directory & Government Return of Land In Cultivation’, in Cotter 1844, <i>SA Almanac</i> : 177.
<i>Informants credited</i>	
<i>Informants uncredited</i>	Kurna survey guides; first surveyors.

Discussion: *PARNDALILLA*: SPINE PLACE OR LIMESTONE PLACE?

SECTION 195:

The Cotter 1844 *SA Almanac* does not group its listings under district headings, as some do; so at this date (when all the first round of Country Surveys had been completed) ‘section 195’ could theoretically be in any of Districts A to G, from Adelaide to the whole Fleurieu.

Section 195 of District B is at the top of the hill west of Ocean Boulevard, Seacliff Park, & fortunately we can confirm this location. In 1837-8 BT Finniss was surveying the plains of Adelaide, & we still have his original Field Book. His entries therein use a ‘Logan’s Nob’ or ‘Logan’s Hill’ as a landmark for bearings, & one of them is a sketch which gives an outline of the spur at what we now call Marino, as seen from the vicinity of Torrens Island.¹

At this time the whole rise from Seaview Downs along the scarp to Marino was called ‘The Downs’.² It is a limestone scarp where now we find the Boral Lime Quarry immediately south of the ruins of Adelaide-Brighton Cement Works.

RICHARD LOGAN:

In the 1843 Almanacs Logan had been listed at section 184, on the very fringe of ‘The Downs’ at today’s Dover Gardens. By the end of that year, according to the new almanac, he had also cultivated 18 acres of wheat & 1 of potatoes on section 195 near the top of the scarp just west of today’s Ocean Boulevard, at a place listed as ‘Pandulilla’. It seems that in 1843 he was already

¹ Field Book 76, ‘Bases & Angles, Journal by BT Finniss’: 57-8, 60, 63 (Geographical Names Unit).

² map BRG 42/120/17, also C 934 & C 218, SLSA.

farming in the Willunga district as well & did not work the Downs patches for long: thereafter he was listed at 'Willunga', 'Kungarilla', & 'White's Gully' (on Willunga Creek).³

The Kurna name may have referred to a site on Logan's section; or (more likely) it may have been a site nearby, applied by the surveyors to the whole immediate area.

THE NAME:

Our only source for 'Pandulilla' is an Almanac, & in these the property listings refer sometimes to the owner's name for the *farm*, sometimes to the public name of the *locality* – which, if Aboriginal, would usually have been obtained by the surveyors, the spellings being fairly unreliable, & much more so as hastily scribbled by the compilers of the almanacs. In this case the spelling fits the standard Kurna form for a place-name in 4 syllables including the Locative *-illa*; & there are some possible nouns for derivation.

The first given vowel 'a', being stressed, is more likely to be correct, representing the sound *a* as in 'mama'.

The unstressed second vowel is less certain. It is given ambiguously as 'u', but which sound does this intend? – *a* as in 'but', or *u* as in 'put'? The latter would more likely be spelt 'oo' by laymen; & a surveyor's hand-written 'a' could often be mistaken for an 'u'. So there is a fair case that 'u' was intended to represent *a*.

In the known Kurna vocabulary we have (if Cotter's 'u' means *u*) *parndo* 'a ball to play with; name of a large fish in the Lake & Murray'; or (if the original was 'a') *parndalla* 'the spine or lumbar region' [lower back], & *parnda* 'limestone, lime'.

A morpheme *la*, *li* or *lu* after the second syllable must also be accounted for, though its vowel is omitted when the locative *-illa* is added.

Parndalla fits, & would make Logan's run 'the place of the lower spine': which is quite possible for this 'tail-end' of the Mount Lofty Range. From the same viewpoint as Finniss's on the plains, the same silhouetted line of hills displays 'two ears', *yurridla* (the twin peaks of Mt Lofty & Mt Bonython).⁴

A word of caution:

The 'ears' & 'spine' could be simple topographical figures of speech, unrelated to any 'giant Being'. While we can be sure that the Kurna, like all other Aboriginal groups, saw such Beings & Dreaming ancestors

³ See 1844 Allen Almanac: 237, & almanacs for 1846, 1848, etc.

⁴ See PNS 2/2 Yuridla.

embodied in the landscape & gave many place-names accordingly, there is no direct early evidence of this in any of their known place-names, including those publicized by Noel Webb, Tindale & Manning as embodiments of a giant Being or kangaroo called Nganno. A late & doubtful exception is the 'Pootpobberrie' story, with three ancestors embodied in three waterfalls.⁵

In cases like 'Pandulilla', the Dual *-rla* is also possible. *Parndo-rla* 'two balls' or 'two Lake-fish' seem unlikely; but *Parnda-rla* 'two limestone [rocks]' is also possible in view of the limestone geology of the Marino spur. It would be instructive to know whether the quarry demolished a pair of limestone outcrops.

It is just conceivable that 'Pandulilla' is a Kurna variant of nearby "Punduwalluwati-ñgg-, [*sic*] Neighbourhood of Tapley's",⁶ if this name is also Kurna. If so, Cotter's first vowel 'a' would probably be incorrect, since the linguist Meyer would be unlikely to have got it wrong.

But this line involves us in deductions about derivative nouns & Duals from Kurna *buntondi*, which are much less credible here than *parnda* & *parndalla*. It is more likely that 'Punduwalluwatingg' is a Ramindjeri adaptation of *Parndalilla*. If this is so, then the location of Parndalilla may well have been that given for Punduwalluwatingg, 'neighbourhood of Tapley's': perhaps outside Section 195 but somewhere nearby on the crest of O'Halloran Hill.⁷

Whether the name was 'two limestone outcrops' or 'lumbar spine', in either case it would probably have applied to the whole Downs area, the entire Marino spur as viewed from the plains.

This immediate vicinity also included *Wita-wattingga* on the lower northern slopes of the ridge.⁸

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End of Summary

⁵ See PNS 2/2 Yuridla; Amery 2000, *Kurna Dreaming Stories*, KACHA; & the section on CH Harris in Amery & Schultz [forthcoming], 'The Trail of Discovery of Historical Kurna Language Materials', *J. Anthropological Society of SA*.

⁶ Meyer 1843.

⁷ See PNS 3/05 'Punduwalluwatingg'.

⁸ See PNS 2/21.