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My special thanks to Brian Uren and Heidi Ing for sharing their research about Charles Chandler and his Hill.

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Place Name SUMMARY (PNS) 4.01.01/06

NGANPANGGA

(last edited: 12.5.2020)

NOTE AND DISCLAIMER:

This essay has not been peer-reviewed or culturally endorsed in detail.

The spellings and interpretations contained in it (linguistic, historical and geographical) are my own, and do not necessarily represent the views of KWP/KWK or its members or any other group.

I have studied history at tertiary level. Though not a linguist, for 30 years I have learned much about the Kurna, Ramindjeri-Ngarrindjeri and Narungga languages while working with KWP, Rob Amery, and other local culture-reclamation groups; and from primary documents I have learned much about the Aboriginal history of the Adelaide-Fleurieu region.

My explorations of 'language on the land' through the Southern Kurna Place Names Project are part of an ongoing effort to correct the record about Aboriginal place-names in this region (which has abounded in confusions and errors), and to add reliable new material into the public domain.

I hope upcoming generations will continue this work and improve it. My interpretations should be amplified, re-considered and if necessary modified by KWP or other linguists, and by others engaged in cultural mapping: Aboriginal people, archaeologists, geographers, ecologists and historians.

Chester Schultz, [date].

Place Name SUMMARY (PNS) 4.01.01/06

NGANPANGGA

(last edited: 12.5.2020)

Abstract

The Kaurna name *Nganpangga* probably refers to Chandler's Hill (the hill itself, not the suburb). It was recorded in 1844 as 'Unbunga', the name of the property on Section 558¹ occupied by Charles Chandler but owned by the South Australian Company.

The meaning of the name is unknown.

This massive separate hill was a landmark for early settlers, who named it after its one early occupant, Chandler. Its summit on Sections 270, 272 and 273 (around the intersection of Chandlers Hill Rd and Sugarloaf Rd) was a crossroad for Kaurna, Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri travellers, and remains so for settlers too up to this day. In both pre-contact and post-contact times, it could lead north to Adelaide; or southwest to Old Noarlunga; or east to Mt Barker in Peramangk country; or south to Clarendon, a popular campsite and hub which led via Meadows to Ngarrindjeri land southeast on Lake Alexandrina or south at Goolwa.

Coordinates	Lat. -35.08816, Long. 138.615607
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Language Information

Meaning	Unknown
Etymology	<i>Nganpa</i> [meaning unknown] + <i>ngga</i> 'at, place of' > <i>Nganpangga</i>
Notes	'Unbunga' begins with a vowel, but Kaurna words very rarely do, so there must be an unrecorded initial consonant, probably <i>ng</i> . The sound <i>ng</i> is never used at the beginning of a word in English, but often in Aboriginal languages. When a Kaurna person pronounced such a word, most English speakers could not hear the initial <i>ng</i> as part of it; e.g. <i>Ngaltingga</i> mis-heard and mis-recorded as 'Aldinga'.
Language Family	Thura-Yura: 'Kaurna'
KWP Former Spelling	Nganpangga
KWP New Spelling 2010	Nganpangga
Phonemic Spelling	/Nganpangga/
Syllabification	"Ngan-pangga":
Pronunciation tips	Stress the first syllable. <i>Ng</i> always as in 'singing'. Every <i>a</i> as in Maori 'haka'.

¹ All Sections mentioned in this essay are in the Hundred of Noarlunga.



Main source evidence

Date	[1839] / 1840
Original source text	"G.F. Angas &c." [i.e. South Australian Company; marked on Section 558, District B].
Reference	J McLaren map 1/9/1840, 'Country South of Adelaide', London, Arrowsmith, State Library of SA, BRG 42/120/28, http://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/BRG+42/120/28 .
Informants credited	
Informants uncredited	

Date	1844
Original source text	- "The returns have been procured by personal visits to each of the stations and localities, and have, in almost every case, been furnished by the parties whose names appear in the list." - "HURTLE AND MORPHETT VALES ... Chandler, Charles, Unbunga , 20 acres wheat, 3 do. potatoes, 2 do. garden, 20 cattle, 1 pony, 16 pigs"
Reference	J Allen <i>The South Australian Almanack & General Directory for 1844</i> by James Allen, Esq., Adelaide, James Allen: Country Directory: 189, 240.
Informants credited	
Informants uncredited	Kaurna guides giving the name to the first surveyors of District B (under John McLaren 1839).

Date	1848
Original source text	"Chandler, Charles, Uncringa , Hurtle Vale".
Reference	Murray 1848, <i>The South Australian Almanack & Town & Country Directory for 1848</i> , edited, printed & published by A. Murray, Adelaide: Country Directory: 106.
Informants credited	
Informants uncredited	

Date	
Original source text	" Chandler Hill is on section 678, Hundred of Noarlunga, 3 km NNW of Clarendon. In 1894, Mr W.L. Beare informed Mr H.C. Talbot that 'it was named after a man of that name, who came to South Australia in the John Pirie in 1836 and employed as a shepherd by the South Australian Company.' He was, no doubt, Charles Chandler (1804-1878) , who was listed in an 1844 Almanac as 'residing at Unbunga '; a member of the Clarendon District Council in 1854, he died at Happy Valley on 24 August 1878, aged seventy-four."
Reference	GH Manning 2010, <i>Place Names of Our Land</i> , Modbury, Gould Books: 171, http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/digitalpubs/placenamesofsouthaustralia/C.pdf .
Informants credited	HC Talbot, 'The Talbot Book', in SA Geographical names Unit.
Informants uncredited	

Discussion: THE LANDMARK 'UNBUNGA':

1. THE NAME AND ITS SOURCES:

In 1839 as the first survey of 'District B' got underway south of Adelaide, one of its most easterly 80-acre Sections, 558, was earmarked for "G.F. Angas &c.", i.e. the South Australian Company, along with some other blocks nearby.² This is now the south-eastern part of the recent little village of Chandlers Hill³ and its immediate surroundings to the south and east. It is hilly country with steep gullies, much of it still forested.

Four years later the first Census was also undertaken. One of the collectors, Daniel Brock, left a journal. He may have been the one who heard 'Unbunga' from Chandler's lips, as he probably visited or passed the place sometime during 9-11 November 1843, but did not mention it or the Hill in his journal.⁴

The official returns for this were published in 1844 by James Allen in his *South Australian Almanack*. "The Country Directory," (he wrote), "and the Returns of Population, Land Under Cultivation, and Stock for 1843, [have been] compiled expressly, and at a very great expense for this Almanac, and... differ in some degree from those returned elsewhere published as the Government Returns". He added, "The returns have been procured by personal visits to each of the stations and localities, and have, in almost every case, been furnished by the parties whose names appear in the list".⁵ His Country Directory included the following entry under the heading of "Hurtle and Morphett Vales":⁶

Chandler, Charles, Unbunga, 20 acres wheat, 3 do. potatoes, 2 do. garden, 20 cattle, 1 pony, 16 pigs.

² J McLaren map 1840, 'Country South of Adelaide', London, Arrowsmith; copy in State Library of SA, <http://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/BRG+42/120/28>. Counsel's original sketch for this section still survives (Richard Counsel 1839, Field Book 94 [Hundreds of Noarlunga and Willunga], SA Geographical Names Unit [GNU; now part of LandServices Group], p.[118b]).

³ i.e. roughly that bounded by Evandale Circuit, Vaucluse Drive and McHarg Rd.

⁴ His journal has been published: Daniel George Brock 1843 (ed. K Peake-Jones 1981), *Recollections of D.G.B. 1843*, Adelaide, Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, SA Branch: 45-6.

⁵ James Allen 1844, *The South Australian Almanack and General Directory for 1844*, Adelaide, James Allen: 240. This almanac has been reprinted with an index: A & S Twining 1972, *South Australian Land Returns for 1843*, Twining's Secretarial, Woodcroft (Chandler's entry is on p.18).

⁶ 'Hurtle Vale' (after James Hurtle Fisher, the resident Colonization Commissioner) was the earliest settler name for the valley of the Field River at Happy Valley.

The directory did not list his Section number, nor tell us whether he was the owner or only the occupier of 'Unbunga'.

These two tales (survey and almanac) are connected. Charles Chandler arrived in the *John Pirie* in 1836. Chandler's Hill – the hill, not the suburb nor the recent village – was named after someone “employed as a shepherd by the South Australian Company” (according to one early colonist reported at second hand). Place-names scholar GH Manning surmises (no doubt correctly) that this man was Charles Chandler,⁷ presumably in his earliest years in the colony. He was still occupying Section 558 in 1863, and his landlord there was still the SA Company.⁸

Probably by late 1843 Chandler was the man on the spot for people like the census collector; ‘his’ high Hill was then a landmark for travellers in this largely unsettled area. A quick tour of the area shows that Section 558 was not even ‘next door’ to this huge bulk but really ‘on its shoulder’.⁹

On the other hand, nearly 3 months later one AB Nicholson was appointed to collect Census data in the area including “Happy Valley; Chandler’s; Hurtle Vale”.¹⁰ It was probably an inquisitive census collector such as this who uncovered some problem with Chandler’s presence there. In 1844 he was charged with some kind of “penalty under the Waste Lands Act”, and sought “remission” of it.¹¹ Not until February 1845 was he granted an Occupation License.¹² No doubt he had been one of the squatters whom the Census was designed to uncover.

⁷ “Chandler Hill – On section 678, Hundred of Noarlunga, 3 km NNW of Clarendon. In 1894, Mr W.L. Beare informed Mr H.C. Talbot that ‘it was named after a man of that name, who came to South Australia in the *John Pirie* in 1836 and employed as a shepherd by the South Australian Company” (GH Manning 1990, *Manning’s Place Names of SA*, Adelaide, the author: 68). Beare arrived in 1836. Talbot was a surveyor who up to his death in 1924 collected large scrapbooks of information about SA place-names, which have been preserved in the SA Geographical names Unit under the name “The Talbot Book”. This was one of Manning’s sources. Manning’s later editions added a paragraph about an allotment in King William St (Manning 2010, *Place Names of Our Land*, Modbury, Gould Books: 171, cp. <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/digitalpubs/placenamesofsouthaustralia/C.pdf>); but here he confused Charles with another unrelated family, Henry and John Chandler (thanks to Heidi Ing for clarifying this point).

⁸ SA Register 2/9/1863: 1d, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3913775>. Thanks to Brian Uren for showing me this reference.

⁹ The highest elevation on Chandler’s Hill is 365 metres, according to the SA Government website SAPPA, <https://maps.sa.gov.au/SAPPA/>. For a long time older maps marked it (the hill, not the suburb) on Section 678 immediately southeast of 558, at about No.118 Piggott Range Rd (see e.g. the official 1909 base map used by Tindale, Hd of Noarlunga, AA 338/24/72; also Hd of Noarlunga Diagram Book, ‘Map p.1’ [GNU]). For some inscrutable reason SAPPA currently has it mapped on Section 259 halfway down a steep gully behind the new village Chandlers Hill. This is 30 metres lower than its official height of 365m reported on the same site. In fact the only areas above 360m are not at either of these locations, but (1) on Section 672 near the intersection of Piggot Range and Grants Gully Roads, and (2) on 270/272/273 around the ‘crossroads’ of Sugarloaf Rd and Chandlers Hill Rd.

¹⁰ SA Government Gazette 25/1/1844: 30, http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/sa_gazette/1844/4.pdf.

¹¹ “CHANDLER, Charles. Seeks remission of penalty under the Waste Lands Act”, as listed citing GRG24/4/1844/836 and GRG24/6/1844/126, in a Special List of State Records of SA (online as ‘GRG24_4 & GRG24_6_CSO_1837-1856_Cad - Cof_0.pdf’), p.423. I leave this for others to follow up.

¹² SA Government Gazette Feb 6, 1845: 35, http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/sa_gazette/1845/6.pdf.

In 1848 the almanac, compiled by February of that year, attached Charles Chandler to “Uncringa, Hurtle Vale”,¹³ whether as owner or occupier it does not say. At that date he was “Owner or Occupier” of 240 acres in this area,¹⁴ equalling three of the 80-acre Sections which had been surveyed. We know from later records roughly where his extra Sections were: two of them at least, or all three if the 240 acres did not include 558. For in 1863 he was both ‘Owner’ and ‘Occupier’ of three adjacent Sections: 671 on the east, 677 on the south, and 683 south of that; i.e. roughly down to the junction of Piggott Range and Education Roads; and at the same time he was still renting 558 from the SA Company.¹⁵

Which of these four Sections was ‘Unbunga’? The question devolves to the another: When did he acquire the three later Sections? If 558 was the only place he was occupying in 1843 when the census man called, then this was the place to which he was referring under that name. But we do not know when he bought 671, 677 and 683. However, the matter is clinched by McLaren’s map. Of the four Sections associated with Chandler, the District B surveys had mapped only Section 558 in 1839, not the others which came into his story at some later stage; and it almost certainly they, not Chandler, who originally obtained the name from their Kurna guides. Aboriginal men were employed that year in the simultaneous District C surveys, on equal pay and rations with the survey labourers.¹⁶

Although we might wonder whether ‘Unbunga’ was 558 and ‘Uncringa’ was the three new sections, we can dismiss this idea because the latter name is pretty clearly a transcription error for the former.¹⁷ And at the early date of 1844 it is very likely that Chandler was still the Company’s shepherd on 558 and had not yet found the capital to buy the other Sections.

2. THE WORD:

‘Unbunga’ fits the standard form of a Kurna place-name formed from a two-syllable root with the Locative *ngga* ‘at, place of’.

¹³ A Murray 1848, *The South Australian Almanack and Town and Country Directory for 1848*, edited, printed & published by A. Murray: 106. The Preface notes that it was compiled by February 1848.

¹⁴ SA Government Gazette Jan 27, 1848: 28, http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/sa_gazette/1848/4.pdf.

¹⁵ SA Register 2/9/1863: 1d, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3913775>. At the time of his death in 1878 he had added Section 684 (east of 683) and leased it out, and his executors were now selling it. Presumably he had been in debt, for his death had attracted a notice for his creditors that his assets were being distributed (SA Advertiser 26/10/1878: 2a, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/73071895/7256462#>). But all this is irrelevant to the story of Nganpangga.

¹⁶ “Several of them are also employed in the Survey Department at Yankalilla and Aldingha (Aldinga), who receive rations and pay the same as white laborers” (SA Register Sat 10 Aug 1839, 6a, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/27440703/2049497>). The Aldinga surveys were part of District C, which was surveyed in 1839 by the same teams as in District B. Counsel’s Field Books 94 and 102 cover both, and it was from them that the McLaren map 1840 was compiled.

¹⁷ The almanacs are full of obvious transcription or typographical errors, even for well-known names in English. Linguistically, *ngankri* is unlikely; there are no known Kurna examples of the consonant cluster *kr/gr*, let alone *nkr/ngnr*.



In settler English spelling, the morphemes ‘un’ and ‘bunga’ would be pronounced respectively *an* (as in ‘bun’) and *bangga* (as in ‘bunger’). The Kurna root might be *Anba* (New Spelling *Anpa*).¹⁸ But Kurna words rarely begin with a vowel, so there must have been a preceding consonant which the hearer did not recognize. This was probably the sound *ng*, which was often missed altogether in wordlists by settlers, even those as experienced as William Williams the storekeeper and Protector Wyatt.¹⁹ The root was almost certainly *Nganpa*.

There is no known Kurna noun or adjective which fits this morpheme. There are a couple of verbs which begin with *nganpa*. *Nganparendi* or *nganbarendi* (N.Sp. *nganparrintheta*) has a range of meanings: “to be indisposed, unable to go out, not well, ill-disposed, ailing, or cross”. It seems it could also mean something like ‘to stay in one place’, since “*garlanga nganparendi* denotes to remain stay or live where plenty of firewood is, or at the fire”. *Nganpariappendi* (N.Sp. *Nganparriapintheta*) means ‘to make someone blush or be ashamed’. It is likely that both of these complex verbs derive from an unrecorded basic verb *nganpandi* (N.Sp. *nganpantheta*), whose root would be *nganpa* and whose meaning(s) would be hard to guess. But these various meanings would be hard to imagine in any place-name unless perhaps they were related to an incident in some unrecorded Dreaming story. But even if this was so, the linguistics would not allow it. The conversion of a verb root to a noun would require an extra syllable,²⁰ so the name root would have to be *nganpaCV* (where the capitals represent an unknown consonant and vowel); and this would now require the other Locative *illa* for the three-syllable root; the name would have to be *NganpaCilla*.²¹

We therefore have no idea what *Nganpa* and *Nganpangga* might mean – if anything; for place-names do not always have a dictionary meaning.²²

3. THE NGANPA PLACE:

It is likely that the name referred to Chandler’s Hill in general, and that Chandler had merely followed the common practice of adopting a place-name from nearby. Or, in this case, a place-name with a wide referent of which his property was only a part. Chandler’s Hill is big and separate enough to be an area landmark, and therefore to attract its own specific name, regardless of any other connotations it might have had in Aboriginal culture. If this was the original referent of *Nganpangga*, then for my purposes it does not matter which of the four Sections Chandler owned or occupied in 1844-8.

¹⁸ In Aboriginal languages the sounds *b* and *p* are different ways of pronouncing ‘the same thing’. KWP’s New Spelling opts for the letter *p*.

¹⁹ e.g. ‘Aldinga’, recorded by the German linguists as *Ngaltingga*.

²⁰ “*Nganpa* can’t be derived from a verb root of *nganparendi*, because it would need an extra syllable added to convert it to a noun (cp. *yarnkandi* > *Yamka-ly[a]-illa*)” (Rob Amery p.c. at KWP meeting 24/2/2016; cp. *gadlo-ndi* [N.Sp. *kadlu-ntheta*] ‘to press upon’ > *gadlo-tti* [*kadlu-ti*] ‘[thing] pressing-upon’ = ‘men’s girdle’.

²¹ The *i* in the Locative *illa* replaces the final vowel of the root.

²² cp. ‘Rome’, ‘London’, ‘Sydney’.

Taking a wider geographical view, we may extrapolate a little from the lie of the land and describe *Nganpangga* in a context of Aboriginal travel and trade routes, while recognizing that most of the details in my suggestions are not confirmed by historical records.

It seems clear that its southern approach from the plains was the route now called Piggott Range Road, which circles around it on the south and southeast, joining Grant's Gully Rd to take us up to one of the summits. In the other direction it circles southwest to skirt the northern side of the Onkaparinga Gorge right down to the steep scarp at its mouth. The first surveyors of District C mapped this low end of Piggott Range Rd as a "native track", this and several other tracks converging on the ford at Old Noarlunga.²³ This important campsite and burial ground, *Ngangkipari*, was the unavoidable hub of travel north and south on the plains;²⁴ and apparently also a key gateway for travel across the range.

From the high crossroads of *Nganpangga*, the land could lead you in several directions.

You could go to Adelaide, perhaps northwest via one of the ridges (Chandlers Hill Rd or Windebanks Rd) to *Kauwimarnilla* ('Two Good Waters')²⁵ at the low end of today's Happy Valley Reservoir, and thence by the main plains track to the important *Warriparingga* campsite at Mitchell Park (site of Tjilbruki's revenge and the beginning of his last journey),²⁶ or to *Witawartingga* (Seacliff Park)²⁷ and the Brighton coast; or you could go from *Nganpangga* north to *Warriparingga* via Flagstaff Hill. These Adelaide-bound routes were probably much more common used after settlement, as annual journeys to collect government supplies became a new tradition with both Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri families.

From *Nganpangga* you might also go north-eastward over the higher parts of the range²⁸ into core Peramangk land around Mt Barker; and from there to the River Murray.

We know a little more about the southward routes. The track now known as Grant's Gully Rd took you about 3 km to the Clarendon valley. The bridge area here is the first accessible crossing of the Onkaparinga River above its very steep Gorge, and seems to have been another travel hub, especially in the 19th century, with a well-used camp and corroboree site where rations were distributed by police; the area was the final refuge of Ityamaitpinna ('Rodney') and his family including Ivaritji.²⁹ Situated well within the boundaries of Kurna land,³⁰ its Aboriginal name, recorded as "Toondilla", appears to be in Kurna language though its precise form is uncertain.³¹

²³ McLaren 1840, 'Country South of Adelaide'.

²⁴ See PNS 4.02/04 Ngangkiparingga.

²⁵ See PNS 4.01.01/03.

²⁶ See PNS 3/03.

²⁷ See PNS 2/21.

²⁸ Perhaps Cherry Gardens, Longwood and Mylor?

²⁹ Tom Gara 1990, 'Life of Ivaritji', *Journal of Anthropological Society of SA* 28: 70-76.

³⁰ (as understood by the recent Native Title determination 2017).

³¹ See PNS 6/24 'Toondilla'.

But it was also frequented by Permangk, Ngarrindjeri and other travellers from the east and southeast.³²

From Clarendon you could take a natural route via Kangarilla to Meadows, and thence either south to Goolwa or south-east to the northern side of the Lake. Probably it is a late memory of journeys like these which led the knowledgeable men Albert Karlowan (Yaraldi-Ngarrindjeri) and Reuben Walker (Ramindjeri) to say that in their remembered time (the 1870s) the eastern border of Ramindjeri territory came through Clarendon, although (according to others) this had probably been Kurna territory in earlier years.³³ The name 'Clarendon' was probably a handy approximation, familiar to whitefellas, for the whole area including the landmark and crossroads of Chandler's Hill.

Probably the Piggott Range track was part of a well-travelled route over the range, used by those 'visiting tribes from the Murray' – the Peramangk and Yaraldi-Ngarrindjeri, perhaps even the Ngayawang ('Moorunde') from further north?³⁴ – who came regularly to trade their raw materials for precious ochre from Ochre Cove, hold big ceremony at Moana, and sometimes try to raid for women on the side.³⁵

Governed by the land itself, many of the old settler roads had to be built along the same natural routes which Aboriginal people used, and often today's roads still follow in their steps.

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End of Summary

See Map 1 on p.10: Chandler Sections, locations and routes.

³² Simpson extrapolates – with what evidence I don't know – that Clarendon was "*the winter camping grounds of the Kurna people and an important meeting and trading centre for both Kurna and Peramangk peoples*" (Paul Simpson 2011, *Peramangk: A Social History of the Aboriginal People of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges*: 11, <http://phasai.deviantart.com/art/Peramangk-Second-Edition-2011-203140763>).

³³ For Karlowan see Berndt & Berndt 1993: 23, 117, 312, 330. For Walker see Tindale 'SE of SA' journal Vol.2, SA Museum AA 338/1/33/2: 149. With first European settlement, Kurna people were quickly decimated and dispersed, and the old southern Kurna territory and travel routes were taken into care by their Ramindjeri relatives and re-defined (see my history *Feet On the Fleurieu* [in progress 2020]). Similarly (though we may take the details as provisional), "*The territory of the Peramangk shifted in post invasion times as numbers dwindled to include land from Clarendon west to Tungkillio and down along Salt Creek to Mypolonga, back in a narrow strip to Strathalbyn then south to Currency Creek, Bull Creek to Clarendon*" (Paul Simpson 2011: 6).

³⁴ The Moorunde people could also come to Ochre Cove via the Sturt Highway, picking up supplies in Adelaide on the way. They had been visiting Adelaide much more frequently, and even deliberately invading it in alliance with the Mount Barker people, ever since Eyre's ration station was set up near Blanchetown in 1841 (see Tom Gara 1998, 'The life & times of Mullawirraburka', in J Simpson & L Hercus (ed) 1998, *History In Portraits*, Canberra, Aboriginal History Monograph 6: 116-121).

³⁵ See PNSs 4.02/04 Ngangkippingga, and 4.03.02/01 Purtawarti (Ochre Cove).

