



Place Name SUMMARY (PNS) 4.4.1/05

‘PIMPALA’

(railway station near Old Reynella)

(last edited: 25/3/2013)

Abstract

The name of a railway stopping place on the former Willunga line. Not a Kurna word. It was selected (probably from Taplin) and approved by the Nomenclature Committee on 21/8/1925.

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| Coordinates | -35.104473 Latitude, 138.529355 Longitude. |
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Language Information

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|-----------------------|--|
| Meaning | ‘native pine’ according to Holden in 1879. |
| Etymology | |
| Notes | |
| Language Family | Maroura language of the Lower Darling River. |
| KWP Former Spelling | |
| KWP New Spelling 2010 | |
| Phonemic Spelling | |
| Pronunciation | |
| Pronunciation tips | |

Main source evidence

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Date | 1879 |
| Original source text | “Pimpala - Pine tree.” |
| Reference | G Taplin 1879, <i>The folklore, manners, customs, and languages of the South Australian aborigines</i> : 24. |
| Informants credited | RW Holden. |
| Informants uncredited | |

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|-----------------------|--|
| Date | 1925 |
| Original source text | “Pimpala ‘pine tree’” <i>[approved as name of a railway stopping place]</i> . |
| Reference | Nomenclature Committee Minutes 21/8/1925, <i>Nomenclature Committee Minutes Book</i> , GNU: 8. |
| Informants credited | |
| Informants uncredited | Taplin 1879. |

Discussion: ‘PIMPALA’:

“Pimpala” was said to mean ‘native pine’ in the language of the Maraura Aboriginal people of the Lower Darling River in NSW.

When the small railway station halfway between Old Reynella and Morphett Vale was named by the SA government’s Nomenclature Committee in 1925,¹ the committee rarely made any distinction between different Aboriginal languages or lands. The word was almost certainly taken from a readily available published vocabulary, probably Taplin’s *The folklore, manners, customs, and languages of the South Australian aborigines* (1879), where it appears in a wordlist of “the ‘Maroura’ Tribe, Lower Darling” contributed by RW Holden.

The old line was closed in 1969.² It is now followed by the Coast To Vines Rail Trail, where this and other stations are now commemorated by onsite plaques.

The name has been used at least three times elsewhere in SA, from the West Coast to the Barossa and Adelaide Hills.

In the language of the Kurna people of the Reynella and Morphett Vale area, ‘native pine’ is *narnu*.

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End of Summary

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¹ Nomenclature Committee Minutes Book, GNU: 8.

² en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willunga_railway_line,_Adelaide (16/3/09).