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Place Name SUMMARY (PNS) 4.04.03/02

WILYA-NGAUKINGGA

(last edited: 8.8.2022)

SEE ALSO PNS 4.04.03/01 (Pari) Mingkamingkangga

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This essay has not been peer-reviewed or culturally endorsed in detail.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 Kaurna, 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 Kaurna 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, reconsidered and if necessary modified by KWP or other linguists, and by others engaged in cultural mapping: i.e. Aboriginal researchers who are linking their oral traditions with other up-to-date and best available knowledge, and associated archaeologists, geographers, ecologists, anthropologists and historians.

Chester Schultz [10/7/2020].

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Abstract

Wilya-ngaukingga (or perhaps Wilya-ngukingga) is the Kaurna-Miyurna name for a site on one of several creek gullies on the Willunga-Sellicks scarp somewhere between Section 276, Hundred of Willunga, and Section 643). It was recorded in 1844 as "Wilyahowkingga" by Louis Piesse, probably from a Kaurna guide in late 1839 when Piesse was a survey worker during the first surveys of the area.

The first word of the Compound Noun is *wilya*, 'foliage, small branches, brushwood'. The second word ends with the standard Kaurna Locative suffix *ngga*, 'at, place of'. If the published spelling is a correct transcription of Piesse's manuscript (unavailable), the Root is 'howki', representing a Root word *ngauki* or perhaps *nguki* (meaning unknown in both cases).

The precise location of 'Wilyahowkingga' is not completely certain, but there is a strong likelihood that it was somewhere on the creek which emerges from the base of the scarp at Newman Close near the junction of Almond Grove Rd and Hahn Rd (#6b in my catalogue). Most probably it was around the recorded waterhole on the border of Sections 281-282, at the junction with what is now the surface drain of the tributary Creek #6a. But it may perhaps have referred to the whole area around the main creek from here upstream to the scarp. See Discussion.

Coordinates Lat35.2924°, Long. 13	3.5172° [Nov 1839 'water' site]
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Language Information

Meaning	'place of foliage and ngauki OR nguki [meaning unknown]'
Etymology	wilya 'foliage, small branches, brushwood' + ngauki OR nguki [meaning
	unknown] + ngga 'at, place of'

¹ See PNS 4.04.03/04 'Wykera-wonjurilla'. Unless otherwise stated, all Sections in this essay are in the Hundred of Willunga.

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² See PNS 4.04.02/04 Mullawirra.

Notes	The name was recorded as "Wilya-howkingga", available only as published in a newspaper in 1844. If the published spelling is an accurate transcription of the original MS, then the 'h' represents the sound ng . When English settlers with no linguistic training heard ng at the beginning of a word (as here), they usually misunderstood or omitted it, because English never does this.
Language Family	Thura-Yura: 'Kaurna'-Miyurna
KWP Former Spelling	Wilya-ngaukingga OR Wilya-ngukingga
KWP New Spelling 2010	Wilya-ngaukingga OR Wilya-ngukingga
Phonemic Spelling	/wilyangaukingka/ OR /wilyangukingka/
Syllabification	" <u>Wi</u> lya- <u>ngau</u> kingga" OR " <u>Wi</u> lya- <u>ngu</u> kingga":
Pronunciation tips	Stress the 1 st & 3 rd syllables.
	Every <i>i</i> as in 'pin'.
	au as in 'cow'.
	u as in 'put' or 'sure'.
	Every <i>ng</i> as in 'si <i>ng</i> i <i>ng</i> ' (practise by saying 'will-young-outing').

Main source evidence

Date	1844
Original source text	 - [After describing Willunga:] "The quarry is not properly at Willunga; the glen in which it is situate is called Piltongga [Beltunga Gully] Next to Piltongga is Burka-burkarilla, adjoining which is Mr Colville's, called Wykera-wonjurilla. At first the settlers about here had some difficulty in obtaining water, Mr Loud having sunk a well 150 feet, and a party a little farther on having sunk one 180 feet without obtaining water. I am however happy to say that from the two last wells sunk in the neighbourhood, water was obtained at 40 feet. Surface water now becomes scarce; and, indeed, this is the great drawback of the Aldinga Plains which now lie before the traveller. In the winter almost every glen or ravine has water in it; but the little rivulets soon run to waste, and after a few warm days they dry up. Keeping still along the foot of the range from Mr Colville's, the following are the most important: 1st. The glen Perreminkamin-kungga. 2dly. Wilyahowkingga; 3dly. Mullawerungga; 4thly. Kurtandilla; and 5thly. Mt Terrible Gully."
Reference	'L.P' [Louis Piesse], 'Descriptive Tour through Part of District C', <i>Adelaide Observer</i> 13/4/1844: 7c, https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/158918431/18834087 .
Informants credited	
Informants uncredited	Kaurna-Miyurna guides during the first surveys of District C in 1839.

Discussion: '2ndly. WILYAHOWKINGGA':

LOCATION:

The precise location of 'Wilyahowkingga' is uncertain. Piesse listed it among the five "most important" of "the little rivulets" on the drier part of the scarp, somewhere between 'Wykera-wonjurilla' and 'Mullawerungga'. The location of 'Wykera-wonjurilla' (Creek #14 in my catalogue) on Section 276 is certain.³ That of 'Mullawerungga' (*Mullawirrangga*, Creek #1) on Section 643 is beyond reasonable doubt.⁴ Therefore Piesse's 'glen Perreminkamin-kungga' and 'Wilyahowkingga' were both somewhere in the 7-km stretch of scarp between these two Sections. We can call this the 'target area'. Until more detailed assessment of its creeks is undertaken, we can only collect all available evidence and make a provisional judgement which two of them contained the sites named by Piesse.⁵

In the imagined 'tour' which Piesse wrote in 1844, he 'travels' from Willunga southwest along the bottom of the scarp, approximating the line of the survey boundary which Counsel had mapped in 1839. Parts of this survive now as the diagonal bits of Plains Rd, and other diagonal tracks and road fragments, both public and private, along the base of the scarp. We can look for the sites on or near this line.

In this target area, there are two creeks which appear to stand out from the others as probably the 'most important rivulets' for water at or near this part of the scarp. They are #7 (the deep gully on the western side of Delabole Rd, with a wide and fertile mouth) and #6b (which rises south of Louds Hill Rd and follows it east before emerging from the base of the scarp at Newman Close near the junction of Almond Grove Rd and Hahn Rd).⁷

Piesse noted 'Wilyahowkingga' as the next 'important rivulet' northeast of 'Mullawerungga' (#1, Section 643). A number of facts about our target area combine to suggest very strongly that the site 'Wilyahowkingga' was somewhere on Creek #6b: -

1. There seem to have been no significantly large or well-watered creeks in the 5-km stretch between that creek and #6b.⁸

³ See PNS 4.04.02/04 'Wyecareywindererilla'. For the locations and catalogue numbers of the creeks, see Map 2 in this essay).

See PNS 4.04.03/04 Mullawirra.

Each name would not have applied to a whole gully or the whole length of a creek if these were long, as this is not traditional Aboriginal naming practice.

⁶ This whole survey boundary is clearly marked on Counsel 1839b (see Map 2 in this essay).

The evidence and reasoning behind this choice is laid out in PNS 4.04.03/01 (Pari) Mingkamingkangga.

See Map 3. Creek #9b also looks long on Map 3 (1.6 km), but (1) Only the unbroken line represents its individual flow (0.86 km), while the broken line (extending this to nearly double the length) shows a stretch where it was not visible above ground, but joined underground by flow from #6 and #11; (2) It has a very small catchment; and (3) On the ground

- 2. To a foot-traveller familiar with the area, Creek #6b is something of a landmark. One of the longest watercourses on the whole scarp. its long deep gully curves around the ridge of Louds Hill Rd, and forms the natural north-eastern boundary of Greater Mt Terrible.⁹
- 3. Creek #6b has the largest catchment (147 ha) of any in the target area.
- 4. On the plain in 1839 it had the longest continuation above ground (1.9 km), westward over Ryan Rd into Section 280.
- 5. Travelling south, it is also the *last* of the 'big' watercourses. South-west of it, none of the creeks are remotely comparable especially in catchment area and tree-line with the biggest ones north-east towards Willunga: i.e. #6b, #7, #14 (Willunga Creek), #16 (Piltongga) and #17 (Wirra Creek).
- 6. Today it still has a very substantial tree-line to Ryan Rd (1.6 km) before continuing as a drain. 10
- 7. As a clincher, Counsel marked only one waterhole in the whole scarp area of Aldinga Plain south of Willunga Creek, and it was on #6b. On its course at the border of Sections 281-282 (300m north of today's Hahn Rd), he wrote "Water 22 Nov^r 39".¹¹

Thus we can be reasonably sure not only that this creek was one of Piesse's 'most important rivulets', but that it included the site 'Wilyahowkingga'; also that when his guide identified it by name, he was almost certainly referring to this waterhole (probably onsite there on that date). In 1844 it was not a significant detour on Piesse's imaginary 'tour' along the survey boundary track, being only half a km downstream.

We might wonder whether 'Wilyahowkingga' could be somewhere closer to the 1839 survey boundary line (as inferred above); but this is much less likely than the recorded waterhole. Perhaps the site name could cover the whole area from the waterhole to the shallow gully immediately below the scarp (which is much less steep here than further southwest). This stretch

today it is a very small trench along its whole length from the hills down. The same applies to a lesser extent to #11 and #4. None of the other creeks here seems credible as one of the 'most important rivulets' (see Map 6 'Creek treelines (3)'). The visible lengths of *all* the scarp creeks has been greatly increased by the digging of drains to prevent flooding. Originally only #1 (Silver Sands Creek) reached the Washpool above ground (see Counsel 1839a: 41 = Map 1 in PNS 4.04.03/04 Mullawirra).

See PNS 5.01/04 'Koolta Kourga'.

See Maps 4 & 5. Some of these trees are big River Red Gums, as seen at the Hahn Rd crossing, about 400m west of Almond Grove Rd.

Counsel 1839a: 45; see Map 1. Today this site is the junction of Creek #6b with the built drain of #6a. But in 1839 #6a was marked only in the scarp, not at all on the plain, apparently going underground in the middle of Section 292 (see Map 1). But today a built drain connects it to #6b at the 1839 site of 'water' (see Map 5).

i.e. on today's private property immediately south-east of the junction of Hahn Rd and Almond Grove Rd, near Newman Close; or perhaps further still upstream in the shallow creek gully above the boundary but below the steep scarp. But while this stretch may have contained other water sources, Counsel did not mark them, not even on the site of today's substantial dam on Section 745. His field sketch (Map 1) continues the creek upstream a little further than the medium-size dam on Section 745 today (0.25 km above the track entrances on Newman Close, next to the homestead). There is a stretch of double lines signifying a widening of the gully, but no markings for water.

may have provided shelter in the gully and lookouts on the low ridges, when needed. But in an area scanty on surface water, the waterhole downstream would have been the focus. 13

THE NAME:

It is plainly in Kaurna language, ending with the common Locative suffix *ngga*, 'at, place of'. It is a Compound Noun.

The first word is *wilya*, ¹⁴ which has a range of meanings from 'foliage, leaves' to 'small or young branches' and 'brushwood'. *Yuka wilya* is '[a person's] hair closely cropped'; *yala wilya* is 'a scale of a fish'.

The second word has a Root in two syllables (appropriately for the suffix ngga), given as "howki". But the sound 'h' does not exist in Kaurna language. There is no manuscript available to check the spelling; the only available source is the Adelaide newspaper which published it. However, 'h' at the beginning of a word is a fairly common spelling used by settlers with no linguistic training to represent the sound ng (a common problem, since English never uses an initial ng). Piesse's extant writings very rarely use an 'h' in this way; usually he fails to register the initial ng as part of the word, and simply omits it. He does have one example of initial 'h': "Ha-ree, blue mountain parrot'. This probably represents ngari, which (spelt thus) was also recorded with the meaning 'string, rope'; but the bird gloss of this word is unique to Piesse. Perhaps the two words were homophones. 17

The pronunciation of 'ow' in 'howk' is almost certainly intended to be phonetic au as in the English word 'how'; <u>probably</u> not as in 'mow', which would represent one of the variant pronunciations of the Kaurna vowel o = u.¹⁸

The Root of the second word in the name is therefore probably either *ngauki* or *nguki*. Neither of which has any known Kaurna vocabulary to match it, so the meaning is unknown in either case. ¹⁹ This analysis is fairly certain unless a different MS spelling turns up to contradict 'howk'. ²⁰

This waterhole was probably a rare oasis in its surroundings. Less than half a km northeast of it was the property of Edward Loud on Sections 272-273, with 283 added by 1844 (i.e. on the southern side of Colville Rd around Almond Grove Rd; see Map 4). Counsel marked Creek #12 on the surface through 283 and half of 272, and #7 with a tree-line right across 273 (where the drain now runs). Yet Piesse reported in 1844 that "At first the settlers here had some difficulty in obtaining water, Mr Loud having sunk a well 150 feet, and a party a little farther on [i.e. southwest] having sunk one 180 feet without obtaining water" (Piesse 1844b: 7c).

The published spelling is "Wily-ahowkingga", but we can ignore the hyphen. It is at a line division, plainly an editor's

The published spelling is "Wily-ahowkingga", but we can ignore the hyphen. It is at a line division, plainly an editor's convenient but irrational choice, and has no linguistic significance.

15
e.g. William Williams 1839, "Hoo-yer" = nguiya; "Hun-key" = ngangki; "Hun-nah" = ngana. Piesse's informant had

e.g. William Williams 1839, "Hoo-yer" = nguiya; "Hun-key" = ngangki; "Hun-nah" = ngana. Piesse's informant had probably stressed the pronunciation of <u>ngau</u>kingga as a separate word from wilya, rather than running them together.

16
e.g. "I-chi" = ngaityai; "Uka" = yuka; "Ur-nah" = ngarna.

Same sound, different meaning; cp. English 'bat (animal)' and 'bat (cricket)'. 'Blue mountain parrot' is an old name for what we now call the Rainbow Lorikeet (Pizzey & Knight 2007, *Field Guide to the Birds of Aust* 8th ed., Sydney, HarperCollins: 274). The same old name was recorded for Kaurna *ngakala*; but most of this word is different, making it only a doubtful confirmation that Piesse's 'h' represents *ng*. Aboriginal bird naming is extensive and intricate. There could have been two different words (not necessarily similar) for different sexes, ages or subspecies of the bird.

i.e. In Kaurna, the sounds o and u are considered to be variants of 'the same thing', with no distinction in meaning.

CONNOTATIONS:

The Noun for 'foliage' and 'branches' is so very Common that we might wonder why it would appear in a place-name; surely there is foliage everywhere. There are only two other known Karuna place-names which use it. Patha-wilya, 'swamp-gum foliage', was the original form of 'Patawalonga' at the Glenelg estuary. 21 Wilya-tura, 'foliage shade', puts the foliage first and adds its perceived function; it was either a place-name or a descriptor associated with the McLaren Vale site *Turangga*, at the edge of another swamp.²²

Was wilya perhaps incorporated into a name to signify some kind of forested area (low and thick?) such as that in or near a swamp? To consider Creek #6b and its surroundings in this light: Counsel's sketch map²³ shows a narrow and rather sparse line of trees on each side of it for the first kilometre out from the scarp; some of those on the southern side may perhaps mark the line of #6a draining underground. South and north of these trees are "Open Plains". Downstream from the waterhole, #6b goes underground soon after reaching Section 280 at Ryan Rd; but on the same Section its drainage appears to join that of #9b moving north under "mostly open plains" into a strip of "Forest Land" which extends through 269-270-271 (i.e. around Ryan Rd just south of Colville Rd). This strip lies between the creeks to the south which drain into the Washpool and those to the north which drain into Willunga Creek.²⁴ Much more work will need to be done on the historical ecology of this area before we can draw too many conclusions about Wilya-ngaukingga from this.

Other potential interpretations of the named place Wilya-ngaukingga are cultural. Wilya was a prominent feature of a very early stage of initiation for young boys, called wilya-kundarti, 'beaten with branches'. A much later stage was called wilyaru. If the unknown noun ngauki / nguki referred to a cultural use of wilya - thus making Wilya-ngauki semantically similar to Wilya-turra - then it would probably signify that somewhere in this area was a place where the wilya were regularly used for ceremonial purposes. But this is speculative unless such a meaning for ngauki / nguki is discovered.

There is a word *nguki*, 'fresh water', in the language of the adjacent Ramindjeri and Ngarrindjeri; but this is a completely different language, and very little of its vocabulary overlaps with Kaurna. It is extremely unlikely that the two would be mixed in a traditional place-name given by a Kaurna person. The Ramindjeri probably had their own Ramindjeri-form name for the same place, but it would not end with ngga.

Another option for many place-names is that they had no lexical meaning at all (cp. 'Rome', 'Venice', 'London'). But this option is probably not available here for ngauki, because it has the Locative added in accordance with normal grammar, and is being used in combination with a very common word wilya.

See Appendix 1 of PNS 4.03.01/04 Pathawilya.

See Appendix 1 of PNS 4.03.01/04 Turrangga.

²³ See Map 1.

²⁴ See Map 4.

References to background documents

For background information and analysis relating to the creeks and gullies of the Willunga-Sellicks scarp, including Mt Terrible Gully, see my document 'BACKGROUND8_SellicksScarp.pdf', and my digital data folder 'pnf4-04-03_SellicksSCARP'.

SEE ALSO THE MAPS ON THE NEXT 7 PAGES:

p.9: MAP 1: Counsel 1839a, Field Book 102, p.45: Ryan Rd to Delabole Rd area. (Annotated).

Base map: Richard Counsel 1839a, Field Book 102 p.45 (GNU).

p.10: MAP 2: Pre-colonial tree cover on the Aldinga Plains and creek gullies along the Willunga-Sellicks scarp: detail from original Map 02.

Base map: Counsel 1839b, Diagram Book Hd of Willunga p.X4 (GNU). Annotated with data from Counsel 1839a.

p.11: MAP 3: Scarp creeks: Catchment areas & Length of watercourses on plain in 1839.

Base map: SA Government, NatureMaps website, http://spatialwebapps.environment.sa.gov.au/naturemaps/?locale=en-us&viewer=naturemaps, 1/3/22.

p.12: MAP 4: Scarp creek treelines in target area (1): northeast.

Base map: PlanSA, South Australian Property & Planning Atlas (SAPPA), https://sappa.plan.sa.gov.au/, 17/6/22.

p.13: MAP 5: Scarp creek treelines in target area (2): #11, #7, #12 & #6b.

Base map: SAPPA, 17/6/22.

p.14: MAP 6: Scarp creek treelines in target area (3): southwest.

Base map: SAPPA, 17/6/22.

p.15: MAP 7: Creeks #6b and #6a, the waterhole, and the 1839 survey boundary.

Base map: SAPPA, 17/6/22.

End of Summary

	Ryan	un fice	Almond	(40)	Delabole	
259	260 Rd	26/ Colville	Grove 262 Rd Rd	263	264 Rc	268
269	270	27/10	2/2	2,43	294	27 6 #13
2)/9 Hahn Rd	2.80	281	wet 252)	9,63	#8 #7 2 3 4	285
289	290	297 #11	#6b #6a			
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