

DUDLEY PENINSULA

ANPS DATA REPORT

No. 2

2016



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PLACENAMES SURVEY

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Joshua Nash

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Penneshaw looking north-east towards mainland South Australia

Photo: the author, 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This series of *ANPS Data Reports* provides an opportunity for Survey-affiliated researchers to make their toponymic data publicly accessible prior to a more formal publication at a later date. In some cases, the later analysis will be released in the Survey's standard format as a *Placenames Report*. In other cases, the material may be published in journals or monographs.

The nature of each issue in this present Series is determined by the type of research carried out by the author, and by the style of the data produced by that research.

1.1 The Dudley Peninsula dataset

Dudley Peninsula lies off the coast of mainland South Australia. Kangaroo Island is linked to South Australia's history through colonial exploration and quest for the discovery of the Great Southern Continent, Terra Australis. Kingscote, a town on Kangaroo Island, was once a potential candidate for South Australia's capital. The names given by the explorers Flinders, Baudin, Freycinet, and Péron highlight how European contact through toponymy has become a part of the cultural landscape and history in South Australia and Kangaroo Island.

Dudley Peninsula was proclaimed in 1874 by Governor Musgrave of South Australia. Musgrave married a daughter of Dudley Field, a noted American jurist, which may explain the name. Dudley Peninsula is approximately 650 square kilometres with only one settlement. Penneshaw is Kangaroo Island's main ferry port with a population of 300. The name *Penneshaw* is a blend derived from combining the names of Dr. F.W. Pennefather and Flora Louisa Shaw, two South Australian dignitaries at the time of colonisation. Penneshaw was previously named *Hog Bay* by British explorer, Matthew Flinders (Cockburn 1984) and *Anse des Sources* (Cove of Springs) by French explorer, Nicolas Baudin (Cooper 1953). The name *Kangaroo Island* was given by Captain Matthew Flinders in March 1802, in response to the hordes of kangaroos Flinders and his crew witnessed when they first came across the island. Baudin, who circumnavigated the island four weeks after meeting Flinders at nearby Encounter Bay, named the island *Île Borda* in memory of Jean-Charles de Borda, the celebrated French navigator, mathematician, and astronomer. Louis de Freycinet, Baudin's cartographer and surveyor, preferred the name *Île Decres*, after Admiral Denis Duc du Decres, a French Minister of Marine and Colonies (Reynolds 2001).

While *Kangaroo Island* became the official title, both English and French toponyms mark the *Kangaroo Island coastline*. The north coast bears names like Cape Dutton, Point Marsden, Cape Torrens and Point Morrison, while on the south coast *Cape de Couëdic*, *Cape Kersaint*, *Vivonne Bay* and *D'Estrees Bay* honour the French expedition. These French names are some of the most notable French influences on toponymy in South Australia. When the first settlers of the South Australia Company arrived on Kangaroo Island in 1836, they were not the first people of European origin to set foot on the island. From 1802 there had been small communities of Europeans, Americans, and Aboriginal women who survived through trade with passing vessels (Clarke 1998). The legacy of colonial history is recorded in many of Kangaroo Island's toponyms, (e.g. *Lasbmar Lagoon*, *Point Morrison*, *Buick Hill*, *Sapphiretown*, and *Muston*). Other colourful names which reflect local history are *Bates House*, *Gap of the Red Noses*, and *Crabby Jacks*,

Dudley Peninsula

a small house near Strawbridge Point. The Kurna¹ name for Kangaroo Island, *Karta*, and the anthropological research conducted by Tindale in the 1920s (Tindale & Maegraith 1928) suggest there was a huge amount of indigenous nomenclature that was either never recorded or has been forgotten or was never passed on after European colonisation. While there are many Aboriginal toponyms and house names in use on Kangaroo Island today, these are all imported names. They are generally commemorative or erroneous names used in ways that are not common of Australian indigenous toponymic practices (cf. Harvey 1999). Some examples are *Bundilla*, *Arltunga*, *Parndana*, *Allomba*, *Aluka*, *Karatta*, *Churinga*, and even *The Aboriginal*, an area on the eastern side of Hog Bay in Penneshaw, so named because early on in the settlement a white settler, who married a native woman, was allocated a block of land there (Taylor 2008).² These imposed names give a sense that the Kangaroo Island landscape is exotic.

Cooper (1953) gives an in-depth account of the toponyms given by both Flinders and Baudin, while unofficial folk accounts offered by Mensforth and Irving (2000), dealing mainly with fishing, provide a local perspective on how names are given, passed down, published, and remembered in a fashion more digestible to the general populace. It is these anecdotal and local name histories which add spice to the folk toponymy of the island, and suggest a gap in the documentation of unofficial Kangaroo Island toponyms. What has occurred on Kangaroo Island in terms of toponymic history forms a mosaic of official and unofficial placenames including the French names given by Baudin and Freycinet in 1802, those ascribed to Flinders, and more localised unofficial toponyms which have never been recorded or mapped.

Apart from the scant documentation given in Tindale and Maegraith (1928), there are no detailed written records of the Kurna and Ngarrindjeri occupants 2000 years ago, or records of toponyms on Dudley Peninsula prior to European arrival. As regards pristine toponymy, Dudley Peninsula was a part of an uninhabited island where the transparency of placenames is traceable. There are people on Dudley Peninsula who remember the locations and histories of toponyms and, in some cases, who named them. The influence of French naming, which is prominent on contemporary Kangaroo Island, does not affect the theoretical or practical development of a description of Dudley Peninsula toponymy. Dudley Peninsula bears the cultural weight associated with a powerful claim of long established family heritages. Dudley family names such as Bates, Buick, Lashmar, Neaves, Willson, and Trethewey carry a lot of historical weight.

Table 1 (below) shows toponym statistics for the two data taxa as listed in the Dudley Peninsula data report.

¹ 'Kurna' is the name ascribed to the people and language of the Adelaide region. The clan boundary for Kurna country extends from Cape Jervis in the south to Crystal Brook in the north and is bordered by the Mount Lofty Ranges in the east.

² This area was also known locally as *Blackfella Town*. Some now call it *Snob Hill* due to the upmarket houses in this part of Hog Bay.

Feature type	Number	Percentage
Topographical names	178	77
Fishing ground names	54	23
<i>Total</i>	232	100

Table 1 - Dudley Peninsula toponymic data (the author, 2016)

1.2 The structure of the entries

There are four columns labelled in order from left to right: *Name*, *Feature type*, *Source*, and *Notes*. 'Name' is self-explanatory; 'Feature type' is listed as either one of two taxa used in this report: topographical name, or fishing ground name; 'Source' gives data relating to the person who provided the data and when, and other reference information; 'Notes' is where content about the location, history, and personage of names are included, along with any other multiple etymological information.

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April 2016

2.0 THE DATASET

Entries in the following table are ordered alphabetically. Brief references only are used in the table; the corresponding full references appear at the end of the work.