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To what brilliant genius of a topographical godfather or godmother does South Australia owe the classic designations bestowed upon the latest two Government townships, ‘Arthurton’ and ‘Carrieton’… While human nature is what it is, however, it can only be expected that the member of Government, head of department or local ‘great man’ should thus endeavour to immortalise the names of his relatives. He likes it ‘and so do his sisters and his cousins and his aunts’.

(Observer, 16 December 1879, page 5)

Nackara - The name may be a corruption of the Aboriginal nakkare, associated with a certain folklore, that is a game forbidden to boys and young men during the ceremonies of introduction to manhood. Rodney Cockburn suggests it derives from the name of a spring under a hill which was opened out in the form of a tank, while Day’s Railway Nomenclature opts for Aboriginal words for ‘my brother’ and ‘looking forward’. The ‘Nackara Run’ was established by J. Williams in 1851 (lease no. 229). The town, 45 km ENE of Peterborough, proclaimed as ‘Tregu’ on 2 July 1891, received its present name on 19 September 1940. Its post office was opened as ‘Nackra’ (sic) in May 1883 the change being effected in October 1900. The Hundred of Nackara, County of Herbert was proclaimed on 5 August 1880 and its school existed from 1905 until 1908. Nackara School opened in 1891 and closed in 1967. The Nackara railway siding was ‘27 miles from Petersburg’ and, in 1887, away to the right could be seen ‘a couple of dams known as Kennedy’s by the travellers of the eastern route’.

Outside of the station yard can be seen the roof of a house, the property of Mr Wickham, an enterprising gentleman who combines farming, grazing, butchering, baking, storekeeping, post office, pound yard and eating house. The place is situated on the roadside that has been for years used by the eastern travellers to Thackaringa and Umberumberka. Mr Wickham has… paddocks nicely fenced and a luxuriant growth of saltbush that would gladden the hearts of our more northern squatters…

Photographs of the aftermath of a hail storm are in the Observer, 30 October 1926, page 31.

Nadda - Aboriginal for a ‘camp’. The Nadda railway station is 38 km South-East of Loxton; Nadda Post Office opened in January 1914 on section 127, Hundred of Bookpurnong. Nadda School opened in 1924 and closed in 1962. In 1916, the Nomenclature Committee recommended the name be changed to ‘Nalyilta’, meaning ‘bough shelter’, to avoid confusion with ‘Naidia’. Nadda was adopted from its namesake in Gloucestershire, England, where Enoch Fry was born; in 1196 it was written as naileswurw - ‘Naegl’s stream, island’.

Nadjuri, Mount - On section 221E, Hundred of Tarcowie, named after Aboriginal people who inhabited the area.

Nadzab, Lake - On section 599, Hundred of Lacepede, named by Professor W.D. Williams on 6 October 1983 after an adjoining property. When dry, part of the lagoon was used in pegging down skins in the process of making skin rugs and clothing, the mineral content being very suitable for this purpose.

The name was changed to ‘Paranki Lagoon’ on 24 March 1990.

Naidia - According to Rodney Cockburn, when the Naidia Post Office was opened in December 1911 on section 17C, Hundred of Bakara, 24 km North-East of Swan Reach, ‘the suggestion of migrants from the West Coast prevailed. “Nadia Well”, in the Denial Bay district, was in mind and the inevitable corruption occurred in the voyage across.’ The Naidia School was opened in 1920 by Olive G. Riley; it closed in 1943 when students were transported by bus to Swan Reach. (See Mantung, Nadda, Nadia Landing & Nildottie)

Naiko Inlet - In 1972, tentative approval was given for use of the name ‘Madigan Inlet’ in the Cape Jervis area but the District Council of Yankalilla opposed it and substituted an Aboriginal name based on local legend. Accordingly, this name was approved by the Geographical Names Board.

Nailsworth - The present suburb of Nailsworth comprises portion of sections 345-346 and the whole of section 347, Hundred of Yatala. The first land grant for section 346, dated 10 September 1839, was to Thomas Hudson Beare of Netley and, on 24 March 1845, he conveyed 26 acres to William Williams who, the next day, sold 21 acres to William Jenkins.

He divided his land into three equal portions of seven acres each, selling one to Richard Hart on 31 December 1846, a second to Enoch Fry on 3 September 1847 and retaining the other third. On 10 March 1850, both William Jenkins and Enoch Fry conveyed their portions for a total of £140 to George Rolfe as trustee of a syndicate of eleven persons, of which he was part.

The enrolment document describes the land being conveyed as comprising sixty-four allotments to be called ‘The Village of Nailsworth’, equally located either side of California Street. The name ‘Rolfe’ is preserved as a street name abutting California Street.

The name was adopted from its namesake in Gloucestershire, England, where Enoch Fry was born; in 1196 it was written as nailleswurw - ‘Naegl’s stream, island’.

In Adelaide, the area was known, also, at the time as ‘Pine Forest’ and ‘St Johns Wood’, the former being descriptive, as its native pine timber was used in the construction of the first Government House in Adelaide, while the latter appears to have been both descriptive and taken from the name of an inner suburb of London.

The Aboriginal name describing the pine forest was narnu.
The **Nailsworth** School opened in 1862 and, in 1926, it was ‘one of a series of nine central schools in the metropolitan area’:

[Their] purpose is to provide an education and training (magnified to some extent by a vocational bias) for pupils leaving school to enter upon commercial, industrial or homemaking pursuits. These types of school were established at the commencement of 1925…

Saturday, 14 November 1884 was remembered as a red-letter day among the members and friends of the Salvation Army in Nailsworth and district:

As on it were opened new ‘barracks’… for the local corps by Major Howard, a gentleman who, with Colonel Ballington Booth, has come from England for the purpose… [They] involved an outlay of £350 [and] are situated about a mile out of North Adelaide… on the eastern side of the main road.


**Nairne** - The three sections on which the town is situated (5201-3) were part of a Special Survey of 4,000 acres made at the behest of Matthew Smillie who, in 1839, advertised the sale of allotments as being situated ‘in a beautiful valley well sheltered from the prevailing winds… As the climate is salubrious, and the elevation from the plains considerable, it is a most desirable spot for summer residences…’ In extolling the new village in 1840 it was declared: 'it is on the finely watered spot selected by Captain Sturt for his cattle brought overland two years ago, and it is the first place where fine water is found after leaving the lake on the direct route from Sydney to Adelaide.'

Mr Smillie named the township in honour of his wife, formerly Elizabeth Corse Nairne (1791-1861). He arrived from Scotland in 1839 and, 12 months later, was elected to the first Adelaide municipal council; he died on 12 March 1847 at Mount Barker and was buried in Nairne. **Nairne Extension** was laid out by Henry Timmins and **East Nairne** by Peter Dowding Prankerd and Robert Stuckey.

In 1840, a local hotelier, Mrs Stodart of the Nairne Arms, ‘begged leave to return thanks to her friends and the public for the ample patronage she has experienced since she built and established an inn and store at the village of Nairne’:

… As the population of the village and neighbourhood is rapidly increasing, she has started a bullock dray to communicate with Adelaide once a fortnight, or oftener if required, which may be heard of at Mr Campbell’s (late Campbell and Grieve) Hindley Street… Parties from Adelaide… will find the village well worth visiting as it is situated in one of the finest and most beautiful locations…

It is a good stage from Mr Crafer’s house in the Tiers and an easy day’s ride from town… The nearest and the most direct road is by the village of Hahndorf [sic] and Glenfoy [sic], the residence of Allan McFarlane Esq. A medical man is situated in the neighbourhood and several builders and carpenters, a blacksmith and a butcher are in the village. A shoemaker is much wanted…

The Nairne Arms Hotel ceased trading in 1856 due to competition from the New Nairne Hotel, opened in 1848, and the licensing of the Crooked Billet (now the Miller’s Arms) that commenced trading in March 1851. However, today, it survives as a private house. In 1860, James Bust (sic) and his son were sinking a well about 12 feet away from the Nairne Creek and observed ‘stuff’ that looked like gold and ‘this was not the first time gold has been found near here. Some specks were found in sinking another well in the neighbourhood and mine host of the Millers’ Arms, late Crooked Billet, found some gold in a goose which he killed…’
Twenty years later reports were circulated that an ‘El Dorado eclipsing anything before discovered in South Australia’ was being worked by a proprietor and his son within half an hour’s ride from Nairne and, by 1889, the North Nairne Gold Mine was operating on section 5301, Hundred of Kanmantoo, and held under a lease for 21 years with right of purchase at £25 per acre.

The diggings from which a good bit of gold has been taken is worked in the most primitive style... There is now no doubt that a large and remunerative industry will shortly be developed but unfortunately all the land is private property...


Nakanbarangal - In the Hundred of Neville. In Aboriginal mythology and ancestral being rested there but was driven away by swamp barrier beings and had to spear his ducks at a place farther south.

The name has a link with the pelican.

Nalang - Professor Tindale records the word ngalang as a camp site on section 359, Hundred of Tatiara, while another source opts for ngalat belonging to the Wirrega clan of the Jackegilbrab people, meaning ‘limit’ or ‘boundary’.

The name was applied to a pastoral property occupied by Loudon Hastings McLeod (1807-1860) from 22 February 1846.

Rodney Cockburn says that the station was purchased by John and George Riddoch in 1878 and resumed by the government in 1880 for agricultural purposes (See Peter Rymill, George Riddoch to Kooring):

In that year the freehold portion was sold by auction, together with the newly surveyed town of Nalang in quarter-acre blocks. [Author’s note: There is no record of this township in the Department of Lands, but see under ‘Nalang Estate’].

Further suspicion to this statement was raised in 1910 when, at the Bordertown Hall on 23 November, Elder Smith & Company ‘offered for sale by auction on behalf of Mr R. McDonald, of Millicent, the Nalang Estate of 14,400 acres’;

Nalang at one time was an estate of large dimensions but changes in ownership and, in recent years, inducements offered to agriculturists have reduced its size... Mr McDonald shepherded sheep on Nalang in the early fifties - ‘It was regarded in those times as the crack station in the south’...

The Nalang School opened in 1932 by Doris Millard; closed in 1950. Nalang Creek is south of Wolseley.

Nalang Estate - A subdivision of various sections in the Hundreds of Tatiara and Wirrega.

Nalawort - A railway station near Mount Lofty. Aboriginal for ‘broad leaved wattle’.

Naljawi - The Aboriginal name for Little Scrub Hut in the Hundred of Warrenben - ‘quiet place’.

Nalyappa - An Aboriginal word meaning ‘water in a circle of hills’. The Nalyappa School, opened in 1908, closed in 1938. The name was given, also, to a mining venture, when a large sum of money was spent in the hope that the Moonta Lode extended into the proprietors’ land; ‘the result did not induce the adventurers to continue their outlay.’

Nalyappa Springs are 14 km South-West of Moonta.

Namba, Lake - In the Far North-East, where fossil lungfish were found in 1972. Aboriginal for ‘bone fish’.

Nammuld - A railway station 8 km north of Kimba. Aboriginal for ‘hidden’.

Namungarintja Conservation Park - North-West of Lake Maurice, it was proclaimed in 1986; it is an Aboriginal word for a ‘sleeping serpent’.

Nanarindjera - On section 904, Hundred of Malcolm, was a place renowned for its sand flies, hence ‘sand fly place’.


A photograph of a flood on Mr F.J. Bartram’s property is in the Chronicle, 15 November 1934, page 33.

Nangawooka - Aboriginal for ‘a place of springs’. Today, it is called ‘Hindmarsh Valley’.

Nangkita - The Ramindjeri people had a word nankitja - ‘tree grubs’, while in 1926 it was said to mean ‘place of the little frogs’. The Hundred of Nangkita, County of Hindmarsh, was proclaimed on 29 October 1846. The Nangkita Village Association was formed in 1894 by 23 members on 1,894 acres of land; disbanded during 1895-96 it was taken over by some previous settlers. The Nangkita Village School existed from 1895 until 1931, while the Nangkita School opened in 1937 and closed in 1963. (See New Era & Ramco)

In 1906, annual sports were held at Mount Compass:

Results - Boys, under 14 - Claude Martin; Wheelbarrow race - Max Whermein; Potato and Spoon Race - Otto Whermein; Girl’s race - Gladys Sweetman; Three-legged race - Atteral Brothers; Tilting on Horseback - A. Atteral ...

Nangula - Five kilometres South-East of Millicent. The Boandik people had a word ngarngool a meaning a ‘cave’ or ‘den’, while records at the SA Museum say it means ‘look-out’. (See Nangwarry)

The Nangula Springs School was opened by Elizabeth L. Plunkett in 1878; it closed in 1962.
Nangwarry - Derived from the Aboriginal ngarang-wari; ngarang - ‘cave’ and wari - ‘cold’. (See Nangula)
The ‘Nangwarry Run’ was established by A. Watson and C. McKinnon in 1851. (See Kilbride)
Prior to that time it was known as ‘Henty’s Water Hole’. (See Mackinnon Swamp)

Hundred of Nangwarry, County of Grey, was proclaimed on 24 October 1867. Nangwarry School opened in 1940 and the town of Nangwarry, 18 km south of Penola, was proclaimed on 17 October 1974.

In 1879, the Nangwarry and Penola forest reserves extended over 8,550 acres and a visitor reported that ‘of indigenous trees, I observed red and peppermint gums, stringybark and honeysuckle’:

> Several of the redgums measured 3 feet in diameter and over 80 feet in height… The best of the timber has been culled out years ago and those of this class remaining are of too rough a nature to be of much use as timber…

Nantabibbie - A railway station 10 km east of Oodlawirra. Aboriginal for ‘black kangaroo’.

Nantanobatj - A hill in the Hundred of Neville where, at night, Aborigines burned fronds and tied them to boomerangs to convey messages.

Nantawarra - The Nantuvara people of some 25 to 30, a clan of the Kaurna people, once occupied the country from the River Wakefield, north to Whitwarta and west to Hummock Range. The clan name means ‘kangaroo speech’, while in the vicinity of Kangaroo Flat and Roseworthy it was recorded as nantowira - ‘kangaroo forest’.

The Nantawarra Post Office was opened, circa 1923, and closed on 30 June 1982.

Nantawarra railway station is 26 km north of Port Wakefield while, in 1874, the Nantawarra School was conducted in a chapel by Henry Mason with 22 enrolled pupils; its name was changed to ‘Beaufort’ in 1908.

In 1959 the ‘Cameron East’ School became Nantawarra; it closed in 1968.

In 1914, an advertisement lauded:

> Cosh’s New Hygienic Home - This institution for the relief and cure of all ailing persons under hygienic principles - without drugs and without operations - is now open… It is nestled among sugar gum trees, fruit trees and vines and Acher Valley, where the sea breezes wafted up the vale from the Gulf of St Vincent are so modified that the most delicate constitution is not only refreshed, but strengthened, even without restorative treatment,…

A harvesting photograph is in the Chronicle, 31 December 1910, page 30, four generations of the Underwood family in the Observer, 28 September 1912, page 29, of a basketball team in the Chronicle, 2 September 1937, page 37.

Nantudidnu - (See Mungari Beach).

Nantuma - A railway station 37 km north of Lock. Aboriginal for ‘bend’.

Nanyah Dam - In the Chowilla district. In 1925, ‘Nanyah’, the name of the last Aboriginal people in the district, was proposed for a war service settlement scheme at Chaffey.

Napper Bridge - In 1855, William Napper went to Cobdogla by steamer to cut red gum sleepers for the proposed Port Adelaide railway.

Later, he conducted an accommodation house on the North-West corner of Lake Bonney, on land purchased from William Parnell for £650 on 21 February 1863, and the little settlement was christened ‘Blanket Town’.

In 1914, a bridge was built across Chambers Creek at its entrance to the lake and called the ‘North Lake Bridge’ which was changed to ‘Napper Bridge’ sometime before 1928.

The timber bridge was replaced by a concrete structure in 1954.

Napperby - The name was taken from a sub-head station of Bowman’s ‘Crystal Brook Run’, while J.F. Hayward mentions it in his reminiscences. (See Aroona, Government Dam & Hayward)

Land in the area was taken up first in 1845 by William Younghusband under occupation licence.

Prior to the gazettal of the town of Napperby, 10 km ENE of Port Pirie, on 29 March 1877, a settlement at ‘Government Dam’ was known sometimes as Napperby.

The Hundred of Napperby, County of Victoria, was proclaimed on 11 June 1874.

The Napperby School opened in 1880 and the Napperby South School, in 1890; it became ‘Hughes Gap’ in 1891.

In 1881, the Napperby Dam was ‘situated on the great cattle track from the north, leading down to South Australia and the shepherds and cattle drovers have always had the free use of it’:

> The confusion caused by the railway authorities by erecting a board with the words ‘Napperby Station’ on it at Warnertown, a place known formerly as ‘Government Dam’ was also of concern to residents…

There was no place of residence for the schoolmaster… and the want of a sewing mistress affected the numerical strength of the schoolmaster’s roll…
Napper Merrie - A pastoral property ‘33 miles from Innamincka.’
A photograph is in the Chronicle, 14 January 1911, page 32.

Nappyalla - Near Wellington; Aboriginal for ‘two wives’ and being the place associated with the two wives of the ancestral being Ngurunderi. (See Chiton Rocks)

Naracoorte - The land on which the town stands today was taken up first by Charles Sherratt (from Rocklands Station on the River Glengyle) and George Ormerod (1822-1872) from 6 May 1845 under occupation licence. (See Ormerod, Lake) Their application showed their address as ‘Woortitina Creek’ and described the land as being ‘60 miles north of Rivoli Bay known as the run country’.

In 1849, six sections were surveyed along this creek by Eugene Bellairs who made no mention of the name ‘Naracoorte’. The founder of the town was Mr William MacIntosh who, at one time, was the owner of a great part of the Hundred. (See Kincraig & Moy Hall)
He erected a public house (Merino Inn) and a store; subsequently, this settlement became known as ‘Skye Town’ (see Kincraig) but it did not make much headway until 1852 when the ‘Chinese passed through in such numbers that about 7,000 of them were recorded as honouring it by a visit during one year’:

But times have changed since then. The almond-eyed Mongolian no longer troops through in battalions, but he stays by ones and twos and cultivates the gardens in such excellent style that all kinds of vegetables are now grown in the district, instead of being obtained from Mount Gambier.

As for the government town of Naracoorte that was surveyed in 1859, on high ground north of the creek for reasons of drainage and hygiene, the most unpardonable blundering took place when the site for a post office and courthouse was fixed at the very end of the new township, more than half a mile from the centre of business, The result of this folly was in the establishment of a second post and telegraph office in Kincraig.
This building adjoined the store of Mr J.H. Cunningham who had a good deal to do with its establishment and who deserved the thanks of the community because 90 per cent of the letters were expected to go there against 10 per cent to the district post office.

The first sale of allotments in the government town was made on 21 August 1862 at an average price of approximately £5-5-0, while Naracoorte East was laid out in 1868 by Thomas Hinckley on part sections 5 and 6 the first registered sale of an allotment being made on 1 February 1869 to George Platt.

In 1868, the case of the proposed District Council of Naracoorte was a ‘striking illustration of the beauty of the implanted land system.’ On the one side could be seen a wealthy man, Thomas Magarey, who had been fortunate enough to ‘secure the privilege of running large flocks of sheep for a long series of years over the surrounding country by which he realised universal profits, monopolising as he did the whole grass of the place, for his sheep ran up to the very doors of the townfolk. On the other hand the population of the village was hemmed in and could barely keep a cow to milk, as during the greater part of the year the sheep left nothing for any other class of animal to exist upon.’

By late 1868, it had four large stores and, of course, all this development could not have taken place without causing a demand for additional building allotments, which want Mr Magarey was not slow in supplying at the ‘moderate rate of about £30 an acre.’ In addition, he rented most of his land at good rentals. This suited the distant proprietor who, residing in Adelaide, ‘drew a magnificent income from his run, sold his land which cost £1 an acre at thirty times the price, kept an overseer and a few men at 15 shillings a week - the sole occupants of an immense country, except the townspeople who were huddled together on land altogether insufficient for their requirements.’

The real Naracoorte was a little group of houses, besides the local court house, the post office and telegraph station, a flour mill and one store. The township, where nearly all business was done, was a little distance away and named Kincraig and the inhabitants referred to it as ‘Naracoorte’. Newspaper correspondents followed the same rule and thus Kincaig, when named at all, was done by strangers.

It boasted of some handsome buildings, including two banks, Jones’s Hotel and some excellent stores. Naracoorte was built in the middle of a sheep run and similar properties surrounded it on all sides and yet some of the people were not happy because they felt that these large estates were a drag on their wheels of progress. They thought of what the town could have been and quote the words of Oliver Goldsmith:

Ill fares that land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

The streets are wide and the township would have a cheerful look were it not, like the black fellow’s campment, stuck down in a hollow by a creek. It is said to be unhealthy in comparison with other towns in the colony and in summer time the heat is as oppressive as on the Adelaide plains.

Professor Norman Tindale records the name Ngarangurt, but gives no meaning of the word and suggests it was corrupted and applied to the nearby ‘Narcoot (sic) Waterhole’ while A.W. Reed’s Aboriginal Place Names says the name derived from Gnange-Kuri, meaning ‘a large waterhole’.

Other sources believed ‘Naracoorte’ to be a corruption of an Aboriginal name for the local creek. Further, correspondence in 1860 suggested that the creek was called Naracoorta by the Aborigines; but see below where this statement is disputed; another letter referred to the new town of ‘Narracoorta’.

The proprietor of a local newspaper, Mr A. Caldwell, in a reply to a query on the town’s nomenclature, said:

Dying legends state that Narracoorte derived its name from narcoot, a native appellation of a waterhole somewhere in the neighbourhood, the locality of which is not generally known. Its residents and the public call the town Narracoorte but the Government departments drop an ‘r’.

Dying legends state that Narracoorte derived its name from narcoot, a native appellation of a waterhole somewhere in the neighbourhood, the locality of which is not generally known. Its residents and the public call the town Narracoorte but the Government departments drop an ‘r’.
100 years separate these photographs – Smith Street in 1875 and 1975

She told us people came from all around, not just the locals... It was known that ceremonial meetings for trade and marriage arrangements were part of the South East culture. Is it not then possible that trading for stone axes took place there, in an area where no suitable stone existed?

Dr Gunning, who settled there in 1849, said the name should be Gnanga-Kurt, but did not give a meaning of it while Mr Magarey said his father, who was at Naracoorte in 1861, was told by the natives that the name was nanna-coorta and that this name was ‘given to the public by the Press’; Mr McIntosh said the word meant ‘large waterhole’, while the Land Grant of Section 3 to George Ormerod in November 1850 describes the location as ‘Naracoorta Creek’. (See Magarey Park)

In 1908, there was a reference saying that James McLean, a Sheriff’s officer, mentioned ‘Nancoota [sic] Springs’ in one of his reports while Alexander Tolmer recorded ‘Narcoota Springs’.

Further, in his reminiscences, Norman V. Wallace recounted another version told to him by Malcolm Nicholson who was born ‘just over the border in the early days’:

Once, when some Aborigines were fishing in the creek that caught a yellow-bellied fish and were asked what they called it; and they had said something like ‘naracoorta’ which the surveyors translated into the name of the creek.

In contrast to the above opinions as to the name of the creek, correspondence from Messrs Sherratt and Ormerod on 8 October 1845, to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, describes their run as being on ‘Woorlirtina Creek’ where ‘the south west angle of the block has been cut off to meet [the] proposed boundary of Mr Sanders’ run. In order to make it a compact block we have had to enclose a considerable proportion of waste swampy land now under water, also part of the stringy bark range.’

This primary source evidence negates, to a certain extent, the above secondary source explanations as to the creek’s name and the Penola historian, Peter Rymill, found it most interesting as it places another early pastoralist, Benjamin Sanders ‘still west of Naracoorte [at Moyhall]’ who ‘hadn’t yet moved to Morambro’ and, as for the name ‘Woorlirtina’, he opined that the town may have to be renamed!

The name ‘Narracoorte’ (sic) was adopted in December 1868 when it was reported that:

Local historian, Ms Judy Murdoch, advised the author that she had never been satisfied with the attempts to find the meaning if, indeed, there is one for the name ‘Naracoorte’:

The references to water seem quite inappropriate, as the Naracoorte Creek is a largely seasonal stream - or was until the 1897 earthquake opened springs... The only place within a short distance... with Aboriginal links is ‘Garey’s Swamp’, which again was highly seasonal...

The reference to water just doesn’t make much sense... [Another local historian, Peter Rymill, believes ‘the creek was of prime importance as stock water to the early settlers, and Ormerod’s Waterhole was the principal datum point in the early surveys.’]

Someone, and it was not a local, told me that it should be Ngarga Coota - ‘place of the stone’. Garey’s Swamp was known to be a place where Aboriginal corroborees were held. An old resident recalled several in her childhood.

Kincraig, Narracoorte [sic], Skye Town and Mosquito Plains [have set] an example worthy of adoption by other portions of the colony. These several names refer to one township, but they have confused students... so it has been unanimously decided to... adopt the one name of Narracoorte [sic].
The Hundred of Naracoorte. County of Robe, was proclaimed on 24 October 1867.

The Naracoorte to Tatiara Railway

The Naracoorte to Tatiara railway route, when adopted, was a puzzle to any one who merely looked at the map of South Australia and it was a sore point with many Tatiara settlers who exclaimed, indignantly:

‘The government deny us a railway for eight years and when it is wrung from them they place it within a couple of miles of the Border, so as to be as far as possible from us.’

(Register, 9 August 1880)

This 44 mile extension from Naracoorte was only authorised after a hard struggle against the determined opposition and persistent misrepresentation of influential and interested parties whose strong desire was to see the comparatively few farmers located in the Tatiara compelled to seek a fresh field for their labours for want of communication with the seaboard. However, success eventually crowned the efforts of men undaunted by repeated disappointments. In 1875, the Railway Commissioner recommended the construction of a line from Baker’s Range to Cockatoo Lake and it was included in the historically ‘broad and comprehensive policy’ of Mr J.P. Boucaut. It was also taken up by the Colton government and petition after petition was sent to parliament praying for a railway extension to the Tatiara. Mr Ebenezer Ward, as a member of the Colton government in 1877, introduced a Bill for the construction of railways from Naracoorte to Border Town and from Naracoorte to Jessie. But ‘officially’ he did not see either scheme carried out because the Colton government was ousted soon afterwards from office and Mr Boucaut and his colleagues ruled in their stead.

And then it was on 20 November 1877 that Mr Boucaut ‘discovered’ that the reports of the Engineer-in-Chief and the Surveyor-General did not justify the line. It was rather late to make the ‘discovery’ when the line had been talked about for so long and when some part of it had been adopted by his government two years before.

This celebrated report of the Surveyor-General was to the effect that the land was sour Bay of Biscay country and not adapted for agricultural purposes. But he was in error as to the capabilities of the land and the Tatiara people became more than ever determined to have a railway. But, to their surprise in 1878, their line was quietly stopped by the government and the one to Jessie, which was not generally approved in the district, was pressed on, but Mr Hardy, one of the members for Albert, struggled manfully to thwart this proposal and was ultimately successful.

A combination of two schemes was then decided upon in 1878 when a Bill was introduced to provide for a railway from Naracoorte to Hynam, Binnum and Frances, running along the border for some distance, thus tapping the West Wimmera district of Victoria, and an amendment was proposed by Mr Henning to extend the line to the Tatiara and this was accepted and passed in the House of Assembly on 23 October 1878.

But ill fortune pursued it to the Legislative Council where it was opposed by the Hon. R.C. Baker, who leased a run just over the border and it was rejected by a majority of two votes. A correspondent to the Register opined:

… Power is the commodity Mr John Baker wants most. He feels in the high road to it now. Happily for the country he is too impatient to conceal his designs… In truth, Mr Baker is never happy in his attempts at the sensational. Whenever he goes out of his way to perpetuate his name by some brilliant achievement, he is sure to lead his followers into the mire and leave them there. Anything he attempts is pretty sure to exhibit in its details a singular combination of adroitness without judgement and ingenuity… We can call to mind no instance in which he has, even by accident, deviated into success.

The people of Tatiara were immediately up in arms, while the press throughout the colony wrote sympathetically in respect of the ill treatment meted out to them. In 1880, the Bill passed through the House again and approved in the Council by nine votes and, in mid-1881, it was said that Custon was ‘quite lively from the influx of people connected with the Tatiara and Border Town railway, the construction of which was commenced last week’:

This place possesses no less than three separate names and the best known is ‘University Blocks’. The railway people call the railway station ‘Tatiara’ while the post office, in the very same building, is ‘Custon’, after the adjoining government township, which was sold a few months ago…

By January 1883, this town was the terminus of the Tatiara railway and when first constructed it was said that it was a foolish piece of extravagance and would never pay but, by a strange perversity, did so. The first load of wheat was delivered at Custon in December 1883 to Messrs Grice & Co. - 25 bags grown by Crouch Brothers at Kaniva:

The Custon to Bordertown railway should have been completed now, but as far as Wolseley is concerned there is little cause for dissatisfaction, as, thanks to the foresight of the resident engineer, provision was made for receiving and storing wheat in the station yard, and this week regular communication was commenced between here and Custon.

The first special goods train was brought up by Mr Mann on Tuesday last (23rd) and every truck obtained from the traffic department has been sent away filled with wheat…

[See under ‘Kingston’ for an account of the earlier railway.]
Naramendjarang - A hill covered with blackwood trees on sections 188 and 189, Hundred of Malcolm, was, in Aboriginal mythology, the place where an ancestral being made boomerangs by chiselling wood from the trees.
Narcoo - South of Burra. Aboriginal for ‘lookout point’.
Narcoona - A railway station 5 km South-West of Mount Pleasant. Aboriginal for ‘seeing’.
Narren Range - North of Jamestown. (See Ngadjuri, Mount).
Narltay - (See Paney Bluff)
Narraburra - In the Hundred of Waterhouse. Aboriginal for ‘rough country’.
Narridy - It may be derived from Narrinde, the name of the indigenous people of the lower north. The town, 13 km South-East of Crystal Brook, surveyed by Charles W. Sprigg, was offered for sale on 7 December 1871.
The Hundred of Narridy, County of Victoria, was proclaimed on 20 July 1871:

The cool unblushing effrontery of the present Ministry is past all belief: they have caused some 130 sections to be surveyed and proclaimed as an area in the worst part of the North… I can bring overwhelming evidence to prove that there is not 20 acres a piece for those who have been here to examine… The villainy is more apparent when they see on the same and neighbouring runs splendid land for which they say they would rather give five pounds per acre than five shillings for the greater part of the Narridy area…

In 1876, lots 109 and 110 were granted to the Council of Education for a school that was opened in 1878 and closed in 1967; Narridy Post Office opened in December 1873.
The Hundred of Narridy School opened in 1886 and closed in 1891; reopened the same year as ‘Rocky River’.
A photograph of members of the school’s Bird Protection Club is in the Chronicle, 5 August 1911, page 29; also see Observer, 12 August 1911, page 30, of the opening of a bridge across the Rocky River in the Chronicle, 19 November 1910, page 43a, of a football team in the Observer, 28 September 1912, page 31.
Narrowie - A school in the Terowie District took its name from a local homestead; opened in 1926 it closed in 1937; owie is Aboriginal for ‘water’.
Narung - The word is a corruption of the Aboriginal ngnara-rung - ‘place of the large sheaoaks’. These trees provided wood for boomerangs, clubs and other weapons of the indigenous people, who traded manufactured weapons down along the Coorong to others in exchange for stone axes and mallee wood spear poles.

Narun Jetty - circa 1880 – Point Malcolm lighthouse on opposite bank

A jetty was erected there in 1877 and, in the same year, construction began on the Point Malcolm lighthouse on the opposite bank.
The town of Narung, 35 km east of Goolwa, surveyed by George McCoy in March 1907, was proclaimed on 25 April 1907. Narung Post Office opened in June 1910 and Narung School in 1912, the latter closing in 1983.
The laying of the foundation stone for a new school was reported in 1929; photographs are in the Chronicle, 3 September 1910, page 30.
In 1909, it was noted that ‘a portion of the Narung Estate had not been allotted to the white men for closer settlement.’

What then forbids that [portion of it] be reserved for the enlargement of the Point Macleay Aborigines Mission Station. I hold that our natives should have enough land reserved for their use whereon they can make a living… They are good with stock and are good shearers and now seems the chance for the government to do them natural justice… The white man, by force of numbers, took their land away from them, killed and scared away their kangaroos and slaughtered their opossums...

Photographs of the punt are in the Chronicle, 4 August 1928, page 41.
Nash, Hundred of - In the County of Kintore, proclaimed on 23 October 1890, honours Benjamin Nash (1829-1890), MP (1887-1890) who came to Adelaide in July 1855 and opened a tailoring business and was so successful he retired in 1877 and went for a trip around the world. Little has been written of his parliamentary career but he was ‘specially fond of music and up to the last retained a powerful tenor voice.’
Nason Hill - East of Lyndhurst, probably recalls George S. Nason (1836-1910), teacher and gold miner.
A list of members of Babbage’s exploration party includes ‘G. Nason, teamster.’
Nation Rocks - Near Cape Jaffa and named after P. A. Nation, a pilot and harbour master, who married Martha Newland, the daughter of Rev. R.W. Newland. He died at Wallaroo in 1867, aged 48.
Native Valley - In the Hundred of Kanmantoo, 8 km east of Nairne, was named by Patrick Mullins (ca.1811-1873) who settled there with his wife and family in the early 1850s after their arrival from Ireland in the Lady Bruce in 1846. It was the site of a permanent Aboriginal encampment set among trees, with an assured water supply.
The Native Valley Post Office operated from 1896 until 21 August 1954, while the school opened as ‘Dawesley’ in 1866; changed to Native Valley in 1904 and closed in 1943. A proposed school was discussed in 1873 when Mr W.H. Bundey, MP, forwarded a memorial signed by 27 parents in support of Mr Newton’s application for a licence “at this place” and setting forth that Mr Newton’s school was better situated than the school at Dawesley…”

The converted church on Harrogate Rd/Princess Highway was the Native Valley Primitive Methodist Church.

Nature’s Eye - Rodney Cockburn says it is a ‘remarkable formation on Granite Island - a round stone in a pool of ever flowing water.’ Noel Webb compiled the following:

- Nature’s eye is filled with tears - Are they tears of joy or tears of woe?
- Does she weep for the joy of a million years? - We cannot tell as the waters flow;
- Does she weep for the woes that are to be? - Nature has never told us why
- As the waves roll in from the southern sea? - The tears come flooding to her eyes.

Naturi - A railway station 16 km North-East of Tailem Bend; Aboriginal for ‘sandy soil’.

The Naturi School opened in 1918 and closed in 1939.

Naughton Well - On section 228, Hundred of Paratoo, was named after the selector who sunk it in 1886.

Nautilus Beach - On Thistle Island where rare nautilus seashells are found.

Navan - A subdivision of section 728, Hundred of Gilbert, 10 km north of Tarlee, by John Hallett (1804-1868) and Joseph Stilling (ca.1823-1863), circa 1856, who named it after its counterpart in Ireland, one of the first Boroughs established by the English in County Meath and appears to have arisen under the patronage of the Nangles, Barons of Navan, who, towards the close of the 12th century founded an abbey there; it was, also, the name of the great palace of the Kings of Ulster.

The Navan School, opened in 1858, closed in 1886, while in 1872, ‘the schoolroom was, sadly, too small for the requirements of the 47 scholars and Mr Inglis said that two other rooms were constantly used for the accommodation of pupils.’ The Navan Post Office opened in 1866. (See Giles Corner & Tarlee)

Neale(s) - William Henry Neale, took out an occupation licence on 1 July 1847, calling it ‘Burra Hill’ and he is remembered by Neale Flat, 10 km South-East of Eudunda in the Hundred of Neales. The Neale Flat Post Office opened in September 1883 and in 1894, the Neale’s Flat coursing match was ‘run in very unfavourable weather… Owing to the defect in the slips several dogs got away alone, severely pumping themselves to no purpose… J. Moeller and Mr Rowett gave entire satisfaction as judges.’ Neale Flat School opened in 1918 and closed in 1942.

River Neales flows into the western side of Lake Eyre and, in his published journal of 6 June 1859, John McD. Stuart said: ‘This I have named “The Neale”, after J.B. Neale Esq, MLA’. (The omission of the letter ‘s’ from ‘Neales’ appears to have been an error on the part of the editor.) In 1880, it was reported that:

Messrs Hooker & Co. of the Lion Foundry, Kilkenny, the successful contractors for the making of a bridge which is to cross the Neales River, over which the Great Northern Railway line has to pass, have completed the first span of the structure, and in honour of doing so a celebration was held at a banquet at the yard of the firm…

A picnic sack race along the bed of the river

Wood carting at Neales’ Creek - 1924

John Bentham Neales, MP (1857-1870) MLC (1851-1857, 1870-1873), born in Devon, in 1806, came to South Australia in the Eden, in 1838, and engaged in the auctioneering business. According to Douglas Pike he was a gentleman confessing High Church and Tory parentage [who] supported State Aid for County Districts, but… would rather put his hand voluntarily into his pocket for £50 for the church than pay the smallest sum on compulsion.’

A man of rough and ready wit he had a long, successful career in politics, was known as the ‘father of mining in South Australia’ and was twice Commissioner of Crown Lands; he died at Glenelg in 1873. (See Islington)

The Hundred of Neales, County of Eyre, was proclaimed on 12 July 1866, while its school had its name changed to ‘Freshwater Creek’ in 1927.

Neath Vale - Five kilometres South-East of Terowie. There is a ‘Vale of Neath’ in Glamorgan, England, derived from nedd (pl. neth) - ‘circling’.

Neaylon Hill - North of Lake Kopperamanna, recalls J. Neaylon who held pastoral lease no. 2789 which, in 1877, he called ‘Apatoonganie’. A sketch is in the Pictorial Australian in August 1884, page 124.

Nectar Brook - ‘Nectar’ being a drink of the Grecian Gods, this descriptive name was applied to a railway station, 40 km south of Port Augusta, and a post office that opened in May 1897 and closed in May 1899.

The Nectar Brook School opened in 1897 and closed in 1939.
In 1884, Mr Hullett proposed to utilise springs which he had discovered in the ranges near Nectar Brook ‘by cutting into the rocks and laying mains to the thirsty plains below’:

A number of farmers, who had suffered severely from want of water during hot summers, expressed their willingness to guarantee interest on the outlay necessary for the construction of the works, if the government would undertake them…

Neds Corner - On the River Murray. Although in Victoria an explanation of its nomenclature is included here because of its South Australian associations:

Edward Meade Bagot travelled up the Murray… and established a sheep station at ‘Loweoewelo’ a few miles west of the Anabranch junction… [in Victoria]. Farther down the Murray, Bagot had a run called Murtho and, in 1849, he took over runs of Lindsay Island and Walwalla on the opposite side next to Kulnine. This country… became known as Ned’s Corner and in later years people thought that it was named after Bagot.

This supposition is believed to be incorrect and Edward Bate Scott, a long-time friend of Bagot, said in 1905, ‘Ned’s Corner was named after an old shepherd of the late E.M. Bagot…’

Needles Island - In the Coorong, is an eroded platform of limestone, with jagged needle like spikes.

The first reserve dedicated for Aborigines in South Australia was ‘The Needles’ in April 1876.

The name occurs on the Isle of Wight, England, and derives from the OE nedl - ‘needle’ and was used first in 1400 for this sharp rock.

Neeta - An irrigation area 3 km south of Mannum which, according to Mr G.L. Pretty of the Adelaide Museum, derives from ngita - ‘netting place for fish’. H.C. Talbot said:

I am unable to trace the origin of this native name. It would have been adopted for the name of the post office there but, owing to the similarity to Nietta, a town in Tasmania, was rejected and Ponde (‘Murray cod’) substituted. As for “Neetha” there is no such word in the Narrinyeri vocabulary. The Aboriginal name for ‘bittern’ is tarkoori.

Professor Tindale says that the name probably covers the whole of the swampy area at the big bend in the Murray River and means, literally, ‘brown bittern’. Neeta School opened in 1920 and became ‘Ponde’ in 1921.

When the settlers went to Neeta they were told by the government that they were going to make a good living… Although the settlers have been there between four and five years it was only recently they were told that they would have to pay rents, water rates, etc…

The channels running through Neeta are very leaky. We have a pumping plant but the settlers are called upon to pay all pumping charges. Nine-tenths of the water that runs on to the blocks is caused by faulty channelling…

A photograph is in the Observer, 12 June 1915, page 27.

Neill, Port - In 1940, the government town of ‘Carrow’, 40 km north of Tumby Bay, was declared to be known as Port Neill in honour of Mr A.S. Neill of the Marine Board.

In 1911, although it was less than a year since the township blocks were put up for auction:

Already a lot of progress has been made… There are three general stores, blacksmith’s, saddler’s, butcher’s and baker’s shops, seven dwelling houses, a school and a large goods shed. The largest jetty on Eyre’s Peninsula is being constructed and a large two-story hotel is being built. The contractors for the jetty are Messrs Lewis and Read. Their foreman is Mr F. Stephenson… The hotel will be a handsome building. The designers are Messrs Conrad Brothers of Adelaide and the contractors are Ward Brothers of Tumby Bay…

In the goods shed, services and Sunday school are held… A piano has been installed in the shed until the hotel is completed… The school is much crowded. The roll number is now 28, but only three desks have been supplied… A football club has been formed.

In November 1909, tenders were called for the erection of a jetty and, by August 1910, Messrs Lewis and Reid’s proposal had been accepted. Work commenced in 1911 and was completed in May 1912. It was 413 metres long with a curved head of 49 metres - it was shortened in 1970-1971.

A photograph of a football team is in the Chronicle, 21 October 1937, page 34.
Nelshaby Spring - Eight kilometres North-East of Port Pirie. Aboriginal for ‘hot spring’. From 1874, Port Pirie got its water supply from it and, in 1875:

In the foreground [was] the reservoir; the dam with its circling arms embracing the innumerable rills that come trickling and tinkling through the grass from the various springs with a music particularly pleasant to one accustomed to a dry and thirsty land; on the left of the picture may be noticed the humble abode of the Manager, consisting of a couple of tents and a rough stable; to the right, among the clumps of gums, the hut and workshop of the contractor for building the manager’s home.

The greenish grey plain of Port Pirie appears and its houses and the jetties look like a row of pieces of road metal… The superabundant water from the reservoir is running in a stream from the South-East or upper corner of the dam past the manager’s tent and tumbles into a creek… The springs, strangely, are not situated in a hollow or flat, but on the top of a swelling ridge running from a double hill… [See Waterworks Town]

Cattle drinking at Nelshaby Dam

Nelson - An 1858 subdivision of section 3033, Hundred of Kooringa, by Anthony Forster and Samuel Nelson:

There was an extensive sale of town allotments by auction… [by] Mr Nelson, the proprietor. [It] was sold on the ground and after a spirited competition, the whole of the allotments, with the exception of five, were disposed of… (See Millerton)

Nelsonville - Near Lameroo, remembers Francis Nelson, who arrived with his parents in the Sibella, in 1852, and died in 1936, aged 87. Today, its railway station is called ‘Mulpata’ (formerly Urrabirra).

The Nelsonville School opened in 1924 and became ‘Mulpata’ in 1929.

Nene Valley - North West of Port MacDonnell where the Nene was wrecked on 20 November 1854.

Nepabunna - A name of a former Aboriginal settlement conducted by the United Aborigines Mission, 70 km east of Leigh Creek; derived from nipapanha awi urtu - ‘shallow waterhole’. The Nepabunna School opened in 1945.

Nepean Bay - On Kangaroo Island, was named by Matthew Flinders on 21 March 1802 after Sir Evan Nepean, First Secretary to the Admiralty.

A monument to commemorate his landing and the naming of Kangaroo Island was unveiled on 22 March 1902. On Freycinet’s charts it is shown as Baie Bouganville - Vice-Admiral Louis Antoine de Bouganville was a navigator who led an expedition that circumnavigated the world; he worked earnestly to obtain the release of Matthew Flinders, even when France and England were at war.

About the shores of wild Nepean Bay
And Holdfast Bay, the white men’s dwellings rose -
Not like homes forsaken, far away,
Set comfortably in the English snows;
But walled and roofed with bark and sapling rows,
Then lined and thatched with leaves and river-reeds;
Crude unaccustomed homes to meet new needs.

(Rex Ingamells, Colonization)

Nepean Bay forms a most beautiful harbor, there is never a swell breaking in it, but this serious want of water prevents vegetation here and the keeping of any stock. I think that boring 200 feet would procure water, and if so, this township of Kingscote would be invaluable to the Company as a whaling station and port of discharge… I do not despair of doing well here…

The town of Nepean Bay was laid out on sections 143 and 144, Hundred of Haines, by Nepean Developments Ltd in 1961.

Nepouie Spring - An Aboriginal word meaning ‘flat rock water hole’ - nipaa ‘flat rock’ and awi ‘water’.

The ‘Nepouie Run’ was established, east of Lyndhurst; by Thomas Elder in 1863 (lease no. 1741) and the Nepowie (sic) copper mine was ‘in the neighbourhood of Wooltana.’

Nepouie Peak is east of Lyndhurst and its Aboriginal name was wardnuwartanha.
Neptune Islands - Three small rocky islands south of Thistle Island, near Port Lincoln; named by Matthew Flinders on 21 February 1802, ‘for they seemed inaccessible to men’ - in mythology, Neptune is the god of the sea. A lighthouse is situated on South Neptune Island.

Baudin named North Neptune Island La Parasol (The Umbrella), while Freycinet’s charts show it as I. Valbelle. In 1876, the mutton egging season opened in November and ‘any amount of fun as well as profit can be obtained’:

A special expedition was arranged on Saturday when the smart little coasting steamer, Ceres, commanded by Captain J. Germein, took about 15 persons to the islands… Towards the afternoon the Ceres looked like a market boat with the boxes, baskets and bags of eggs, dozens of dead and living mutton birds and sober pengulas [sic], which latter quarrelled vigorously among themselves… They are irascible little oddities and a pair I took home, as an addition to the poultry yard, usurped the ducks’ quarters…”

An iron screw-piled jetty was erected on South Neptune Island during 1902-1903.

Netherby - Takes its name from a house, once standing between Urrbrae and Springfield, built prior to 1867 by Colonel James Henderson:

In 1843… [he] accompanied Colonel Frome as surveyor on an expedition to Lake Torrens… Some time in the fifties, Netherby was sold to Mr Richard Hicks, one of the early solicitors of Adelaide and it was purchased from him by the late Sir William Morgan…”

In the early days wild dogs were a menace to sheep in the outlying suburbs and at Netherby may still be seen part of a stone wall, all that is left of the original sheepfold, in which the animals were housed at night…”

In the time of Sir William there were 11 acres of orangery and vineyards and he set up a wine press…”

The house was demolished in 1949.

The suburb of Netherby was laid out by the Bank of NSW, in 1912, having acquired the land (part section 263) as mortgagee of John Pile, who purchased it in 1890; at that time it was said, ‘Netherby, near Mitcham, a superior residential estate of 192 acres…” Details of the sale of Netherby Estate were reported in 1913.

The name occurs in Cumberland, England, where there is an ancient Roman station of considerable importance and a large collection of Roman coins and other artefacts are deposited in ‘Netherby Hall’.

Netherleigh - A post office on section 1, Hundred of Bakara, 16 km east of Swan Reach, opened in December 1911. Netherleigh School was opened in 1909 as ‘Bakara’; name changed in 1913, it closed in 1935. Another report says it closed in 1943 when students were transported by bus to Swan Reach. (See Nildottie)

Netherton - A subdivision of sections 883-85 and part section 886, Hundred of Wallaroo, by Thomas Bartlett, is a common place name in Great Britain and means ‘lower town’.

The name Netherton was given, also, to a post office opened on 15 January 1915 on section 34, Hundred of Peake, 13 km south of Peake, being the maiden name of Mrs J. Cattle, an early settler; it closed on 31 October 1969.

The Netherton School, opened in 1912 by Gladys Wilkin, closed in 1945. (See Parkin Hall)

Netley - Thomas H. Beare (1792-1861) purchased section 101, Hundred of Adelaide, in 1838, naming it after ‘Netley Abbey’ in Hampshire, the County in which he was born.

The ‘Halfway House’ Inn stood on this section having been opened by Jacob Prowse on 26 March 1840. The suburb of Netley Estate was laid out in 1913 on sections 101, 106, 156 and 2032, Hundred of Adelaide, by Herbert White Hughes, as executor of H.B. Hughes. Beare Avenue now perpetuates the name of the early landowner, although it was known, originally, as Bews Road when the area was subdivided.
Today, **Netley** extends from Richmond Road to Pembroke and Playford Avenues, Holt Street and Comet Avenue, and from Marion Road to the Adelaide Airport boundary.

The name derives from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning ‘wet pasturage’. The **Netley** School opened in 1960.

**Netley Gap**, south of Manna Hill, took its name from the ‘Netley Run’, established by Thomas Elder in 1865 and described in 1897:

> Next day we made a start for Netley. Again it was another chapter in the story ‘eaten-out’ country. Where the stock did not get at it, owing to the absence of water, the bush was looking well. When we entered Netley we came on a fine piece of saltbush country, to which the sheep had found their way. This only lasted a couple of miles, however, and we soon learned that the sheep had travelled a long distance to reach it. The paddy melons cracked under our feet as we walked over the rich flat to the homestead… The run comprises 150 [square] miles, divided into ten paddocks…

**Nettliina** - A school in the Hundred of Kennion on Reedy Creek takes its name from a local homestead; it opened in 1892, the first teacher being Alice Robson.

**Neudorf** - In the Hundred of Onkaparinga, about 3 km North-West of Lobethal, adjoining the South-Eastern corner of section 58; a German word meaning ‘new village’.

Its name was changed to ‘Mamburdi’ in 1918 and restored on 13 November 1986.

**Neukirch** - It was laid out on section 3001, Hundred of Belvidere, by Adam Bartsch (1808-1887), circa 1860; a German word meaning ‘new church’; he arrived in the *Victoria* in 1848. The Pilgrim Lutheran Church, built in 1857, still stands except for the replacement of its original thatched roof and the addition of a vestry and porch.

In 1918, the name was changed to ‘Dimchurch’ after the Nomenclature Committee had suggested ‘Pangarinda’, Aboriginal for ‘evening twilight’. Its original name was restored on 17 April 1975.

The **Neukirch** School existed from 1868 until 1870.

**Neuroodla** - A school, 37 km west of Hawker, opened in 1956 by Norman L. Denny, closed in 1963. The name was taken from a nearby creek.

**Neville, Hundred of** - In the County of Cardwell, proclaimed on 3 November 1864, recalls Neville Blyth, MP (1860-1878), who was born in Warwickshire, in 1825. He migrated in the *Ariadne* in 1839, was Minister of Education in a Boucaut ministry and, having contestered, unsuccessfully, the District of Encounter Bay in 1871, re-entered Parliament in 1877 to fill a vacancy caused by the acceptance of the office of Agent-General by his brother, Arthur Blyth. Because of ill health he resigned, in 1878, and returned to England.

**New** - In the Koonunga district, on sections 16 and 25, was the marble mine **New Carrara** and Parliament House, in Adelaide, was built from its deposits. Its post office opened in November 1883 and closed in December 1885.

Today, the name is perpetuated by ‘Carrara Road’ in the near vicinity. *(See Carrara Hill)*

**New Dublin** *(See Dublin)*

**New Era** was a village between Cadell and Morgan created in 1894 as an experiment in the communal system:

Another Village Association has been formed at Port Adelaide and has been named the New Era. Messrs W. Carter and H.W. Clark were appointed to inspect some land in the Hundred of Cadell, about eight miles from Morgan… They found that the land is heavily timbered, with patches of clear land of about 40 acres in extent. The land consists for the most part of sand rises and flats and would be suitable for dairy farming… The rules of the Lyrap Association have been adopted… Trustees - Messrs G. Ashby (Chairman), H. Hannaman, J. Pocock, H.W. Clark; Secretary, Mr T.N. McIvor; Treasurer, Mr E. Burnett.

Most of the men are well known to each other and as they include labourers, mechanics and tradesmen, it is claimed that they would be able to successfully undertake the task of working the land… The illusion of the dawn of a new era soon faded and the community spirit gave way to rugged individualism.

Dissatisfaction spread in the ranks of unmarried men, who felt they were working to support the wives and children of the married villagers. One by one they drifted away and the settlement was taken over by a syndicate which, among other industries, sold cut timber to merchants in Adelaide.

A bank foreclosed on the company in about 1921 when it was sold to Messrs Robertson and Terrell of Waikerie.

It is now included in the Cadell Irrigation Area. *(See Ramco)*

The **New Era Village** School opened in 1895 and closed in 1924.

**New Hamburg** was laid out by John Bentham Neales (1806-1873), circa 1853, on sections 2607-8 and 2712, Hundred of Bremer, two km south of Strathalbyn. It has been ‘Willyaroo’ since 1918.

The township consists of 240 acres of land, with the river running through it and is divided into lots, varying in size from one to five acres, with valuable grazing rights in the neighbourhood.

This beautiful location is near the great mining district comprising Glenalbyn, Breadalbyn, Mary Consol and Strathalbyn Mines.

In 1874, a tannery, under its enterprising owner, Mr J. Jacobs ‘employed constantly seven men, and others occasionally’:

> The institution is one of the largest of the kind out of Adelaide… The quantity of leather manufactured is considerable and the demand is fully equal to the supply, frequently in excess. Mr Jacobs has another establishment about a quarter of a mile distant, where a great number of sheep skins are denuded of their wool, which is then washed, scoured and otherwise prepared for exportation.

**New Liverpool** was an ‘unofficial’ subdivision advertised in 1875 on part sections 88 and 89, Hundred of Yatala, one mile south of the Semaphore jetty. *(See Semaphore)*
New Luxemburg Post Office opened in 1895 and closed in 1896. New Luxemburg was a goldfield 30 km east of Olary; the mine was described in 1888:

The New Luxemburg Gold Mine is held by an Adelaide proprietor under the management of Captain Richard Buckle, long and favourably known in connection with the Lady Alice Ridge and Westward Ho mines…

New Mecklenburg Post Office in the Hundred of Barossa, opened on 14 April 1866, has been ‘Gomersal’ since 1918, after the Nomenclature Committee had suggested ‘Putpayerta’, the Aboriginal name for the district.

The original name derives from michel - ‘great’. (See Lone Pine)

New Mecklenburg School opened in 1864 and became ‘Gomersal’ in 1918.

New Plymouth - (See Plymouth)

New Potsdam - Application No. 7431 in the General Registry Office places it near Freeling.

New Residence is 22 km North-West of Loxton and one of eleven village settlements founded in the 1890s to enable public funds to be made available to men with little capital to take up land and work it cooperatively. (See Gillen, Lyrup, New Era & Ramco) A school at New Residence (see below) was opened in 1897 and closed in 1941.

In January 1901, a small number of Lutherans settled there:
They worked hard from daylight to dark… At present there is no township to speak of; it is merely a small village near the river…
There is a fine Lutheran Church, erected of stone. The church was organised in 1901. Professor Zschech, then living at Dutton, came up by buggy to conduct the service…
A [German] school was established, but in 1916 it was closed by the South Australian government… [See Australia Plains] Very little fruit is harvested at New Residence.

By 1927, ‘the population was mainly German - a very thrifty class of farmers and all apparently prosperous…’

A photograph of the Lutheran Church is in the Observer, 23 July 1927, page 34.

New Tiers was the name given to a subdivision of section 18, Hundred of Onkaparinga. (See Tiers)

New Town was an 1871 subdivision of sections 456-57 and 448-49, Hundred of Wallaroo, by Thomas A. Naughton, storekeeper of Kadina; now included in Kadina.

New Way was a telephone exchange on section 4, Hundred of Keith, opened on 14 October 1930 and taking its name from New Way School in the vicinity; opened in 1917 by Vera E. Bratton; it closed in 1933.

New Well School, near Nott Well, 25 km SSE of Waikerie, was opened in 1919 by Mary V. Glynn and closed in 1935. New Well Post Office opened in 1916.

New Year Strait connects Lake Lady Blanche and Lake Sir Richard; discovered and named by John McKinlay on 31 December 1861.

Newark - An 1880 subdivision of part section 960, Hundred of Port Adelaide by James A. Russell, Charles W. Priest, John Priest and James R. Musson; now included in Wingfield,
The name occurs in England and Scotland where, in 1508, it was recorded as newwerk - ‘new work’.

Newcastle, County of - Proclaimed on 22 June 1876, it honours Henry Pelham F.P. Clinton, Duke of Newcastle. Educated at Eton and Cambridge, from whence he graduated in 1832.
In 1852 he became Secretary for War and the Colonies under the Earl of Aberdeen, and Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1859 until his death on 18 October 1864. (See Clinton)

Newenham - A subdivision of section 335, Hundred of Adelaide, circa 1855, by Alfred Hardy (ca.1814-1870), a surveyor, who arrived in the Cygnet in 1836. His wife was the former Mary Louisa Newenham, daughter of Charles B. Newenham (1794-1887) who arrived in the Navarino in 1837; now included in Paradise; the latter gentleman died at Bath, Somerset, in 1887.

Newhaven - Richard Gilbert Symonds (1810-1896), surveyor, who arrived in the Cygnet in 1836 became the owner of section 2018H, Hundred of Port Adelaide. In 1849, he subdivided it as a speculative venture in the hope that the Adelaide-Port Adelaide railway line would be extended adjacent to the property which, unfortunately, did not eventuate. The name comes from Devon, England, where his wife, Harriet C. Symonds (1817-1899), was born.
An earlier subdivision to that mentioned above was discussed in 1851 in a prospectus of the Newhaven Company:
The town of Newhaven [was] laid out by the Colonial Government in 1838-39… fronting the deep central basin at the junction of the North Arm with the numerous branches of the harbour to Port Adelaide.’
In 1858, the Adelaide press announced that:
At New Haven, North Arm - In re R.G. Symonds, Insolvent - Wicksteed, Botting and Townsend have received instructions to sell… the following unsold and unencumbered allotments… New Haven as laid out by the government, intersect each other at right angles, the central street being the same width as King William Street… The central square is equal to Victoria Square…

In the reign of Elizabeth I the outlet of the River Ouse was at Seaford, but the sea broke through and formed what is now called the Old Harbour, which was enlarged and called ‘The New Haven’ under an Act passed in 1713. The name occurs in Scotland where it is recorded that ‘the new haven lately made by the said King James IV in 1536’. The Gaelic h’abhne means ‘harbour’.

In his earlier days in the colony Mr Symonds was not averse to criticising fellow surveyors:
In your last week’s paper you make public Mr Kingston’s ‘Undeniable talents as a Civil Engineer’. As you make no allusion to the great abilities displayed by this illustrious personage while in the public service, you will perhaps in your next give one of the many instances of his surveying talents.
During the survey of the proposed town of Adelaide, at the commencement of last year, this talented individual undertook the subdivision of the town into square sections of one acre each, and actually discovered a new method of extracting the square root, giving 333½ links for the side of a section.

After working for ten days one of his assistants hinted his mistake, when of course your ‘paragon of surveyors’ had to begin over again. As this happened at a time when certain parties were most clamorous about the slow progress of the survey, it is just they should know to whom they are so greatly indebted.

P.S. - Might not Mr Kingston’s ‘undeniable talents’ be of immediate service to the public in throwing another bridge across the Torrens? [See Appendix 54]

**Newland** - The town, 2 km South-West of Victor Harbor, surveyed in August 1879 and proclaimed as ‘Brodrick’ on 11 December 1879 was changed to ‘Newland’ on 20 September 1883 in honour of Reverend Ridgway William Newland (1790-1864), pioneer clergyman and farmer, who settled in the Encounter Bay district in 1839 following his arrival in the Sir Charles Forbes.

In 1917, the Congregational Church at Newlandtown, Encounter Bay, was opened, formally, and ‘the Rev A.C. Stevens, local minister, introduced Mr Simpson Newland’;

Through the contractor (Mr Bartel) he presented him with a silver key… [Mr Newland then gave an address containing much interesting history of the district] and opened the door…

Photographs are in the *Chronicle*, 13 July 1918, page 26.

**Newland Bay**, North-East of American River, was named by Capt. Bloomfield Douglas in 1857.

The **Hundred of Newland**, County of Carnarvon, was proclaimed on 4 March 1909. John Newland, MP (1906-1912), born in Scotland, in 1864, migrated to NSW in 1883 and ‘on 27 February 1884 sought temporary accommodation… for destitute immigrants’:

That year he obtained work with the SA Railways as a lamp cleaner and, later, was a sleeping car conductor on the Broken Hill-Terowie line for 14 years. In 1906, he was the first labor candidate to win a non-metropolitan non-mining seat and was a Federal Senator for South Australia from 1913 until his death in 1932. A supporter for conscription, in 1916, he followed W.M. Hughes out of the party room in November, later joining the Liberals to form the National Party.

He died at Glenelg in May 1932 and is buried in St Jude’s cemetery. His portrait is in Parliament House, Canberra.

**Lake Newland**, near Anxious Bay on Eyre Peninsula, was discovered by E.J. Eyre in September 1839 and named after R.F. Newland, manager of the Bank of Australasia, in Adelaide.

The ‘Lake Newland Run’ was held by H.I. Smith from 22 April 1847 under occupation licence.

In 1902, it was said that ‘Lake Newland six weeks ago was a deserted and barren country’:

Today it is changed into almost a fairy scene. Men with horses are working here and there, some of the individuals scraping, others stacking and bagging. The large stacks of valuable crystal salt, some containing several hundred tons, make a splendid sight…

Carting will begin shortly. Contracts have been entered into by several farmers to cart from 50 to 200 tons each to the seaport… At present there are about 30 persons… engaged… [See *Federal Town*]

**Newland Park** was laid out on part section 2055, Hundred of Adelaide, by Clive Stephen Inch, manager of Hawthorn, in 1925; now included in Newton.

**Newmarket** - A 1911 subdivision of part sections 164 and 166 and section 165, Hundred of Playford, by Allen Robert Ramsey, farmer of Cowell; suburban to Cowell, it is a common place name in England.

**Newport** - In 1875, this subdivision was described as being laid out to enable ‘all intending purchasers to obtain property near the new harbor and within walking distance of the Semaphore and Port…’

Today, it is included in Largs Bay.

**Newry, Lake** - On section 5, Hundred of Wells, named by Prof W.D. Williams on 9 February 1984 after an adjoining homestead.

**Newstead** - A 1912 subdivision of part section 302, Hundred of Adelaide, as a resubdivision of ‘Holmesdale’ by John F. Johnson of ‘Queechy’, Launceston, Tasmania; now included in St Morris.

The name does not appear in Australian *Gazetteers* but it is a common place name in England and Scotland where it derives from the OE *stede* - ‘a place’; thus ‘new place’.

In 1929, Newstead was a division of the district of Payneham ranging rapidly:

The present church is a small iron building lent by the Home Mission Society… On Saturday afternoon two foundation stones were laid, that of the Sunday school hall by Mrs A.L. Dawe and that of the kindergarten by Mr D.P. Lees… The builder is Mr W.H. Eckert…

Rodney Cockburn says it was laid out in 1917 and named by Mr Johnson after a village of ‘Newstead’ situated in the vicinity of ‘Queechy.’

**Newton** - In *The Pride of the Hills* it is said that, ‘in the 1850s the road to “Woodforde” was known as “Road to New Town” and corrupted to “Newton Road”, as the modern day St Bernard’s Road was then called.’

This explanation is debatable as to veracity because the sale of the town of Newton was advertised in 1849 as being ‘about four miles from Adelaide. Frontage to Reservoir Rd… can boast of first-class soil, well timbered, good water available.’ It was created by Thomas Shepherd on section 296, ‘Survey B’ following his arrival in the *Abeona from Tasmania* in 1838. (See *Athelstone*)

In 1854, a public meeting of the inhabitants of the townships of Newton, Shipley [sic], Campbeltown, Athelston [sic], Paradise Bridge and Gaskmore Park ‘was held on Friday evening last to devise means for erecting a church’:
… At present there were no means of public worship, except for the service at Gaskmore Park, lately commenced by the Rev E.K. Miller…

In 1856, examinations took place at the Newton Licensed School when the following prizes were awarded:

Scripture History, Master Best; English Grammar, Misses Higgins and Russell; Geography, Misses Bolus and Russell; Arithmetic, Master Best; Reading, Misses H. Bolus, Allington and Markwick.

Miss Cate’s School at Newton is mentioned in the Register, 4 February 1868.

E.C. Malone gave the name Newton to a subdivision of section 580, Hundred of Pirie, in 1914; now included in Port Pirie. It is a common place name in England.

Newton Creek, in the Hundred of Appila, recalls Henry Newton, an ‘eating house keeper of Charlton’, who obtained the land grants of sections 367/368 on 28 August 1880.

Apparently, he was a ‘front man’ or ‘dummy’ who took up the land on behalf of Sir George Murray, the lessee of the original pastoral lease, prior to the survey of the land for closer settlement. (See Murray-Town)

Ngadjuri, Mount - In the Narien Range north of Jamestown and named in 1972 in honour of the former Ngadjuri people who once inhabited the district.

Ngaiyuka Hill - East of Beltana; Aboriginal for ‘wind bird’.

Ngalitjaor - An Aboriginal camp near section 8, Hundred of Bremer, meaning ‘grass tree place’.

Ngallo - In the Pinnaroo district. An Aboriginal word; meaning unknown.

A photograph of a football team is in the Chronicle, 12 November 1936, page 34.

Ngama Adnya - East of Beltana; Aboriginal for ‘breast rock’.

Ngapala - Derived from the Aboriginal ngagalja ‘saliva’. Ngapala Post Office was opened, circa 1913, on section 405. Hundred of Julia Creek, 8 km west of Point Pass; it closed on 30 September 1969.

Ngapala School was known as ‘Anlaby’ until 1914; it closed in 1938.

Ngarandamana - On section 8, Hundred of Marcollat. Aboriginal for ‘place of cutting stones’.

Granite outcrops occur at the northern end of the section.

Ngarrang - An Aboriginal camp on section 326, Hundred of Baker, was a place where big sheaoo trees grew - ngarali - ‘big timber’.

Ngarna - A headland in the Hundred of Warrenben at Marion Bay (Rhino Head) was the name of an ancestral being that named the places in the country and was transformed into a sea monster, Tinda, after which he killed a dwarf called Badara. The headland was considered to be a memorial forming the profile of his body. (See Mungari Beach & Rhino Head)

Ngautngaut Conservation Park - In the Hundred of Nildottie, proclaimed on 17 June 1976; and taken from the Aboriginal name of this rock shelter site and derived from an ancestral giant who lived at Witjawitja, a native well east of the river. Their tracks down the cliff survive just south of the rock shelter. (See Pinnaroo)

Ngonkongoron - A brackish water hole on section 25, Hundred of Duffield, meaning ‘magical herb place’.

It was said that the herb was used to divert swamp fish into talipar (basket traps) - ngori was an unidentified herb.

Ngonorndorak-ngul - A hill top camp and watering place south west of section 77, Hundred of Baker. Literally, for the Watjeri people, it meant ‘magic gathering lookout place’.

Nicholls - Sir Robert D. Nicholls, MP, born at Nantawarra in 1889, was Speaker of the House of Assembly for a record 22 years being acknowledged on both sides of the House ‘as a Speaker of unwavering impartiality.’ He died on 18 January 1970.

On 3 August 1928, the Nomenclature Committee suggested that the newly surveyed Hundred should be named after the Hon. H. Tassie, but, for an undisclosed reason, this was rescinded on 20 August 1928.

The Hundred of Nicholls, County of Jervois, was proclaimed on 4 October 1928.

Nicholls Springs, near Yudnamatana in the North Flinders Ranges, were named after a field geologist of the Exoil NL company survey in 1970.

Nicholls Nob - In the Far North. Information on the mine was reported in 1899. (See Ogilvie, Mount & Tarcoola)

Nield, Mount - On section 330, Hundred of Mann, named after the lessee, who held the land from 1922 to 1964.

Nilawo, Mount - Near Port Lincoln, it is famous in Aboriginal mythology, because two expert hunters killed a fabulous giant kangaroo called Kupiri that had swallowed several of their companions.

Nildijari Lagoon - In the Hundred of Warrenben; Aboriginal for ‘open area with rushes’.

Nildjinja - The Aboriginal name for ‘Refuge Rocks’ - ‘on knees’. (See Nilginee, Hundred of)

Nildottie - Derived from the Aboriginal ngurltartang - ‘smoke signal hill’.

The Hundred of Nildottie, County of Albert, was proclaimed on 24 January 1878 and its school closed in 1959 when its students were transported by bus to Swan Reach. A photograph of a school Arbor Day is in the Chronicle, 5 August 1937, page 32. (See Hermanns Landing & Silver Vale)

The town of Nildottie, 16 km south of Swan Reach, was laid out by the executors of Edwin Albert Kroehne in 1961. The name was given, also, to a copper mine ‘23 miles east from Blinman.’

Nilen Gully - In the Far North-West, named by William C. Gosse on 25 August 1873 after Patrick Nilen, a member of his party.
Nilginee, Hundred of - In the County of York, proclaimed on 26 July 1917. Derived from the Aboriginal nildjinna - 'on knees' which is the Aboriginal name for 'Refuge Rocks'.

Nikalapko - (See Morgan)

Nilkra - A property between Cadell and Waikerie named by Harry Brand in 1906 when he was manager for Sidney Wilcox. Aboriginal for 'pad of a dingo'.

A photograph of the Brand family is in the Observer, 26 June 1909, page 32.

Nillinghoo - South of Lake Frome where the ‘Nillinghoo Run’ was established by W. Lockrum in 1865 (lease no. 1603). A gold discovery at this place near Carrietton was reported in 1894:

They estimate the distance from Carrietton about 65 miles and say it is a splendid road all the way for either for traps or teams. Water can be obtained at eight different places on the road and not more than eight miles apart… Particulars of the find have not yet been made public. I hear privately that a good defined reef four feet wide has been discovered.

Sketches are in the Pictorial Australian in October 1894, page 161, photographs and information in the Observer, 13 January 1906, page 30.

Nilpena - Aboriginal for ‘salt bush’. Rodney Cockburn attributes its nomenclature to ‘the name of an Aboriginal mentioned in Clement Sabine’s Mount Eba diaries.’ The Hundred of Nilpena, County of Taunton, was proclaimed on 1 December 1881 while Nilpena railway station is 24 km south of Beltana.

The name was given, also, to a copper mine ‘near Parachilna Gap, Flinders Range, about 10 miles from the railway station.’ The ‘Nilpena Run’ was established by W.J. Browne (lease no. 1597).

Originally, the land was held by Messrs Deeble and Trebilcock from 19 October 1855 (lease no. 432) at ‘Mount Samuel’.

In 1910, a visitor to the pastoral property said that ‘this year, by reason of a kind invitation from Mr R.J. Matheson to spend a holiday at Nilpena, my long-delayed wish was gratified’:

During the three weeks I was on the station I saw the gum creeks - which rise in the Flinders Ranges and stretch across the countryside like giant green serpents until they lose themselves in the ooze of Lake Torrens - which nearly all have dry beds… What an ideal country for a sanitarium [sic]…

No station owner has been a better friend to the blacks than Mr Matheson and as a result the aborigines he employs are extremely loyal servants. Without the aid of the blacks to track the dogs it would be impossible to catch the brutes…

The blacks and half-castes prefer a nomadic life… Henry Bailes, who is a fine specimen of an intelligent black man, was once a coachman to Mr Peter Waite and also a black tracker at the police barracks.

Following his retirement, Mr Matheson called his Glenelg home ‘Nilpena’.

Photographs of Aborigines are in the Observer, 8 June 1912, page 31, 14 November 1914, page 28, 21 November 1914, page 42e.

Nilpinna - A property west of Lake Eyre North; see pastoral lease no. 2899.

Nilyuntana - A school 21 km south of Elliston from 1928 to 1936; known, also, as ‘Oaklands’. Aboriginal for ‘meeting place’. A photograph of the school and its students, who comprised entirely of the Agars family, is in the Chronicle, 11 April 1935, page 33.

Ninety Mile Desert - For years this so-called desert ‘presented a formidable barrier to free and constant intercourse with Adelaide’:

Even after the establishment of regular communication by land and sea, the isolation of the border districts continued, local sympathies became more and more estranged until nearly all the country between the

![Sketch of the overland route to the Victorian Goldfields, through the Ninety Mile Desert, in the 1850s](image)
River Murray and eastern boundary bade fair to become thoroughly Victorian at heart, if not in name; for Melbourne was easier of access than Adelaide. Successive governments, too, appeared ignorant of the South East, or unconcerned about its fate, and neglected to give it that prominent consideration to which its producing capabilities entitled it.

‘Sections for Sale in the Hundred Mile Scrub’ was advertised in 1852 and, in 1865, it was reported that it was ‘known as the Great Desert or Monster Scrub.’ (See Coonalpyn)

In 1882, it was suggested that ‘it would really be a blessing for the poor string of homeless wanderers, who are ever on the track of the government, could see their way clear to cut out and mark a route through the scrub of the desert, and make a well say every 20 miles’:

This course would save many a poor fellow from dying in the desert which has swallowed up so many victims. As it is they struggle along - especially on the long stage from ‘Cold and Wet’ - until they arrive at Mr Knight’s at Cooke’s Plains - in a state of raging thirst and absolute starvation and make his heavy drain and a big hole in a larker. I know I did…

Photographs of Mr Helling’s farm and station are in the Observer, 19 March 1904, page 25.

Ningana - A railway station 16 km NNE of Cummins. Aboriginal for ‘to rest’.

Ninnes - Thomas Ninnes has his name perpetuated by Hundred of Ninnes, County of Daly, proclaimed on 31 December 1874 - its school opened in 1886 and closed in 1933. Ninnes Plains is located on section 40.

The Ninnes Post Office, 13 km south of Bute, was opened at the junction of the Kadina-Clare and Bute-Kulpara Roads in 1884; it closed on 30 September 1971. (See Springs)

The discovery of the Plains was recounted by Thomas Dunstone:

A party [was] formed to blaze a track through [from Clare] to Kadina. Thomas Ninnes, Fred Hannaford, Jimmy Wright (who in the early days conducted a shoemaker’s business…) and a licensed surveyor named Archer composed the party, being accompanied by two bullock teams, on which were about two tons of flour, together with their camping outfit… Going through Armach to what they named ‘Hannaford’s Hill’ [they] took their bearings for the Hummocks, near Salt Lake, now known as Lochiel, but from here it became more difficult. There was no water from this [place] to Kadina and about 20 miles of dense mallee scrub…

About ten or twelve miles distance towards Kadina there appeared a piece of open country, which they decided to make for, so they made a start from the foot of the Hummocks. It was slow work… Some two or three miles from the start… the water was exhausted, so there was nothing for it but to send the teams back to Lochiel and secure a fresh supply. This camp they named ‘Wright’s Plain’ in honour of Jimmy Wright.

From here they pushed on towards the small plain seen from the Hummocks… after some days of hard work the open space was reached, which proved to be a fair-sized plain with good soil, well grassed, but no water. This they named ‘Ninnes’ Plain’.

In 1884, it was said that ‘it is now some five or six years since this land was first taken up’:

To show the great progress that has been made it may be mentioned that although two years ago there were only about 5,000 acres cropped, this year nearly 13,000 acres have been cultivated. The pioneer settler was George Ormsby, who besides having freehold and leasehold land, is also the postmaster at Ninnes.

Mr Thomas Ninnes (1813-1894) was buried at Spring Farm, near Clare.

Nipalymadhan Hills - East of Beltana; Aboriginal for ‘barren flat rock cave’.

Nixon, The - The alternative name of the River Bremer. It was named after a man who assisted E.C. Frome, Surveyor-General, in exploration around Lake Alexandrina.

Noahs Ark - A hill South-East of Beltana. The Aborigines called it yurra widlya - ‘earthen wurley’.

Noarlunga - Professor Tindale said that it is derived from nurelen - the name applied by Aborigines to the steep approach to the ‘native crossing near section 80’; another source says it means ‘fishing place’.

However, in a 1921 article, Mr N.A. Webb disagreed and contended that ‘the Horseshoe Bend was called ngurlo, the accusative case of the demonstrative pronoun ngu and meant “that”; ngurlo-unga meant “that place” or the “chief place”.’

Further, in a poem entitled ‘Aboriginal Nomenclature - By a Native’, in 1893, one line reads ‘No-orlungena (place of fish)’.

The town was laid out and named in 1840 by the South Australian Company which advertised it as, ‘No-orlunga Township… [it] must form the chief depot for that district for the supply of the numerous settlers… reserves have been made for a church, a school, public markets, a cemetery, etc.’

As from 1978 it has been known, officially, as Old Noarlunga.

A sketch of the town is in the Pictorial Australian in April 1886, page 61.

A photograph of the town is in the Chronicle, 19 September 1935, page 38, of ‘Back to Noarlunga’ celebrations in the Observer, 2 November 1929, page 34.
Sometimes, it was called the ‘Horseshoe’, from the curve of the River Onkaparinga on the bank of which the town is situated and, in 1851:

At the foot of the hill... [was] a brewery erected by Mr W.B. Edmonds; a malt house is attached... [He] is an ale brewer whose beer, we think, deserves patronage and encouragement... This spot was fixed upon by the South Australian Company for a township and streets and terraces were marked out in active anticipation... New settlers are arriving and new buildings are springing up in every quarter...

In 1874, it was said that 'there are two methods of raising the reef so as to make it theoretically a breakwater sufficient to protect the jetty':

The first is by building in cement a proper wall... The alternative scheme would be to adopt would be to adopt an ordinary breakwater, using the reef to form the heart or basis of the work.

The first lacrosse match in South Australia was played here in 1885 when 'some of the players became strongly excited; one old footballer so much so that at a critical time he dropped his cross and began to kick the ball...'

The private town of Port Noarlunga was laid out in 1853 on section 311:

The luxury of deep water and a smooth beach for bathing... cannot but be duly appreciated. As a situation for a watering place this place is unequalled. [It has] a frontage of 450 yards to the sea... A well on the spot, which has been in use for the last three years, is noted as yielding the best water in the neighbourhood...

The government town of Port Noarlunga, surveyed in 1856, was offered for sale on 14 April 1859; its school opened in 1916. (See Castleton) The town of Port Noarlunga South, gazetted on 4 October 1923, was known, formerly, as ‘Paringa’ and ‘Port Onkaparinga’. (See Onkaparinga)

The first jetty, 122 metres in length, was erected there in 1855 and, in 1878, extended by 180 metres. In the early 1900s it was severely damaged by storms and demolished in 1914. A new jetty was constructed by Messrs Brennan and Stacy and opened by the Governor, Sir William Weigall, on 10 December 1921.

Photographs are in the Observer, 3 March 1928, page 35, Chronicle, 5 January 1929, page 40, Observer, 29 January 1931, page 31, of the footbridge on 11 July 1925, page 34, of a sports’ committee on 14 April 1928, page 37; information on and photographs of a flood are in the Chronicle, 7 September 1933, pages 38 and 44.

The Hundred of Noarlunga was proclaimed on 29 October 1846.

Noble Well - West of Lake Frome, recalls G. Noble who held pastoral lease no. 726, circa 1900.

Nockburrah Creek - Near Cobdogla. An Aboriginal word meaning 'dead or stagnant water'.

Noigong - A camping ground and burial site on the Narrung parklands, 50 metres south of section 490, Hundred of Baker; Aboriginal for ‘muddy place’.

Nonalena - A stage station where Norman Alexander Richardson (1855-1941) kept a man to have a change of horses ready on the mail run between Port Augusta and Tarcoola. (See Roxby Downs)

Nonning - The school opened in 1973 and closed in 1980. Nonning Well is 72 km kilometres north of Kimba. The ‘Nonning Run’ was established by C.H. Leycester in 1864 (lease no. 1660).

In olden days this country was looked upon as useless, waterless land - but even then, as now, it was beautifully bushed and well grassed, but the idea of putting down a reservoir at a cost of £1,000 never entered the mind of the pioneer, and all attempts to procure it by sinking proved failures. It is only the construction of these dams... that has brought about the stocking...

A photograph of dam sinking is in the Chronicle, 20 May 1922, page 30.

Nooowie - Eighteen kilometres SSW of Whyalla; an Aboriginal word referring to ‘water’.

Noocoono - (See Booleroo)
Nookamka - Derived from the Aboriginal nuko-jam-pko - ‘no water’; another source says it means ‘lake of shining water’. (See Bonney, Lake)

Nooldoo Nooldoona Waterhole - Near Arkaroola. Aboriginal for ‘the place where great stones were rolled down to block Akurra’. Today, an enormous rock all but blocks off a nearby gorge. (See Arkaroola for an explanation of the Aboriginal legend.)

Noonamena - The school opened in 1929 and closed in 1938.

Noora - Aboriginal for ‘a camp’; the town, 27 km east of Loxton in the Hundred of Gordon, was proclaimed on 2 September 1915.

The Noora School opened in 1918 and closed in 1923.

Nora Creina Bay - There has been much controversy over the derivation of this name, but the weight of the evidence suggests it comes from the brig Nora Creina, wrecked 24 km South-East of Robe on 1 January 1859. (See Swanscombe) Rodney Cockburn says that ‘there was an impression in some circles that [the name came] from the circumstance that Charles Burney Young, who married Nora Creina Bacon, youngest daughter of Lady Charlotte Bacon, did a lot of surveying in that neighbourhood… The fact is only an interesting coincidence.’

Norahville - An 1880 subdivision of section 937, Hundred of Port Adelaide; by Thomas E. McEllister (ca.1844-1886); now included in Wingfield. On 8 January 1879 he married Nora(h) O’Leary at ‘the bride’s residence, Wirrabara’, where her brother, James O’Leary, was a carrier.

Norbiton - A subdivision of section 1171, Hundred of Port Adelaide, within the junction of Eastern Parade and Grand Junction Road; now included in Ottoway. Charles Burton Hardy (1845-1921), solicitor, laid it out in 1876. The name comes from Surrey, England, and was ‘invented’, circa 1840, as a contrast to ‘Surbiton’.

Norfolk - A 1910 subdivision of part section 89S, Hundred of Bews; by William Matsell; now included in Lameroo. It has its origin in England and means ‘lands of the north folk’.

Norman Cole Reserve - On section 1104, Hundred of Adelaide was named after Norman Percy Cole who held the land from 3 December 1924 until his death on 2 January 1973.

Norman Park - In 1913, this subdivision was described as having as its boundaries Unley Road, Catherine, New and Murray Streets.

Normanville - Three kilometres west of Yankalilla. Dr Robert H. Norman (1808-1883), a dentist, formed the town in 1851, following his arrival in the Taglioni in 1844, ‘at his valuable property on the mouth of the River Bungala’:

Near the spot where the [river] runs into Gulf St Vincent there is a sort of natural wharf, which with a moderate outlay may be made subservient to the wants of the surrounding agriculturalists who have long felt the deficiency of a shipping place for their produce…

The Aboriginal name for the place was maikabanank - ‘place of stones’; probably, the term applied more particularly to the vicinity of section 1001.

By 1862, the telegraph station was reported as being:

Stationed for the present at the Royal Hotel (otherwise unoccupied just now), a portion of which building Mr Robert Norman has liberally allowed to be occupied for that purpose rent free until the contemplated station… is built… Lt Lucas was down here last week superintending the class-firing of our volunteers… marksmen…

The ketch Free Selector at Normanville in the 1920s

None came out, as I believe the volunteers attribute their bad success to not having a firing range. The long distances had to be shot from a dray which does not form the steadiest of platforms.

North - Reminiscences of early North Adelaide were published in 1903: ‘In order to reach Hindley Street… or to get to Trinity Church a stiff climb had to be made up the face of a quarry which occupied the site of the present railway station on North Terrace.’

In his recollections, Thomas Frost said that early in the 1840s his uncle, Mr Letts, built a two-roomed house in North Adelaide which was ‘miserable accommodation for so many of us’:

Much of the furniture, cases and packages had to be stacked outside, where it soon got damaged or destroyed. It was a general custom for persons to sleep in the living room on colonial sofas, or shakedowns on the floor, as was my lot. My uncle formed two lime kilns (holes dug out in the ground) and did a large business, burning the trees around us, as the whole of North Adelaide on the hill was covered with peppermint gum trees. We raised the limestone off the acres around us. The worst work was emptying the kilns which was a rather trying on a burning hot day under a fierce sun. My uncle had subdivided his three acres of land, laying out what is now known as Margaret Street…

In the 1850s, Thomas Frost purchased an allotment on Strangways Terrace where, at the South-East corner, was the residence of Mr James Chambers:

It was from that house that John McD. Stuart mustered his company and started on his exploring trips and, being directly in front of our home, we had a good view on two occasions, also on one of his returns.
The activities of the Salvation Army were not always appreciated as expressed in July 1883 and October 1885:

Any man who wantonly adds to the unavoidable noise of a city is a curse to the community and the Salvation Army is rapidly incurring the hostility of all respectable citizens. No one has any right to object to their harmless buffoonery… but the din of their abominable band we cannot get away from…

If this fearful torture were inflicted upon me only once a month it might just be bearable, but, Sir, it is a nightly occurrence… I am almost surprised that the suffering inhabitants do not rise in a body and clamour for these tyrants’ blood…

In 1849, T.B. Strangways (1809-1859), hoping for an extension of the Adelaide-Port Adelaide railway adjacent to his section (part 2017), laid out two subdivisions, North Arm North and North Arm South, taking the name from the nearby North Arm of the Port River. The sale of 700 acres of Crown land in 10-acre lots and the villages laid out in the immediate area were discussed in 1851.

Later, in 1854, Mr Strangways said that ‘the value of the land will rapidly increase, it having long been notorious that nothing but the want of a good road has prevented the North Arm becoming emphatically the harbour of the colony and the chief emporium of the import and export trade of South Australia.’ (See Newhaven)

In 1855, a memorial from the proprietors was reproduced, while the same newspaper in 1856 had a letter re early surveys, etc, in the immediate district. A discussion of The Adelaide (North Arm) Port and Railway Extension and Land Company, South Australia, Limited was made in 1863 when it was said that it was ‘an ingenious scheme of a person from Adelaide to turn his bushland into gold without the trouble of digging for nuggets.’

Photographs of a ships’ graveyard are in the Chronicle, 20 July 1933, page 37. North Arm Road was the name given to a railway siding between Rosewater and Wingfield on 3 June 1936 - it bordered the subdivision; now included in Ottoway. (See Northarmton)

The North Broughton School in the Hundred of Redhill opened in 1873 and closed in 1875.

In 1894, sports in connection with the North Field Athletic Club were held on Christmas afternoon in Mr Conrad’s Gepp’s Cross paddock when ‘the following acted as a committee - Messrs Channon, Hirschausen, Marvial, Howe, Volprechs and P. Welsh… A concert was held in the evening in the club’s assembly room…’ (See Northfield)

The Adelaide suburb of North Haven was gazetted in 1976 and comprises portions of the suburbs of Outer Harbor and Osborne. It takes its name from the North Haven Indenture Act of 1972. (See Newhaven)

North Parade was an 1877 subdivision of part sections 434-35 and 622, Hundred of Belalie, by Albert Trilling, miller of Jamestown; now included in Jamestown.

The North Rhine Post Office opened in 1851 and closed in 1866. The North Rhine Copper Mine, about ten miles from Angaston, on sections 563 and 570, was opened in 1849-50. A report of a meeting in respect of erecting a school and chapel on ‘3 acres given by Mr H. Evans of Evandale’ was reported in 1857 and, in 1860, Robert Coward conducted the North Rhine School with 45 scholars; it became ‘Keyneton’ in 1918.
In 1866, the new German Chapel was opened in a most impressive manner:

As is the German custom on such occasion a young lady is elected to lead a procession by carrying the key of the building... on a worked cushion. That place of honour was conferred on Miss Schultz, the daughter of a wealthy resident farmer...

In the same year, 'on Tuesday the 3rd inst. the royal mail arrived for the first time in our little township …'

**Hundred of North Rhine - (See Julicco) North Rhine River - (See Rhine River & Somme)**

**North Shields** was a 1907 subdivision of sections 189 and 387, Hundred of Louth, 11 km north of Port Lincoln, by George D. Dorward (1842-1923) who arrived in the Seashell in 1863.

The **North Shields** Post Office opened in 1908; **North Shields School** followed in 1911 and closed in 1970. *(See 'Shields' for an explanation of its nomenclature.)* In 1898, a visitor recorded that:

After another taste of the waters from the ‘waterhole’ I proceeded a few miles still north to ‘Clifton’, the home of Mr George Dorward, first taken up from the government about 25 years ago… it was nothing but a sterile piece of country, overgrown with mallee, stunted stringybark and bastard white gum…

The town’s jetty was opened on 12 November 1906.

![North Shields Jetty - 2005](image)

**North Yelta** Post Office on section 1451, Hundred of Wallaroo, 5 km North-East of Moonta, was named after a local copper mine.

In 1877, the **North Yelta School** was conducted by John Holt with 78 enrolled pupils; it opened in 1876 and closed in 1877.

**Northam Estate** - In 1930, Hugh K. Stone bestowed this name on a subdivision of part section 361, Hundred of Yatala; now included in Kilburn. There is a town of ‘Northam’ in Devon, England, meaning ‘northern home’.

**Northampton** - It was laid out on section 1178, Hundred of Port Adelaide, by Thomas Alexander in 1854. The township was placed at the ‘junction of the five roads over which the principal part of the traffic of the colony must pass…’ *(See North Arm)*

**Northcote** - A 1921 subdivision of part section 107, Hundred of Yatala; now included in Tennyson. Josiah Symon laid it out and declared that it was ‘beautifully situated on a high plateau commanding glorious views of the gulf and hills and fronting a delightful stretch of beach.’

Apparentley, the subdivider, Sir Josiah Symon, had a platonic association with Lady Northcote, the widow of a former Governor-General of Australia, and this fact may explain its nomenclature.

The subdivision arranged by Sir Josiah Symon provided for a frontage right down to the high water mark, without any provision for a road along the foreshore…

The Woodville council trusts that in a quiet moment Sir Josiah will see the reasonableness of [our] request and decide to lend his support toward securing a boulevard from Marino to Outer Harbour.

To this dilemma, Mr A.T. Saunders counselled that, ‘paragraph 16, page 35, of the appendix to the first report of the SA Commissioners’ instructions to Colonel Light says - In all your surveys you will reserve as a public road all land on the coast within not less than 100 feet of high water mark.’

In Western Australia, when private land is required for a public road, such as in the Northcote Case, the owner is not consulted; the road is gazetted without his consent… and that ends the matter.

The name occurs in Devon and Lincolnshire and means ‘north cottage’.


**Northfield** - The **Northfield School** opened as ‘Gepps Cross’ in 1861; name changed in 1900.

The Adelaide suburb of **Northfield** was laid out on sections 692 and 701, Hundred of Yatala, by Edwin A. Wilcox in 1925. It is a common place name in England where it translates, simply, as ‘north field’ and, of course, was built on a ‘field north of Adelaide.’ An earlier subdivision was advertised in 1924. *(See North Field)*

**Northgate** - The name comes from Bury Saint Edmunds, England and, in 1923, it was created by Northgate Ltd as a subdivision of section 358, Hundred of Yatala and, in time, was included in Blair Athol.

However, on 20 June 2000 the name **Northgate** was proclaimed as a separate suburb following a request by the developer, A.V. Jennings Ltd.

**Northside Hill** - It is on section 94, Hundred of Lincoln, and named by Matthew Flinders on 27 February 1802 because ‘a principal station in the survey of Port Lincoln was a hill on the north side.’
Northumberland, Cape - On the South-East coast near Port MacDonnell and named by Lieut. James Grant on 3 December 1800 after the Duke of Northumberland. The lighthouse commenced operating on 1 January 1859. In 1882, a resident declared that 'now that the spirit of the land is keen on the subject of forming and estimating the cost and benefit of railways, roads, etc., an equal amount of its energy ought to be directed towards rendering the communication along its seaboard as safe to life and property as possible':

Another sad item has been added to our list of known shipwrecks on the coast about Cape Northumberland… It is a well-known amongst seamen, that every point of a coast where a change of course is necessary ought to be seen or its position surely obtained. Cape Northumberland is such a point…

North-West Bend - Its Aboriginal name was tanami - 'never die', applied most specifically to a cave shelter a short distance above the junction of the Burra Creek with the River Murray. A fire was said to be kept burning constantly and the place was regarded as having a certain magical significance. The North-West Bend Post Office opened, circa 1860, while the name was applied, in 1878, to a subdivision of part sections 240-41, Hundred of Cadell, by Donald McLean and Lorna J. Jennings; now included in Morgan.

North West Bend:

The ‘North-West Bend Run’ was established by C.A. Armytage in the 1860s (lease no. 1551). The land was held, originally, by J. Taylor from July 1851 (lease no. 94). In 1856, ‘the country from Blanchetown to the North-West Bend was occupied by two or three squatters, Heywood, McBean and others’.

Norton Summit - 'The late Robert Norton, with his bullock dray, was the first to scale this hitherto inaccessible headland,' 16 km east of Adelaide - he was employed by the South Australian Company and assisted in carting posts and rails for the West Terrace Cemetery before it was walled; later, he grew vegetables for the Adelaide market.

The village evolved out of sections 1064 and 1065 between 1846 and 1855 when the land owner, Charles Giles, cut them up into blocks. Robert Norton owned section 1111 and, in 1869, a small portion of it was transferred to the District Council of East Torrens for school purposes. Mr Norton arrived in the Coromandel in 1837 and died at Norton Summit in 1891, aged seventy-nine. (See Grassy Flat & Grove Hill)

In 1874, a successful meeting of the Norton Summit Athletic Club was held at Kensington Park:

Where the stewards were the Hon. A.B. Murray, Messrs G. Stevenson, MP, E.T. Smith, W.J. Turner, H. Hughes, W. Dean, and C. Balk. The judges were Hon. A.B. Murray and Mr T. Playford; Starter, Mr Scott; Committee, Messrs R. Ackland, J. Sutton and S. Scott; Hon. Sec., Mr J. Giles; Treasurer, Mr J. Bishop… Its school known, originally, as ‘Grassy Flat’, became Norton Summit in 1941. The first school was in the home of Mrs Mary Norton at Grassy Flat, Welbourne Gully and, in 1869, a schoolhouse and master’s residence were built on part section 1111. At a public meeting held on 1 February 1868 several parents spoke out against her:

Mr Bishop said he had taken his children away because Mrs Norton could not teach them after they had arrived at the age of seven or eight years.

Mr G. Story had five children who ought to be at school but owing to making no progress he had taken them away.

Mr W. Merchant declared that he had been dissatisfied ever since the teacher had been there and he considered that the education question had been greatly neglected.

Mrs Norton was replaced by Mr Thomas Pierce ‘late of the Barossa goldfields’ and when the new Norton Summit School was opened by the Governor in 1908 the Grassy Flat building was described as being ‘an antiquated structure, dark, badly ventilated and far too small’.

A photograph of the local road is in the Chronicle, 5 December 1908, page 32, of old residents in the Observer, 11 December 1920, page 26.

Nor-West, Mount - In the North Flinders Ranges, discovered and named by E.J. Eyre on 12 August 1840. It was the highest point he encountered in a low range while travelling on a North-West course. (A Mortlock Library note says it was so named, in error, by Samuel Parry as it is really Eyre’s ‘Termination Hill’.)
The ‘Mount North (sic)-West Run’ was established by H. McConville in 1872 (lease no. 2176).

In 1876, after the government had taken the ‘first step to recognise this long neglected district by placing a police trooper at the Government Gums’:

It is hoped they will attend to a few other matters… namely, having a post office established at the Government Gums with a weekly mail from Beltana to the Northwest… I am glad that several good wells have been completed… if any person wants to see an instance of the results of perseverance and pluck he will be repaid by paying a visit to J. Ragless and Sons’ station, 16 miles from the Government Gums.

He will see there steam engines at work, pumping water and performing other useful operations… If a township was surveyed and sold at the Government Gums there would be a store and other trade started there…

Within the last three months the blacks have been dying near Beltana like rotten sheep. This fact is well-known all over the north and I am very doubtful if there has been any enquiry into the cause of this fearful mortality… or any medicine supplied to them in their miserable condition. If the blacks are to be exterminated let the present state of things continue, but let us not mislead the people all over the world by sending glowing accounts through the press of our care and protection of the natives of South Australia, for so far as our care of them in the north is concerned, I say, without fear of contradiction, that it only a shame and a disgrace. [Signed - H. McConville (sic)] [See Government Gums & Farina]

Norwood - A 1911 history of the town and district says:

In 1838, Samuel Reeves laid out a few allotments and nine years later he, with Messrs R. Miller, W.A. Bryden, W. Paxton and H. Collier formed a company and put on the market large blocks of land naming the principal streets after their families.

This extract is all but verbatim with that appearing in Cockburn’s Nomenclature of South Australia (1908) and suggests that the newspaper article was his creation and, from the known facts cited below, appears to be hearsay.

Further, in 1919, another source said that it was laid out ‘in the end of 1847 or beginning of the following year upon four sections 260, 261, 276 and 277 then owned by Messrs Samuel Reeves, Robert Miller, William A. Bryden, William Paxton and Henry Collier…’

In 1848, it was declared that ‘this most romantic village combines the beauties of mountain, river, sea and woodland scenery, the panoramic effect of the whole being greatly heightened by numerous stone mansions and cottages which have arisen during the last eight months. Purest spring water is obtainable on all allotments at short depths.’

Research at the General Registry Office reveals that section 260 of Survey B, on which the first subdivision of was made, was granted to Charles Cortis on 7 March 1839 and remained in his possession until 27 November 1847 when he entered into an ‘agreement to sell’ to Samuel Reeves for £1,000. A conveyance dated 23 June 1848 recites that ‘Reeves immediately after agreement entered into possession of the said land and laid it out into allotments called the village of Norwood’ and, pursuant to an indenture dated 20 December 1847 made between Reeves, Frederick Bayne and Patrick James Tod, agreed for Tod to be conveyed the land upon trust, to sell and dispose of the said land laid out as the village of Norwood upon payment of £1,000 to Cortis.

An indenture dated 5 December 1848 released the title and interest in section 260 to Patrick James Tod. The first conveyancing document is dated 28 August 1848 when Lot 5 was sold to Frederick Hobbs.

Born in Playden, Essex, England, Reeves arrived in the Lady Emma in 1839 and died in 1881, aged ninety-one.

The subdivision was named after a suburb of London, England, written as northwode - ‘north wood’ in 1294.

Norwood takes its name from the woods formerly extending… between Croydon and London and named Northwood, from its position in respect of the latter. This wood was the haunt of gypsies, who found it a convenient centre from which to drive their business of basket-making, cattle-stealing and fortune-telling with London…

Sections 261 and 276 were granted to John Wright, a Colonisation Commissioner (See under Bowden), on 7 March 1839 and section 277 on 1 April 1839. By the assignees of John Wright, a bankrupt pursuant to a fiat in bankruptcy dated 17 December 1840, on 12 March 1848 the three sections came into possession of Robert Miller, William Anderson Bryden, William Paxton and Henry Collier who subdivided them into allotments and ‘named the Village of Norwood.’ The first conveyancing document is dated 19 June 1849 when Lots 12 and 13 on section 276 were sold to Charles N. Sedgwick.

In respect of local street nomenclature, the following extract from the August 2005 Newsletter of the Kensington and Norwood Historical Society is of interest:

The entire structure [of the Crystal Palace] located in Hyde Park (adjacent to Kensington Gardens)… was transferred to Sydenham (adjacent to Norwood on the south side of the Thames). The long, straight road which accommodated its frontage was named The Crystal Palace Parade, sometimes contracted to The Parade…

It is claimed, and correctly so, that the Corporation of Kensington and Norwood was the first municipality outside of the City of Adelaide to receive the grant of the right to separate municipal government, the charter of the town being given on 7 July 1853, when the Governor, Sir Henry Young, extended to the villages of Kensington, Norwood and Maryatville the provisions of an ordinance to constitute a municipal corporation, viz., No. 11 of 1849. However, in this context the word ‘municipality’ is not synonymous with ‘local government body’ because the District Council of Mitcham can boast of colonial antiquity, for it was gazetted on 10 May 1853. In 1856, the local council applied to
the government for the provision of police protection in the township. The reply from the Colonial Secretary was not helpful and intimated that the only assistance could be ‘an occasional mounted patrol’. His remedy was for the council to appoint local constables - this reply was the same as that given to a similar request in 1855!

The citizens and their representatives were not satisfied with the justice of this arrangement; the police were supported out of general revenue and, accordingly, it was only equitable that their services should be fairly apportioned amongst the community.

Further, the council pointed out to the government that several towns such as Woodside and Echunga, none of which were superior in population to Kensington and Norwood, had a police station. There was no doubt that at the time the lack of a police presence led to acts of dishonesty in Norwood - gardens, shops and stables were pillaged regularly.

Few houses in the eastern suburbs escaped and the same victims were honoured with frequently-renewed visits and not a night passed without depredations in one quarter or another. Some rogues were caught in flagrante delicto but escaped scot free.

One annoyed citizen addressed the Editor of the SA Register in September 1857:

There is scarcely a night passes that some part of your property, in the shape of wood, fencing, kitchen utensils, harness, garden tools, young trees or vegetables and fruits in season does not disappear. You may keep a dog fit to protect your property during the dark and quiet hours of night, but he must be chained up, or your neighbours threaten to destroy him, or the police do.

Bye the bye; if there was a reward for thieves’ ears, as I believe there is for dogs, we might chance to see the police at night as well as in the morning, startling us out of bed with their firing. Or you may do the Argus yourself, but to what effect? You may catch a fellow in your garden, but the chances are he is bigger than you, or is less scrupulous, and you are glad to get rid of him by a civil request to depart, which is rarely effected without abuse.

It is as much use to call for ‘police’ as for a slice of lunar cheese… The chief cause of my now speaking upon the subject is that there have been some miscreants lately conducting themselves to young females in Norwood and Kensington in a manner meriting the cat’s tail. I trust we shall have your powerful support in our endeavour to obtain local police protection.

A system of local police had been authorised in 1852 and gave civic authorities the right to nominate a sufficient number of persons to be sworn in. Disobedience of orders or breach of duty were punishable by a fine, while services were recompensed by a fee payable on account of a particular service in which a constable may have been engaged.

However, it was clear that neither the District Council Acts nor the Police Acts contained any definite statement of the functions which a district constable might exercise.

A code of instructions was issued in 1860, but there was good reason to believe that the directions it contained were ultra vires.

For instance, a district constable arrested a man for a breach of the peace and when tried before a special magistrate in Adelaide ‘Mr Beddome decided that the law was against him and Mr Downer, on appeal, upheld that decision but only inflicted a nominal fine, as the constable had evidently acted bona fides and without evil intention.’

Thus, with a simple desire to properly discharge his duty, a special constable could make arrests in the manner directed in the semi-official ‘instructions’ and find himself exposed to the discomfort and loss of an adverse action at law if his authority was called into question.

From 1867, Inspector Ray, the factotum of the Kensington and Norwood council, supervised vigilantly the workings of the laws and was the terror of evil-doers, his uniform and ‘ponderous sword’ overawing incipient larrikinism:
[He] had to interfere in a case where three hulking youths of the larrikin class were pursuing one of their characteristic pleasantries by encouraging a big dog to worry a sobbing, almost hysterical woman. The torrent of abuse and blasphemy that fell from these gifted youths reminded me of certain Northern stage-drivers of years ago… Good heavens! What will the next generation be with such parents? I have heard more indecent language and filthy blasphemy from children, boys and young men in Norwood in one week than one will hear in a month in any part of Adelaide. Where there are any white posts and rails there are generally some filthy inscriptions and it is no common thing to have a stone thrown through a window, no matter how costly the glass, by some senseless cad with a quick pair of heels… It was woe betide the unfortunate who brought himself within the clutches of the law, as the stern hand of Nemesis would require a visit to the city and return therefrom a wiser, sadder, if not poorer man - Before a Magistrate’s Court was established at Norwood he was well known at the City Police Court where sharp debates took place between him and defendants’ solicitors. Mr Ray’s term of office came to an end in 1882 when, in the latter half of that year, a neat structure on Osmond Terrace gave accommodation to an officer, three constables, and a mounted trooper as a patrol, all of whom upheld the dignity of the law. Possibly Mr Ray’s last duty as the law enforcement officer in the district was that of apprehending larrikins in Kent Town: On Sunday, and moonlight nights especially, bands of well-dressed boys and youths congregate; indulge in language of the vilest, commit senseless destruction in gardens, on roofs of houses, etc, and seemingly from time to time become bolder…

The first public lamp was put up at the corner of Bridge and High Streets - to the great annoyance of the Norwood folk. It was lighted by kerosene and residents became so attached to it, that when in 1865 it was proposed to substitute gas they sent a memorial to the council praying to be allowed to retain the old light. The cab stand, which was placed at the corner, was the reason why the light was installed there.

It was not until 1869 that the gas company’s mains were extended to the municipality and requests received from the churches for more lighting and, in 1870, they asked that gas lamps be erected in front of various places of worship. This was not granted at once but, gradually, the work of installing gas was proceeded with and, in 1882, there were 88 lamps alight each night, 76 of which were gas and the remainder kerosene - they were extinguished at 10 a.m. until 1886. In 1887 the number was increased to 100 and all were gas. In March 1900, the secretary and engineer from the Electric Light and Motive Power Company attended a council meeting when they explained the ramifications of lighting by electricity. No positive response was given, but the meeting did undertake to inspect an installation at Port Adelaide.

The respective merits of gas and electricity were debated and a lighting committee was formed within the council. In February 1900 the SA Gas Company offered to cancel the existing contract and to enter into a fresh agreement for seven years from 1 August 1900, the company to provide, free of cost, incandescent burners, to make necessary alterations to lanterns without cost to the corporation and to light and extinguish, clean and repair the lamps; it was decided to accept this offer.

In February 1901 a poll was conducted when out of 622 ratepayers voting 546 declared themselves in favour of electric lighting. (See Appendices 37, 38, 39, 41 & 42)

A New Council Name

In 1998, Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council embarked on what was bound to be its most perilous journey since the previous year’s amalgamation when the following appeared in the Eastern Courier on 23 August: The issue has been fraught with controversy in other amalgamated councils, most notably Onkaparinga, which abandoned its City South moniker after public outcry. Last week, Norwood, Payneham & St Peters formally adopted a process for choosing a new name. They plan to ask locals to enter in a competition next month… In the past, Dunstan, Mary [sic] Spence and East Adelaide have been among the names floated for the new council… My ‘entry’ to the competition was as follows: Today, there is abroad within our community a debate in respect of the justice meted out to the indigenous population of our country over 200-odd years of European occupation.
Accordingly, alluding to governmental nomenclature, may I repeat a few words uttered in 1893 by C. Hope Harris, surveyor and nomenclator, in defence of the application of Aboriginal names:

We have obliterated such names for the sake of those more dear to vice-regal representatives, such as Alice, Caroline and Anna… We are said to be making history, but are we not lacking in courtesy in effacing the history of a less fortunate people whom we have displaced…

It surely is not necessary to close the annals of an inoffensive race; certainly, it is not generous to destroy their only records, nor is it wise to exclude from mental view the panorama of their past.’

I commend these words to our city’s municipal representatives and request them to seek out suggestions for an appropriate Aboriginal name for our community. To my mind, a name such as ‘Tandanya’ is to be preferred over ‘Dunstan’, ‘Mary Spence’ and ‘East Adelaide’, as espoused in your publication of September 16.

Indeed, there is a marked paucity of Aboriginal names within the Adelaide ‘family’ of corporate bodies and one which, to my mind, should be remedied.

By 2008, nothing had transpired from the ‘competition’ and so I made a direct approach to the council and said:

In 1998, following the merger of three eastern suburb councils, a ‘competition’ was conducted in respect of a new name for the merged body to which I responded as set down in an attachment.

Over the ensuing years I have continued my research into the place names of South Australia and, in particular, delved into the history of our indigenous people. Accordingly, bearing in mind the recent ‘apology’ extended to the Australian Aboriginal population by our Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, I suggest the time may be propitious for your Council to bring finality to the dilemma that has, apparently, plagued it during the past decade.

If, perchance, there is an element of appreciation of the sentiments expressed Mr C. Hope Harris, as stated previously in my letter to the Eastern Courier on 23 August 1998, I append the fruits of my labour since that time which, I trust, can be used as a ‘working paper’ if your Council should decide to proceed with further deliberations:

In a poem titled ‘Aboriginal Nomenclature by a Native’ that appeared in the Register on 11 October 1893, one verse reads:

Tan-dan-yer (This is Adelaide, or was its older name),
The name it bore among the tribes
Before the white man came.

The following is a legend of the Aboriginal people who inhabited the district around Adelaide:

In the land of Tandarnya [sic] lived Nanto Boorkoo,
A red-haired, white-headed ‘old man’ kangaroo,
As an infant, named Tarnda, from cloudland he came,
In a fur-lined skin bag of traditional fame.

With his home ties all sundered, still human right through,
The longer he wandered the wilder he grew,
Till for wronging a totem in tribal dispute,
His manhood forsook, him, and left him a brute.

Oppengarrie, his comrade, saw Pindi-mew land;
So, thinking at once there was danger at hand,
Called Kar-rie and Dlarbie to drive them away,
Or poison the waters to shorten their stay.

Still they came to Tandarnya, where ready to fight,
Stood many Tra-binna, but Tarnda took fright,
He crossed Karra-weera, with moon-catching stripes,
And reached Penna-Yooma, where Pongkie resides.

Kirkka-tza laughed feebly, Cooracka sung low;
Ungkarie, disconsolate, hopped to and fro;
While Cadna and Wonggo hid sadly away,
For the ‘joy of Tandarnya’ departed that day.

An explanation of the Aboriginal terms is as follows: Tandarnyungga (sic) was the name of the tribal district east of Cowandilla and south of the River Torrens; nanto means ‘big kangaroo’; boorko, ‘old man’; tanto, ‘a bag’; totem, some living creature held sacred as a symbol of a tribe; oppengarrie, ‘an emu’; pindi-mew, a reference to ancestors; kar-rie (or wrirrarie), ‘sorcerers’; dlarbie, ‘evil spirits’; tra-binna, ‘men arrayed for war’; korra-weera, ‘one name for the River Torrens’; penna-yooma, ‘tall grass trees’; pongkie, ‘a reflection of one’s self in water’; Monana, an alternative name for the spiritual being, Wano [See Nuriootpa]; boora-kooree, ‘a corroboree’; wadna, ‘a climbing
... stick'; *kirkota*, ‘a laughing jackass'; *cooracka*, ‘a magpie'; *ungkarie*, ‘a female kangaroo'; *cadna*, ‘a lizard'; *wonggo*, ‘an opossum'.

The ‘post contact’ name given to Adelaide by the Kaurna people was *kulkamaiwar - kulkun - ‘burning’, maije - ‘wind’ and war ‘at’.

The Kaurna people believed they were the children of Monana who, long ago in the *Alcheringa* (‘the Dream Time’), had climbed up into the sky from his home in *Pindina* (‘Kangaroo Island’). Here by the river was one of their favourite camping places, *Tambawodli* (‘the camp on the plain’). To the west, *Wongayerlo* (‘the water where the sun sinks’ - Saint Vincent Gulf), flowed past *Mudlungga* which was separated by a sea creek from *Yertabulta* (‘place of slumber’ - now the Port Adelaide district), believed to be where the birds flew each night to sleep.

*Mudlungga* (‘the place of the nose’) is now known as ‘Lefevre Peninsula’ although the Kaurna name is still the more appropriate. The first people, being true antipodeans, navigated by the Southern Cross. Consequently, unlike the newcomers who navigated by the Pole Star, they were in the habit of viewing their country from the north to the south. When thus viewed on a map, the striking likeness of the peninsula to a hooked and flattened nose is at once the vindication of the name and a tribute to the powers of observation of the Kaurna.

*Wongayerlo* yielded an endless supply of shellfish, and during many a long summer evening the Kaurna camped on *Mudlungga* to cook the day’s catch in their camp fires. *Wongayerlo* had many fish, too, especially in the sea creek and south of *Witungga* (The Reedbeds) near *Patawilya* (Glenelg - ‘swampy green place’), where there were plenty of *takaringa* (‘mullet’) and *yerdli* (‘spotted whiting’).

There were many richly beautiful places in *Tandanya* (‘red kangaroo place’) - *Mikawomma* (‘the plain’), where Kilkenny now stands, was the home of the emu and the wild turkey, and in umbrageous gum trees the kookaburras laughed as the parrots annoyed the magpies with incessant chattering.

Everywhere were the *Wapara* and other types of native pigeon. In *Witungga*, at the head of the sea creek where the river of *Tandanya* lost itself in the reeds and the lagoons, and in *Kertaveeta* (‘black forest’), lived the swamp parrot whose eggs were so good to eat.

Over countless aeons the Kaurna people roamed this rich unchanging land. Every year the *dikeri* (‘grass’) grew green and fresh to feed the kangaroo, and every year at *Tinnakgialpa* (‘the time when the ground burns the feet’), the grasses grew yellow. This was the time when fire came to eat the grass and make room for *erlipinna* (‘the grass seeds’) to grow again.

Every night, *Goondooloo* (‘the emu of the Southern Cross’), lit a camp fire in the sky beside *Wadliparri* (‘the river in the sky with reeds and waterholes in which lived water monsters - the ‘Milky Way’), to enable the Kaurna to find their way to the home of their spirit ancestors. The Orion belt was *Tinninyarra*, a place where youthful hunters stalked kangaroo and emus across the vast celestial plain known as *Womma*, while the Magellanic clouds were *Ngakallomurro*, representing the ashes of rainbow lorikeets that were trapped and put to death.

But the land was to be changed beyond recognition following the arrival of a second nation of people - the white Europeans. Since their coming, scarcely more in time than a twinkle of an eye of the *Southern Cross*, all *Tandanya* has changed. All the Kaurna, all their kangaroos, all the trees and birds, most of the fish and the Aboriginal meeting places have disappeared under the European onslaught. No more is the water fresh and clear in the drinking places.

Conclusion

I conclude with some appropriate words given by Rodney Cockburn to the Royal Geographical Society of SA (circa 1930):

I think it may be fairly said that the community in general has a very real desire to see Aboriginal names preserved for all time. Scarcely a week has gone by in the past twenty years but that I have been asked by the newspapers, or by individuals, to supply Aboriginal words suitable for the naming of houses, streets, subdivisions, racehorses, greyhounds, ships, yachts, row boats, nursing homes and other subjects, including a new brand of pickles, a girl’s social club and a new Church of England diocese.

One of my delights on a Sunday afternoon is to paddle slowly around the suburbs in a motor car noting the display of hundreds of house names for the adoption of which I have been responsible. The only trouble is to avoid duplication, the desire for exclusive house tags being almost as keen as a woman’s anxiety to be seen in a distinctive frock.

One month later my letter was acknowledged and the expected platitudes included the following:

Should the Council wish to pursue the issue of a new name for the City, then your suggestions will be taken into account. Again thank you for taking the time to put your proposal together and bringing it to my attention.

Notting Vale - (See Robinson Hill)

Nott Well - In the Hundred of Paisley, 16 km ESE of Blanchetown, was sunk by William Nott who arrived in the *Hydaspes* in 1851, aged twenty-two. The closure of a ‘German’ school was reported in 1917:

Notice was served upon the proprietor or headmaster of each of the German schools in the State that the Minister of Education will take over the schools from July 1st next… These places are usually built near a church, some of them even in the church grounds… 49 schools are to be closed and more than 1,600 scholars will be effected… [This school had 8 scholars]. [See Australia Plains]

The Nott Well State School, opened by Mary V. Glynn in 1919, closed in 1941.

The Nott Well Post Office opened circa 1909.
Novar Gardens - Originally, it was laid out in 1921 as ‘Morphettville’ by the State Bank of South Australia on part section 152, Hundred of Adelaide. Subsequently, the name was changed to honour Viscount Novar who, as Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, was Governor-General of Australia.

In 1919, '[Novar] was the name by which [the Governor-General] is known in the Highlands’, while in 1926:

A deputation of residents, all of whom are returned soldiers, made a strong protest against the treatment meted out to them by the West Torrens District Council which has opposed their petition for the suburb to be attached to the Corporation of Glenelg…

The gardens, added Mr Clarke, were laid out on town planning principles with an ornamental square, but the whole thing was a joke. ‘It is Piccadilly Circus in a lake district’.

The original subdivision comprised thirty acres of the ‘Cummins Estate’. Section 152 was granted to John Morphett in May 1838 and, in 1842, he built a home on it calling it ‘Cummins’, reputedly the name of a Devonshire village where his mother was born but it does not appear in gazetteers.

Photographs of a sporting carnival are in the Observer, 23 October 1926, page 32.

When laid out, the suburb was known as the Novar Garden Suburb, and designed by town planner, Charles C. Reade, along lines similar to those of Walter Burley Griffin in Canberra, and approved by West Torrens Council in March 1920. Viscount Novar personally inspected the site, and was ‘pleased with its picturesque nature.’

A railway station was opened on the North Terrace to Glenelg line and given the name Novar Gardens. The area of the original subdivision is now part of Glenelg North in the Holdfast Bay Council area. Today’s Novar Gardens extends along Morphett Road to James Melrose Drive; Immanuel College the Camden Recreation Reserve and the Glenelg Golf Course now occupy large tracts of the suburb.

Nowhere Else - ‘Nowhere Else’ hut, so it is told, gained its name when Mr Price Maurice who leased large stretches of land along the coast, near Elliston, engaged two builders to construct a hut. On completion, the job had to be inspected by the head station manager before the bill for erection was paid, and the party set off to view the new building. The country, at that time, was heavily timbered with sheoaks and the men were unable to locate the hut.

After sometime the manager said to his party, ‘Well, if it’s not over this hill, it’s nowhere else!’ Over the hill they went and found the new hut. The job was passed for payment and hence the hut got its new name.

There is a No Where Else Creek near Cape Jervis the name of which predates 1841.

Nuccaleena - This town in the North Flinders Ranges was offered for sale on 28 May 1863 and its post office opened in the same year and closed in 1866. An Aboriginal word, meaning ‘gorge’ or ‘gap place’. In 1926, it was reported that ‘a mile from the Nuccaleena Mine, on the banks of Blackfellow’s Creek, the remains of the old Nuccaleena Hotel are met with’:

This was built by Chas. Faulkner early in the sixties and was known to old hands as the bottle hotel owing to two of the back rooms being constructed entirely of bottles. A township was laid out but only the stone store remains…

Nudjali - The Aboriginal name for Pipeclay Well in the Hundred of Carribie. Aboriginal for ‘pipe clay’.

Nugent - A town on section 60, Hundred of Coonarie, proclaimed 2 December 1880, ceased to exist on 11 June 1925. Governor Jervois named it and left no reason for its derivation, but, probably, was named after a friend or acquaintance, the most likely candidate being Field-Marshal Sir George Nugent who was educated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. (See Dawson)
Nullarbor Plain - Its Aboriginal name is bunda bunda - ‘high cliffs’. H.C. Talbot said, ‘the name was evidently made up from the Latin words nulla-arbor, meaning “no trees”, by Edward A. Delisser, a surveyor of Adelaide. In 1865, he crossed the Plain from the head of the bight to about sixty miles north of the present Deakin.’

The Nullarbor is believed to be an ancient seabed and one of the largest ‘karst’ areas in the world. A ‘karst’ landscape is characterised by dolines - natural depressions similar to sink holes - caves and rockholes formed by the action of slightly acidic rainfall on soluble limestone over a long period of time. The word ‘karst’ is a German word for ‘Kras’, a region in Slovenia that rests on a limestone plateau.

In 1858, it was reported that ‘Messrs J.H. Horwood and Co. [had] just completed to the order of Wills Brothers and Brown an unusually large windmill with suitable pump for raising water from the Nullarbor Plains Well… [It] is 25 feet in diameter and of the American self-regulating type…’

The Nullarbor National Park lies to the east of the Western Australian border and incorporates the previous Nullarbor and Koonalda pastoral stations. Most of it is flat and featureless and consists, primarily, of saltbush and bluebush interspersed with caves, blowholes and Aboriginal cultural sites. (See Tom Brown)

Nunan, Lake - On section 394, Hundred of Waterhouse, probably recalls Jeremiah Nunan (1826-1903), who came from Cornwall, in 1838, and bought a property near Chinaman Well in 1879 calling it ‘Hilton’.

Nundroo - Thirty kilometres North-West of Fowlers Bay; an Aboriginal word, meaning unknown. A photograph of its post office is in the Chronicle, 11 July 1929, page 36.

Nungkumangk - On section 383, Hundred of Baker - nuggi - ‘evil spirit’ and mangk - ‘place’.

Nunjikompita - An Aboriginal word for ‘water soaks’ and given to a railway station, 80 km east of Ceduna.

In February 1914, F.A Ross, who was joined by his brother, entered into a share farming agreement with Mr W.J. Bubner and remained there for seven years… Undaunted by failures the Ross brothers stuck to it… In June 1920, after having terminated the agreement they purchased through Mesrese Poynton and Claxton, 5,696 acres of freehold for £1,600 at Nunjikompita. This was just broken virgin country. F. A Ross went on the place… and erected a one-room humpie - nine uprights with bags around them and a galvanised iron roof…

The Nunjikompita School opened in 1924 and 17 building allotments were surveyed adjacent to the railway siding in 1939. Photographs of scrub rolling are in the Chronicle, 26 January 1929, page 41.

Nungeraitpa - A railway station, 8 km South-East of Karoonda, and a post office opened on 1 July 1918; it closed on 1 August 1920. The Nungeraitpa School opened in 1919 and closed in 1940. Aboriginal for ‘beautiful’ or ‘good’.

Nunnah, Hundred of - In the County of Dufferin, proclaimed on 23 October 1913.

It is an Aboriginal word for ‘made well again’.

Nunong Well - Near Fowlers Bay, 27 km North-West of Charra, where the ‘Nunong Run’ was established by R.B. Smith and W.R. Swan in 1864 (lease no. 1513).

Nunukapul - A flat near Marcollat station and the scene of major traditional conflicts between Potaruwutj people and Tangane and Meintangki clans to the west and south. Songs about the quarrel were recorded by Norman Tindale.

Nunyara - A subdivision of part section 1142, Hundred of Adelaide, took its name from a Tuberculosis Sanatorium, at Belair. Aboriginal for ‘to make well’, that is, restored to good health.

It was laid out by the Cooperative Building Society of SA in 1953 and is now included in Belair.

Nuraip - This name was selected as a name for a railway siding at ‘forty-nine miles on the Gawler-Angaston line’ in 1947. (See Nuriootpa)

Nuriootpa - The Register of 1 May 1852 records the name as Nooriutpa and, according to Professor Tindale it was derived from the Aboriginal nguraitpa - the ‘neck country’, an apparent reference to this being the neck of a giant being called Wano (sometimes recorded as Moanana - see Adelaide & Winicke Berick Well (of the Kaurna people. At Nuriootpa the Mount Lofty Range highlands are narrow and low and this fact probably gave rise to the idea. (See Marino, Piccadilly & Uraidla for further evidence of the mythical creature.)

The town was laid out by William Coulthard, circa 1850, on section 156. He arrived in the Buffalo in 1836 and conducted a hotel in the town. In 1856, it was said that, ‘in the township is erected a powerful steam mill, stores, etc, and offers good opportunities for tradesmen, labourers, etc.’

In 1858, Mr Coulthard was a member of a party that, during the summer months, travelled north from the town seeking new country; in seeking for water the party divided. The exhausted survivors were rescued by B.H. Babbage’s exploration party in March 1858 and Coulthard’s body was found on 15 June and buried the next day on the banks of a creek on the eastern side of Pernatty Lagoon.

In 1858, a public meeting presided over by Mr D. Nock, was held in the schoolroom when Mr John Williams, the ‘advocate of temperance’, delivered a lecture on the subject.
He read statistics showing the beneficial effects of the closing of public houses on the Lord’s Day in Edinburgh and Glasgow… So convinced was he of the evils arising to any community from the presence among them of houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, that he should have no objection, with 50 or 500 other teetottallers, on the return of Mr Babbage from his exploring expedition - supposing he will have found a good tract of country - to emigrate to it and form a teetotal settlement…


The Hundred of Nuriootpa was proclaimed on 30 November 1847. Nurka - A school on Eyre Peninsula opened in 1934 by Jack F. Golding; it closed in 1939.

Nurlutta - A railway station near Salisbury. Aboriginal for ‘turn’ or ‘corner’. Nurom - A railway station 10 km west of Crystal Brook. Aboriginal for ‘stopping place’. The first name suggested was ‘Ferguson’, as Peter Ferguson was the first occupier of land in the area in 1852.

It was not adopted because of its presence in other States of Australia. The names of ‘Gee’ and ‘McGuire’ were considered, also. Lionel Gee surveyed the section in 1875 - his name was deemed to be unsuitable, while, in 1889, John McGuire was the grantee of the section on which it stands. This suggested nomenclature was vetoed because the name was in use in Queensland. Its school opened as ‘Crystal Brook West’ and closed in 1971.

Nurragi - A railway station 6 km North-West of Milang. Aboriginal for ‘scrub’. Nurrodi - A name adopted, in 1940, instead of ‘Barunga North’ for a post office, 7 km south of Mundoora. Aboriginal for ‘to hunt’, ‘chase’, ‘to charm’, ‘enchant’. The Aborigines from the north were adept in the art of charming and, consequently, much feared and hated by others.

One of their chief elements for enchanting was the water in rivers, into which they put human blood and other things, by means of which it became injurious and fatal to those who drank it. (See Barunga)

Nynts Archipelago - Near Ceduna and named by Matthew Flinders in 1802 after Peter Nuyts, a distinguished passenger in the Gulden Zeepaard in 1627 under the command of Francois Thyssen. (See Saint Francis Island)

In 1889, Mr Thomas G. Lloyd reported that he ‘left Fowler’s Bay in a small cutter of about 7 tons, accompanied by a young man called Arnold’:

We proposed spending a week or two sealing on the islands… On the seventh day after being wrecked we started for the largest island in the group… in a dinghy nine feet long… After pulling for three hours we reached the island where we found about ten pounds of flour left there by myself four years before but, on examination, proved to be full of weevils which obliged us to sift it through some small tins we found.

When cooked it turned black and had a very unpleasant flavour.

On the 20th day we discovered a sheep’s track and on tracing it found an old sheep… With the mutton and some milk thistles we found we managed to get on pretty well… We sighted a boat… lit a fire… and in due time she arrived bringing Mr Hoskin of St Peter’s Island...

The Nyptsland Nature Reserve, proclaimed in 1969, is situated on the coast between Cape Pasley and Red Rocks Point in Western Australia and covers an area of 625,344 hectares - significant features include Twilight Cove and the Eyre Bird Observatory.

Nyairnyi - An Aboriginal spring. The word means ‘zebra finch’.

Nympsval - Created out of section 12, Hundred of Blanche, by George Shelton (1826-1903), who hailed from Nympsfield, Gloucestershire, England, written as nymdesfeld - ‘field by a holy grove or place’ in 872 AD.

Arriving in 1853 in the Duke of Richmond he became a nurseryman at Rosaville, Mount Gambier.

In 1867, ‘this nursery was about four acres in extent, the property of George Shelton’:

[There are] a good stock of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs, flowers, etc., from which, at a reasonable price, selections may be made any day to stock gardens… There are 50 varieties of apple… [At] the late agricultural show Mr Shelton… obtained several prizes… Besides the useful are to be found the English oak, ash, elm, hawthorn, etc…

The Nympsval School was opened in 1862.