

## **TOPONYMY ON KANGAROO ISLAND: FOLK TOPONYMY AND OFFSHORE FISHING GROUND NAMES**

Full presentation

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This paper forms part of a comparative longitudinal study into primal naming on Norfolk Island, South Pacific and Kangaroo Island, South Australia. Here only Kangaroo Island is considered. 'KI', Australia's third largest island, provides the toponymist a challenging case study in the interaction between official and unofficial placenames. This presentation reports on two aspects of folk toponymy, i.e. local, unofficial and generally undocumented placenames, on the Dudley Peninsula, the eastern peninsula of Kangaroo Island, namely (1) local toponyms, and (2) offshore fishing ground names. The data was collected through interviewing local members of the Kangaroo Island community.

Local toponyms on Kangaroo Island (1) reflect orientation and naming patterns that embody events, history and land use throughout the island's colourful past, and (2) represent an important element in the respective dialects of land owner families, i.e. these names are very esoteric and heavily laden with insider knowledge. Kangaroo Island offshore fishing ground names and more specifically those of the Dudley Peninsula depict further aspects of insider knowledge and locational information associated intrinsically with the land and sea around the Penneshaw area as well as an important element in the economy and livelihood of a small section of this remote island community.

The current study argues that a deeper analysis of various taxa of folk toponymy especially in remote island locations with shallow histories can help toponymists and linguists understand broad principles involved in placenaming and how humans learn to speak about, manage and orientate themselves in new and unfamiliar environments.

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