

## Welcome to our first edition of the Geographic Names News for 2018 from the Office of Geographic Names (OGN)

Place naming is an important aspect of the cadastre and Victorians are passionate about place names used in their community. It is my role to ensure new place names are appropriate and meet the *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016 (the naming rules)*; importantly, that they are in the public interest and help ensure public safety.

Before starting my role in Victoria, I was Director Survey and the Surveyor-General of the Northern Territory, where I played a key role in place naming. During my career I also worked with various government and private sector organisations in using geographic-based information and systems to solve business challenges.

From a national perspective, I represent Victoria on the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping and I am Chair of the Council of Reciprocating Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

Duplication of names and similar sounding names within a locality cause major challenges for emergency service authorities, Australia Post and utility service organisations. They can also cause confusion because most people rely on mobile devices for navigation.

Articles in this edition include information about:

- a significant Aboriginal naming assignment in 2017, under Parks Victoria
- a joint initiative with Aboriginal Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) for naming authorities and Aboriginal traditional owners to work together on place naming assignments
- public safety considerations when naming places

- commemorative naming as part of the ANZAC Commemorative naming project
- enhancements to VICNAMES and an upgrade to the Notification for Editing Service.



I firmly believe in 'customers first' and I look forward to working with you, whether you are a naming authority, key stakeholder or member of the community with a passion for a place name.

Regards

**Craig Sandy**  
Registrar of Geographic Names  
Surveyor-General of Victoria

## Aboriginal place names

### Parks Victoria works with local Aboriginal community



In March 2016, Parks Victoria was formally approached by the Chief Executive of Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (Gunditj Mirring) to consider renaming the feature then officially named Mount Eccles in what was then called Mount Eccles National Park (the park). Gunditj Mirring asked Parks Victoria – the park’s naming authority – to consider restoring the original name Budj Bim to the feature and renaming the park Budj Bim National Park.

The Office of Geographic Names (OGN) formally gazetted the name Budj Bim and Budj Bim National Park on 23 March 2017.

Parks Victoria followed a formal process to achieve this successful outcome. It used its own guidelines based on OGN’s naming rules, including consultation with stakeholders (local government, adjoining owners, emergency services and businesses associated with the park, e.g. tourism operators). Parks Victoria developed a media release, took out advertisements in two local newspapers inviting comment on the proposed name changes and conducted an online survey. Meetings were also held with emergency services to address public safety concerns that come with a name change.

Parks Victoria recognised that the Gunditjmara people’s Country in south-west Victorian is inspired – it is filled with the spirit of creation and rich with significance and stories of their ancestral past. Budj Bim is an ancestral being in Gunditjmara traditional stories, who created much of the landscape present today.

The process and successful outcome showed Parks Victoria’s commitment to restoring traditional names in order to recognise and revive cultural connections. The renaming also raised community awareness of an area rich in cultural identity.

### Recognition and use of Aboriginal languages when naming places

OGN is working closely with Aboriginal Victoria (AV) and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) to promote and increase adoption of Aboriginal language names for roads, geographic features and localities throughout Victoria.

To achieve this, OGN and AV will run a series of workshops titled ‘Our Language Matters’. The workshops will also cover a short session on the *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016 (the naming rules)* and the importance of adhering to these rules, including implications for emergency services. Dates are being determined, with invitations to be issued in the next three weeks. The following locations have been confirmed, with further locations being considered:

Hamilton  
Traralgon

Bendigo  
Healesville

Traditional owners and council officers will be able to meet at these workshops, with brainstorming sessions planned to discuss ways of increasing Aboriginal place names. Information about the traditional owner groups applicable to an area is available at Aboriginal Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet, [www.dpc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au).

Further information about the workshops will be released soon. In the meantime, please contact Rafe Benli, Project Manager, on (03) 919 40281 or by email at [geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au).

## Ensuring public safety

### Mountain bike trails



Mountain bike riding is becoming an increasingly popular recreational activity as a way to explore the Victorian landscape through rugged terrain. Some of the largest and most established trail networks are in Lysterfield, Woodend, Mount Macedon, the Otways, You Yangs and Alpine regions.

Land Information and Spatial Services (LISS) at Land Use Victoria has taken a proactive step to help identify trails and protect users by enhancing trail information in 'Vicmap Transport'.

This means trails will be accurately mapped with official names and defined extents in VICNAMES and Vicmap products, ensuring many users of Victoria's already marked and signposted mountain bike and other trails are locatable in the event of an emergency.

The proposed 'TRAILS Model' will incorporate Trails in the road network, with appropriate identifiers and enhanced data. Other non-motorised recreational trails, such as horse riding trails and ski trails, will also be included.

The Trails Model proposal will be advertised through the Vicmap Change Manage Process for stakeholder and customer feedback by August 2018.

### Road Naming- Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated

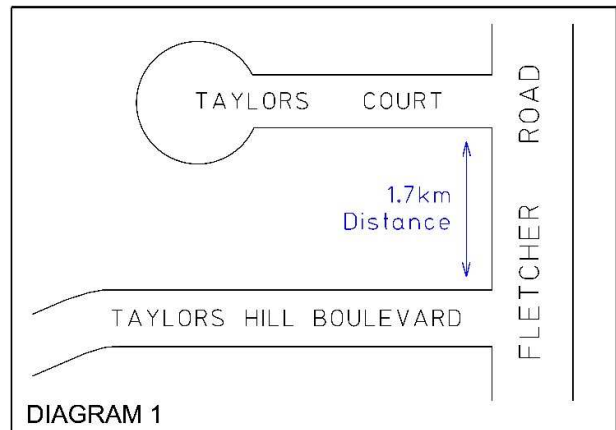
Public safety is paramount when selecting names for roads and duplicated names can cause unnecessary delays for emergency services.

Assigning a unique name provides an unambiguous direction and reference to identify a place or location on a map, among pre-existing (legacy) names.

Principle (D) in the naming rules clearly stipulates that duplicated names are considered to be two (or more) names within close proximity, or names that are identical or have similar spelling or pronunciation.

The requirement is consistent with national standards and principles under the Permanent Committee on Place Names, which stipulates that 'road names must not be duplicated within a locality; a road name with the same name element but different in type is not considered to be unique (AS/NZS 4819, 4.4.7)'.

Road names that are similar or duplicated within close proximity that share the same intersecting road, can create confusion for emergency services and potentially delay despatch. For example, in Diagram 1 Taylors Court and Fletcher road are separated by 1.7km from the intersection of Taylors Hill Boulevard and Fletcher Road, in the same locality.



If you are a naming authority, undertake a thorough duplication check as follows:

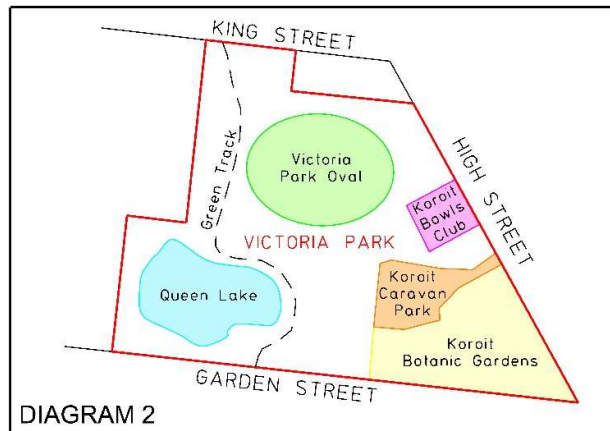
- use VICNAMES and do a duplication or similar sounding name search within the prescribed radius
- check your own road register to ensure no duplication or similar sounding road names exist within the prescribed radius
- ensure similar or duplicated names do not share the same intersecting road
- if you want to use a new place name that may conflict with an existing name but are unsure of its risk, contact OGN for advice.

VICNAMES provides a user-friendly function to search place and road names within a prescribed radius: metropolitan urban (5 km), regional urban area (15 km) or rural or remote area (30 km). This search uses an

authoritative spatial data source Vicmap Transport, through VICNAMES.

A *Guide to VICNAMES* includes step-by-step instructions on how to undertake a duplication search. It is available from [www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/namingplaces](http://www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/namingplaces).

## Open spaces



A common issue for emergency services is that many open spaces, including parks and reserves, have facilities, sub-features, playgrounds, ovals, trails or tracks that are not individually named; or, have names not registered in VICNAMES and Vicmap. Each garden, monument, playground, oval, walking track, trail etc. needs to be identifiable on a map for efficient despatch of emergency services.

We ask local government authorities to ensure sub-features within open spaces are named and registered. If they are already named but not registered, we ask that these names be added to VICNAMES/Vicmap without delay. This could potentially save lives.

Several local government authorities already have open space strategies for planning, design and management of their open spaces. We recommend councils consider such a strategy to also name and register each playground etc., which enables efficient emergency services because they are easily identified on a map – see diagram 2.

## Using commemorative names

### Principle (H) Using commemorative names

The *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016 (the naming rules)* is consistent with national

principles for place names, including the rule about a personal name only being applied posthumously; and, generally only a surname. Living people may change in community judgment and acceptance and the national principle states that ‘...for this reason they are not efficient or effective choices for official place names. Alternatives are to use commemorative plaques or naming a particular community facility such as a building that is not registered in VICNAMES, after the person to be commemorated.’.

There is provision under Principle (H) in the naming rules to apply for an exemption if a person is living; however, this will only be considered under exceptional circumstances.

A naming authority must make a formal request to the Registrar of Geographic Names (on letterhead) for the Registrar’s consideration. Appropriate justification and the necessary biographical details of the person must be provided, including (but not limited to) evidence of the person’s association to the area. A formal response with the Registrar’s decision will be provided.

## Anzac Commemorative Naming Project



The project concluded on 25 April 2018, at the end of the centenary commemoration period (2014–2018). The project has been a great success with 56 councils joining.

Hundreds of names with historical links to place were researched and many were added to lists (compendiums) of names reserved by councils, which are available for assignment to places and roads in Victoria.

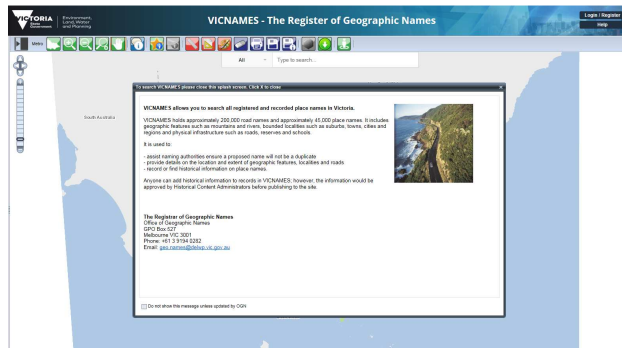
OGN recently contacted councils that supplied reports on their project’s progress and offered them additional funding. Funding was on a first come first serve basis and closed on 23 February 2018. The funding could be used for the following reasons:

- commemorative signage, plaques, street furniture, assets, (road blades, information road blades, interpretative feature signage, locality signage)
  - motif or logo sticker (additional signage displaying the Anzac motif – stickers can be affixed to road blades, feature and locality signage)
  - additional research of compliant names
  - community awards and engagement.
- duplicate radius values can be amended by OGN, for example if the radius is currently set to 15 km and councils can show that an area has changed to an urban area and should be a 5 km, duplicate radius will be considered by OGN on a case-by-case basis
  - historical information can now be bulk uploaded for any place or road name in VICNAMES:
    - OGN can provide a spreadsheet, which will need to be filled in to enable the bulk update of data
    - OGN welcomes the opportunity to work with municipal councils or historical societies that want to capture the data and upload it to VICNAMES.

Further information is available from the Project Manager, Rafe Benli, on (03) 9194 0281 or email your enquiry to [geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au)

## Geonames – system applications

### Enhancements to VICNAMES – Register of Geographic Names



VICNAMES, the online Register of Geographic Names, lists the official names of features, roads and localities, including the display of locality boundaries

Recent enhancements to the application include:

- new feature classification, aligned with the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) Feature Catalogue, which holds 420 geographic features – VICNAMES has migrated to the new feature catalogue
- elastic search functionality – a Google-type search function, which covers address, place and road names
- Public Land Management (PLM25) extents now viewable in VICNAMES – this enables OGN to link state park extents to names registered in VICNAMES

A [Guide to VICNAMES](#) provides assistance on using the application and is available at [www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/namingplaces](http://www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/namingplaces).

For more information, please contact OGN on (03) 919 40282 or by email at [geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au).

### Notification for Editing Service changes to Vicmap Editing Service

This year Land Use Victoria (LUV) aims to replace the Notification for Edit Service (NES) with a Vicmap Editing Service (VES). The business requirements for this system have been guided by users' feedback from NES stakeholders and a series of workshops conducted while investigating the design of VES. VES is expected to deliver more efficient workflows and will modernise our users' change request experience.

NES – the existing system – is accessed by up to 600 data users, maintainers and custodians throughout Victoria. It's a critical business system used by LUV to manage essential data maintenance workflows for Vicmap products and the registration of geographic names through change request (CR) processes. LUV acknowledges that NES has reached the end of its life and has potential maintenance risks.

More information will be communicated throughout 2018 as VES is tested and data maintenance workflows are transitioned from NES to VES.

## Road naming audits

### Audit of road names on plans of subdivision

Road names must comply with the principles and statutory requirements for road names in the *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016* (the naming rules). Essentially, road names need to:

- recognise and reflect culture, heritage and landscape, to add value to Victoria's identity
- ensure public safety with no name duplication within the prescribed radius
- provide unambiguous road extents
- use accurate road type descriptors to mitigate any potential risk of confusion for emergency, communication and essential services.

OGN audits road names on plans of subdivision. This program came into effect in 2011.

In 2017, 102 plans of subdivision were audited by OGN and 13 were found to have non-compliant road names – see the table below for further information. In 2017 the compliance rate increased to 87 per cent, compared to the previous year which had 67 per cent compliance.

OGN will audit an increased number of plans of subdivision this year, targeting councils one at a time.

The *Quick reference guide for land surveyors* is an excerpt from *the naming rules*. It is a practical guide for land surveyors and developers responsible for assigning names to Victoria's roads and can be found at [www.propertyandlandtitles/namingplaces](http://www.propertyandlandtitles/namingplaces).

Non-compliant reason	Number of cases identified
Identical duplication or phonetically similar sounding names	9
Extension of a legacy road name that is duplicated	2
Road type incorrect	1
Extent – multiple end points	1

For enquiries regarding the audit program, please contact Margaret Marangos, Audit Officer, on (03) 919 40282 or send an email to [geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au).

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