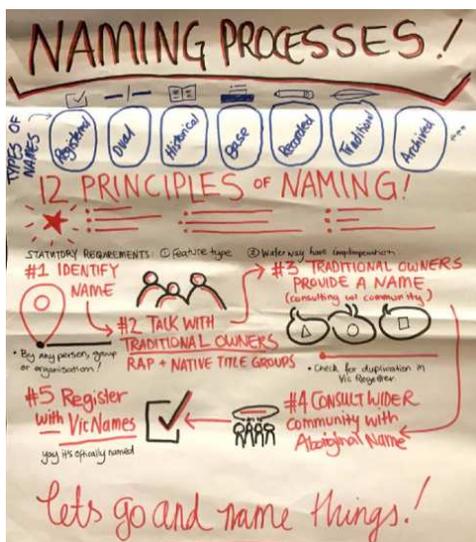# Geographic Names Victoria News

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2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) is working on a program to mark 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. Place naming using Indigenous languages presents an opportunity for further reconciliation and can help restore, support and promote indigenous languages across Victoria.

For further information visit 2019 International year of Indigenous Languages or contact Rafe Benli, Project Manager, on 919 40824 or via email at geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Aboriginal place names workshops

GNV continues its partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) and will deliver additional workshops in 2019. A workshop is planned for February in Shepparton in collaboration with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Details to be advised. To date GNV has run five workshops with more than 220 attendees, including 40 in Geelong (pictured). They included a welcome to country by Traditional Owners and two smoking ceremonies.

Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel

As previously advised the Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel (GPNAP) will be appointing new members in 2019. Advertising and interviews are expected to take place in February. Applicants' knowledge and/or experience in one or more of the following areas is highly regarded:

- mapping or geography
- urban and regional planning
- local government administration

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- Aboriginal culture and language

- heritage and history

- orthography or linguistics.

Expressions of interest for the GPNAP will be on the Get on Board website at getonboard.vic.gov.au. An email will be sent to relevant stakeholders in January when applications open.

VICNAMES – the Register of Geographic Names

GNV has been working on enhancements to VICNAMES, with most to be delivered in 2019. Highlights are:

- improved duplication search using the latest census data
- population of Vicmap IDs to assist with linking VICNAMES records to Vicmap extents
- amendment of VICNAMES terminology in line with Vicmap data and the Permanent Committee on Place Names Feature Catalogue
- addition of an Aboriginal flag for place and road records, with search function
- amendment to Vicmap Transport layer to enable display of gazette details within the VICNAMES road module.

Geographic Names Victoria – contact us

Geographic Names Victoria will release its new customer service portal 'Service Now' in the new year. It will manage incoming email enquiries through geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au.

When an email query is received, it will automatically generate an acknowledgement of receipt and be assigned a query reference number.

Responses to queries will be made through the portal and managed via a pre-determined workflow. The new system will provide a reporting mechanism to gauge the number of queries received, track the status of queries and record query type.

We believe there will be a seamless transition and look forward to a new and improved way of interacting with our customers. Key stakeholders and municipal officers will receive updates before the system is implemented.

In Principle Support for a place name via Vicmap Editing Service

Geographic Names Victoria will soon release it's new "in principle" support process through the Vicmap Editing Service (VES).

The current "in principle" support for a place name from the Registrar of Geographic Names form will be superseded with ability to raise a Change Request under the "in principle support" workflow in VES. The workflow will prompt the requester to respond to questions similar to those on the current form and will be reviewed by GNV at Officer level, followed by a final decision by the Registrar of Geographic Names. A response will be sent to the requester.

An updated communication will be provided when the new workflow is available in VES. The new Change Request will have similar functionality to other change requests, providing the ability to add attachments and comments.

Road types

Road names contain the road name element and a prescribed road type descriptor that describes the road's configuration. The road type must be selected from the list of acceptable road types provided in Appendix A in the *Naming rules for places in Victoria 2016*. There are four categories listed for road types:

- cul-de-sac

- either cul-de-sac or open-ended roads

- open-ended roads, and

- pedestrian only roads.

Geographic Names Victoria has often returned naming proposals to a naming authority because the road type is incorrect and needs to be revised. Furthermore, legacy road names that contain a road type that is not correct or no longer reflects the configuration of the road are flagged with naming authorities for amendment.

Road types in a road name have an important purpose in terms of navigation. Incorrect road types can create confusion and delay emergency service despatch to a location. We emphasise the importance of ensuring a complete road name, that is compliant.

Accessibility

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