



Geographic Names Newsletter

Issue 2, November 2012

Message from Registrar of Geographic Names



Since the inaugural Office of Geographic Names (OGN) newsletter in 2011 there have been significant developments in OGN administration arrangements, enhancements to geographic names operations and international geographic naming appointments.

In April 2012, after four productive years with OGN, Dr Laura Kostanski resigned and has become a geographic names consultant.

Highlights of Laura's time with OGN include the revamp and release of the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* and associated

supplementary documents, VICNAMES upgrade with detailed user notes, implementation of the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project and her significant contribution to the enhancements in the AS/NZS 4819:2011 Rural and urban addressing standard. I am confident that Laura will forge a successful career in the niche field of geographic naming.

The release of the addressing standards in November 2011 was the catalyst for the development of version 2 of the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010*, which also incorporates other modifications suggested by naming authorities.

In August 2012 OGN launched the *Quick reference guide for land surveyors – road naming* to facilitate the early adoption of the new standard's road naming principles by land surveyors, whose plans of subdivision are primary sources of new road names.

Enhancements have also recently been made to the VICNAMES application. Pages are now displayed much faster and the navigation menu has been simplified.

There have also been two international appointments worth noting. OGN has been fortunate to recruit Rafe Benli, who has

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Welcome Rafe Benli

successfully transitioned his UK geographic naming background into a project officer role. The Australian geographic naming community is also immensely proud of William Watt, a senior officer in the South Australia Government, for his election as Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN).

I am sure that you will find many items of interest in the following articles.

John E Tulloch

Registrar of Geographic Names

AS/NZS 4819:2011 Rural and urban addressing standard

On 18 November 2011, the revised standard AS/NZS4819:2011 Rural and urban addressing was launched through Standards Australia at www.saiglobal.com.

Significant revisions include Section 4: Road Definition and Naming; Section 5: Address Number Assignment including complex sites; and Appendix A: Road types for open-ended streets and culs-de-sac.

Addressing authorities, particularly municipal councils, should now apply this standard for property addressing. For queries related to the application of the latest standards please contact the Office of Geographic Names on 8636 2851; or, alternatively, contact Information Services Branch at DSE at vicmap.help@dse.vic.gov.au.

Guidelines version 2

With the release of AS/NZS 4819:2011 OGN has sought to update the current *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* and include revised CGNA naming practices.

Updates to the guidelines include (but are not limited to):

- updated web links
- expanded information on Principle 1(A) Language
- expanded information on Principle 1(M) Consulting with the public
- practical information on signage
- what not to do when assigning locality boundaries
- guidance for naming new estates and road types
- a number of minor amendments throughout the guidelines.

In accordance with *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*, OGN is seeking Ministerial approval of version 2 of the 2010 guidelines.

When that is received, naming authorities will be notified about when version 2 will come into effect.

For any queries concerning version 2, contact Rafe Benli, Project Officer on 8636 2851 or email geo.names@dse.vic.gov.au.

Committee for Geographic Names in Australasia (CGNA)



The annual CGNA conference held in Brisbane in September 2012 attracted members from across Australia's states and territories as well as New Zealand.

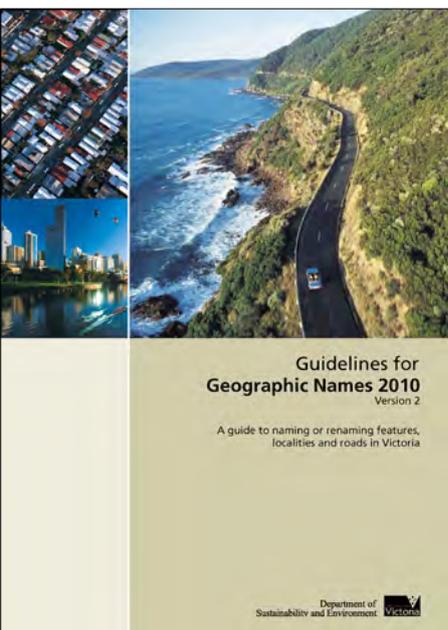
The three-day conference included discussions about CGNA's strategic plan, standardising feature codes, points of interest codes and future collaborative work. Rafe Benli provided an update on Victorian operations, which featured the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project.

Members of CGNA also attended and presented at the two week UNGEGN (United Nation Group of Experts on Geographical Names) meeting in July 2012 in New York. The group was able to share ideas and learn from other countries. Australia was seen as leading the way with consistent place naming and the adoption of Indigenous names.

A highlight for Australia was the election of its representative and CGNA Chair, William Watt from the South Australia Government, as Chair of UNGEGN for a five-year term.

Victoria, with its well defined naming process and comprehensive guidelines is at the forefront of clear and logical naming. All Victorian naming authorities are encouraged to keep up the good work.

If you require further information about CGNA or Victoria's involvement please contact Rafe Benli, Project Officer on (03) 8636 2851.



Green spaces given a history



Councillor Rodney Wangman

What do Elfy Quick, Eric Sumsion and Wiggy Jackson have in common?

They have parks in Wodonga named after them.

A total of 87 green spaces in Wodonga have been named or renamed by Wodonga City Council and its Place Names Committee to honour both historic and current figures from Wodonga.

The people range from politicians to school teachers, nurses, business owners, former mayors and a Knight of St John.

Wiggy Jackson Park, for example, immortalises the hard-working Wiggy Jackson. He was the subject of the folk song *Jackson's on the Road to Omeo* because he drove and operated road making equipment for the Victorian Country Roads Board in the 1920s.

Settling in Wodonga in the 1940s, he established Jackson's Earthmoving and Concrete Recyclers, which is still operated by his grandsons.

Elfy Quick Park pays tribute to Elfy Quick, who was a life member of Wodonga Golf Club. In recognition of her tireless work, she was given the honour of being the first female club member to tee off at the opening of the golf course situated on Parkers Rd.

Sumsion Gardens recognises retired bootmaker, Eric Sumsion. After retirement, in 1956 he became a gardener and curator with Wodonga Shire. Mr Sumsion created a garden in 1957 (part of Belvoir Park) with the dream of creating a recreational facility for the community.

Wodonga Cr Rodney Wangman said the project began as a suggestion in 2007 at a Place Names Committee meeting.

'The city had many reserves without addresses or location markers to help council's outdoor staff with mowing and maintenance,' he said.

'We were also concerned about pinpointing exact locations in cases of emergency.

'With this in mind, we began the project to better identify the location and name the park after a person who made a significant contribution to Wodonga.'

Cr Wangman said selecting the names was a big responsibility and a public consultation process was undertaken.

'Consultation with the community, and in particular the historical society, was undertaken to determine names to be used and where to place them,' he said.

'A letter was then sent to the family or next of kin to request approval for the green space to be named after them.

'After a formal advertising period, any objections were heard or responded to and names were endorsed at a council meeting.'

Cr Wangman thanked community representatives of the Place Names Committee and the Wodonga Historical Society for help in researching names, and OGN for its support of such a large project.

Wodonga City Council continues to roll out the park signs in accordance with the signage strategy and is pleased with the community's positive feedback on the signage history now displayed at each park location. Due to the high number of signs required, a budget has been allocated for this in the council's long-term financial planning.

Anzac Commemorative Naming Project



In December 2011 the Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel formally endorsed the work done by the five pilot municipal councils to choose and assign place names that recognise local people who represented Australia in wars. The councils are Hindmarsh, Geelong, Ballarat, Melton and South Gippsland.

The work of these councils set a standard for how councils may undertake work in the future to choose and assign appropriate names.

The project has revealed keen interest from members of the public, historical societies and councils wanting to take up the challenge and ensure service men's and women's work and bravery are honoured in their municipality and across Victoria.

Proposed names have been sent to the OGN for approval via the online notification and editing system (NES) and used in localities across the five pilot municipalities. One such new locality created in Ballarat is called Lucas and the road signage is being installed.

Following meetings with representatives from the National Anzac Centenary Advisory Board, OGN was asked to present to working groups in Canberra. The final project plan was finished by OGN in April 2012 and OGN staff and the Anzac Commemorative Naming Committee Chair Dr Ingo Kumic visited Canberra and presented to the Education and Curriculum working group and the Military and Cultural History working group. The project was received well and these meetings have provided future direction for the project.

The next steps involve seeking funding from both state and federal sources.

OGN will have further information on the project's progress in future editions, but if councils require further information or wish to be involved in the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project, please contact OGN on (03) 8636 2851 or by email geo.names@dse.vic.gov.au.

Registration of private roads in VICNAMES



Registering private roads is paramount to public safety and for identifying them for emergency response and other service providers.

There is provision under Section 4.5 Private roads located on private property in the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* for private roads to be registered in the Register of Geographic Names, VICNAMES, and displayed on Vicmap. These roads are typically found in caravan parks, retirement villages, universities or closed-gate communities; or, can also exist independently.

Since the launch of the guidelines, DSE has worked progressively with naming authorities to add private road names to VICNAMES. This enables their inclusion in Vicmap and ultimately emergency service dispatch applications, with prime focus on retirement villages, shopping centres and universities.

Council staff have also proactively identified private roads within their municipalities and worked with owners to facilitate their inclusion in VICNAMES. Consequently, there has been an increase in property addresses that are assigned to private roads.

How to register a private road name with OGN

If you are a private owner or developer and uncertain about how to register a private road name in VICNAMES and Vicmap, the first step is to consult with the relevant municipality.

The municipality should check that the name complies with the guidelines and then lodge the road name through the Notification and Editing Service (NES) and include a map showing the complete extent (start and end points) of the road.

When to display signage

Signage should be placed after the road name is registered in VICNAMES (Vicmap); however, in the case of a new subdivision, note the requirement under the guidelines to erect a sign within 30 days of infrastructure work commencing at the site (this is to ensure that emergency services can respond to any incidents that might arise in the area during the construction phase).

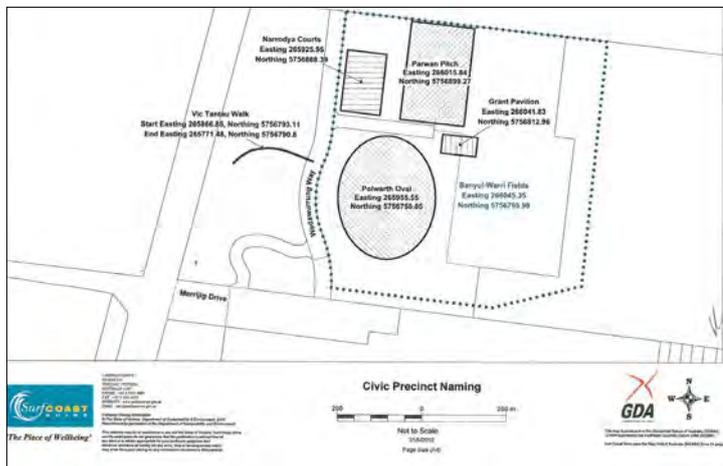
Also, as indicated in Section 4.5 in the guidelines, signage for private roads should include reference to the fact that they are private roads.

Does the private road name need to comply with the guidelines?

The names of private roads must comply with the guidelines to ensure consistency on a national scale.

Applying the guidelines to a privately named road ensures public safety requirements are met. It also reduces duplication and phonetically similar sounding names within close proximity and contributes overall to meaningful road names that add value to Victoria's culture, heritage and landscape.

Recent place naming proposals



Following are a number of recent place naming proposals listed on the proposal webpage under features.

Naming a civic centre

Surf Coast Shire Council recently named stage one of its new community and civic precinct and various facilities within it. The name adopted for the civic precinct is Banyul-Warri Fields, which in Wadawurrung language means Hills and Sea.

The following features were named at the same time as Banyul-Warri Fields:

- Parwan Pitch – Indigenous word meaning magpie
- Grant Pavilion – name of the original county for the area
- Polwarth Oval – named after a county within the Surf Coast municipality
- Narrody Courts – the name consists of two indigenous words ‘narro’ means female or girl and ‘dya’ means ground or place
- Vic Tantau Walk – named in honour of Vic Tantau, one of the first surfers to surf Bells Beach and awarded a number of national and state life saving titles.

Using a locality name in a feature name

Greater Dandenong City Council named the new aquatic centre at 9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park, Noble Park Aquatic Centre.

VicRoads recently named a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the Maroondah Highway (EastLink) the Ringwood Gateway Bridge.

Neighbourhood Safer Places



On 11 October 2012, OGN gazetted and registered approximately 242 Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) as new feature names in VICNAMES, under a set of agreed naming guidelines developed in conjunction with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for this project.

NSPs are places of last resort when all other bushfire plans have failed. They are designated community areas that may provide some protection from radiant heat, the biggest killer during a bushfire. NSPs are not purpose-built fire-proof structures; they are public spaces or buildings such as recreational reserves, car parks, shopping strips and community halls.

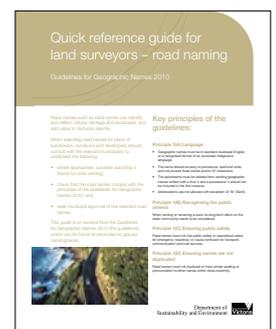
NSPs are identified by their green and white signs, ‘Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Place – A Place of Last Resort’. Not all localities have a NSP.

For further details regarding this feature or to search where NSPs are situated within a municipality see www.saferplaces.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Quick reference guide for land surveyors – road naming

To facilitate an increase in land surveyors’ awareness of road naming principles, particularly those related to the duplication of road names and the allocation of appropriate road types, a quick reference guide has recently been published.

The guide, which is an excerpt from the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010*, version 2, lists the key principles in Section 1: Purpose and Principles and Section 4: Roads. It can be downloaded from www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces.



Welcome to Rafe Benli



I am really excited to join the Office of Geographic Names as Project Officer.

I have received a warm welcome from colleagues and committee members alike and, for anyone whom I haven't had a chance to catch up with yet, I will briefly introduce myself here.

I recently moved to Australia from England, having been tempted over to this great country by my wife, who is from Melbourne.

I don't bring a lot of zeal about cricket or tea, but I do bring a lot of

international experience in mapping and managing assets.

In my last role in England I worked for one of the councils in west London (Hammersmith and Fulham, for anyone who knows the area).

My role was to manage the council's street naming and numbering process, from conception of the name through to recording the full address into council and national databases (called a gazetteer).

As well as managing Hammersmith's gazetteer, I was active in a number of committees and projects, helping create policy and improve data standards across the country.

At a national level, I was deputy chair for England and Wales, representing 348 councils on national addressing projects. And to make sure I stayed abreast of local issues, I accepted the position of chair for London, representing the 33 London councils on more local issues.

Having studied geographical information systems at university and later chairing meetings between emergency services and local government at the highest level, I have gained considerable experience and enthusiasm for ensuring integrity and efficient use of our addressing data.

I think it's a very exciting time to be a part of the Office of Geographic Names, and look forward to making a greater contribution in the weeks and months to come.

I am most sincere when I say, if you have any questions, please get in touch, on (03) 8636 2851.

Contact the Office of Geographic Names

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