

# Geographic Names News

Issue 3, August 2013

## Message from Registrar of Geographic Names



**Welcome to the first Office of Geographic Names (OGN) newsletter since we became part of the new Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) in July.**

This newsletter highlights the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project, following its launch in April

by Hugh Delahunty, Minister for Veterans Affairs. Victorian Government funding was also announced at that time.

While most funds are earmarked for council grants to facilitate research into ANZAC commemorative names, an allowance was made to upgrade VICNAMES functionality to record the history of road names.

To promote the naming project to key stakeholders, OGN hosted an information booth at the recent annual state conference of the Victorian Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL). Further promotion through statewide information sessions is now underway.

Given that municipal councils are the main naming authorities in Victoria, OGN has assisted council naming procedures through enhancements to VICNAMES and the Notification for Editing Service (NES), particularly for the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project.

While it is anticipated that ANZAC-related names will emerge from research by historical organisations, there is scope for a member of the public to submit a family name to their council for recognition (in accordance with the relevant sections of the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2*).

Because street names are frequently used for commemorative purposes, I commend the City of Yarra for its initiative to include on special street signs brief details about the person whose surname is the street name.

Consultation is an integral part of a council's interaction with its community in relation to naming proposals – I expect the new step-by-step guide in the latest version of

the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2* will be well received.

Another important inclusion is the ability to reserve locality names. Because a locality name is a fundamental component of an address, the Committee for Geographic Names of Australasia (CGNA) has identified the need to strive for unique address allocation across Australia.

The auditing of road names on plans of subdivision also targets compliant addressing and it is expected that compliance will improve as awareness grows about the need to assign appropriate road types.

In conclusion and in recognition of the iconic nature of the ANZAC spirit, I encourage all readers to consider becoming involved in the Anzac Commemorative Naming Project in honour of the centenary of the Gallipoli landings in 2015.

**John E Tulloch**

Registrar of Geographic Names

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## ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project launched

The ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project recognises the 100 year anniversary of the first ANZAC landings at Gallipoli in 1915. It was launched by Hugh Delahunty, Minister for Veterans Affairs, on 17 April 2013. OGN then announced the project to executive officers at municipal councils and other stakeholders.

The project will commemorate a century of ANZAC tradition by acknowledging the men and women who served in an operational capacity in the Australian and New Zealand defence forces, or those in the community who contributed to the ANZAC spirit. They will be recognised by naming roads, geographic features and localities in their honour.

Grants will be provided to municipal councils to support research by local groups such as historical societies, Returned and Services League (RSL) clubs or schools. These local groups are also receiving information about the project and scope for their involvement. The names proposed by these groups will then be assessed by councils and proposed as part of a usual naming process.

Recent enhancements to the historical information module in VICNAMES, Victoria's official register of geographic names, enables information on successful proposals and existing ANZAC names to be recorded for future generations.

The project will raise Victorians' awareness of the sacrifice of our veterans and communities and leave a lasting legacy.

Information sessions have already been held in Melbourne and some regional centres, and others are shown below. RSVP is essential via email to [geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au).

**Note: All sessions are 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm**

### Traralgon

Wednesday 14 August

Latrobe Room, Traralgon Service Centre, Library, 34-38 Kay Street

### Ballarat

Tuesday 27 August

Trench Room, Town Hall, 225 Sturt Street (corner Armstrong Street South)

### Geelong

Tuesday 29 October

City Hall, corner Gheringhap and Little Malop Streets

The information sessions are intended to encourage councils to sign up to the project. Representatives of historical societies, RSLs, veterans units, volunteers groups and schools are also invited.

For further information, contact:

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## RSL annual state conference

Rafe Benli, OGN project officer, recently promoted the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project to delegates at the annual state conference of the Victorian branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL).

The conference at Caulfield Racecourse was attended by more than 500 delegates, including Premier Denis Napthine, whose speech highlighted the State Government's backing of the project.

RSL sub-branches are key stakeholders and will work with communities across Victoria, providing support to identify commemorative names. The research behind the names will form proposals that councils will compile and check for compliance to the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2*. Once names are approved, community representatives and councils will be able to add historical information to VICNAMES, the register of geographic names.



## Slater Square named



Places Victoria recently named a Geelong park Slater Square in honour of Joe Slater, former Geelong Football Club player and ANZAC veteran.

Joe Slater enlisted in the Australian forces during World War 1, departing Australia in May 1915 as a 1st Lieutenant. After two years of frontline service with the 24th Battalion at Gallipoli and in France, he died on 3 May 1917 at Bullecourt,

aged 27. He has no known grave but is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial for fallen Australians at Somme in France.

Slater Square at 14-16 Faggs Place was gazetted in the *Victoria Government Gazette* on 4 April 2013.

Places Victoria, the naming authority, is the Victorian Government's Urban Renewal Authority, responsible for delivering a range of major projects across metropolitan and regional Victoria. The authority transforms complex or underutilised land into quality new homes, workplaces and community spaces.

OGN looks forward to working with Places Victoria on future place naming assignments.

## VICNAMES and road name origins

The historical information component of VICNAMES enables the public to access and contribute information on the origins of Victorian place names. Historical information on road names can now also be recorded.

Further improvements include:

- the ability to search for ANZAC-related names
- the ability to download the origins and histories of road names
- enhancements to the online form – Historical Information

- a new creative commons licence agreement for use of the data.

These enhancements are part of the [ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project](#), which will see roads, geographic features and localities being named across Victoria. Naming authorities are encouraged, where possible, to include road names' historical information in VICNAMES.

For further details see the VICNAMES user note at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces).

## Commemorative signage and checklist

Yarra City Council is ensuring compliant and informative road names with its road signs.

To comply with Principle 1(H) Using commemorative names in the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2*, only a surname is used on road signs, with brief details of the person commemorated. This ensures unambiguous road naming without the complication of more than one word in a road name.

This is a great initiative and all naming authorities are encouraged to do the same.

If a municipality is using this method or has other methods of displaying commemorative street signage, please get in touch and let us know. Email [geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au).

OGN provides a checklist to help naming authorities decide whether to accept or pursue a request from the public to commemorate someone. The checklist can be found at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces).



## Notification for Editing Service

To lodge naming proposals to OGN and to update and maintain VICNAMES – the register of geographic names – and Vicmap (the State Government's framework spatial datasets), naming authorities should use the Notification for Editing Service (NES).

NES supports the state's spatial vision: 'to support government delivery on outcomes by providing ubiquitous access to authoritative location-based services across businesses for users of all levels of expertise'.

Naming proposals received by OGN may involve registration of new government or private road names, new feature names, locality boundary amendments, incorrectly named roads in Vicmap and VICNAMES (register of geographic names) and roads that are being renamed.

NES is a change notification system that updates naming authorities about the status of a change request, for example, when a proposed name is gazetted in the *Victoria Government Gazette* and when the name is registered in VICNAMES and Vicmap.

New categories have been included to enable naming authorities to lodge geographic features, roads and locality names as part of the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project. The workflow for these change requests will remain the same as existing categories.

Support is provided for NES users and guides for its use are available at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces).

For assistance with NES, please contact:

Mark O'Brien  
NES Administrator  
Department of Environment and Primary Industries  
T: 8636 2356  
E: [mark.obrien@depi.vic.gov.au](mailto:mark.obrien@depi.vic.gov.au)

## Principle 1 (M) Consulting with the public

Place naming is a devolved process where naming authorities engage with the community to select names and obtain support for selected names.

The level and form of consultation can vary depending on the naming proposal. The naming authority is best placed to determine who should be consulted within the immediate and extended communities.

The *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2* stipulates that if a new name will potentially affect addresses (in the case of a new road name), then the immediate community – property owners – should be consulted. If addresses are not affected then, as a minimum, community consultation should be in the form of an advertisement in the local newspaper.

The *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2* now include a step-by-step guide to the consultation process. These steps are as follows:

- Step 1 Prepare a naming proposal
- Step 2 Develop a consultation strategy
- Step 3 Determine who should be consulted
- Step 4 Build awareness of the proposal and invite feedback
- Step 5 Analyse feedback from the community

In addition, *Consulting with the wider community* – a document that details how to approach consultation for various types of naming proposals – is available at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces).

### Surveys

The revised *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2* now includes more detail about the survey or questionnaire process. Surveys are recommended when consulting with the immediate community because they represent a fair and equitable system of canvassing the community.



## Reserving locality names

A new principle was included in the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2: Principle 3(G) Locality names unique to Australia*.

This principle was endorsed by the Committee for Geographic Names of Australasia (CGNA) as one of its key principles that govern naming across Australia – to strive for unique address allocation.

The new principle enables locality names to be reserved and lodged with OGN, who will record the name(s) online in a secure web-based application. This application is

OGN is often questioned about the process, and when to state that the non-return of surveys will be treated as tacit approval for the proposal.

Tacit approval should only be used when the naming authority is seeking responses from the community for one proposed name. It should not be used if the survey or questionnaire contains multiple proposed names. If there are multiple names in a survey, the naming authority should issue two surveys. The first survey should seek responses from the community about their preferred name.

If a preferred name can be determined from the first survey's result, the community should then be surveyed a second time about the preferred name, stating that non-return of a survey will be treated as tacit approval for the preferred name.

### Notification of a final name

If a survey or questionnaire was used to consult with the immediate community, then the community must be notified of the final determined name. The letter must confirm that the chosen name will be lodged with OGN and that an appeal can be lodged with OGN.

### Competitions

Competitions are an effective way to involve the community and source interesting names.

They can be advertised using the Internet and local newspapers. The competition advertisement should refer to the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2* and mention that the chosen name needs to comply with the guidelines' key principles, for example, ensuring no duplication within close proximity and no discriminatory names.

only accessible by other state and territory locality name administrators, who can check locality names that have been reserved.

Locality names must not be similar in spelling or sound to any other locality name in Australia under the new principle.

## Road names on plans of subdivision

Under Section 4.4 Roads located in residential or commercial subdivisions in the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2, OGN conducts random audits of road names on plans of subdivision.

To date, of 85 plans of subdivision audited, 73 per cent comply with the guidelines. Those that do not comply are mainly due to incorrect road types being assigned, for example, a cul-de-sac road type being assigned to an open-ended road, or road names within close proximity duplicated.

OGN reports all findings to the licensed surveyor who prepared the plan and the council subdivision officer, outlining the principles in the guidelines that are applicable together with any recommendations.

For enquiries about the audit program, contact:

Margaret Marangos  
T: 8636 2525  
E: [geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au)



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## Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure

Land Victoria and OGN are now part of the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI), with the responsible Minister being the Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy.

While this is an exciting transition, we expect the day-to-day activities of OGN will see little change.

Please note that emails sent to the old Department of Sustainability and Environment email address

([@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:@dse.vic.gov.au)) will be automatically redirected to the new DTPLI email address ([@dtpli.vic.gov.au](mailto:@dtpli.vic.gov.au)). The new OGN email address is [geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@dtpli.vic.gov.au).

For the meantime, our Internet address remains [www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces).

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