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We have a new name

We recently updated our name to improve recognition of who we are, what we do and where we do it. This is our first newsletter under the new name, Geographic Names Victoria.

Our language matters

Geographic Names Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) recently held Aboriginal naming workshops in Hamilton, Bendigo, Traralgon and Healesville. There were more than 160 participants that included surveyors and people representing Traditional Owners, Registered Aboriginal Parties, Native Title holders, municipal councils, State Government departments and authorities, catchment management authorities and Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel.

The workshops included a welcome to country by Traditional Owners and two smoking ceremonies.

Participants gained an understanding of the role of Traditional Owners, Registered Aboriginal Parties and Native Title holders, and heard from the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council. Geographic Names Victoria staff provided an overview of the relevant sections of the *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2016* (the naming rules) and answered numerous questions on process and procedure.



Participants were also emailed a 'conversation tracker', which captured presentations, questions and answers.

Particularly noteworthy outcomes from the workshops include agreement to:

- name one road, feature or locality in Aboriginal language by National Reconciliation week 2019
- add naming to naming authorities' Reconciliation Action Plan
- encourage naming authorities request from Traditional Owners a list of:
 - offensive names
 - generic use names
 - important sites that could be assigned an Aboriginal language.

Two additional workshops are planned for Shepparton and Geelong. Details will be emailed to relevant naming authorities.

Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel



The Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel (GPNAP) provides expert advice and recommendations to the Registrar of Geographic Names on geographic place names policy and principles; and, place naming issues of regional, state and national significance. GPNAP terms last four years and members can be reappointed.

Six GPNAP terms are expiring in coming months. Anyone can apply to be a panel member and advertisements are expected to run in December 2018, with interviews in the new year. Panel members are appointed by the Minister for Planning under s.14(1) of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.

GPNAP meetings are held as needed and committees are created based on members' skills and interests – e.g. localities, waterways, the naming rules or Indigenous names.

GPNAP members' 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
- Aboriginal culture and language
- heritage and history
- orthography or linguistics.

Expressions of interest for the GPNAP will be on [Get On Board](http://getonboard.vic.gov.au) at getonboard.vic.gov.au. An email will be sent to relevant stakeholders in December when applications open.

Anzac Commemorative Naming Project concludes



A total of 57 councils participated in the Anzac Commemorative Naming Project. Each participating council was typically granted \$1,000 to help local communities, historical societies and veterans' associations research veterans' names and histories. Other uses of the grants included:

- creating compendiums of names
- providing prizes to school students for best researched name
- hosting workshops
- signage.

The exact number of places that received Anzac-related names is difficult to quantify because most were added to plans of subdivision. However; the following statistics are available:

- almost 5000 veteran names were identified for commemoration
- fifty-six roads and features are now named and given better Anzac recognition
- more than 100 roads, four features and one locality named
- twenty-one features have Anzac-related historical information in VICNAMES
- one hundred and twelve roads have Anzac-related historical information in VICNAMES.

When roads, features and localities are named it's possible to record the history behind the name in VICNAMES, the Register of Geographic Names. It is pleasing to see this happening.

For further information please email geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au.

New Melbourne rail stations named



In August the Premier invited Victorians to suggest names for the five new Melbourne railway stations.

There was a huge response, with more than 50,000 suggestions over eight weeks. The approximate number of suggestions per station were:

- North Melbourne: 9000
- Parkville: 10,800
- State Library: 11,000
- Town Hall: 10,000
- Anzac: 9700.

An advisory panel representing diverse views assessed the suggestions and compiled a shortlist of names for the Victorian Government to consider. The names that government chose were among the most popular suggestions for each station and all names met the naming rules.

Geographic Names Victoria then received back a shortlist of names to review and advice was provided to Rail Projects Victoria. The final decision on the new names was made by the State Government.

The new station names and further information can be found at metro.tunnel.vic.gov.au/stations/station-names.

Complex sites



The complex site addressing program aims to provide unique identification (i.e. an address) for each sub-address within large or complex sites such as retirement villages, universities, shopping centres, camping sites, sporting facilities, tourist venues, and caravan and residential parks.

The results are an improved property addressing system in Victoria, more efficient and effective delivery of emergency and postal services, and better support to a range of government activities.

The program seeks to improve the addressing system by defining the processes for capture, storage, maintenance, geocoding, access and distribution of Victorian address data from Vicmap (the state's authoritative spatial data suite).

Councils should work with the management of large and complex sites to achieve these outcomes. For example, a retirement village could have 300 individual buildings within it and each road might already be named and each building already numbered; however, the site and its residents are only known by a single address, e.g. 81 Gallagher Street. Similarly, a stacked approach in terms of addressing can create confusion and should be avoided.

Further information on the Victorian complex site addressing program is at www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/namingplaces.

Right of way

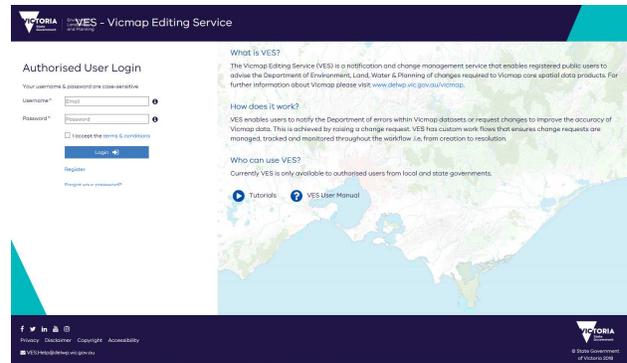
A right of way is a type of easement that allows a person to pass through another person's land. Typically, a right of way easement offers access to another person's property so that it benefits a person or another parcel of land.

If a council wishes to name a right of way, the naming proposal must indicate whether the land is a road within the meaning of the *Road Management Act 2004*. If this is the case, Geographic Names Victoria can assume the road is vested with the council and the council is the equitable owner.

If the council wishes to become the registered proprietor of the road, it may consider lodging an application with Land Use Victoria under Section 59(1) of the *Transfer of Land Act 1958*.



Vicmap Editing Service



The Vicmap Editing Service (VES) is used by naming authorities to lodge and submit naming proposals to update place names and maps in VICNAMES and Vicmap.

Geographic Names Victoria introduced the same workflow for all place naming proposals, including features, roads and localities. Naming authorities should comply with Section 10, Lodging a Naming Proposal under the *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2016* and include the relevant documentation and evidence of consultation to the VES change request e.g. a copy of council minutes or evidence of consultation with the community.

Requests for 'in principle' support will soon be managed through a VES workflow. Naming authorities will be advised when this becomes available.

The VES user manual can also now be downloaded from the VES dashboard.

For enquiries on lodging a naming proposal through VES, please call Geographic Names Victoria on (03) 919 40282 or email geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Spatial data roadshows



Geographic Names Victoria participated in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's core spatial data services roadshows across the state. The roadshows provided information about plans and developments in a range of spatial data and surveying services.

You can view the presentations [here](https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/maps/news) at <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/maps/news>

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