

# Geographic Names News

Issue 4, August 2014

## Message from Registrar of Geographic Names



### Welcome to the fourth edition of the Office of Geographic Names (OGN) newsletter.

The Anzac Commemorative Naming Project, which has been a major focus of OGN for the past four years, is making promising progress. With the centenary of the Gallipoli

landing less than a year away, I compliment the municipalities that have embraced the project and received grants to assist research into identifying local people deserving of commemoration. I encourage municipalities yet to come on board to do so, given the recognised benefits of assigning modern infrastructure names that commemorate their community's heritage.

Although not widely known by the public, the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (the Act) enables the responsible Minister to appoint an Advisory Panel to advise and assist the Registrar on a range of naming matters. It was pleasing to note the strong field of applicants for the four year membership term starting this August and I look forward to their contribution to the committees' work.

Other articles in this newsletter have a strong focus on the naming of geographic features and roads, the most significant being OGN's investment in improving the functionality and mapping component of VICNAMES.

Underlying our work is the importance of officially naming community facilities and infrastructure to ensure their location will be known to emergency services if there is a public safety incident.

The related social benefit of commemorative naming of sporting ovals and pavilions provides the opportunity to preserve for posterity worthy individuals' contribution to their communities.

I trust that naming authorities and OGN stakeholders find this newsletter informative and useful in ensuring that geographic naming is appropriately administered, particularly with new Victorian localities developing at a remarkable rate.

**John E Tulloch**  
Registrar of Geographic Names

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## Anzac Commemorative Naming Project update

From the government funding arranged through the Veterans' Affairs Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, 40 of Victoria's 79 municipal councils have received grants to assist with commemorative naming research. Twenty three are unable to participate in the project, 11 are yet to finalise their applications and the five pilot councils have recently been offered the opportunity to access the funding.

OGN continues to promote the project to a range of stakeholders and is pleased that the number of councils participating has steadily increased. Strong interest from local community groups may oblige more municipalities to participate.

OGN's Rafe Benli (right) recently presented at the Victorian Anzac Centenary seminar. Hosted by the Veterans' Affairs Branch and led by the Hon Ted Baillieu, the seminar gave insights into what Victoria has planned for the centenary, including the various funding options available.

The Victorian Government's logo has been approved for council use on street and feature signage in commemoration of WWI veterans. While the focus is on the WWI centenary, this project recognises all wars and peacekeeping initiatives, as well as people who have displayed the Anzac spirit. Advice will be provided in the future about logo usage for post WW1 commemorative initiatives.

With the project extending to the end of the Anzac centenary period in 2018, there is the opportunity to name features and roads as a lasting legacy for all Victorians.

While the deadline for grants was 30 April 2014, councils still interested in applying should contact OGN as soon as possible.

The project is being promoted at [www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au](http://www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au) and at [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/ANZAC-namingproject](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/ANZAC-namingproject)



## VICNAMES upgrade

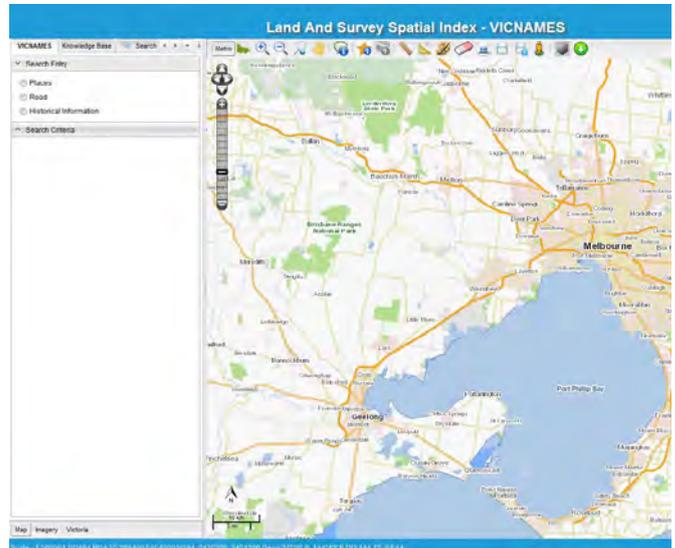
The VICNAMES website is getting a makeover to improve functionality.

VICNAMES enables councils and members of the public to search Victorian place and road names, conduct duplication checks and add history to place and road names.

The upgrade, much like the redevelopment of the Land Victoria LASSI mapping system, will include live editing tools, polygon selection and street view. There will also be links to Vicmap's Features of Interest dataset that provide a fuller picture of Victoria's place assets and will assist when conducting duplication checks.

There will be enhanced feature and road searching for both standard and duplication searches, improved administrator functions, improved display of results, more functionality to download the VICNAMES data, with the look and feel of a spatial database.

When the upgrade is nearing completion, user notes and metropolitan and regional training sessions will be offered.



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## Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel

The panel currently has 20 members, with half their terms expiring in August 2014. Recent advertisements in the *Age* and elsewhere have seen a number of applications to OGN. A decision is expected soon regarding successful applicants. Panel members contribute to the work of one or more committees, each with defined terms of reference. There are currently three ongoing committees: the Anzac Commemorative Naming Committee, Historical Information Committee and Indigenous Names Committee.

The Anzac Commemorative Naming Committee focuses on the Anzac Commemorative Naming Project, which began in 2010, ran a pilot project with five councils in 2011, secured funding through the Veterans' Affairs Branch in February 2013 and was officially launched in April 2013. The committee provides advice and direction for the project and contains not only members from the panel, but also people invited to sit on the committee including volunteers and officers from the Royal Historical Society Victoria, Public Record Office Victoria, Veterans' Affairs Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victorian Veterans Council and Urban Development Institute of Australia - Victorian Branch.

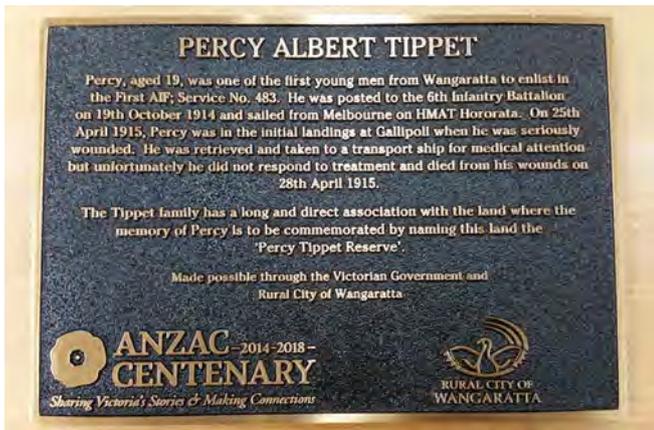
The Historical Information Committee provides guidance and advice on recording historical information in the VICNAMES register. Members help

catalogue information in OGN archives and provide advice and insight into historical information. They also provide advice and approve historical entries under the historical content administrators' program.

The Indigenous Names Committee has as a term of reference: 'the ongoing de-registration of inappropriate names in Victoria'. The committee also looks to increase the number of traditional names in VICNAMES by engaging with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP), the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and other organisations. A discussion is currently underway about who is the naming authority for Victorian waterways. This issue may mean a new committee is formed as its implications are significant.

The Act provides for the responsible Minister to direct the Registrar to convene a committee on a placename related topic. The Registrar may also convene a committee for that purpose. If a municipality is unable to make a decision relating to the naming of a place, it may request the Registrar to convene a committee. The Registrar will consider the request and may convene a committee if there is justification. Often if the matter is of greater than local significance, it is better to form a committee to provide expert advice to the Registrar and/or the Minister.

## Linking name to place



Principle 1(G) Linking the name to the place stipulates that place names should be relevant to the local area, with preference given to unofficial names used by the local community. Unofficial names are preferred due to their familiarity within an area. Infrastructure features such as swimming pools, parks, schools etc. should use the name of the locality and not the estate or other unsuitable names.

OGN receives many proposals to register local names that are unofficially used locally for features, roads and localities. OGN encourages naming authorities to apply Principle 1(G) to naming applications and,

## Addressing enquiries

OGN continues to provide advice on addressing. Section 4 Roads, Principle 4(C) Addresses and Numbering covers the topic and amalgamates information available in the standard, AS/NZS 4819:2011 Rural and urban addressing. All Australian states and territories have agreed that the standard provides best practice and is endorsed by emergency services. The standard should be adopted by councils as the rule for addressing in urban and rural contexts.

You will have seen the OGN recently presenting at SPEAR User Group meetings on addressing examples.

If a council has an address-related query, it should first contact the Vicmap help desk at [vicmap.help@depi.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicmap.help@depi.vic.gov.au). Address queries may also be sent to OGN.

where possible, seek to register an unofficial name if it meets the guidelines' key principles.

Local historical societies can assist naming authorities to identify names with some sense of connection to the local area. This could include names related to:

- Indigenous culture and occupation of the land
- local flora and fauna
- European exploration and settlement
- local geography and geology
- significant events
- cultural diversity of past and current inhabitants, or patterns of land usage and industrial/mineral/ agricultural production.

Naming authorities and developers should work with local historical societies to select names of local significance.

Some municipalities maintain a pool of names sourced from the community. This is an excellent resource for future naming of roads, localities or features.

## Vicmap sessions

The OGN will be presenting at two Vicmap sessions this month for council GIS, and property and rating staff.

**Bendigo** Friday 15 August

**Morwell** Friday 22 August

For further information or to register, please email [vicmap.help@depi.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicmap.help@depi.vic.gov.au).

## Naming sporting ovals and pavilions

Since the launch of the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010*, the Office of Geographic Names has received many naming proposals for sporting ovals and pavilions in recreation reserves. Most of the names assigned have been commemorative and use both the first name and surname of the person being commemorated. This is acceptable as sporting ovals and pavilions are considered to be geographic features. Municipalities should consider naming ovals and pavilions after local figures worthy of commemoration due to their exceptional contribution to the community or sporting clubs. If commemorating a person who is still alive, council should request an exemption from Principle 1(H) Using commemorative names.

Some recent examples include:

- Ken Lyons Pavilion (Kingston City Council), which is within Regents Park. Ken Lyons was well known by sporting clubs at Regents Park and his community service extended over 60 years.
- Gurnett Oval (Swan Hill Rural City Council), which is within North Park. The Gurnett family have been involved with North Park Oval since the early 1960s.
- Nipper Jordan Oval (Moonee Valley City Council), which is within Buckley Park. Nipper Jordan has been actively involved with the Essendon Dousta Stars Football Club since the 1940s.



Gurnett Oval

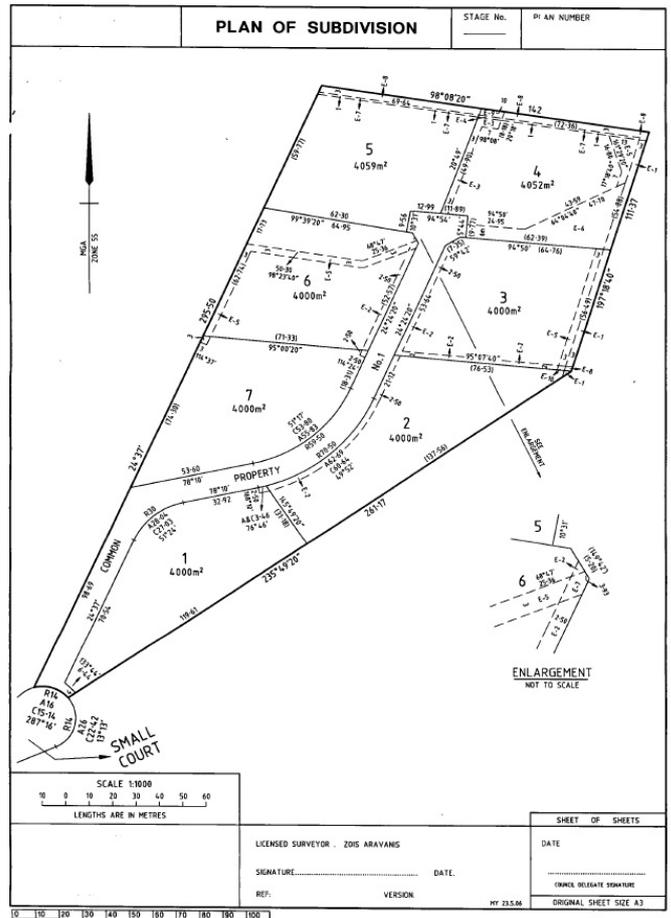
# What's new in road naming

## Common property named via a plan of subdivision

Roads within common property may be named through the plan of subdivision process. As these roads are generally owned privately, the council should be consulted about naming. The road name will need to comply with the key principles of the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2. The chosen name should be added to the plan of subdivision and lodged through SPEAR for registration at Land Victoria. The OGN and SPEAR will advise when these road names can be added to plans of subdivision.

## Historical information lodged through SPEAR

The OGN is working on a process for road names' history and origin details to be lodged through SPEAR. A standard form for this purpose is available in SPEAR and can be used by the developer/surveyor responsible for road naming. Details of the road name's origin or history can be added to the form and submitted via SPEAR with the plan of subdivision for registration at Land Victoria. Councils can also use the form to capture historical information and submit via NES, outside the subdivision process.



Published by the Victorian Government  
Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure  
Melbourne August, 2014

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne

ISSN 1839-793X

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