# Geographic Names **newsletter**

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# Message from the Registrar of Geographic Names

Welcome to the first edition of this quarterly newsletter. Our aim is to provide information to stakeholders on current geographic names projects, responses to regularly asked questions about the principles in the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* and general updates on place naming.

To illustrate the broad application of geographic names, this edition features an article on the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA) overseen by the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM), whose members head-up surveying and mapping agencies across Australia and New Zealand.

While the naming of new places and roads is largely generated by the rapid expansion of outer-metropolitan and regional residential developments, it provides the opportunity for both contemporary and historic naming themes to be adopted.

Relevant articles in this edition are the 'ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project' and 'Historical information', which provide information about exceptional opportunities for naming authorities and the general public to participate in naming places and providing information about the origins of place names.

I trust that you will find this newsletter and subsequent editions interesting and informative.

**John E. Tulloch**
Registrar of Geographic Names

# CGNA meeting 2011

The most recent meeting of the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA) was held in Adelaide from 30 August to 1 September. It was hosted by the geographical names unit of the South Australian Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

The CGNA meets twice yearly – in April by teleconference and September face-to-face – to discuss policies and projects of local, national and international relevance to geonames activities.

State Government
**Victoria**

Discussion topics focused on recent meetings held by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN) and the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM).

Items of interest for Victorian naming authorities included:

• an accessible, online national gazetteer to be developed by Geoscience Australia in conjunction with the national Office of Spatial Policy, from which duplicated name searches across Australia could be conducted – www.mymaps.gov.au/gazetteer/;

• a new national 'locality name reservation list', which can be used confidentially by all CGNA jurisdictions to reserve in advance names for new localities – it is important to contact the Office of Geographic Names (OGN) as soon as possible when considering creating a new locality so the name can be reserved on this list;

• finalisation of AS/NZS4819 – the OGN will be updating the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* and releasing a second version prior to 2012 to ensure the guidelines complement the new standard;

• a national project to develop an automated gazetteer harmonisation model (project being developed by CSIRO);



*CGNA members at the Adelaide meeting – (far left) Bill Watt, Chair, (far right) John Tulloch, ICSM Sponsor and Registrar of Geographic Names*

• development of CGNA-standardised proposal forms for naming or renaming features and roads (this is a work in progress expected to be completed in late 2012);

• potential changes to registration processes for Community Geographic Domain Names (CGDN) – the OGN will provide updates on its progress; and

• a presentation on CGNA policies and projects delivered by Dr Laura Kostanski to the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) tri-annual conference in Barcelona in September 2011 (a copy of the presentation will soon be uploaded to http://barcelona. onomastica.cat/en/).

All Australian states and territories, New Zealand and areas of the Antarctic under Australian jurisdiction have a place names registrar, naming board or committee for approving or registering names. However, it is the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA) that coordinates place-naming activities across Australia and New Zealand.

The CGNA is chaired by Bill Watt from South Australia and sponsored by the Intergovernmental Committee for Surveying and Mapping (ICSM), represented on CGNA by John Tulloch, Victorian Registrar of Geographic Names.

Details on CGNA are at www.icsm.gov.au/cgna.

# AS/NZS4819: Rural and Urban Addressing Standard review

Dr Laura Kostanski, OGN Project Manager, is a member of the Street Addressing Special Interest Group (SASIG) reviewing the AS/NZS4819: Rural and Urban Addressing Standard.

The first draft of the revised standard was available on the Standards Australia website for public comment by 10 June 2011 and the 500 comments received were considered at a meeting of the group on 25 and 26 July 2011.

Subsequent amendments were proposed at this meeting and included in a draft circulated in September, with a final

draft due after October. SASIG will also provide guidelines that should assist addressing authorities to interpret and apply the standard, which will be a separate document available soon online.

A series of workshops are planned for the official launch of the revised standard. Updates will be provided on the OGN website and emails will be sent directly to naming authority contacts.
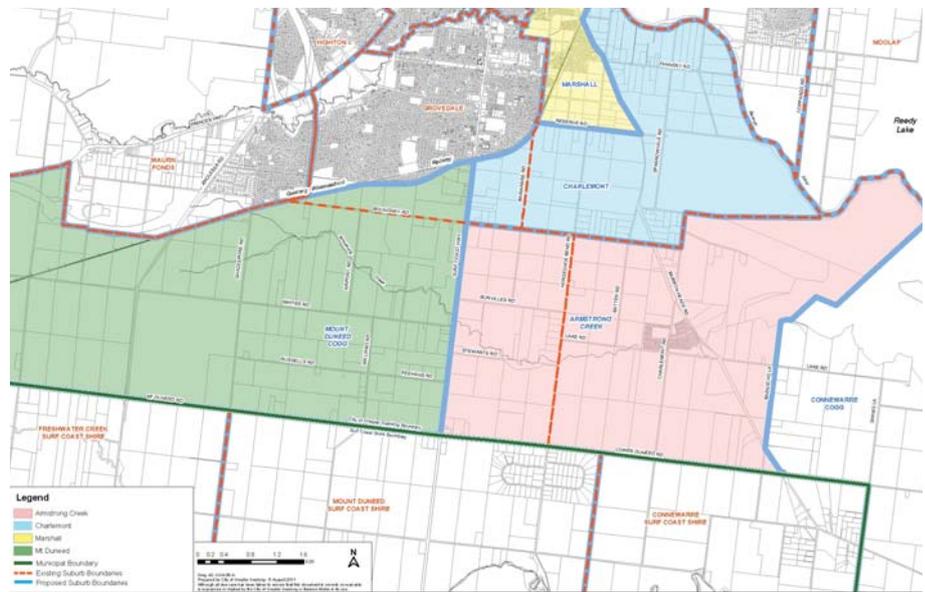
# City of Greater Geelong – Armstrong Creek

The City of Greater Geelong has undertaken a project to realign the current locality boundaries for Mount Duneed, Grovedale, Connewarre and Marshall to reflect aspects of the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Plan.

The City of Greater Geelong has been liaising with the OGN, Australia Post and emergency services to ensure proposed locality names and boundaries comply with the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010*. The proposed locality names and boundaries have been subject to community consultation and the City of Greater Geelong is currently finalising recommendations.

The Armstrong Creek growth area will be home to up to 65,000 residents, including two employment precincts and a major activity centre. This urbanisation will dramatically change the landscape from mainly farming/rural land to an urban environment.

Urbanisation brings with it the need for upgrades to existing civil infrastructure, such as roads, that will form physical barriers between localities. The boundaries will also ideally align with significant features such a road centre lines, rail lines or waterways.

The Armstrong Creek East Precinct Structure Plan (May 2010) and the Armstrong Creek North East Industrial Precinct Structure Plan (May 2010) came into effect following the Victorian Government's announcement on the 3 June 2010 of the approval of Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C206 and C207, which provides for the future development of the Armstrong Creek East Precinct and North East Industrial Precinct.

For further information on the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area go to www.geelongcity.vic.gov.au. Alternatively contact the Armstrong Creek urban growth team on 5272 4132 or Cynthia Johnston, Property Officer on 5272 4632 at the City of Greater Geelong.

# Churchill Fellowship honour

Dr Laura Kostanski, the OGN's Project Manager, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship to travel overseas in early 2012.

Laura will research the latest 'crowd-sourcing' technologies and how they can be used to build better map data systems.

Crowd-sourcing relates to systems similar to Wikipedia, where information is collected online from the public. Laura will investigate how it can be used in a government setting so that it has a high level of security and reliability.

She will travel to the UK (Southampton), Netherlands, USA (Washington) and Canada (Montreal) for six weeks.

In particular, Laura's project will identify how to best use crowd-sourced local names for places. It will also look at developing an online system for collecting local place names and other naming information, and disseminating it to interested agencies.

*Dr Laura Kostanski receives her award from Governor of Victoria Alex Chernov*

# Historical information

Victoria's Register of Geographic Names, VICNAMES, lists streets and place name details and allows you to search for geographical and mapping information, view the history and origin of how that place got its name, as well as add your own place name origins and histories.

In August 2011, more than 11,000 place name histories were added to the VICNAMES database and are now available to the public.

To access information:

• go to www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces > VICNAMES > Historical Information

• enter the place name in the 'Place Name' search option

• look under the 'Historical Information' tab to find out more about a place name.

The Office of Geographic Names also recently worked with the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation of Languages to incorporate the information from the Dictionary of Aboriginal Placenames of Victoria into VICNAMES. This means Indigenous names and definitions are now available on the VICNAMES system. You can search under a specific Indigenous language search under 'Language of Origin' field.

Some places have not yet had a history included. In this case, you will be provided with a link to update the record with any information you have available. Please note that sources are always required so the information can be verified by a Historic Content Administrator.

VICNAMES also provides a resource to document how place names came into being and the public are encouraged to include information about their own place name's evolving history.

## History Week 2011

An interesting line-up of walking tours, discussions, exhibitions and events were held during History Week from 24 to 31 October.

John Tulloch, Registrar of Geographic Names and Surveyor-General Victoria, presented information about the exciting history projects underway in the OGN, including the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project and the VICNAMES update.



## VICNAMES – leading the way with historical data

Do you have information about the history of a place name? If you do, you can easily add it into VICNAMES.

Being able to submit historical information is an important feature of VICNAMES. The site is user-friendly and an invaluable resource for discovering the history and origins of place names.

Help Victoria continue to lead the way with historical data by adding to VICNAMES what you have learnt through your research about the history of a place name.

Historical Content Administrators have been appointed to approve, edit or reject historical information, so it is important that the information you add is from verifiable sources such as historical societies, books, manuscripts, maps or oral history interviews.

VICNAMES holds more than 200,000 road and place names including landscape features such as mountains and rivers, bounded areas such as localities, towns, cities and regions, and physical infrastructure such as roads, reserves and schools.

To find out how you can contribute historical data or search for information, visit the Naming Places website to access the user guide and series of user notes.

**Further information:**
www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces
www.land.vic.gov.au/VICNAMES
T: (03) 8636 2525
E: geo.names@dse.vic.gov.au

# Principle 1(H) Using Commemorative Names

With the success of Cadel Evans at the Tour de France this year, the OGN has received numerous enquiries from naming authorities and the general public about naming places after living people.

Principle 1(H) Using Commemorative Naming in the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* stipulates that 'names of persons who are alive should be avoided because community attitudes and opinions can change over time'.

However, there is provision under the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* for exceptional circumstances: 'the naming authority… must apply in writing to the Registrar to seek exemption… must outline the reasons for proposing a living person's name and seek this exemption prior to commencing any public consultation or reaching a decision on the final naming proposal'.

The Registrar of Geographic Names assesses requests on a case-by-case basis and welcomes the community spirit that prompts people to celebrate achievements of exceptional, living people. A recent example is the naming of Peter Siddle Oval in the municipality of Latrobe City Council. Peter Siddle was considered worthy of recognition because of his exceptional cricketing achievements for Australia.

It is important that naming authorities or individuals requesting a commemoration of this sort provide relevant background information to justify their request after appropriate consultation with the community. Consent from the individual being commemorated is also required.

## When to use first name, surname or both

Principle 1(H) stipulates that 'a commemorative name applied to a locality or road should use only the surname of a person, not a first or given names. A commemorative name applied to a feature can use the first name and surname of a person, although it is preferred that only the surname is used'.

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# New 'Proposals' web pages

The status details of all incoming proposals for feature, road naming and locality boundary amendments received by the OGN are now available on new web pages found at www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces > Proposals. The web pages include links to the website of the naming authority and the *Victoria Government Gazette*, and also include a map and background information on the place name, such as its origins or history details.

Take a look at some recent naming registrations on the Proposals page, listed under 'Features':

### Using Indigenous Australian names

*Murandaka Property* is located within the Yarra Valley Parklands, Lower Plenty and was formerly known as Cocks Property. Murandaka means 'stay, live at' in the Woi Wurrung language.

*Yaruk Tamboore Wetlands* is located within the Yarra Valley Parklands, Lower Plenty and means 'magic waterhole' in the Woi Wurrung language.

### Commemorating family names from the 1800s

*Shaw McKeown Reserve* is in the municipality of Mornington Peninsula at 26 Atunga Terrace, Dromana. The reserve is named in honour of two pioneering Dromana families, the Shaws and McKeowns, both of whom have a long standing history and connection with Dromana. For detailed historical information search this name on VICNAMES.

*Bull Reserve* is in the municipality of Wyndham at Flinders Street. The reserve is named after the Bull family who have contributed to the Little River community since the late 1800s.

## Audit of road names on plans of subdivision

From 1 July 2011, the OGN began auditing road names in plans of subdivision. The audit is in accordance with Section 4.4 of the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010*, which covers road names in residential or commercial subdivisions.



The OGN checks that road names in a plan of subdivision comply with the guidelines' principles. If non-conforming names are identified, naming authorities will be asked to seek alternatives in a formal report from the OGN.

To date, plans of subdivisions for up to 10 municipalities have been audited with a combination of findings. The main concern relates to *Principle 4(B) Extent: road course, start and end points.* It is important that there are clear start and end points, that the road design and hierarchy is considered, ensuring that a road name is not applied in a way that is ambiguous or could cause confusion for road users.

For further details on the audit program contact Margaret Marangos, Office of Geographic Names on 8636 2525 or by email at geo.name@dse.vic.gov.au. To download the process flow for the audit program go to 'News and current projects' on the DSE website at www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces.

# ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project

The ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project will give Victorian local government the chance to recognise local men and women who served in an operational capacity in the Australian Defence Forces from World War I until the present day. Roads, features and localities will be named in their honour.

The project, currently at pilot stage, is designed to mark the centenary on 25 April 2015 of the first ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.

The pilot involves five municipal councils: Hindmarsh, Geelong, Ballarat, Melton and South Gippsland. Each council has proposed a set of commemorative names for roads, features and infrastructure according to their differing planning needs.

If funding is successful and the project goes ahead, the remaining 74 Victorian municipal councils will be invited to work together with local interest groups and schools to research names of those who served in their area. It is hoped that the project will resonate with a cross-section of the community, including those who may not have a direct link to the ANZAC tradition but can appreciate poignant war stories that affected families of the ANZACS and still affect families of those who serve today.

*Studio portrait of 714 Sergeant (Sgt) Thomas Brew, 2nd Battalion, who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal 'for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty' and killed in action 4 October 1917 in Belgium (Australian War Memorial – Image Public Domain)*

The project is jointly run by the OGN (Department of Sustainability and Environment), VicRoads and the Veterans Unit (Department of Planning and Community Development).

To find out more contact the OGN on (03) 8636 2525 or by email at geo.names@dse.vic.gov.au.

## Pilot presented to national body

Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, chair of the National ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board, recently visited Land Victoria to meet with OGN staff about the pilot project.

Also present was Major General Elizabeth Cosson, General Manager Executive Division of the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The first meeting of the National ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board was held in October to determine the strategy for the entire centenary program.

Air Chief Marshal Houston presented the Victorian initiative as an example of a commemorative project already underway.

*Left to right: Laura Kostanski, John Tulloch, Angus Houston, Elizabeth Cosson, Minna Muhlen-Schulte and Peter Sheehan*