

## Report of the Surveyor General

The position of Surveyor General of New South Wales was in place from the commencement of the Colony in 1788 and is the Government's principal advisor on surveying and spatial information.

During the past year the Surveyor General has continued to foster the preservation and promotion of surveying history, careers and industry capacity building, enhancing the cadastral and spatial data infrastructure and the direction and development of improved surveying standards and the collection, analysis, storage and distribution of spatial information.

The Surveyor General provided leadership and strategic direction for the industry as evidenced by the passage of the Surveying Act Amendment Bill, which introduced the first statutory definition of "spatial information" in the world and provides a further benchmark for the spatial information industry in NSW.

In the area of maintaining and improving survey standards and the integrity of the state cadastre:

- Surveyor General's Directions (eleven in total) have been revamped, updated and republished online. One new Direction has been published, - "Water as a Boundary", following major changes to the Coastal Protection Act.
- Four plans redefining the State's borders have been approved involving the Victorian and Queensland governments.
- In collaboration with the ACT Government, the Office of Surveyor General provided survey control infrastructure for the remaking of a further 50 kilometre section of the NSW/ACT border destroyed by bushfires in 2003.

The Surveyor General actively supports and promotes careers and excellence in Surveying and Spatial Information at a time when there is strong marketplace demand through:

- Undergraduate Professional training program for the best third year surveying student in NSW, based on application
- Training of four Railcorp survey graduates in rural and urban cadastral surveys for registration purposes.
- "Women in Surveying" Scholarships at the Universities of NSW and Newcastle for high school leavers, based on the best University Admission Index (UAI).

- Continued support for the UNSW Co-Op Scholarship Program for two undergraduates in Surveying and Spatial Information.
- Ongoing sponsorship of two award categories (Extra Dimension and Mapping) at the Annual Excellence in Surveying and Spatial Information.

Preservation and promotion of surveying history has been supported through:

- Resurvey of some ninety kilometres (90) of the NSW/Queensland border west of Mungindi connecting remaining mileposts placed in the 1870's.
- Sponsorship of a publication "James Meehan - A Most Excellent Surveyor" one of NSW's most productive early colonial surveyors.
- The Pathfinders Project, an archive of those registered surveyors who assisted in the development of NSW since 1788.

As President of the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information (BOSSI) the Surveyor General provided leadership and direction in the implementation of the new Board and the expanded responsibilities for spatial information for NSW. These activities are reported separately under the BOSSI section in this report. Similarly reported in another section of this report are the activities of the Geographic Names Board for NSW. The Surveyor General Chairs this important statutory committee.

### Jevons: The Curious Economist

The Office of Surveyor General provided the Powerhouse Museum with contours and spot heights of Sydney and surrounding regions for the construction of a 3D topographic model depicting Sydney, as it was when William Stanley Jevons undertook his first social survey.

The Surveyor General's office also supplied the Museum with a digital 3D "fly through" of the Woolcott and Clarke map of Sydney 1854, upon which Jevons built his social survey.

### Transit of Venus

The Surveyor General participated in celebrations to mark the Transit of Venus - that is when the planet Venus passes in front of the Sun, enabling astronomical observations to determine the Astronomical Unit.

The National Trust and the Office of Surveyor General celebrated the 1874 Transit through a re-enactment of the observations taken by the then Surveyor General Philip Adams and his team at the Woodford Academy in the Blue Mountains.

The Surveyor General's office also provided the "Fairfax Telescope" which was used during the 1874 Transit for inclusion in the Powerhouse Museum's display commemorating James Cook and the 1769 Transit of Venus, which he observed in Tahiti before sailing to the east coast of Australia in 1770.

### National Activities

The Surveyor General led the successful presenting bid team for the 2010 Fédération Internationale des Géomètres world Congress at the FIG event in Cairo. The 2010 conference will bring the spotlight of surveying and spatial information from across the world to Sydney.

This is a very important win for Sydney, Australia and the ASIA Pacific and will provide a spring board to further enhance the professions and showcase the achievements in surveying and spatial information from this part of the world.

As Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC) Warwick Watkins led a very active program and an ANZLIC multi jurisdictional team to further the achievements in spatial information policy and strategy. These included significant developments in the application of spatial information to counter terrorism, emergency services and critical infrastructure protection, application of spatial information to the natural resource and local government sectors and the further development of standards and meta-data to underpin the Australian Spatial Data Directory.

### Geographical Names Board report

The Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (the Board) was established in 1966 as the statutory body in charge of placenames for the State. Under the Geographical Names Act 1966 (the Act), the Board has the power to assign names to places; to investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin and history of any geographical name; and to determine the application of each name with regard to position, extent or other reference.

The Board is committed to providing NSW with the best possible service in this area. As such; the Board is at the forefront of international 'best practice' methodologies in the field of toponymy. This best practice approach has seen the Board excel in many areas in the past twelve months with National and International recognition of many of its projects.

### Membership

The Board is chaired by the Surveyor General of NSW and has members representing the Royal Australian Historical Society, the Local Government and Shires Association, the State Library of NSW, the Community

Relations Commission, the Geographical Society of NSW, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources.

Members of the Board for the reporting year were.

Mr Warwick Watkins  
AMP:ISMP (Harv), MNatRes  
DipScAgr,HDA (Hons)  
Surveyor General

Mr Paul Harcombe  
B Surv (UNSW), M Geom  
Chief Surveyor

Ms Cheryl Evans  
Nominee of the State Librarian

Mr Paul Hartley  
Nominee of the Executive Director, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources

Mr Peter Woods  
Emeritus Mayor, OAM, CMC, JP, BA, MLitt, TTC, Cert. Comm. Med, MACE, FAICD  
Nominee of the Local Government and Shires Associations

Mr Alan Ventress  
BA DIPLIB  
Nominee of the governing body of the Royal Australian Historical Society

Mr Jack Devery  
BSc, MTCP  
Nominee of the governing body of the Geographical Society of New South Wales

Mr Murray Chapman  
Nominee of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian AM  
Nominee of the Community Relations Commission

The Act allows the Board to appoint Counsellors to advise it on matters within its powers and functions. The Board has appointed two full time Counsellors to advise it on issues regarding history and linguistics. These Counsellors are:

Dr Peter Orlovich  
PhD,MA,MLib,DipEd

Dr Jakelin Troy

The Department of Lands

Land and Property Information Division

Financial Statements LPI Division

Crown Lands Division

Soil Conservation Service

Office of Rural Affairs

The Department of Lands Financial Statements

BOSSI Financial Statements

Appendices

Glossary

Index

### Attendance at Meetings

The Board met formally on five occasions during the year. Five members form a quorum. The person presiding at the meeting has a deliberative vote and casting vote. The list below shows the number of meetings attended by each Board Member and Counsellors.

Mr Murray Chapman, Chairperson of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council replaced Mr Les Trindal as a nominee of the Land Council in October 2004.

The Board also appointed Dr. Jakelin Troy as a Counsellor to advise on Aboriginal Linguistic issues.

Board Member / Counsellor	Meetings Attended
Mr Watkins	4
Mr Harcombe	5
Ms Evans	5
Mr Hartley	5
Mr Woods	4
Mr Ventress	4
Mr Devery	5
Mr Kerkyasharian	3
Mr Chapman	4
Mr Orlovich	5
Ms Troy	3

### Honouring both Famous and Everyday Australians

The Board commemoratively names features in NSW to honour those community members that have made an exceptional contribution to society. These commemorative names recognise both famous and everyday Australians whose achievements are deemed outstanding.

The Board has honoured over 30 individuals in the past twelve months by naming various features after them. These names commemorate a wide variety of achievements from a broad cross section of people, ranging from school children and volunteers through to Victoria Cross (VC) winners.

People like Pilot Officer Rawdon H Middleton VC, who served in the 149 RAAF squadron in World War Two and subsequently died in action and Ben Clark, who impressed all with his determination not to be beaten by a rare genetic disorder and was an inspiration to all associated with him, particularly his fellow school pupils, have been commemorated by the assignment of a placename in their honour.

### Recognising the History and Culture of NSW

History and culture play an important role in the allocation of Geographical names. Placenames can commemorate significant events in history, ethnicity and customs important to a local community.

The Board values these sources for place names and actively seeks to recognise names of this nature whenever it can. As such, names commemorating major historical events, ethnic groups and cultural diversity have been recognised by the Board in the reporting year.

Vinegar Hill is one such name. On 5 March 1804 an uprising by mainly Irish rebel convicts occurred against the NSW Corps. The battle site, in the Blacktown area, had similarities to a rebellion in Ireland in 1798, which was known as The Battle of Vinegar Hill. For this reason, the name Vinegar Hill was used to describe the 1804 rebellion. Over 200 years later, as a mark of respect for those who fought and died in the uprising, the Board officially recognised Vinegar Hill as an historic site.

In other examples, the Board has recognised the early Maori connection with Western Sydney by assigning the name Rangihou Reserve to a park in Parramatta. Whilst, quintessential Australian names have also been acknowledged, the name "Eaglehawk" was assigned by the Board in March 2005. This name was mentioned in the poem Mulga Bill's Bicycle by Banjo Patterson.

The recognition of contemporary names important to various segments of the community demonstrates the Board's commitment to everyday Australian culture. In August 2004 the Board considered the name 'Lemming Corner' for a rural place located on the Great Northern Road. The name marks the location of a deep ravine where the road winds through a cutting. The frequency in which motorcyclists fall off at this location is compared to that of the ill fated Lemming. As such the area was colloquially known by this name by many motorcyclists. The Board formalised this name after representation was made by local council and the Motorcycle Council of NSW Inc.

### Reconciliation through Placenames

All Australians share a relationship to the land, and the names we give to places convey their significance, sense of history and identity. The Board is committed to recognising our Aboriginal cultural heritage by registering original place names given by Aboriginal people so that they sit side by side with existing introduced names. Since June 2001 the NSW Government has supported the Board's dual naming policy for geographical features and cultural sites. This community-driven system acknowledges the significance of Aboriginal culture and, in doing so, represents a meaningful contribution to the process of reconciliation in NSW.

To ensure the successful ongoing implementation of the policy the Board, partnered with by Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre (ALRRC) and the Asia Pacific

Institute of Toponymy (APIT), conducted a series of regional workshops. These workshops have been a great success in communicating the Board's policies directly to Aboriginal communities. As well as answering many questions, the workshops allowed the local Aboriginal communities to raise concerns and suggest issues that may need addressing.

These workshops provided a forum to bring recognised Elders together from all over the Sydney Basin. Consensus was reached to formally recognise traditional Aboriginal place names in Sydney Harbour, many of which are Australian icons, for example Fort Denison / Muddawahnyuh. As a result of these workshops, the Board formally gazetted over twenty names in January 2005 after several rounds of public consultation.

**Sharing the Knowledge**

The Board is committed to the principle of continuous improvement. This commitment has led to it being recognised as a best practice organisation in the area of toponymy. The Board is dedicated to sharing its knowledge and educating other nomenclature organisations.

In October 2004, the Board and its partner APIT successfully co-hosted the United Nations Training Course in Toponymy. Participants from six separate countries attended this course. These participants included the current chairperson of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), Helen Kerfoot, and the Secretary-General of the International Cartographic Association, Dr Ferjan Ormeling.

The Board was also asked to present its Dual Naming policy and related methodology at a recent international conference on minority names, indigenous names and geographical names in multilingual areas. This conference was a United Nations endorsed event and was held in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, in the heart of the Frisian language minority area in the Netherlands in April 2005. The conference was organised jointly by the Frisian Academy and UNGEGN. The organisers recognised New South Wales as a best practice jurisdiction in the area of Minority Names and Indigenous placenames.

**The Right Address**

Placenames are the building blocks for street addresses, which is arguably one of the most important roles they play in today's society. The street address provides a reference that uniquely identifies an individual property, which is easily understood by everyone thus offering a simple navigable structure for property identification. This system is essential for the provision of services, ranging from those needed in an emergency to the daily delivery of mail.

Both the names of the address locality or suburb and the road name are essential elements of the street address. The Board plays an important role in the determination of these names with over 180 address locality names being formalised and concurrence being granted on 991 road names in the reporting year.

**Roads, Schools and National Parks**

Section 12 of the Act empowers the Board with a concurrence role for all geographical names that fall outside the Act. In fulfilling this requirement, the Board has developed several procedures and policies to deal with this concurrence role. During the reporting year the Board used these procedures and policies to concur with various proposals to name Schools and National Parks and deal with a number of objections to several road names within New South Wales.

**Goals for 2005/2006**

- To recognise traditional Aboriginal names through dual naming process and in so doing make a tangible commitment to Reconciliation in New South Wales.
- To formalise over 40% of all outstanding suburb determinations by the end of the reporting year.
- To formally recognise excellence in the community through commemoratively naming in excess of forty features after respected community members.
- To commence the re engineering of the Board's databases and business processes so as to ensure maximum efficiencies.
- To accomplish over 400 placename determinations in the reporting year.
- To ensure a high standard in the naming of the State's roads, schools and National Parks by a continued commitment to a concurrence role for toponyms that fall outside the Board's jurisdiction.
- To encourage the standardisation and promotion of geographical names on a State, National and International basis.

**Publications**

The following publications are available from the Board's website or from the Secretariat.

- The Recognition of Aboriginal Placenames in NSW
- Geographical Names Board - Preserving the history, culture and identity of New South Wales
- Determining Suburbs and Localities in NSW

- Dual Naming - Supporting cultural recognition
- Road Naming in NSW
- Commemorative Naming
- Glossary of Status Values in the Geographical Names Register
- Guidelines for the Determination of Placenames
- Naming Proposal Package
- Determination of Locality/Suburb Names and Boundaries
- Introduction of New Suburb Names
- Suburb and Locality Boundaries
- Proposed Geographical Name Commemorating a Person
- Guidelines for the Naming of Roads

### **Electronic Service Delivery**

The Board offers a full range of service on its web site including an online gazetteer of placenames, maps showing address locality boundaries within NSW and a full range of related information. The Board's site can be viewed at: [www.gnb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au)

The Board is committed to the ongoing development of this site with planned improvements for the upcoming year.

### **Committees**

In the reporting year, the Board continued its Technical and Scientific sub-committee to investigate issues pertaining to linguistic consistency for regional dual name proposals; the development and implementation of the Aboriginal Geographical Naming Strategy and the investigation of other issues affecting Indigenous geographical names.

The sub committee consists of experts in the areas of archival research, linguistics, history and toponymy and was also constituted as the State Executive Committee of the Australian National Placename Survey.

### **Access**

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## Facts and Figures

Naming and boundary determinations by category completed during the reporting year.

Designation	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004- 2005
Airfield	0	0	0	22	0
Amphitheatre	0	1	0	0	1
Anabranh	0	0	0	0	0
Bay	0	4	0	0	12
Beach	2	4	2	5	6
Bluff	0	0	0	0	0
Boundary	0	0	0	0	1
Breakwater	0	1	0	2	1
Canyon	0	0	0	1	0
Cave	0	0	0	0	0
Cove	0	0	0	0	8
Butte	0	0	1	0	0
Cemetery	0	1	0	3	0
Channel	0	3	1	4	0
Chasm	0	0	0	1	0
Clearing	0	1	0	0	0
College	0	0	0	1	0
County	0	0	0	0	0
Cove	0	5	0	2	0
Creek	2	9	10	4	5
Crossing	0	0	0	0	1
Dam	0	2	0	2	0
Dock	1	0	0	0	0
Falls	0	0	2	1	0
Flat	0	0	0	2	0
Ford	1	1	0	1	0
Forest	0	9	0	1	0
Gap	0	0	0	1	0
Glen	0	0	0	0	1
Gradient	0	0	0	1	1
Gully	0	1	6	1	0
Head	0	2	0	2	0
Headland	1	1	0	1	5
Hill	6	5	1	2	2
Historic Area	17	62	29	0	1
Historic Locality	34	1	1	2	24
Historic Site	6	33	29	1	1
Inlet	0	2	1	0	0
Islet	1	0	0	0	1
Island	0	3	0	1	4
Lagoon	0	0	0	0	0
Lake	1	4	1	1	0
Locality	133	150	268	84	138
Lookout	0	0	2	1	2
Mountain	2	3	2	1	2
Parish	0	0	0	0	1
Pass	0	0	0	1	1
Peak	0	0	10	0	0
Peninsula	2	0	0	0	0
Point	0	14	1	2	17
Port	0	0	0	0	1
Post Office	0	0	0	1	0

Railway Station	0	4	0	2	0
Ramp	1	0	1	0	0
Range	0	4	0	1	1
Reach	0	0	0	0	1
Region	0	0	0	2	0
Reef	0	0	1	0	0
Reserve	107	88	176	224	41
Reservoir	0	0	0	0	0
Ridge	0	3	1	0	2
River	0	0	0	1	0
River Bend	0	1	1	0	0
Rock	1	0	1	0	1
Rural Place	93	74	89	2	1
Saddle	0	0	0	0	0
Sandbar	0	0	0	0	1
School	1	20	1	20	9
Spring	0	0	0	0	1
State	0	1	0	0	0
Stream	0	0	0	0	0
Suburb	45	70	25	46	44
Swamp	0	2	1	1	1
Town	1	6	9	0	0
Track	1	0	1	1	1
Trig. Station	5	61	122	38	0
Urban Locality	0	0	0	0	0
Urban Place	18	0	8	4	9
Valley	0	0	0	0	0
Village	24	13	47	10	0
Walking Track	0	0	0	0	0
Waterfall	0	0	1	1	2
Water Feature	0	32	0	0	0
Waterhole	0	1	0	6	0
Weir	0	5	0	0	0
Wharf	0	3	1	19	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>Dual Names Assigned</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

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