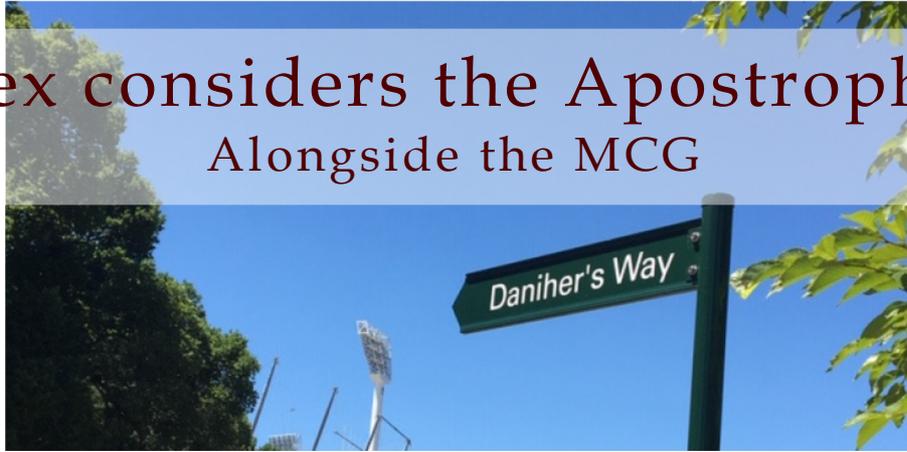


LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

27 JANUARY 2021

An irregular one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

Lex considers the Apostrophe Alongside the MCG



It's part of the Australian ethos: we name public places after our sporting heroes. So Lex is pleased to see Neale Daniher commemorated on a sign in Yarra Park. And he's pleased to see an apostrophe, correctly used. Or is it?

Lex fishes out his copy of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*, (the GPN Act) and the [Naming Rules](#) made under it. Principle 'J' of the Rules states:

An apostrophe must be deleted from geographic names written with a final 's and the possessive 's should not be included. Example, Wilsons Promontory (not Wilson's Promontory).

Are these rules binding or enforceable? They are headed 'Naming Rules,' not 'Regulations.' Section 4 of the GPN Act says they're not enforceable, but then section 5 of the *Local Government Act 1989* compels councils to comply with the GPN Act in assigning road names.

Lex has noted various departures from the Naming Rules: how about Margaret Court Arena? (Apart from other controversies, Court is still living). Likewise Rod Laver. In St Kilda, the Roland S Howard Lane contains a disembodied initial.

The oddest thing Lex has found is the false belief that if a Council does not want

to maintain a road, then it should deny it a name. Wrong, and what's more, dangerous: try calling the emergency services to No-Name Road.

Just next to Daniher's Way Lex finds another sign, celebrating certain people, cultures and events: Barak, Batman, Birrarung, Federation and Flinders...



So here's an exercise for all you place name officers in municipalities: what do the GPN Act Naming Rules have to say about these five place names? ♦

See you there! Lex Loci



The MCG and Yarra Park are in Wurundjeri country