

Letter to the GNC in support of the name Griffiths for the Tenindewa Store Road (10th February 2018)

Dear Committee

Tenindewa was a former siding on the Geraldton Mount Magnet Hwy some 78 Kilometres from Geraldton. It had the last Manual Telephone Exchange in West Australia which converted to automatic in April 1985, at which point the store closed. The Store remains a place frequented by the locals as a community centre for the district and for various functions from time to time. It is now owned by the Tenindewa Community Ass.

Some years ago the Tenindewa Community decided it would be wise and appropriate to name the road that runs adjacent to the Old Tenindewa Store and parallel to the Geraldton Mt Magnet Hwy. This road has never had a name in all its existence of over 100 years. As a community they felt they were probably best informed, to do this naming exercise justice, as per its history and thus we have progressed to forwarding this petition to you.

So given that the only building left in this former village, Tenindewa, is the Old Store, it was thought that the Foster family as the last and longest serving proprietors of this store deserved the recognition in having their name posted on this road.

Unfortunately the suggestion was deemed ineligible by your group and given that the only other owner of this now historic shop was a Mr Bill Griffiths, we have submitted his name. Adding to this, he was the person responsible for having the building erected and for financing it.

Our information from the Greater City of Geraldton via Ms Elder is that this name, Griffiths, could meet your approval if we were able to furnish you with some appropriate information as to this person's connection to the place plus a list of his contributions to the area etc.

Establishing the fact Mr Griffiths built the establishment and at times ran the store himself is quite easy but sadly there is no one left in our area that has memory of such, prior to this, on the subject.

(We request you view the website www.tenindewa.com and hit the tab PLACES. You will see the brief history of the Store in both words and pictures. Please scroll to "Tenindewa Rail Siding 1977" and "Tenindewa Store and Post Office". Also if you would be so kind go to the tab PEOPLE and scroll to the story titled "The Tenindewa Staffords". You will note Mrs Bill Griffiths was formally Miss Ivy Stafford from this pioneering farming family. Their wedding photo is toward the end of the story)

Luckily for us all, however Mr Brian Griffiths, a former Curtin University lecturer, is Mr Bill Griffith's son and although he, along with his family left Tenindewa all those years ago has written us a lovely and simple story with some of his recall, as his contribution to us with our plea to you. Brian and his wife Judy live in St John's Wood, Claremont and his phone number is [REDACTED] if he needed to be contacted. His email address is [REDACTED]

Ms Elder from the Greater City of Geraldton has also advised that we furnish you with material that shows the community are at one on this, which we will happily do if we can get to approval stage.

Ms Elder has also asked us to have several back up names for you to view also, but we feel that it would be so disappointing not to have one or other of these pioneers of the Shop recognized. We would prefer to leave it as it has been, for the last 100 years if not accepted.

Thank you so much for giving this matter consideration

Tony Critch (Project Officer for the Tenindewa Community Ass. Phone [REDACTED])

Karrie Elder

From: Anthony Critch [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 23 December 2017 5:40 PM
To: Karrie Elder; Phil Melling
Subject: HPRM: Fwd: Griffith Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Record Number: D-18-017175

Karrie,

Please see this letter in regard to Mr Griffiths response.

If this is satisfactory in regard to his acceptance just let me know what you would like next from us or Mr Griffiths.

You will of course note his point on the spelling of their name

Thanks again

Tony Critch

Dear Tony,

It was good to hear from you again. You can't imagine how very pleased I was that the name of Griffiths was to be preserved by the naming of the road in front of the store. My father would have been so grateful for the honour of being recognised in that way. I have told you several times that when I am asked where I come from my answer is always "Tenindewa." I have a glass jar filled with sand from in front of the store...I can see it from where I am writing this. I will be able to say "This is sand from Griffiths Road, Tenindewa!"

Just what action should I now take to indicate my approval....an email (to whom), a written letter or an email attachment for you to pass on ?

An important point by the way our surname end with an 's' i.e 'Griffiths'.

Cheers. Brian.