



Suggestion 55

Yarram Yarram Cultural Group

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November 17th 2017

TO – Australian Electoral Commission

RE – Consideration of a Name Change for the McMillan Electorate, Gippsland, Victoria

The Yarram Yarram Cultural Group represents a number of people who live in the Yarram/Woodside district of Gippsland, Victoria. We are:-

- (1) interested in learning more about local Indigenous culture and traditional knowledge
- (2) concerned that despite the magnitude of the terrible events that occurred at Warrigal Creek and other places in Gippsland, there has been no formal recognition of this
- (3) keen on looking forward towards reconciliation in any way we can.

Over the last eleven years we have had a number of significant and special get-togethers with different members of the GunaiKurnai people.

As a group we are acutely aware that Angus McMillan was most likely involved with the 1843 Massacre at Warrigal Creek, and possibly other similar horrific events that took place in the early days of European Settlement in Gippsland. There has been much research and writing and documentation on this.

It therefore seems very inappropriate to us that an Electorate should continue to hold McMillan's name, and is certainly not in the spirit of Truth, Acknowledgement and Reconciliation which we hope can carry Australia, and Gippsland, forward.

One suggestion that we would like to support as a possible replacement name is Howitt (Alfred William). He was a noted Australian anthropologist, explorer and naturalist, and spent a significant amount of time in Gippsland. However, we feel this decision on a new Electorate name should largely be the choice of the GunaiKurnai people of Gippsland, and those living in the existing McMillan electorate.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Balderstone
Spokesperson for the Yarram Yarram Cultural Group

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