



# Suggestion 9

Committee for Monash

3 pages

**From:** Kate Ashmor  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** Victorian Electoral Division Name Change Submission - Committee for Monash  
**Date:** Thursday, 26 October 2017 11:27:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [Committee for Monash Submission to the AEC; 26 October 2017.pdf](#)

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Greetings,

Please find attached a submission for the Redistribution Committee's consideration.

Kind regards,

**Kate Ashmor** |Chair





Redistribution Committee for Victoria  
Australian Electoral Commission  
GPO Box 768  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Via email only: [FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au)

26 October 2017

To whom it may concern,

**Victorian Electoral Division Name Change Submission  
Melbourne Ports to Monash**

On behalf of the Committee for Monash, I hereby tender a submission for the Redistribution Committee's consideration.

The name of the division of Melbourne Ports derives from its original boundaries at Federation: extending from Station Pier at Port Melbourne, around Port Phillip Bay, to encompass the Port of Williamstown, as well as much of Melbourne's CBD. Due to multiple redistributions since Federation, Melbourne Ports barely resembles the original electorate, with Williamstown long ago excised and Port Melbourne forming less than ten per cent of the modern electorate's population. The name Melbourne Ports is an anachronism.

General Sir John Monash, arguably our greatest Australian, was born and bred in Melbourne Ports, and was a prominent local figure at Federation.

Sir John was born in Dudley Street, West Melbourne, in 1865. His Jewish parents migrated to Australia from Polish-German Prussia during the gold rush. At Federation, his birth place came to be within the original electorate boundaries of the division of Melbourne Ports.

Equal dux of Scotch College in 1881, and fluent in various languages, Sir John went on to receive multiple degrees including in engineering and law. He designed and helped construct dozens of bridges around Victoria, including many in the electorate of Melbourne Ports, such as the iconic Princes Bridge over the Yarra. The St Kilda Street Bridge and a number of bridges over the Elwood Canal were designed by Sir John using innovative reinforced concrete. At Federation, Sir John was already a highly regarded local engineer, lawyer and nation builder.

After World War One broke out, Sir John led the nation in battle, landing at Gallipoli on 26 April 1915. It was Sir John's deliberate decision-making that crafted the ANZAC identity; he personally led annual commemorations of ANZAC Day until his death in 1931. Sir John supervised the design, construction and funding of the Shrine of Remembrance, located within the electorate of Melbourne Ports. ANZAC Day and the ANZAC legend became what they are today because of Sir John's leadership. For this alone, the nation owes him an enormous debt of gratitude.

The strategic mastery and courage that Sir John showed during the pivotal battles of Hamel and Amiens in 1918 were our nation's finest military hour. His contribution cannot be over-estimated: Sir John all but won the war for the Allies, despite the best efforts of prominent public figures at the time to deny Sir John recognition at the highest levels, arguably due to anti-Semitism and his lack of professional military service.

Post-war, Sir John went on to lead Victoria's State Electricity Commission in its early days, founding the Yallourn power station that became critical to the expansion of Victoria's economy. So much of the State's success in manufacturing and heavy industries is attributable to the electricity supplies that Sir John personally oversaw the establishment of.

In 1923, Sir John became Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University and was generous in his support of many charitable causes, including as a founding Legatee for Legacy and a founding member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Australia's first Rotary Club. Today Sir John's tradition of educational excellence lives on in Monash University (its Caulfield campus is in the electorate of Melbourne Ports), and the General Sir John Monash Foundation, which awards scholarships to Australia's best and brightest postgraduate students.

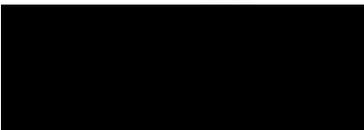
Following his death in 1931, Sir John was buried at Brighton Cemetery, which was located within Melbourne Ports prior to the 2010 redistribution. A third of Melbourne's population lined the streets for Sir John's funeral procession.

Until 2006, the Victorian Legislative Council electorate of Southern Metropolitan, which spans much the same geography as Melbourne Ports, was known as Monash Province, in recognition of the significant contribution Sir John made to the area. While there is an existing nearby Victorian local government area named Monash, various federal divisions and local governments in Victoria share the same names without any public confusion. These include Ballarat, Casey and Corangamite - and in the case of La Trobe, completely different geographical areas. Governor La Trobe also has his own university, hospital and busy thoroughfare.

General Sir John Monash is the greatest citizen Melbourne Ports ever produced and a giant of Australian history. It is well overdue that he become a permanent part of our Commonwealth, where his name will be given the national prominence and recognition in our body politic that it so belatedly deserves.

Renaming the division of Melbourne Ports to Monash, on the eve of the centenary of Hamel and Amiens, is the perfect opportunity to finally recognise an Australian icon, in his home electorate - and to give the residents of Melbourne Ports an electorate name they can be proud of.

Yours sincerely,



**Kate Ashmor**  
**Chair | Committee for Monash**

