



Suggestion 10

Paul Meyer

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Name for the new ACT electoral division: Thwaites

Reason: to memorialise Michael and Honor Thwaites.

Michael Thwaites was born in Brisbane in 1915 and died in Canberra in 2005. Honor Thwaites was born in Young NSW in 1914 and died in Canberra in 1993. They were married in Oxford, England, in 1939.

Michael Thwaites graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1937 and was awarded a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford in modern history. He served in the Royal Navy during World War II. After the war he returned to Australia and lectured in English at the University of Melbourne. In 1950 he became a counter-espionage officer in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, based in Canberra. He played a key role in the 1954 defection of the Petrovs. From 1971 to retirement in 1976 he was Assistant Parliamentary Librarian. He published several volumes of poems as well as an account of the Petrov affair. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2002.

Honor Thwaites earned an Honours degree in French and German languages at the University of Melbourne. She worked with the Society of Friends in London before World War II helping non-Aryan people escape from countries under Nazi rule. She served on the literary committee developing The Australian Hymn Book and translated a number of hymns from German for inclusion in the first edition in 1977.

Michael and Honor Thwaites together wrote the patriotic hymn 'Lord of earth and all creation' for The Australian Hymn Book, which is also in the second edition (1999), Together in Song (No. 672). The middle verse of this hymn beautifully acknowledges the Indigenous people of Australia as 'People of the ancient Dreamtime, they who found this country first...'

Submitted by:
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