



Suggestion 57

Warrigal Creek Nominees Pty Ltd

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November 17th 2017

TO – Australian Electoral Commission

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

As the current [REDACTED] custodians of the farming property, Warrigal Creek (near Woodside, in Victoria's Gippsland) my family and I are acutely conscious of the tragic events that occurred here in the early years of European settlement. We have always welcomed visitors researching this horrific story, or quietly acknowledging its enormous sadness, and we would do anything we could to help reflect the truth of Gippsland's early history. Over recent years our connections with GunaiKurnai people have been particularly appreciated.

As a family we are acutely aware that Angus McMillan was most likely involved with the 1843 Massacre at Warrigal Creek, and possibly other similar 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 and believe 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