



Comment on objections 30

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5 pages

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The Australian Electoral Commission,

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The Commissioner

A.E.C.

[REDACTED]
15th May, 2018

Dear Sirs,

I wish to address some concerns that have been expressed re the connection my late mother, Dame A. Jean Macnamara had to the electorate area of Melbourne Ports.

She lived close by the electorate most of her life, and had many connections with the electorate. Until her death from heart failure in 1968 she lived at [REDACTED] Murphy St. South Yarra, less than 320 meters from the boundary of Punt Rd. She had a deep and abiding love for the Botanical Gardens, the public spaces, and the Shrine. Her patients were from all over Victoria, including the electorate.

When her family moved from Beechworth to Melbourne when she was 6 years old. They moved very close to the electoral boundary. They first moved to [REDACTED] Claremont Ave, Malvern, on the corner of Soudan St. When she was 17 they moved up to the other end of Soudan St, to [REDACTED] Wattle Tree Rd, Malvern. A scholarship to Presbyterian Ladies College meant she travelled to the city on the Malvern Tram, up St Kilda Rd. Later she took the same route to Melbourne University, the Royal Melbourne Hospital & the Royal Childrens Hospital. all through the electorate.

Her husband, Dr J. Ivan Connor lived in the electorate at [redacted] Pasley St, South Yarra when they became engaged. His widowed mother and his sister lived on in the same house until the early 1950s. Jean and her husband visited there frequently. Both Jean and Ivan attended the Presbyterian Church South Yarra, in Pine Rd, for some time. After their marriage they purchased [redacted] Murphy St, South Yarra and made a home there.

Both their daughters attended school in the electorate for all their schooling, and she attended frequently, especially to advise the school on postural matters. The nearby Botanical Gardens were a delight to her. She attended Government House from time to time, and also the Shrine, as her husband had served as a Medical officer in WWI.

she had many patients in the electorate and all over Victoria. It was a frequent practice to do home visits. Polio was no respecter of boundaries. Memorably, she attended Ida Pender, Squizzy Taylor's girl friend, one night at Middle Park, and again later in Prahran. When doing virus research, specifically psittacosis, she had to attend suburban houses all over Melbourne, to attend to, and remove, diseased parrots.

The Port of Melbourne was her gateway to the rest of the world, as it was for most Victorians. She travelled from the Port to take up her scholarship to the Rockefeller Institute in New York. It was to Victoria Dock that she sent the Myxomatosis Virus, to Dr J. Ivan Connor, of the Walter and Eliza Hall, who "watched the precious virus thrown into Victoria Dock by a doctor in the Quarantine Section."

In October 1933 she arrived back in Port Melbourne to be met by the press. Among other things she had arranged for the financing and importation of the first Drinker Respirators in Australia. The first time one of them was used was by Macnamara on a critically ill policeman with polio, in the Old Police Hospital, where she kept him alive overnight. The Old Police Hospital is still in existence, in South Bank Boulevard, in the electorate.

In later years, widowed at 55, she stayed on at [redacted] Murphy St, sometimes seeing patients there. She enjoyed the company of friends who lived in the electorate, in Domain Rd, near the gardens. One in particular was a great supporter of her Red Cross, and myxomatosis interests.

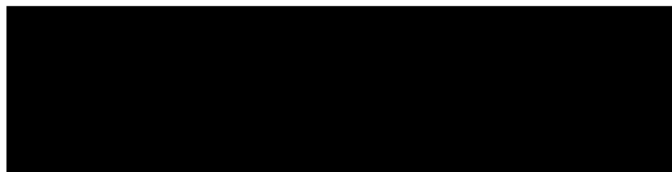
Dane Jean had many connections in the electorate, and as a family we continue to do so. Her granddaughter works as a doctor for the disadvantaged in Grey St, just around the corner from the electorate office in Fitzroy St. St Kilda.

If the electorate commissioners wish to retain the name of Melbourne Port for the electorate we have no concerns re the naming of a different electorate after Macnamara, in Victoria. Her connections, scientific interests and medical practices were widespread, as were her environmental concerns.

However it is our preference for them to retain Macnamara for Melbourne Port, because of her connections to the area.

yours very sincerely

With Thanks



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