



Comment on objections 87

Blanche Horgan

1 page

Dear Officer,

I wish to express my objections that there were insignificant reasons found by the AEC to change the electorate name Batman. I am writing as a member of GUBAG, a local Getup group, which at this stage is identified as the Batman Getup group, in line with the Getup suggestion that local groups be identified by the name of their electorate.

I want to celebrate and acknowledge individuals who have in their lifetime made Australia better, and consequently I do not wish to honor individuals who have caused damage to the people, flora or fauna of this great country. Thus I feel that it is imperative that we do not honor John Batman by having an electorate named after him as it is a known fact that he treated Aboriginal people poorly. He unfairly exchanged the pristine land in the Port Philip area which Aboriginal people had cared for and managed for a measly few goods such as blankets and mirrors. He is also cited as by former artist John Glover, as treating Aboriginal people terribly, having "roving parties" which led to resistant aboriginal people being killed. **I do not want to honor John Batman by having an electorate named after him with such awful evidence.**

I would prefer to acknowledge, in the spirit of reconciliation, to consider naming the electorate after the Aboriginal leader Simon Wonga. I urge the Redistribution Committee to consider renaming the Batman electorate to Wonga based on what John Batman has done to Aboriginal people, and that we need to honor special Australians such as Simon Wonga rather than honoring people like John Batman who has caused MANY people great suffering.

Yours sincerely

Blanche Horgan

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████