



Objection 53

Karen Large

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From: Karen Large
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Objection to retaining the name of Batman
Date: Sunday, 15 April 2018 5:03:21 PM

Dear Officer

I am writing to express my strong opposition to retaining the name of Batman for the Federal electorate in which I have lived for 30 years.

Research has shown that John Batman was involved in conflict with Aboriginal people in Tasmania in which he participated in hunting parties that killed Aboriginal people. According to the publication *The Conversation* John Batman himself admitted to hunting, firing on, and killing Aboriginal people. I quote the following from the *Conversation* (May 13, 2011)

According to Batman's own words, the Aborigines:

"Were in the act of running away into the thick scrub, when I ordered the men to fire upon them, which was done, and a rush by the party immediately followed, we only captured that Night one woman and a male child about Two years old, the party was in search of them the remainder of the Night, but without success, the next morning we found one man very badly wounded in his ankle and knee, shortly after we found another 10 buckshot had entered his Body, he was alive but very bad, there was a great number of traces of blood in various directions and learned from those we took that 10 men were wounded in the Body which they gave us to understand were dead or would die, and Two women in the same state had crawled away, besides a number that was shot in the legs... on Friday morning we left the place for my Farm with the two men, woman and child, but found it quite impossible that the Two former could walk, and after trying them by every means in my power, for some time, found I could not get them on. I was obliged therefore to shoot them." <https://theconversation.com/the-truth-about-john-batman-melbournes-founder-and-murderer-of-the-blacks-1025>

I think it is inexcusable to name a federal seat of Parliament after a murderer. I ask that the committee reconsider its recommendation to retain the name of Batman. In view of the high number of Aboriginal people living in this area I believe a far more fitting and positive historical figure for the seat to be named after is Simon Wonga as put forward by various submissions.

Yours sincerely

Karen Large

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