



Comment on suggestion 38

Tim Watts MP

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As the sitting Member for Gellibrand I wholeheartedly endorse the suggestion of the Australian Labor Party's Victorian Branch to rename the electorate after Joan Kirner.

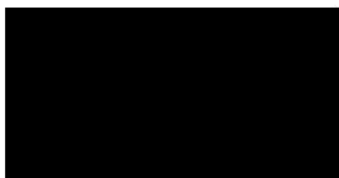
While Joan's outstanding contribution to the nation in the fields of conservation, gender equality and government were well set out in the Labor suggestion, I want to underline the strength of the local connection between Joan Kirner and Melbourne's West.

Joan was well known and loved throughout Melbourne's west and remained an active member of the local community until her last. She was a friend and mentor to countless members of the community, a fact underlined by the more than 1000 people who attended her state funeral at Williamstown Town Hall. The strength of her connection with the area is underlined by the naming of the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital in Sunshine in her honour. On her passing Joan was described variously as 'Williamstown's favourite daughter' and 'the west's favourite daughter'.

Since the Labor suggestion became public I have been contacted by many members of my electorate to tell me their story of how Joan helped and supported them.

A petition I launched on my website in support of the change has gathered more than 1,000 signatures.

I can think of no woman in Melbourne's west more deserving of this honour than Joan Kirner OAM, AC and I encourage you to adopt the suggestion.



Tim Watts MP
Federal Member for Gellibrand

