



Comment on objections 22

Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead Inc.

2 pages

Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead Inc.

The Chair
Australian Electoral Commission
50 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra City 2601

13 May 2018

Dear Commissioner,

Re: Support for the naming of the Bean electorate

Members of the Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead (MOTH Inc.) are proud to support the proposal to name the new electorate after CEW Bean.

MOTH is a non-profit community group, established in 1992, that maintains an ongoing commitment to the respectful future and recognition of the Tuggeranong Homestead, located in Richardson, ACT.

The present day 31-hectare portion of the Tuggeranong homestead holds many significant layers of history including the occupation of war historian CEW Bean and his team of writers who resided there from 1919-1925. It was here, in peaceful surrounds, that Bean commenced his monumental work to record the Official History of Australia's involvement in World War 1. The first two volumes were completed at the homestead and dispatched to the publishers, Angus & Robertson, in 1924.

There is a commemorative room at the homestead dedicated to Bean and his hard working team. The display reflects his life and work at the homestead and the establishment of local links with a network of colleagues and friends within the Canberra and Queanbeyan districts. Bean established a cricket pitch, the oldest remaining extant concrete pitch in the ACT, as well as a tennis court. Bean contributed as a citizen to the local area and became well known and respected. Local identities such as Henry Gullett, T C Weston, James Brackenreg and C S Daley enjoyed visits to the homestead, as did long-established Tuggeranong farming families, the Cunninghams, Gallaghers, Pikes, Sheedys, Morrisons, McGees and Oldfields. Father Haydon, a local Catholic priest, and graduates and officers from Duntroon, gathered at the homestead for socials, cricket and tennis matches. Bean is embedded into Tuggeranong's local history.

In 1920, Charles Bean married Ethel Clara Young, a Queanbeyan nurse whose family had arrived in the Tuggeranong district as early as the 1840s. Assistant historian George Lowery married Mary McGee in 1923 and the Tuggeranong historians' families began to grow.

In 1994, MOTH successfully appealed to the ACT Government Land and Planning Appeals Board to overturn a proposal for inappropriate housing development on the remaining section of the property, which had been classified as heritage-listed both locally and nationally. MOTH defended the heritage value of the homestead property when a decision was handed down by the Board to protect the homestead. Bean's

occupation of the homestead was a crucial argument that enabled its heritage values to be finally upheld.

Bean was an Australian of integrity, courage and commitment. He carried the burden of the war for life and at a cost to his personal health. He was injured twice in the course of his work, and carried a bullet in his leg for the rest of his life. From the beginning to the end of the war, at Gallipoli and at the Western Front, he refused to leave the soldiers, constantly thinking of how best he could serve them once the hostilities ended, by compiling a truthful and comprehensive account of their service in the war. To this end he established the Australian War Memorial in the heart of the nation's capital, as a repository for all the records and artefacts that had been gathered during the war and which told the story of the 1st AIF. In response to a plea, "will they remember me in Australia?" he returned to Gallipoli to gather artefacts and interview a Turkish officer; he also carefully assembled his own archive including over 300 notebooks and diaries so that he could fulfill his promise to honour the fallen by telling their story. With care and foresight, he ensured the appropriate storage, organization and safe transport of records back to Australia.

Bean is remembered for his courage on the front line, his meticulousness, determination and dedication to his work. Through his writing of the war history he characterized the emerging identity and character of the Australian people and we owe him a debt of gratitude, recognition and understanding.

Bean proved he had a liberal and open mind. He later reversed his opinion not to support Monash because he was Jewish, which is indeed a measure of the man. He opened his heart and mind to people of different religions and those with new or different ideas. He challenged the social mores of the day and revised his own opinions. Bigotry and the White Australia Policy were ingrained in our early Australian culture. Times have changed and with it our acceptance of cultural and religious diversity. Bean supported post-World War 2 Jewish migration from Europe further indicating he was a compassionate man who cared for his fellow human beings whatever their religion.

In the 1950s, Bean was appointed Chairman of the board of the Australian War Memorial, President of the Institute of Journalists and Chairman of the Commonwealth Archives. He accompanied Queen Elizabeth at the opening of the War Memorial. He also established the NSW Parks and Playgrounds Movement firmly believing that Australian children needed areas in which to play, flourish and to explore to maintain their health and their spirit. He believed in a sound education to nurture their life values and help to create a healthy society.

It is indeed a fitting tribute to Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean to name the electorate in his memory.

For and on behalf of MOTH Inc.,

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Horsfield,
Chair MOTH (Inc.)