



The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 12

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2 pages

SUGGESTION

B-12

The Secretary
Re-distribution Committee for Queensland
GPO Box 2590
Brisbane Qld 4001

Name for new Federal Electorate

It is with particular interest that I respectfully offer the following suggestion to the decision making process of your committee. An appropriate name for the new Federal Electorate in Queensland would be **Macrossan** after the Queensland pioneer explorer, MLA, Colonial Secretary and Federation advocate John Murtagh Macrossan.

Justification.

1. Pioneer explorer of Central Queensland. (Mackay district)
2. Political voice of North Queensland (MLA, Kennedy & Townsville 1874 - 91)
3. Secretary for Mines – substantially improved mining legislation
4. Secretary for Works – improved labour laws and railway operations
5. Colonial Secretary 1889 – significant parliamentary debater
6. Represented Queensland at the Federal Council, Hobart 1889
7. Played important role at Federal Conference, Melbourne 1890
8. At Constitutional Convention, Sydney 1891, rallied support for Parkes' key resolution
9. Macrossan died at the 1891 Conference too early to see the fruits of his work. His bequest, Federation and a distinguished legal family. (notes and references attached)

Of the three Queensland Political Leaders who fought hardest for Federation, Griffith and Dickson rightly have Federal Electorates named after them, only **Macrossan** remains to be so honored. I submit this suggestion in a private capacity not representing any organization. Past experience as a former President of Nundah and Districts Historical Society, Treasurer Oral History Association of Australia (Qld Branch) and Lilley Award recipient persuades me the name Macrossan is eminently suitable and would enjoy community support.

Yours in raising public awareness of Queensland History


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Re-distribution Committee for Queensland – name for new Federal Electorate.

Notes and References

1. The Discovery of Mackay Queensland, Robert Chambers, 1996.
“At the time (1859) many squatters were pushing their way northward ... The party consisted of John Mackay, Robinson, Murray, Macrossan, Barberi and Duke ... they came upon ... a bold deep river ... having confirmed our belief of its being a new discovery, Macrossan suggested it should be called Mackay River to which the others readily agreed.” Later the name was transferred to the Town.
- 2-4 The political career of John Murtagh Macrossan, Harrison Bryant, UQ.
5. Memoirs of Sir Robert Philip, Premier of Qld.
“Macrossan possessed a magnetic personality. Though he was frail in physique he was full of energy and his speeches exercised a remarkable power over his hearers.”
6. Queensland Parliamentary Debates 1889 and Nudgee 1891-1991, T.P. Boland.
“J.M. Macrossan, one of the most eloquent speakers in the Colonial Parliament in the last years of the nineteenth century”.
- 7-8. The making of the Commonwealth, Wise, 1913.
“Macrossan – the second figure in the Federal Movement next after Sir Henry Parkes. It is questionable indeed whether he did not overshadow Parkes at the Convention of 1891. Mr Deakin once said of him in conversation with the writer that on the floor of the house he (Macrossan) was almost Sir Henry’s equal while in committee he was the superior”.
9. Journalist, Peter Charlton, 7 April 1989 NCA
“Queensland’s new Chief Justice is a man of surprisingly wide interests ... Mr Justice Macrossan comes from a distinguished legal family which has now supplied three Chief Justices. His namesake John Murtagh Macrossan came to Australia in 1853 from Ireland was a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly and a Cabinet Minister and a strong supporter of Federation last century. One uncle, Hugh Denis Macrossan was first appointed a judge of the Queensland Supreme Court in 1926 and Chief Justice in 1940. he died within a month. Another Uncle Neal William Macrossan a Rhodes scholar, was appointed Chief Justice in 1946 ... the new Chief Justice was also educated at Oxford after completing arts and law degrees at UQ. He was admitted to the bar in 1951 age 21 and a Queen’s Council in 1967. He is chancellor of Griffith University and has been chairman of the Qld Committee of the Churchill Trust since 1985. Between 1978 and 1982, he was president of the Qld Art Gallery Society.”