



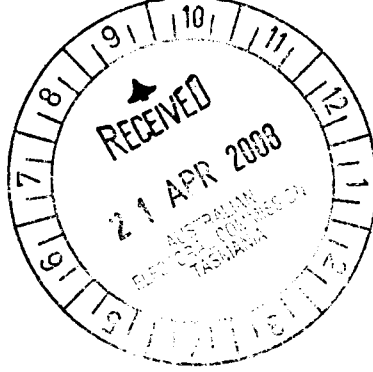
**The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania**



Public Suggestion Number 7

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3 Page(s)



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Redistribution Committee for Tasmania.

Dear Sir/ Madam.

I wish to advise that I give my full support to Mr R. Holderness-Roddam's suggestion that the name of the Denison Electorate be changed to Inglis Clark for the reasons outlined in his paper attached.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Gordon Goward'.

Gordon Goward

Why we should rename the electorate of *Denison* to *Inglis Clark*

The proposal

Peter Jones¹, in a letter to *The Mercury*, suggested that the name of the Denison electorate be changed to Inglis Clark in recognition of the tremendous contribution that Andrew Inglis Clark made to public life in Tasmania.

The Hon. Duncan Kerr MP repeated this suggestion when speaking at the declaration of results for the 2007 Federal election for his seat of Denison. *Hobart Mercury*².

Why?

Andrew Inglis Clark died in 1907. It would be appropriate to recognise his many outstanding contributions to Tasmania and Australia's cultural, legal and political development to mark the centenary of his death. Furthermore, Governor Denison was not a supporter of democracy.

Precedents

The electorate of Braddon was formerly known as Darwin. It was renamed in 1955 in honour of Sir Edward Braddon, one of the leaders of the Federation movement in Tasmania, a former member of the Tasmanian Parliament and also member of the first House of Representatives³.

Similarly, the electorate we know as Lyons was renamed from Wilmot in 1984, in honour of Joe Lyons, Premier of Tasmania 1923-28 and Prime Minister of Australia 1932-39, as well as his wife, Dame Enid Lyons, who was elected to the House of Representative 1943-51, and was the first

woman to reach cabinet rank, serving in the Menzies Cabinet, 1949-51.⁴

Governor Denison

Davis and Petrow state that "... *Denison was descended from a long line of West Riding [Yorkshire] clothiers who purchased the Ossington estate from an old Nottinghamshire family, the Cartrights, in 1768. The Denisons in fact typified the wealthy English merchants who bought gentry status*"⁵.

Not surprisingly, Denison was strongly opposed to democracy. In 1848 he reported to the English authorities that, "*There is an essentially democratic spirit which actuates the large mass of the community and it is with a view to check that spirit, of preventing it coming into operation, that I would suggest the formation of an Upper Chamber.*"⁶

Andrew Inglis Clark

Andrew Inglis Clark made an enormous contribution to the academic, cultural and political life in Tasmania.

He was responsible for the introduction of proportional representation for the Tasmanian House of Assembly. The system is still used today and we know it as Hare-Clark. It is widely considered to be one of the best and fairest electoral systems in use anywhere in the world.

Many would argue that Clark's most important contribution to Australian politics was his drafting of the Federal Constitution.

Although Clark's draft was modified by others, any comparison of his original version with that eventually adopted as Australia's Constitution demonstrates the very significant influence he had on it.

Andrew Inglis Clark was, by any measure, a progressive thinker. As an example, he strongly supported the right of women to vote.

Clark was first elected to the House of Assembly in 1878. In 1887 he was appointed Attorney-General in the Cabinet of Premier Sir Phillip Fysh.

He studied law and was admitted to the Tasmanian Bar in 1877. He was appointed a judge in the Tasmanian Supreme Court in 1901. He was widely tipped to be appointed as a judge in the Federal High Court, but this was not to be as the number of judges appointed was reduced from the initially proposed five to three.⁶

Summary

Governor Denison was a poor choice of person to be remembered by naming an electorate after him. His family bought their way into the English upper classes.

Denison was against the abolition of the transportation of convicts, and he opposed the establishment of democratic government in Tasmania.

In contrast, A I Clark was a strong supporter of democracy, being responsible for the introduction of proportional representation in the House of Assembly. He was the first public figure to support women's right to vote.

Clark's most important legacy lies in the Australian Constitution, which he largely wrote.

Andrew Inglis Clark richly deserves to be remembered by adopting his name in place of Denison's for the electorate.

References

- 1 Hobart Mercury, Letters to the Editor, 14 November 2007, p. 40.
- 2 Hobart Mercury, 13 December 2007, p. 6.
- 3 www.abc.net.au/elections/federal/2007/guide/brad.htm

4 www.abc.net.au/elections/federal/2007/guide/lyon.htm

5 Davis, R and Petrow, S (eds.) "*Varieties of Vice-Regal Life*" by Sir William and Lady Denison. Pub. Tasmanian Historical Research Association, Hobart, 2004, p. 5.

6 *Founders of our Electoral System*, pub. Tasmanian Parliamentary Library, Hobart, 2005.
www.parliament.tas.gov.au/tpl/Baeg/Founders.htm

Further reading

- Haward, M. and Warden, J. (eds.) *An Australian Democrat: The Life, Work, and Consequences of Andrew Inglis Clark*, Pub. Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies and the University of Tasmania, Hobart, 1995
- Ely, R (Ed.) *A Living Force: Andrew Inglis Clark and the Ideal of Commonwealth*, Pub. Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies and the University of Tasmania, Hobart, 2001
- Neasey, F M and L J, *Andrew Inglis Clark*. Pub. University of Tasmania Law School, Sandy Bay, Tas 2001.
- Newman, Terry, *Hare-Clark in Tasmania: Representation of All Opinions*. Pub. Joint Library Committee of the Parliament of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, 1992.

For a detailed bibliography:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/clark/bibliography.html>

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