



Submission FOB268

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - TAS](#)
Subject: Renaming Franklin Electorate to Tongerlongeter
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Without having a comprehensive knowledge of the subject, my perception, given the absurdly limited time to make representation, is that the proposed name change depends on the claims that Tongerlongeter was a respected warrior fighting colonial oppression and John Franklin was an embarrassing failed administrator who wanted only to explore the seas.

From my preliminary readings, the claims fall appallingly short of the mark.

Tongerlongeter was respected for his courage and cunning, but no evidence in the proposal is presented of overall compassion or constructive political nous. In contrast, for example, Nelson Mandela was technically a criminal, and admitted to resorting to violence, but he also firmly believed in, and worked towards, a harmonious future for his country, as his 1994 autobiographical book *Long Walk to Freedom* shows. For that reason, his name would be a worthy addition to South African electoral nomenclature. Tongerlongeter does not seem to merit anything like the same honour in Tasmania.

John Franklin was one of several consecutive lieutenant governors thrown into the chaos of a harsh penal colony rife with corruption. As with his predecessors, Franklin tried his utmost to be fair and thorough, but corrupt opponents won out, possibly by spinning yarns to English powers. Nevertheless, Franklin did manage to found an effective system of primary education as well as the Tasmanian Natural History Society and the Hobart Anniversary Regatta, and he supported the work of scientists such as John Gould and Count Strzelecki.

Any discussion of Sir John Franklin must also include his wife Lady Jane. She should be remembered not only for her unwavering encouragement of Sir John, but for her contribution to Tasmania culture, not least in her success in buying 130 acres of land in Lenah Valley and building a charming museum in Greek revivalist style. After falling into disuse the building has now for many years operated as the Lady Franklin Gallery, open throughout the year for artistic exhibitions and workshops. Although some people are happy to smear Lady Franklin as one who exploited convict labour to her own advantage and abandoned the aboriginal girl Mathinna to a life of squalor when the Franklins' term was cut short, whatever truth there is in those accusations, they must be placed alongside the debilitating conditions facing all Tasmanians at the time.

This hasty proposed renaming is yet another case of ignoring all British or White achievements and focusing on perceived shortcomings, while simultaneously raising all indigenous figures to almost Empyrean heights, beyond criticism. Such bias is at best a demoralising waste of time and money, and at worst a social cancer.

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