

Electoral Representation Advisory Panel

Re Horsham Rural City Council ward models 1 and 2.

Green Park is a more appropriate name than Southbank for a ward south of the Wimmera River in Horsham.

The Horsham area south of the Wimmera River was known as Green Park from as early as the 1860s.

In 1882 Green Park had three hotels, a soap factory, two sawmills, several market gardens, brickmakers, saddlers, blacksmiths, and several dairies.

Later, there was a Presbyterian Church, grocer shop, a plant nursery, football clubs and a hospital.

Green Park today has a milk-distribution depot, kindergarten, several motels, industries, a mosque and many housing estates.

In the mid 1900s, many immigrants settled in Green Park and made it their permanent home while establishing themselves as important contributors to Horsham society.

'Southbank' is only a relatively recent housing estate.

Jane Duff, from the 1864 'Lost in the Bush' legend, was a resident of Green Park.

Former Horsham Mayor Bill Roberts officially named Green Park at an official ceremony attended by a large gathering in Stawell Road, Horsham, on November 19, 1991. The name was declared in the Government Gazette on August 28, 1991.

That is why it is appropriate to name a ward south of the Wimmera River on models one and two as Green Park instead of Southbank.

The name Green Park, which has always represented the southern entrance to Horsham and is signposted as such, should remain an essential part of Horsham's history.

On a separate aspect involving prospective naming of Horsham wards, Kalimna Park, south of Natimuk Road to the Wimmera River should retain its original name and should not be changed to 'Rudolph' - ie, Kalimna Park Ward, not Rudolph Ward.

Kalimna is already recorded as part of Horsham's history and should not be changed.

Please also be aware that in Models 1 and 2 for Horsham City, there is the incorrect spelling of Oatlands, which is in reference to the northwest area of Horsham. It has been presented as 'Oaklands' but it should be 'Oatlands', of which Oatlands Park was named.

There is also reference to 'Coglin', which I assume is in reference to former Catholic priest Fr Coughlin, who was responsible for a large part of 'Meadowbank', the area south of Robinson Street to the Wimmera River. It is spelt the same way as Coughlin Park, 'Coughlin'.

The name 'Sunnyside', in reference to Horsham's northeast between Dooen Road and the Wimmera River, should also be considered as a ward. The name is also synonymous with Horsham history.

Alan Williams

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L-R: Mrs. Barnett, Frank Rossbotham & Dolly Frost  
[Photo: Wimmera Mail-Times]