

**Electoral structure review - Central Goldfields Council - Preliminary Submission
Anne Doran - Eddington - 17 February 2023, 9:00 am**

The CEO M/s Lucy Roffey

Central Goldfields Shire

Maryborough. 3472 Vic.

27th January 2023.

Dear Lucy,

Reading the Maryborough Advertiser (24.1.23) re : “Local Shire to undergo electoral structure review”, it has prompted me to respond.

I propose now, as I did back then, of the time when shire amalgamations came into being, that a new Ward be created at Carisbrook, as many young families were starting to establish their way of life there. I suggested then, as now, the ward name to be the “Tilly Aston” ward, after the young blind girl, born in Carisbrook, became a writer in later life and founded the Vic. Association of Braille writers, and later, went on to establish the Association for Advancement of the Blind, with herself as Secretary. Her memorial is still in Carisbrook at present.

The number of ratepayers could be reallocated from neighbouring rural wards like Flynn and Paddy’s Ranges and taking away 3 Crs. away from Maryborough ward to make up the required allocations, leaving only 1 councillor then. This way, any future decisions would then be fair and not be lost, as Maryborough ward had the more dominating voting rights.

My submission had then not been acknowledged by Central Goldfields council, or even acted upon.

But let me go back in time, and fill Council in on what transpired prior to amalgamations. Please bear with me.

I decided to stand for Council in the former Riding of Tarnagulla in 1988, in the former Shire of Bet Bet, which then comprised of Tarnagulla, Dunolly and Moliagul which had been recognized here in Australia and around the world, as Australia’s original “Golden Triangle”, where more big gold nuggets have been discovered than anywhere else in the world, with our own famous “Welcome Stranger” nugget in 1869 with a weight of 72 kilos of almost pure gold. The

Welcome Stranger monument still remains today at Moliagul, and remains a stark reminder of the great wealth our mining history has brought to Central Victoria.

I was elected in August 1988, as the first female councillor in the history of the shire of Bet Bet. My platform was on history, heritage, mining and tourism. When shire amalgamations became imminent, and now proposed rural shires were to amalgamate with Maryborough City Council. I met the local mayor then, and was asked for a suitable name. I suggested "Goldfields Shire", trying to keep our gold mining identity alive. The name was adopted and became known as "Central Goldfields Shire". I knew then, that rural shires would not work out, as rural interests are very different to city needs.

I had also been successful in changing the boundary line from Loddon Shire to now include Moliagul into Goldfields Shire and try and retain the "Golden Triangle" alive, as our own mining history of the area and proposed tourist attraction.

My next proposal to a VEC officer at Maryborough, I further suggested that the new name of North ward be changed to Flynn ward, after the Rev. John Flynn, born in Moliagul in 1880, went on to established the Royal Flying Doctor Service and brought safety and health services to the outback. His memorial is still present in Moliagul today. The VEC officer agreed and said, it is about time someone recognised the great Rev. Flynn for his services. The Flynn Ward was accepted and is now the present name for our ward.

As a former lady councillor in Bet Bet, I was always outnumbered and outvoted by the existing 6 male councillors who thought little of their history, heritage, mining and tourism potentials, as they all mainly had farming as their main objectives.

Very often, multi councillors in a single ward, have vested interests, but as they always win the vote, a single ward councillor loses, and some decisions never see daylight.

Maryborough once had the title "City of Maryborough Council", with a Mayor at its head. It has since lost this "City" status, and when shire amalgamations were enacted, the multi councillors carried on as usual. I doubt very much that anyone had any consideration as this would eventually become an unworkable policy.

My final point I wish to bring to your attention, and I'll be brief.

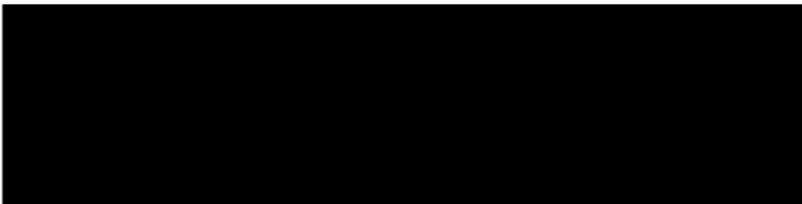
The Maryborough Technical School, which had been training students in metallurgy, assaying, trade skills, life skills, career paths and professions for over 100 years. It also had teachers who taught English at night classes for newly arrived skilled migrants from West European countries, that came to this "Lucky Country", for a better life and future for their children after war-torn WW2. The majority went on to become naturalised Australian citizens, and have been the foundation stone on which Australia became a productive country.

I was on the Technical School council and cheque signatory, I volunteered for 13 years in the school's canteen and was involved in the 3 schools' transition, which would never work. The day the Tech. school (as it was referred to) closed, was a black day for our entire district, and to find now, that Goldfields Shire Council had moved into this grand old historic building, was an enormous disappointment to countless people.

A copy of this letter is forwarded to the Victorian Electoral Commission for their consideration as well.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Anne Doran.



[Redacted], Eddington. Vic. 3472.

Phone - [Redacted].