

**From:** Tracey Egan (she/her) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 August 2023 1:46 PM  
**To:** Monash ERAP Submissions 2023  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission from members of the Monash Gender Equity Advisory Committee - Monash City Council electoral structure review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Panel,

I am making this submission on behalf of the members of Monash Council’s Gender Equity Advisory Committee (GEAC). GEAC is comprised of community members (individuals and community organisations) and three Councillors. This is not a formal submission on behalf of the Council.

GEAC’s comments are limited to the proposed ward names only, and no comment is made regarding the other work of the panel (ward structure or proposed models).

Whilst we recognise that the Panel is not required to comply with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2022, it is disappointing that the panel has not considered this in its approach to selecting new names. We would encourage the Panel to consider what the Naming Rules set out to achieve in respect to gender equality in Victoria. The naming rules support commemorative naming of places after women and are in line with the objectives of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and the UN Sustainable Development goals.

There has been substantial research and advocacy work over recent years that has focused on highlighting the cavernous gender gap in public naming practices to bring about change and address inequality. For example, the [“Put Her Name on It”](#) Campaign, a joint initiative by Geographic Place Names and Gender Equity Victoria, seeks to highlight just how few of our place names commemorate women.

Names should reflect the diversity of our Victorian population and ensure we are inclusive of all. An approach to ward naming that does not consider this is out of step with community expectations and values and further perpetuates the inequitable ward names in Monash. If ward naming was spotlighted in the consultation/public submission process it is likely to have been an area of interest for many residents in the City of Monash and a tool to highlight the work of the “Put her name on it campaign” and the gender gap in place naming.

From our (time-limited) research, it seems that the majority of proposed ward names for Monash are named directly (or indirectly) after men of Anglo-European descent. There is just one name that can be linked to a woman and the remainder are associated with Traditional Owner Languages (but not necessarily traditional owners of the lands to which they relate) or are named after flora and fauna. We would argue that even this approach can potentially perpetuate the existing gender gap, as flora and fauna are often themselves named after men (e.g. ‘Banksia’ for Sir Joseph Banks), even though women contributed to the work of many of these discoveries.

We feel that not addressing this gender inequality in the proposed place names would be a missed opportunity, and send an implicit message that there are not women worthy of being recognised. We would ask that the Panel instead consider gender neutral names, or names that commemorate the achievements of women, for all new wards.

Whilst we have had limited time to conduct enough research to propose new names, we have identified some suggested names below that meet the guidelines of being existing place name/compass direction/flora or fauna. In addition we suggest the Panel might look beyond these to consider names relating to notable women with a

connection to Monash e.g. Hailes after Jean Hailes, or McLorinan after Margaret McLorinan. Where there are no appropriate suggestions or no time to research them, compass points are an alternative available to the committee through its own approach e.g. Northern Ward, etc.

Panel's proposed new ward name	Etymology	Alternative name	Etymology/Reason for proposal
Banksia	Named for Sir Joseph Banks	Dianella	Indigenous Monash species, named for Diana, goddess of hunting  <a href="#">Dianella revoluta - Growing Native Plants (anbg.gov.au)</a>  <a href="#">Indigenous Species in Monash   City of Monash</a>
Blackburn	Thought to have been named after an early settler or after James Blackburn, the designer of Melbourne's Yan Yean water supply	Callistemon	Indigenous Monash species, from two Greek words 'callis' (beauty) and 'stemon' (flowers)  <a href="#">Indigenous Species in Monash   City of Monash</a>
Gallaghers	Named after landowner no detail but presumably a man	Hailes	To reflect the achievements of the late Dr Jean Hailes AM who was a pioneer in women's health with connections to Monash University. The Jean Hailes for Women Clinic is located in Clayton. See <a href="#">Dr Jean Hailes   Jean Hailes</a>
Gardiners Creek	The name comes from John Gardiner, a pastoral overlander to Port Phillip from Yass, New South Wales, in 1835. He settled near the junction of the Yarra River and Gardiners Creek about 3 km to the north-east	Ashwood	A portmanteau of Ashburton and Burwood
Huntingdale	The area's Melbourne Hunt Club was the original source of the name.	-	-
Jells	The park opened on 30 April 1976 and is named after Joseph	Acacia	From Greek 'ake' or 'akis' meaning sharp point. A number of

	Jell, a cattle grazer who worked in the area in the mid-late 1800s.		acacia plants are indigenous to Monash <a href="#">Indigenous Species in Monash   City of Monash</a>
Scotchmans Creek	Named for Scots who lived near it, including John McMillan	McLorinan	Margaret McLorinan was a pioneering female surgeon who grew up in Clayton  <a href="#">Clayton - Place - eMelbourne - The Encyclopedia of Melbourne Online</a>
University	While this is referring to Monash University (gendered name for Sir John Monash) the removal of the name removes gendered connotations.	Retain	-
Warrigal	Darug language?	Retain	-
Waverley Park	Presumably after Waverley, Scott novels		Suggest investigating Bunjil Bagora. Name approved by Traditional Owners.  See: <a href="#">'Bunjil Bagora': Hawthorn Football Club renames Waverley Park to honour Indigenous cultures - ABC Melbourne</a>
Damper Creek	Thought to be named after timber miller J Damper	Northern	Compass point

Thank you for your consideration.

Tracey Egan

On behalf of members of the Monash Council Gender Equity Advisory Committee



**Tracey Egan (she/her)**  
Gender Diversity & Equity Coordinator



**A:** 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, VIC, 3150

**W:** [www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au)





Monash Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

*Marcus Lee Design, Community support and partnerships 2022, commissioned for the City of Monash Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2022-2024, digital art.*

---

This email, including any attachments, is for the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, privileged or copyright material. If you received this email in error please advise the sender immediately by return email and delete it and all copies of it from your system. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you must not use, print, distribute, copy or disclose its contents to anyone. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)