



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

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Submission to the Redistribution Committee for Tasmania

From Dr Peter D Jones

As a history teacher with an M. Hum. in Tasmanian history from the University of Tasmania, I have long been perplexed why the electoral seat for Hobart is named after one of our more reactionary colonial governors, Sir William Denison.

I find that many Tasmanians are unaware of the role played by Andrew Inglis Clark, native born, and one of the architects of Australia's Federal Constitution. In addition, we partly owe the Hare-Clark electoral system to him, the most democratic voting system in the world.

Denison was governor at a time when the struggle against transportation was under way as well as the move towards a democratically elected colonial parliament, both of which moves he was opposed to. Born in London, and educated at Eton and the Royal Military College, he went on to be part of the Empire's colonial circuit, not only in New South Wales but also Canada and India. If the electoral seat name is changed, his name will live on with other geographical features in Tasmania, so he is hardly being eradicated from our history.

Given the proposed changes to electoral boundaries, now seems an ideal opportunity to change the name of the seat of Denison to Inglis Clark. Two seats in Tasmania have already changed their names in the last century so there is a precedent for this.

This year therefore seems an appropriate opportunity to honour this great constitutional lawyer and Member of Parliament by renaming the seat of Denison, rather than perpetuating the memory of one of our more reactionary governors.

