

The Secretary  
The Office of the Electoral Distribution Commission  
Level 11  
111 St. Georges Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

**For The Attention of The Electoral Distribution Commissioners**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment and to make recommendations for some changes to your WA Proposed Electoral Boundries, June 2007

I refer to the proposed West Swan District of the East Metropolitan Region

I make my objection and present you with a clear alternative name to better reflect the composition of the District.

The existing name for the Electoral District is Ballajura. This name was soundly accepted by the electors of Noranda, Morley and Malaga as a suitable name.

But Ironically the Name Ballajura represents and even more clearly identifies with the new Proposed District.

To support my request,  
I attach historical DATA from 1899, which brings together the immigrant families of Kerruish, Eaton, Creer, Sedgman and their settlement in the Swan Valley at Bennett Brook and the "Ballajora" Farm Land.

The Ballajura Primary School has clearly identified with those immigrant Families who include Matilda Bennett wife of Sir John Septimus Roe after whom Bennett Brook is named.

Please study the attached DATA and reconsider the name change, so as to reflect the historical attachment and cross relationship between the Rural and Urban (Majority of Electors) parts of the proposed District.

You must agree that the name Ballajura is far more reflective of the vast majority of the land mass and populous of the proposed District.

I reluctantly put the following alternatives, hoping that you will accept the above recommendation.

Alexander District, as Alexander Drive divides Ballajura and Landsdale.  
Eaton, or Kerruish, or Bennett as each one of the immigrant Families.

Yours Faithfully

Councillor John McNamara  
Ballajura Ward (City of Swan)

**HISTORY OF THREE MANX MEN IN THE SWAN VALLY.**  
**Western Australia**  
**compiled from notes by**  
**John Morrison Creer in 1978**

In about 1899 Mr. and Mrs. Sedgman and their three Children sailed from England to the Isle of Man, so that Mr. Sedgman a School Teacher, could take up his appointment as Headmaster of the Wesleyan School in Peel. Mrs. Ciara Sedgman was formerly Ciara Eaton from Matlock in Derbyshire. England. After two years with the Wesleyan School in Peel, I.O.M. Mr. Sedgman spent another two years in charge of the Ramsey School.

In September 1904 the Family migrated on the White Star Liner S.S. Runic from Liverpool to Albany in Western Australia so that Mr Sedgman could take up a role in charge of a school in Geraldton.

Mr. Ernest Malfby Kerruish, a Chartered Accountant living at Groves Cottage, Union Mills, Bradden who was married to Blanche Eaton (sister of Clara Sedgman) and had three children. Alice, Charles and Thomas was apparently advised by his doctor to move to warmer climate for health. Reasons. The family decided to migrate to Western Australia where the Eaton sisters would be able to keep in relatively close contact even though they would be 12,000 miles from. their homeland.

In February 1905 Mr. And Mrs. Kerruish and family along with Arthur Eaton (the younger brother of Ciara and Blanche) and John Creer (a single 24 year old farmer from Ballafreer Farm at Marown, I.O.M.) sailed from Liverpool on the S.S. Runic and arrived at Albany in Western Australia on 23rd March 1905. The connection between these individuals, other than the Eaton relationship appears to have been, that they all regularly attended the Union Mills Wesleyan Church. Also attending the church was Alice Clucas of Tromode, who would later marry Arthur Eaton and Annie Morrison from Glenshoggie in Ballaugh who would later marry John Creer.

On 31 March 1905, Mr. Kerruish acquired 200 acres at Bennett Brock in Caversham which he named "Ballajora" after a farm in the Isle of Man. The three men commenced clearing the area of bush to build a timber framed house and to plant the fruit trees and vegetables which Mr. Kerruish so loved to grow and tend for, so carefully as demonstrated throughout his lifetime 'Of 75 years.

By coincidence, it was discovered that the stream running through the "Ballajora" property called Bennett Brook was named in 1829 after Matilda Bennett a Manx Woman who was the wife of Sir. John Septimus Roe. He was the first Surveyor General for Western Australia under Sir James Stirling, the first Governor of the State then known as the Swan River Colony.

The brook runs into the Swan River at Guildford, the town at which Mr. Kerruish, Eatons and Creers did all their shopping and other business for many years

## BALLAJURA PRIMARY SCHOOL House System. Our Manx Connections

Ballajura Primary School has taken the names of the original pioneering families of the district for the school faction houses. These families come from the Isle of Man, a small island situated in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland.

The families Creer, Eaton and Kerruish settled and attempted to farm this area. Bennett House was named after Matilda Bennett, wife of the first Surveyor General of W A, John Septimus Roe. Matilda also had Isle of Man (Manx) connections, which is the common thread. We were also fortunate in having been able to establish strong links with the Manx Society in W A who have provided us with a great deal of support, hence we have the Manx Shield.

All the Houses contest for the Shield over the school year through the House points Award. These points can be given by any teacher to any child or to the House for appropriate behavior across the spectrum. Weekly House Points are given at assembly and the winning House holds the Abacus Shield for that week. Progressive scores are also given.

In July, the end of term 2, we celebrate Manx Day (in the Isle of Man this significant day is known as Tynwald Day. Tynwald being the longest surviving Parliament in the world - which is celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> July each year).

At this time the children in years 3 -6, in Houses, go on an annual outing to a recreation centre (or TWO) where the children can enjoy a day of activities with other children in their group. Children in years 1 and 2 have an activity at school in their Houses. As much as possible we make this an interactive activity across the year levels.

There is also a special Manx Day Assembly when children present songs and dances of Manx origins and at which the Captains and Vice Captains are presented with their House Flags by representatives of the families of the original pioneers.

There is also an open night for parents to look at the work of children.

A special certificate is awarded to the child in each class who has accumulated the highest number of House Points.

At the end of the Year the Manx Shield is presented by the Manx Society, to the House with the highest number of points.

The Manx Connection has as given our school a focus and an ethos, which is unique. It is important to use the House Point System to encourage pride and confidence, **our school motto.**

### House Colours and Emblems

Bennett House:

Colour: Dark Blue,

Emblem: Willy Wag Tail

Eaton House:

Colour: Light blue

Emblem: Kingfisher

Creer House:

Colour: Gold

Emblem: Kestral

Kerruish House;

Colour: Green

Emblem: Magpie