

5 December 2014

PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN SOLDIERS POINT RESERVE NAME

The Geographical Names Board has received a proposal from Port Stephens Council regarding the naming of a reserve located at 122 Soldiers Point Road, Soldiers Point.

Chair of the Geographical Names Board, Des Mooney, said public feedback was being sought on the proposal to name the reserve *John Eckersley Park*.

John Eckersley was widely known for his interest in environmental issues and for his leadership in the community promoting sustainability and long-term conservation activities.

The proposed site is the location of the first of his many bush recovery projects with native plants bordering the western boundary creating a welcome, park-style space when driving into Soldiers Point.

Mr Eckersley moved to Soldiers Point upon his retirement in 1994, where was invited to be Chairman of the then Soldiers Point, Salamander Bay and Taylors Beach Precinct. In this capacity, he was later invited by Council to assist in setting up a Tidy Towns group in the area.

In 2008, Mr Eckersley's contribution to the well-being of Port Stephens was acknowledged in his award of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his community service.

Mr Mooney said the board is encouraging community comment before it considers the proposal.

"It is important that place names reflect the character and history of the local area and community," he said.

"We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to provide their feedback on the proposed name."

Details of the proposal can be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board's website at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively written submissions may be lodged with the Secretary, Geographical Names Board, 346 Panorama Ave, Bathurst, NSW, 2795.

The closing date for submissions is 12 January 2015.

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