



## SINGLETON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

AS-012/24 - Attachment 1

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Attn: The Mayor and Councillors  
The City of Rockingham  
PO BOX 2142  
Rockingham DC WA 6967

Date 14<sup>TH</sup> March 2024

Re: **Proposed Renaming of Bight Reefs Road Reserve to MATHER PARK**

Dear Mayor and Councilors.

The Singleton Residents' Association wish to apply for the City of Rockingham to rename the Bight Reefs Road Reserve in Singleton to MATHER PARK, to honour a greatly respected husband and wife who have contributed so much to our community.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Edna Mather were among the earliest inhabitants of Singleton and volunteered so much of their time for the betterment of our community. We would like to honour them posthumously as a mark of our respect and appreciation for their hard work over many years. The following is an overview of some of the life and the work that Jack and Edna have contributed to Singleton.

Jack and Edna Mather moved to Singleton in 1981. At that time Singleton was a "holiday town". Lots of beach shacks but not too many full times residents. It has grown significantly since then. To boost community spirit Edna and Jack organised community "beach games" on the beach usually at holiday times. Great fun was had by all with a sundown barbecue.

Over the years they both were involved in various roles in the Singleton Progress Association (now named Singleton Residents Association). They successfully lobbied for street lighting, which was not in place at the time. Over many years Edna and Jack wrote and printed (in their garage) the monthly Singleton Newsletter and it was distributed to all households in Singleton by them and other volunteers. Actually, this newsletter only ceased last year.

During their time they spearheaded the campaign for Singleton Primary School, by getting kids on the oval and arranging for relative government departments to be present. At the time, Singleton children had to take a bus into Mandurah to attend school. Thankfully their efforts worked, and our school was built.

They also arranged for Singleton Oval (Laurie Stanford Reserve) to be developed by fundraising, organising grass to be delivered, and getting local residents to plant this grass on their hands and knees. Another great success. They organized for the trees on the eastern side of the oval to ALL planted by local children.

They were also instrumental in arranging for original Singleton Hall to be built. Fundraising and using local residents as "labour" was our contribution. Singleton Hall has since been replaced by Singleton Sporting and Recreation Centre.

Bights Reefs Road Reserve was another of their initiatives. Lobbying council and organising local residents to do the "hard work" in clearing bush and planting trees, this park was established. This park also had a special playground for disabled children.

Other groups they have been involved in locally are Coastcare, Little Penguins, Roadwise, Dune Restoration, and Paths to the Beach.

In 2000 Edna was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch through Rockingham for her contributions to community.

In 2012 both Jack and Edna received the Senior Volunteer of the Year Award from City of Rockingham for their unwavering support of community.

In 2016 Singleton Residents Association donated a Dedication Seat at Bights Reefs Road Reserve to recognize and thank them for all their hard work.

Without Jack and Edna's contributions to Singleton, our community would be much poorer in terms of assets and community spirit. Without Edna's determination we may not have a Primary School here at all.

The Community Centre they started is a meeting place for all residents' celebrations and brings in revenue for community groups as well. Their inspiration comes forth in those who volunteer today.

Edna and Jack passed away in 2022 and 2023 respectively. They are a fantastic example to the following generations. They have always willingly and happily encouraged, supported and led the residents of Singleton in every aspect of community. Without Jack & Edna's contribution to Singleton it would be a much poorer place, in terms of assets and community spirit.

We believe it only fitting that this park (that they helped establish) be renamed after them. We ask that you please give this consideration, and we look forward to a favourable response.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Dean', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graeme Dean.

President – Singleton Residents' Association