

Email received 9:40pm on 10/06/21 from Ian Martin [REDACTED]

Park Naming Application

"Aston Park"

Roslyn Martin and I are the owners of 875 Donnybrook Road Donnybrook. We moved there from metropolitan Melbourne to enjoy a farming lifestyle. We have owned the property for a number of years. When we purchased the bare land the area was completely rural and we made improvements to the property including building a house and 13 fenced paddocks.

During our time owning the property we conducted farming, including raising Boar Goats, Sheep and Angus Cattle. Because we were a small concern we didn't employ people to assist with the movement of the animals and managed all of the animal husbandry and care ourselves.

Our dog Aston was trained to assist us by my father, Roslyn and I. My father was a shearing contractor and had trained many working dogs to a champion level. Aston responded exceptionally well and seemed to know what to do, sometimes even without commands. Aston assisted by herding and controlling animal movements during strip feeding where the animals were moved regularly across the 13 paddocks to ensure vegetation regrowth. Aston worked above and beyond, was extremely smart and herd savvy. He did the job of at least 2 other people on the farm and we couldn't have achieved what we did without assistance from Aston. Also, due to the undulating and very rocky terrain we were unable to use conventional vehicles such as motorcycles and farm utilities on a large portion of the property and Aston's assistance was invaluable working across this terrain. He became known by all of the locals because of his ability to easily move the stock without stress.

Aston was an integral part of the day to day workings of our rural property. The farm could not have run as smoothly and efficiently as it did without Aston being a major part of our team. Since Aston passed away he has been dearly missed and we have never forgotten the assistance while we farmed our property and love that he showed us.

For this reason we believe it would be appropriate to recognise Aston's contributions by naming the park on this land in his honour as "Aston Park". This will allow his memory to continue into the future.

Please consider the contribution that farm dogs make to the day to day running of a property and how important their contribution is to the farming community.

Yours sincerely

Ian Martin