NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 6th General Meeting of the Society for 1984 will be held in:

The Conservation Centre,
120 Wakefield Street,
ADELAIDE.

(use the wire gate and go to the back of the building)

MONDAY 27th AUGUST 1984 AT 8.00 pm.

AGENDA


2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
   Minutes of the previous General Meeting, held in the Conservation Centre on Monday 23rd July 1984, to be confirmed. A copy of these Minutes is attached.

3. Papers and Journals:
   Papers and Journals from other Societies and Organisations will be tabled at the meeting.

4. Business:

5. Speaker:
   Mr Philip Jones, Acting Curator of Australian Ethnography at the South Australian Museum will address the Society. The title of his address will be:

   "Red Ochre Expedition: An Ethnographical and Historical Study of Aboriginal Trade in the Central Lakes Region of South Australia"

6. Supper will be served. A Trading Table will be held.

M.F. Nobbs
Honorary Secretary
c/o 213 Greenhill Road
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Phone: 332 7579
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS RALLY IN PERTH

By Tom Cara

On June 6th 1984 more than 1000 people, including Aborigines from all over Western Australia, attended a rally on the steps of Government House in Perth. Delegates of the National Aboriginal Conference, meeting in Perth at the time, addressed the rally which was called in response to opposition from mining and pastoral interests to the granting of land rights to Aborigines. Upon being elected in 1983, the Labour Government set up an enquiry, headed by Commissioner Seaman, to investigate how Aboriginal land rights could best be implemented. Mr Seaman has accepted written submissions from mining and pastoral concerns, Aboriginal groups and organisations, Government departments and other interested parties. He has just returned to Perth after taking submissions from Aboriginal communities in the Pilbara, Kimberley and Western Desert and is expected to announce his findings soon. N.A.C. delegates from each state addressed the crowd on the subject of land rights. During the rally, one minute's silence was observed in memory of John Pat, an Aboriginal youth who died in a police cell in the Roebourne Police Station. Four policemen and an Aboriginal police aide were acquitted of the youth's manslaughter.

The photograph shows N.A.C. delegates on the steps of Parliament House, addressing the crowd. A pamphlet was distributed at the rally and a copy of this appears below.
LAND RIGHTS

THE ABORIGINAL VIEW

WHAT WILL LAND RIGHTS DO FOR AUSTRALIA?

REDUCE TAXPAYERS' BURDEN by alleviating Aboriginal dependence on Social Welfare.

CONSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT Aboriginal owners will be more interested in the land than in quick profits.

IMPROVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS Aborigines will have the same opportunities as other Australians.

IMPROVE AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE by bringing Australia into line with international conventions for indigenous peoples.

REDUCE FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AUSTRALIA'S RESOURCES Aboriginal money will be put back into the Australian economy.

ENRICH AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE by the revival of Aboriginal culture.

Authorised by the Western Australian Branch of the National Aboriginal Conference. Endorsed by:
Kimberley Land Council
Gascoyne Murchison Land Council
Goldfields Land Council
Pilbara Land Council
Southern Aboriginal Corporation
MYTH: LAND RIGHTS WILL CREATE APARTHEID

FACT: Apartheid means imposed control, not separate development. At present Aboriginal people are largely controlled by the white majority. This is Apartheid. Land Rights means equality and this is what we seek.

MYTH: LAND RIGHTS WILL DESTROY THE MINING AND PASTORAL INDUSTRIES

FACT: Aboriginal people have played a vital role as workers in the pastoral industry and want to preserve and further develop the industry for the benefit of all Australians. Aboriginal people, unlike many pastoralists (often working for foreign owners), have a long term interest in the land rather than in quick profits.

Aboriginal people generally agree to mining provided sites of significance are respected, adequate Aboriginal control is guaranteed and appropriate royalties and compensations are negotiated.

Monies earned by Aboriginal people would remain in the Western Australian economy and not be paid to overseas interests.

Myth: Aborigines get too much already

FACT: The estimated total Federal expenditure for 1983/84 is $56,955M. Direct spending on Aboriginal Affairs was $369M. This means for every dollar spent by the Federal Government only .5% of a cent is allocated to Aboriginal Affairs. Much of this is spent on administration. Meanwhile we remain in poverty with the highest rates of imprisonment, unemployment, ill health and least access to housing and education.

Compared to other Australians:
- Aboriginal unemployment is 10 times higher
- 60 percent of Aborigines are unemployed
- 12,000 Aborigines are inadequately housed in WA
- The Aboriginal infant mortality rate is 3 times higher
- Aboriginal life expectancy is 20 years less
- Only one in 10 Aboriginal children complete Year 12
- Aborigines represent 3% of the Gaol population in WA
MYTH: LAND RIGHTS WILL GIVE ABORIGINALS MORE RIGHTS THAN OTHERS

FACT: Land Rights will give Aboriginal people equality. Some sections of the Australian community already have freehold title and the right of veto on mining. We are entitled to the same.

MYTH: ABORIGINALS WANT ALL OF AUSTRALIA

FACT: Aboriginal people need land to re-establish a social, economic and cultural base. We do not want all Australia. In Western Australia we seek ownership of some Reserve lands and the right to claim some unoccupied Crown land and excisions. In seeking all of an area we simply want our original ownership recognised. We do not want to dispossess other Australians.

MYTH: LAND RIGHTS IS A BACKWARD STEP FOR ABORIGINALS

FACT: Land Rights will enable Aboriginal people to develop economic independence and to contribute equally with other Australians. This will lessen our dependence on the public purse and save all Australians money. Increased self-respect will help to alleviate dependence on alcohol and associated problems.

MYTH: LAND RIGHTS WILL CREATE A SEPARATE BLACK STATE

FACT: Aboriginal land owners will exercise the same control over access to our land as other property owners such as mining and pastoral companies and householders. This is to ensure environmental control and respect for the Aboriginal way of life.

MYTH: ABORIGINALS ARE BEING MANIPULATED BY WHITE ADVISORS

FACT: Like Governments and mining companies, Aboriginal people often consult specialists for advice. Because of many historical factors there is a lack of Aboriginal specialists so these advisors are often non-Aboriginal. They work under the direction of Aboriginal employers and their advice is utilised by Aboriginal people in making our own decisions. Increasingly this role is being filled by Aboriginal people.