



ABOVE: At Melbourne Jackson Five reception, Joseph Jackson, father of the famous singing family, talks with two Australian Aborigine guests Maxine Burns and Ken Kunoth.

Melbourne Observer 1st July 1973

Jackson Five are number 1

AUSTRALIA could do with more visiting groups like the Jackson Five.

The pride of the Motown stable gave socko performances at Festival Hall this week.

Never have I seen a more gifted teenage act — Beatles and Stones included.

The J5 are even better live than on disc, a rarity in these days of sophisticated recording techniques.

The group proved that Melbourne audiences support class, even if it comes smack in the middle of several so-so big-show tours.

If there was a vacant seat on the night I was there, I didn't see it. Nor could anyone, apart from those who didn't get in, be disappointed.

The group does rock, blues, ballads and gospel with equal facility.

The predominantly teenybopper audience saw some of the most wild-eyed, frantic, adrenaline-charged zealots, this side of a burning tent meeting.

The group are super showmen in every sense of the word.

They are clean, ultra-confident idols as real boys their age could

By **RICHARD SCHMEISZL**

never be. Perfumed in publicity and packaged in pop.

Akin to mechanised, performing robots, with stock answers to stock questions.

Ask them anything apart from their music, favorite artists, or how they like Australia, and they don't wanna know.

Particularly ace J5 heart-throb, Michael, aged 14.

I asked him how it felt to be colored in the US, to be born in poverty, yet the first time you fly a plane know you have the money to buy it.

Our hero disappeared, but was back in a flash with a tall, muscular chap — I didn't catch his name, but it wasn't Cassius Clay — who gave me a horrendous blast on Australia's Aboriginal Affairs.

The gent must have mistaken me for our Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The tirade was so savage it put me off the chicken leg I'd snatched from another freeloader.

So I left and had a pie around the corner.