In 2008 is the 70th anniversary of the ‘Day of Mourning’ – 26 January 1938 – when a group of Indigenous leaders protested against the ‘150th anniversary of the white men’s seizure of our country’, and the inferior citizenship status of Indigenous people.

This theme of the struggle for full Indigenous citizenship rights is a significant and continuing part of Australia’s history.

The National Museum of Australia now has a wealth of primary and secondary source material available to students of this theme on its website, Collaborating for Indigenous Rights, at <www.nma.gov.au/indigenousrights>.

In 2007 STUDIES included a unit showing how students could use the material to explore the 1967 Referendum.

In this unit we provide a timeline of developments from the 1950s to the 1970s, with suggestions for ways that classes can explore aspects of the theme further through the rich resources on the National Museum of Australia website.

The contents of the website are:

**Civil Rights**
- The Warburton Ranges controversy, 1957
- The Referendum, 1957–67
- Albert Namatjira and citizenship, 1958–59
- Freedom Ride, 1965
- Social service benefits, 1954–64
- Equal wages, 1963–66
- Queensland Trust Fund, 1969–72

**Land Rights**
- Mapoon, 1962–64
- Yirrkala, 1963–71
- Lake Tyers, 1962–70
- Wave Hill walk off, 1966–75
- Campaigning for land rights, 1963–68
- Aboriginal Embassy, 1972

**People**
Brief biographies of nearly 100 people associated with the development of Indigenous rights in Australia

**Organisations**
Brief descriptions of over 30 organisations associated with the development of Indigenous rights in Australia

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Understanding the key concepts of land rights and civil rights

The National Museum of Australia website, Collaborating for Indigenous Rights, focuses on two key concepts: land rights, and civil rights. What do these mean?

Land rights

Imagine that you and a group of friends are quietly relaxing in your back-yard. Suddenly, a group of strange-looking people walk in. You realise that they do not speak your language, and that they are far more powerful than you.

They take over your yard and, in fact, evict you from your house. It is now all theirs.

1. What is your reaction?
2. What could you do about the situation?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of these possible actions?

Finally, when you have learned something of each other’s language, they explain that under their law they are allowed to do this. They have come and imposed their law, and they do not recognise yours.

4. Does this make any difference to your reaction? Explain.

(You may find a copy of a 1980s film called Barbecuearea in your school. It is a very witty and thought-provoking acting out of the imagined situation above — well worth watching and discussing.)

This is basically what happened in Australia in 1788. Governor Arthur Phillip led a group of people from Britain who settled on land without any agreement or payment to the local people, and imposed the laws and customs they brought with them. The British believed that international law at the time authorised this to happen.

Dissatisfaction with this situation started to intensify among some Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the 1930s, and by the 1960s and 1970s there were campaigns to change this inequity in Indigenous land and civil rights. The National Museum of Australia website provides several examples or case studies of these struggles, and students can explore these in a chronological context in their timeline activity.

What are land rights?

To understand the land rights case studies students need to understand the concept of ‘crown land’ and ‘land alienation’.

When the British claimed ownership of Australia it became ‘crown land’: that is, all land was owned by the ‘Crown’ — in effect by the government in Australia.

But there were several ways the government could ‘alienate’, or get rid of, this land.

One way was that people could buy land from the government. This is called ‘freehold’. Except in the ACT, students who live in their own home are living in ‘freehold’ property, that is, at some stage that piece of land was bought from the Crown.

A second way was for the government to lease land to others — that is, to allow people to control the land in return for payment or rent over a set period. The government still owned the land, but others had legal rights to use it for the period of the lease. Many cattle stations were established in northern Australia under this system.

Both these approaches mean that the land has been ‘alienated’. In the first case the land is permanently owned by the purchaser and can be sold or passed on to others; but in the second case the Crown continues to own the land, and will regain control of it at the end of the period of the lease.

Finally, if nobody has bought land or leased an area of land from the government, the land continues to be ‘crown land’, that is, land still owned by the government. The government can allow people to use it (for example as a national park), but they cannot legally develop it in any way without government permission. In Australia many Aboriginal settlements, especially those in remote areas, were created on crown land.

And that was the problem — the Aboriginal communities had owned the land before the European occupation, but were now being told that the land belonged to the government. The Indigenous people were saying that the land should still belong to them, and were starting to claim it. The case studies on the National Museum of Australia website explore this situation.
Civil rights

Civil rights are those rights that a full citizen of a nation has. Here are some examples for Australia — the right to:

- vote
- work
- move freely around the community
- receive fair pay.

1 Brainstorm and add others to this list. Of course, sometimes these rights are removed by the state for the good of the community. For example, convicted criminals lose the right to move freely in the community if they are imprisoned for a crime against that community.

There are also responsibilities associated with rights. For example, having the right to vote carries with it a responsibility to cast that vote in an informed way.

What civil rights did Indigenous Australians have?

What was the position of Aboriginal people’s civil rights at the start of the 1960s? All were citizens of Australia, but did they have the same rights as non-Indigenous Australians, and could they exercise those rights freely?

2 Your task is to prepare a summary list of the civil rights that were enjoyed by non-Indigenous people, but not by Indigenous people in Australia at the beginning of the 1950s. Here’s how to do this.

A Use the list on the next page to summarise the information for each of the headings in the table.

B Print the document and distribute it in class.

C Divide your class into groups, with each group responsible for summarising the information on a different state or territory.

D Create a dot-point summary for your state for each of the headings in the table. You will report back on your state so that everybody in the class can add that information to their own summary page. In this way every student will have a completed summary table. [Note that there is no column for Tasmania as it was believed at the time that there were no Aboriginal people left in Tasmania.]

You are now ready to start building your annotated and illustrated timeline of the changing rights and freedoms of Indigenous Australians.

Create an annotated timeline

3 When the class has completed this summary activity look at the timeline of developments in Indigenous people’s rights in Australia. These are on the following pages. Here are the steps for doing this.

A Pin each page of the timeline in chronological order along a classroom wall or noticeboard.

B Divide your class into groups. Each group should be responsible for exploring one of the special issues marked on the timeline, using the specified information on the National Museum of Australia website.

C Each group now prepares a PowerPoint or other form of report on their own area of responsibility.

D Each group reports to the whole class, and adds the report of their findings underneath the relevant page of the timeline.

When every group has finished its research and reported its findings you will end up with an annotated and illustrated timeline of the struggle towards Indigenous rights in Australia from the 1950s to the 1970s. You might add to that timeline by researching further developments (such as the Mabo and Wik cases) from 1976 until today (up to and including the 2008 Australian Government’s stolen generations apology).
### SUMMARY TABLE
Citizens’ rights in 1960

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect of people’s rights and citizenship status:</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous Australians</th>
<th>Indigenous Australians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject to special state acts?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to gain exemptions from restrictions?</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free movement?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own property?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control own money?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid equal wages to non-Indigenous workers (award wages)?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have special minimum wage rates?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible for social service benefits?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free to marry any other person?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have control of their own children?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to mix with any other people?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions on sexual relations with non-Aborigines?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full rights in courts?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Aboriginal courts?</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to vote?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Censorship of mail?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to consume alcohol?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map of significant case studies in the development of Indigenous civil rights
Based on the timeline in <www.nma.gov.au/indigenousrights>
INTERNATIONAL

IN AUSTRALIA

Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement established in Adelaide on the weekend of 15–16 February.

Albert Namatjira is found guilty of supplying liquor to a relative who was a ward of the state. The resulting outcry draws attention to weaknesses of Northern Territory legislation that creates a division between Aboriginal ‘wards’ and Aboriginal ‘citizens’.

Albert Namatjira dies, eight months after being charged with supplying alcohol to a ward, reigniting investigations into government approaches to Aboriginal Australians whose citizenship is constrained by state and territory legislation.

The Social Services Act is amended making old age pensions and maternity benefits available to most Aboriginal Australians. The remaining restrictive clause is that such benefits would not be available to people who are ‘nomadic’ or ‘primitive’. These terms are not defined.

GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Albert Namatjira and Citizenship

As you have seen in the civil rights summary Aboriginal people were not allowed to have alcohol. Albert Namatjira was an exception — he had been granted full civil rights status because of his fame as an artist.

Use the specific website documents indicated to answer the following questions, prepare your group report to the class, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

FOCUS

1 Who was Albert Namatjira, and why was he famous?
2 Why was he jailed in 1958?
3 How did people react to that jailing?
4 Unlike Albert Namatjira, most Aboriginal people did not have full citizenship rights. Those who had special restrictions were known as ‘wards’. Read the article on the ‘Stud Book’ and explain why the journalist found this situation so offensive.

GROUP REPORT

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Albert Namatjira incident is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.

GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Social Service Benefits

One area where equality of citizenship can be tested is access to the services provided by the state — such as social services. Do all people get these equally?

Look at the information on the National Museum of Australia website and discuss the problems that Aboriginal people in remote areas had in accessing social services, and how this would have affected their lives. For each, summarise their life story and circumstances, and the reasons why they did not have equality of access to social services.

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

FOCUS

1 Daisy and Angel Imari Joyce Maher
2 Norman Bilson, Lulu Bilson and Alec Bilson
3 Bowee and Gidum (Tommy) Noble
4 Beverley Joy Noble and Ron Noble

GROUP REPORT

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The social service case studies are significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INTERNATIONAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>1960</strong></th>
<th><strong>1961</strong></th>
<th><strong>1962</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Peoples is passed. It argues that all peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.</td>
<td>‘Freedom rides’ take place on buses through America’s South in order to challenge racial segregation. By 1961, 17 new African nations have been admitted into the United Nations. The representation of Asian nations has also grown to 20, making the Afro-Asian group the largest voting bloc in the UN.</td>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people receive the right to vote in federal elections. National Petition Campaign. FCAATSI launches a national campaign for a referendum to change the Constitution. From 1964 various proposals for constitutional amendment are debated until the Holt government finally agrees in February 1967 to hold a referendum. Confrontation mining becomes an issue for the residents of Mapoon.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Greensboro, North Carolina, four black students begin a sit-in at a lunch counter, sparking a method of protest that spreads to other segregated public places across America’s South.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In South Africa, 69 black demonstrators are killed and at least another 180 are injured when police open fire on demonstrators protesting against the pass laws at Sharpeville. A state of emergency is declared, and both the African National Congress and Pan-African Congress are banned.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Canada, Aboriginal people gain the right to vote in federal and provincial elections. Decolonisation of African nations begins in the 1950s but rapidly gains pace in the 1960s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the United Nations General Assembly, Soviet Union leader Nikita Khrushchev criticises Australia’s treatment of its Indigenous population.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Mapoon

Mapoon was a mission area in northern Queensland. It was subject to Queensland law. In 1963 the people of the mission were forced to move elsewhere to allow a company to take over the settlement area to mine bauxite to produce aluminium. This case study brought the issue of land rights to the fore.

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

#### FOCUS

1. Locate Mapoon on a map of Australia.
2. Describe the Aboriginal mission settlement at Mapoon.
3. What did the developers want?
4. How would this affect the Aboriginal inhabitants?
5. Why did the local inhabitants not want to move to Bamaga?
6. What were the laws that applied to Mapoon?
7. What did the Queensland Government do?
8. Why did the local people resist this solution?

#### NMA Website Documents

- Go to Land rights > Mapoon 1962-64 > The campaign for Mapoon to see this map.
- Go to Land rights > Mapoon 1962-64 > The campaign for Mapoon to see the brochure ‘They have made our rights wrong’.

#### GROUP REPORT

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Mapoon case is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.

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**1963**

**INTERNATIONAL**
In April, Martin Luther King is arrested during a protest in Birmingham, Alabama. In August, Martin Luther King delivers his famous ‘I have a dream’ speech to more than 200,000 protestors at the March on Washington.

**IN AUSTRALIA**
The Yolngu people of Yirrkala send bark petitions to Canberra. The petition is signed by nine representatives of the various clan groups with interest in the land under threat from mining.

---

**GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Yirrkala**

Yirrkala is a settlement in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. In 1963 the Australian Government authorised bauxite mining on land that was part of the settlement.

The Commonwealth argued that the economic activity would be beneficial to the community. The Australian Labor Party opposition said that it should be up to the Aboriginal residents to decide what happened on their land — and for the first time the issue of land title was raised.

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

---

**FOCUS**

1. Use an atlas to identify Yirrkala on a map of Australia.

2. The Government justified the handing over of land to the bauxite developers. Look at the arguments by Paul Hasluck, under these headings:
   - the motives of the supporters of the Aborigines
   - the benefits of industrial development
   - social benefits
   - who speaks for the Aborigines
   - employment
   - protection of sacred areas
   - compensation
   - housing and living conditions.

3. The Australian Labor Party Opposition argued against leasing the land to the developers, unless the local people wanted to. Look at Kim Beasley’s arguments under these headings:
   - Aboriginal land title
   - Consultation with traditional owners.

---

**NMA Website Documents**

Go to Land rights > Yirrkala > Politicians debate the effects of mining to see the parliamentary statement by Paul Hasluck.

Go to Land rights > Yirrkala > Politicians debate the effects of mining to see the parliamentary statement by Kim Beasley (Senior).

Go to Land rights > Yirrkala > Fact finding expedition to see the Yirrkala petition.

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**GROUP REPORT**

In 1971 a court case against the mining on the grounds that it was Aboriginal land failed in the Federal Court. Justice Blackburn rejected the argument that the Aboriginal people had title to the land based on their history of occupation. This was a decision that would be reversed in 1991 — in the famous Mabo decision that found that there was native title to land under certain conditions.

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Yirrkala case is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.
The case presented by the North Australian Workers Union for equal wages for Aboriginal pastoral workers was significant in terms of claiming civil rights for Indigenous Australians, but also had many unintended and devastating consequences that are still being felt today in many Aboriginal communities.

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

Some undesirable consequences of the granting of equal pay were that families of Indigenous workers were ordered to leave the stations, and were no longer given food and clothing by the pastoralists; many stockmen lost their jobs, and the next generation lost pastoral skills. In addition, time for traditional ceremonies and customs that were built into the lower Indigenous wages rate were no longer part of the agreement.

In August, America’s President Lyndon Johnson signs the 1965 Voting Rights Act, removing the restrictions which had made it difficult for Southern blacks to register to vote.

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on the Freedom Ride, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Freedom Ride is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Some undesirable consequences of the granting of equal pay were that families of Indigenous workers were ordered to leave the stations, and were no longer given food and clothing by the pastoralists; many stockmen lost their jobs, and the next generation lost pastoral skills. In addition, time for traditional ceremonies and customs that were built into the lower Indigenous wages rate were no longer part of the agreement.
1966
INTERNATIONAL
Black Panther Party is founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.
Stokely Carmichael of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) coins the term ‘Black Power’.

IN AUSTRALIA
Harold Holt takes over as Prime Minister.
In March Aboriginal pastoral workers are awarded equal wages, but the industry is not required to comply until December 1968.
In August Vincent Lingiari leads more than 80 stockmen and their families in a walk-off at Wave Hill station.

1967
27 May referendum. The Australian people vote to change the Constitution so that Aboriginal people can be formally counted in the census of the population of Australia, and to give the Commonwealth Government and Parliament power to make laws affecting Aboriginal people.
90.77 per cent vote to delete section 127, and amend clause 51 (xxvi). This is the culmination of a decade-long campaign for these changes.

You can explore the rich resources of the website on this issue by using the guide in STUDIES 2/2007 available in your school library, or at <www.nma.gov.au/education/school_resources/civics_and_citizenship/1967_referendum/>.

GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Wave Hill Walk Off
Was the walk-off by Aboriginal stockmen at the British-owned Vestey cattle station at Wave Hill about wages and conditions, or was it about land rights and culture?

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

FOCUS
1 Use an atlas to identify the location of Wattie Creek (Daguragu) and mark it on the map.
2 Look at the information in the Gurindji petition and decide:
   • what the conditions were like for stockmen on the station
   • what different issues existed for the strikers
   • what their most important motivation was.
3 How did the government respond?
4 Symbolism was important in the Gurindji case.
   Look at the photograph of the Gurindji sign. Suggest why this sign might have been seen as a powerful symbol.

GROUP REPORT
When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Wave Hill walk off is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.

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INTERNATIONAL
In South Africa, the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act forces more than three million people to resettle in one of ten ‘Bantu Homelands’.
In New Zealand, militant Maori activist group Nga Tamatoa (The Young Warriors) is formed.

AUSTRALIA
Split in FCAATSI, National Tribal Council established. Growing frustration at white control of the multi-racial organisations such as the Victorian Aborigines Advancement League and FCAATSI comes to a head at the 1970 FCAATSI Easter conference. While the motions for Indigenous control of the Federal Council are not successful the national movement is split with the formation of the National Tribal Council.

Captain Cook Bi-Centenary. While non-Indigenous Australians celebrate, Aboriginal Australians organise an alternative remembrance at La Perouse Aboriginal Reserve at Botany Bay. In Melbourne a car sticker campaign – ‘Cook is bad news for Aborigines’ – makes the same point.

Aboriginal Legal and Medical Services are set up in Sydney. These services, the first of many, are supported by federal government grants.

Passing of the Aboriginal Lands Act in Victoria leads to the presentation of the title deeds to residents of Lake Tyers and Framlingham in July.

GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Lake Tyers

Lake Tyers was one of the last two Aboriginal reserves in Victoria.
Public pressure forced the Victorian Government to face the issue: what was to be done with the ownership of Lake Tyers?

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

1. Use an atlas to locate Lake Tyers, and mark it on the map of Australia.
2. Look at the report on conditions at Lake Tyers. Summarise what it tells you about:
   - housing
   - health
   - work
   - community
   - education
   at Lake Tyers.
3. In 1962 a decision had to be made whether to send people elsewhere and close Lake Tyers as an Aboriginal settlement.
   From the information you have so far, what would you recommend? Prepare an argument for closing it, and one for continuing it. Which case do you think is the stronger one?
4. Now look at the arguments for and against as they were presented at the time.
   Have you changed your decision?

GROUP REPORT

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Lake Tyers case is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.
On 25 January 1972 Prime Minister William McMahon announced that the Government would not support Aboriginal land rights as a principle. On the following day some Aboriginal people set up an ‘embassy’ on the lawns outside the front entrance to Parliament House in Canberra.

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

**FOCUS**

1. Mark the location of the Aboriginal Embassy on the map of Australia.
2. The protesters called their tent an ‘embassy’. Discuss the meaning and implications of this word in the context of the place and time.
3. Read the article The Aboriginal Embassy and summarise the information on:
   - what the Embassy was
   - why it was set up
   - why it was set up by that group at that time
   - its aims
   - the significance of this event.

4. The Government attempted to close the Embassy. Describe what happened with this attempt.
5. The website contains a collection of photographs of the events. Look at them and create a caption for each that summarises its main point, emphasis or message. If you had to choose one photo to illustrate an article on the Embassy, which would you choose? Justify your choice.
6. The Aboriginal Embassy still exists. Since 1972 it has attracted critics as well as supporters. Go to the website below and use the information to create a summary of the main arguments for and against its continuing existence. Do you support the continued existence of the Aboriginal Embassy? Justify your point of view.

**GROUP REPORT**

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Aboriginal Embassy is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ... Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.

In 1975 the Commonwealth returned title to the land to the Gurindji people. Here are two photographs of that event.

Discuss the symbolism of the photographs.

Which do you think is the best image? Why?
RIGHT WRONGS
WRITE
YES
for
ABORIGINES!
On May 27
ROCKET RANGE MENACE
THREATENS ABORIGINAL LIFE

PROTEST MEETING

MELBOURNE TOWN HALL
MON. MAR. 31ST 8pm

Speakers:
DR CHAS. DUGUID
MRS D. BLACKBURN. MHR
MR BILL ONUS. Aust. Aborigines League

Chairman:
Very Rev. DR R. WILSON MACAULAY.
‘THEY HAVE MADE OUR RIGHTS WRONG’

“They have made our rights wrong. Is there any law that can force us away from Mapoon? When we asked why, we didn’t get a straight answer...”

“...We all here are standing very strong. We all said we won’t shift from here...Uncle, you must try and help us fight strong...”

“...If we could get help we are willing to back those who try and help us. Please hear this call. We want to hold this place Mapoon, the place wherein we were born into the first Gospel of Christ. This is all I ask on behalf of my people at Mapoon.”

—Letters from Mapoon Mission to the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders Advancement League, Cairns.

The Struggle for Mapoon

At Mapoon, high on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, a hundred and seventy-six people are firmly resisting official efforts to make them leave their ancestral lands and go to Bamaga, farther north.
RIGHT WRONGS
WRITE
YES
for
ABORIGINES!
On May 27
“He been treat me fella like a dog alla time”

said an Aborigine from Wave Hill station (N.T.)

Aborigines recently demonstrated outside the Legislative Assembly in Darwin, demanding equal wages NOW.
In April, Aborigines walked off Newcastle Waters Station demanding equal wages NOW.
In August, 200 Aborigines walked off Vestey's Wave Hill station demanding equal wages now. Vestey's dismissed them.
The Meat Workers' Union has refused to handle cattle from these stations.
The Federal Council for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders re-states its policy: Equal wages for Aborigines NOW.
Make a donation to help Aborigines win equal wages.

Dr. Barry Christophers,
Equal Wages Campaign, 366 Church Street, Richmond, Victoria.
Please find a subscription to the Equal Wages Campaign $…….
Please find a subscription to Rights & Advancement the monthly newsletter of the FCAATSI — $1.20.

Name (block letters) ...........................................................

Address .................................................................