



DECLARATION

TREATY '88 CAMPAIGN

In 1788 the British Crown assumed sovereignty over this land on the basis of it being empty, i.e. wasteland and unoccupied. This was a lie. The Aboriginal People of this land occupied it, owned it, used it and held Sovereign Domain over these lands. Two hundred years later this sovereignty has never been relinguished, yet has never been recognised.

It is time for a Sovereign Treaty to be entered into in order to dispel the lie and enable justice to be done. Let 1988 mark this achievement. We cannot celebrate the invasion and theft of this land. Let us achieve the cementing of the new foundation of this country by recognising Aboriginal Sovereignty and encompassing the right of prior ownership and possession in a Sovereign Treaty.

We ask individuals and groups to affiliate with and support our Treaty '88 Campaign

Treaty '88 is already supported by; N.A.I.L.S.S. (National Aboriginal & Islander Legal

Services Secretariat)

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Land Rights Now , 2xx

Bicentennial Protest Committee

Women Against Recism, Green, Alliance roomba Couril, Medea Collective
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ACT International Year of Peace Conference
"Do Something For Peace"
Trade Union Committee for Aboriginal Rights
General Synod of Anglican Church

I/We wish to affiliate with Tresty '88 Campaign

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DONATIONS made payable to; TREATY 188 CAMPAIGN, GPO Box 1101, CANBERRA, 2601, AUSTRALIA.

MEMBERSHIP: Organisations: \$100 , Individuals: \$10 , Concessional: \$5

ABORIGINAL SOVEREIGNTY - NEVER CEDED

We, the Aboriginal People, restate that we are the Sovereign Owners of Australia. There have been no Treaties with us and we have never ceded our Sovreignty.

Our land has been invaded by a foreign power that broke International law and its own Imperial Directive: "You are with the consent of the natives to take possession ..." i.e., a Treaty. Instead, in 1770, Captain Cook declared the legal lie that our land was terra nullius, a wasteland and unoccupied. Our humanity was denied and the historical fiction that Australia was peacefully settled had been perpetrated. The truth is that physical and cultural genecide was attempted against us and our land was made vacant by imprisoning the owners in small concentration camps called Aboriginal Reserves. The oppression and injustice continues to this day. The Federal Government refuses to use its powers granted by over 90% of white Australians in the 1967 'YES' referendum, which enables it to make special laws for Aboriginals. In the courts the judges conclude that Sovreignty cannot be challenged within the Australian legal system. All legal and political channels have been exhausted within Australia.

Our path to justice now lies in the international arena. In 1975 the International Court of Justice found that when the Spanish colonised the Western Sahara in 1844, it was inhabited by people organised in tribes and as a consequence the Western Sahara was not <u>terra nullius</u>. In a separate ruling it was stated that the concept of <u>terra nullius</u> stands condemned.

In 1979 our call for a Treaty was diluted by the Federal Government which would only consider a Makarrata, a compact, a domestic agreement and would not recognise us as Sovereign Equals. The Makarrata would have been a deal between white Government and people with no status. It could have been amended and repealed by future legislators.

We pursue a Sovereign Treaty, under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, that has constitutional effect and is void if it violates fundamental principles of Human Rights, e.g. the right of a people to self-determination.

There must be a proper foundation for Black/white relations in this land, a Treaty, that will lay the cornerstone for a new Australia based on Justica, Peace and Human Rights for all.



REVIN GILBERT

TREATY 88 CAMPAIGN GPO BOX 1101 CANBERRA ACT 2601

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TREATY 88 CAMPAIGN : AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

At time of colonisation Australia was declared "Wasteland and unoccupied". Aboriginal resistance to invasion of our lands was quelled by methods of extermination - which were historically referred to as "dispersal of the natives" and "punitive party expeditions".

We have been denied the rights and protection generally afforded to an invaded people and their land. This principle was recognised under British as well as International Law. We have not only been denied such rights, but still suffer the denial of those rights to this day.

We are still prosecuting the processes within white Australia to force a recognition of our full inherent entitlements and to obtain justice.

We shall end injustice that, while continuing today, results in the denial of our human rights, causing death and oppression.

We pursue a Treaty as the instrument to delineate our entitlement, protect that entitlement and our human rights, and enshrine our inherent rights in the Constitution and International Covenants.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Effect a Treaty between Aboriginals and the Australian Government.
- Ensure inalienable freehold title over Aboriginal lands.
- 3. Protection of Sacred Sites.
- Control over mining on Aboriginal lands.
- Compensation for loss of lands to be negotiated.
- 6. International recognition of Aboriginals as a people.
- Self-determination.
- 8. Treaty to encompass proper management and safeguarding of heritage, land and environment.
- 9. Batablish continuous management practices for the total environment.
- 10. Effectively safeguard this land as a nuclear free and peaceful country.
- Regulate the processes of law to ensure equality, freedom, human rights and achieve those
 aspirations long recognised as the prerequisites for human development and peace throughout
 this land.
- 12. To meet all those objectives for human development as spelt out in the International Covenants of Human Rights.

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Treaty '88 Campaign advertisement "1988: make a treaty this time"

p. 1, 2 and 7,8 (a333104 a.pdf)

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