# January 26<sup>th</sup> National Day of Mourning

(Invasion Day, Survival Day, Australian Natives Association Day, and Aboriginal Sovereignty Day)

## AUSTRALIAN

## Aborigines Conference

**SESQUI-CENTENARY** 

## Day of Mourning and Protest

to be held in

#### THE AUSTRALIAN HALL, SYDNEY

(No. 148 Elizabeth Street - a hundred yards south of Liverpool Street)

on

#### WEDNESDAY, 26th JANUARY, 1938

(AUSTRALIA DAY)

The Conference will assemble at 10 o'clock in the morning.

## ABORIGINES AND PERSONS OF ABORIGINAL BLOOD ONLY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

The following Resolution will be moved:

"WE, representing THE ABORIGINES OF AUSTRALIA, assembled in Conference at the Australian Hall, Sydney, on the 26th day of January, 1938, this being the 150th Anniversary of the whitemen's seizure of our country, HEREBY MAKE PROTEST against the callous treatment of our people by the whitemen during the past 150 years, AND WE APPEAL to the Australian Nation of today to make new laws for the education and care of Aborigines, and we ask for a new policy which will raise our people to FULL CITIZEN STATUS and EQUALITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY."

The above resolution will be debated and voted upon, as the sole business of the Conference, which will terminate at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

TO ALL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES! PLEASE COME TO THIS CONFERENCE IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN! ALSO SEND WORD BY LETTER TO NOTIFY US IF YOU CAN ATTEND

Signed, for and on behalf of

THE ABORIGINES PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION,

J. T. PATTEN, President. W. FERGUSON, Organising Secretary.



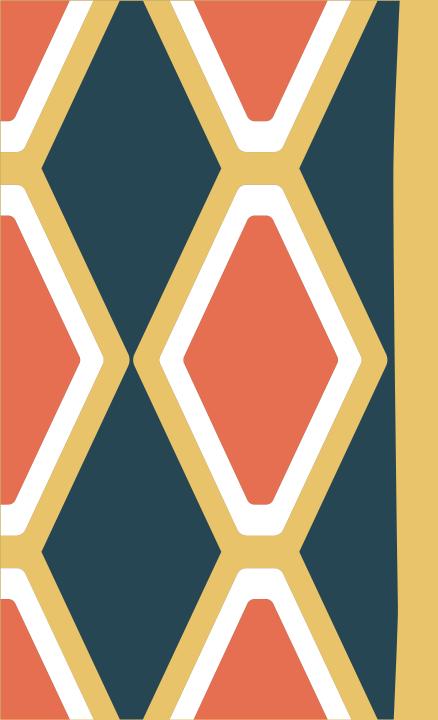
A LARGE BLACKBOARD displayed outside the hall proclaims, "Day of Mourning." Leaflets warned that, "Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood only are invited to attend." At 5 o'clock in the afternoon resolution of indignation, protest, was moved, passed.





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On this day, the white people are rejoicing, but we, as Aborigines, have no reason to rejoice on Australia's 150th birthday. Our purpose in meeting today is to bring home to the white people of Australia the frightful conditions in which the native Aborigines of this continent live. This land belonged to our forefathers 150 years ago, but today we are pushed further and further into the background. "Jack Patten"



We have been waiting and waiting all of our lives for the white people of Australia to better our conditions, but we have waited in vain...Surely the time has come at last for us to do something for ourselves, and make ourselves heard. That is why the Aborigines Progressive Association has been formed. "William Ferguson"

The public does not realise what our people have suffered for 150 years. Aboriginal girls have been sent to Government Reserves and have not been given any opportunity to improve themselves. Their treatment has been disgusting ...Now is our chance to have things altered. We must fight our very hardest in this cause.

"Pastor Doug Nicholls on behalf of the Koori Community"

Conditions on all the Aboriginal stations are a disgrace. They are all very much alike. At Brewarrina (in New South Wales) the children are taught by a man who is not a qualified teacher. Two old men on that station...are left by themselves in a half starved state. I spoke to these old men, and when they told me how badly they were treated it made me cry, and pray that this movement will be a success. "Aunty Pearl Gibbs"

In 150 years, the white men have taken away the hunting grounds and camping grounds of our people and left us with nothing. We must have unity among ourselves, or we will not succeed in the uplifting of our race....

"Mr Connelly"





### Re-enactment of Governor Phillips Landing

In this 1938 re-enactment of Governor Phillip's landing, Aboriginal (specially brought in from western NSW for the occasion) are shown running up the beach as the boats of the First Fleet marines land at Farm Cove. A group of white dignitaries sit in comfortable safety watching the invasion (Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW – Home and Away 17955)

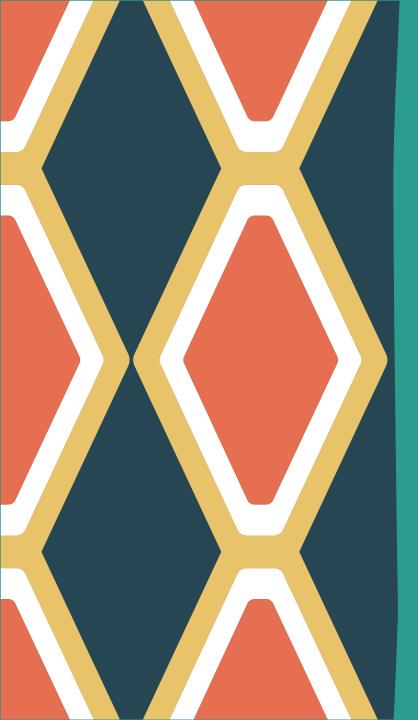
#### What Actually Occurred

- Aboriginal organisations in Sydney refused to participate in a reenactment of the first landing
- The Government transported Aboriginal people from western communities in NSW- The visitors were locked up at Redfern police Barrack Stables
- After the reenactment, the group of aboriginal people were featured on a float
  - There would be more forced reenactments until 1988

#### Click the link below to watch the video



https://youtu.be/G8czHIPYXew



# References

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https://deadlystory.com/page/culture/history/Day of Mourning protests held in Sydney

https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/australia-day-invasion-day

https://www.sydneybarani.com.au/sites/significant-aboriginal-events-in-sydney/

https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/day-of-mourning

https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/day-of-mourning

https://www.abc.net.au/rightwrongs/story/day-of-mourning/