

Argus 6 January 1951

# OLDEST AUSTRALIANS MOURN THE JUBILEE

A "Day of Mourning" to lament this year's Jubilee is being considered by the Australian Aboriginal League.

It would mark the anniversary of the white man's entry into Victoria.

Mr. Doug Nicholls, pastor of the Church of Christ's Aboriginal Mission,

Fitzroy, revealed this last night at a meeting of Melbourne aborigines.

"Our voice, long silent, is now raised in protest against the exclusion of Old Australians from the Jubilee celebrations," he said.

"Australian aborigines have little to be thankful for about the advent of the white man."

Pastor Nicholls said the "Day of Mourning" could be held on the Yarra Bank, where

the signing of the treaty between John Batman and the Truganini tribe could be re-enacted.

A rally in the Town Hall, portraying the great part aborigines had played in the "white man's" civilisation, could be held.

Aboriginal athletes, champions, including boxers Dave Sands and Max Hassen, and aborigine ex-servicemen could take part.

Aboriginal art could be represented by Albert Namatjira, the great painter from Central Australia.

A delegate suggested that a rally on the Yarra Bank could be preceded by three floats.

The first, carrying full-blooded aborigines, would repre-

sent the aborigine before the coming of the white man.

The second, with a chained aborigine guarded by a white man with a whip, would represent the introduction of Western "civilisation."

The third, with aborigines in European dress, would represent the present day.

Other suggestions for aboriginal participation in the Jubilee were:

- Boomerang throwing exhibitions.

- A procession of aboriginal sportsmen who "have distinguished themselves in every field except tennis and golf."

- A large corroboree.

The meeting decided to ask the Jubilee committee for a "place for aborigines in the celebrations."