

# Committee formed to help Gurindjis

## Mick speaks at Horsham



**A Horsham committee has been formed to help Gurindji Aborigines at Wattie Creek in the Northern Territory.**

The committee of 20 will meet soon to elect officers and consider ways to help the Gurindji.

Its first projects are expected to be finding saddles and bridles for stock horses, and helping a Gurindji gemstone project.

The committee was named at a Horsham meeting of about 50 people on Tuesday night.

Gurindji tribesman Mr Mick Rangiari, pictured above, addressed the meeting.

He explained the Gurindji's position on land rights at Wattie Creek and told how the tribe wanted land for its own cattle project.

He was asked how long he would stay at Wattie Creek.

The Gurindji walked off Wave Hill cattle station in protest against wages and working conditions. They have one square mile of land at Wattie Creek. Reports from Canberra last week said the Federal Government was willing to help a cattle venture if Aborigines at a nearby settlement were allowed to take part.

Government help would include leasing land. Mr Rangiari visited Horsham with Mrs Jean Culley of Camberwell and Mr Bob Sloane of Mildura.

Mrs Culley is president of the Gem Clubs Association of Victoria. Mr Sloane is a fifth-year medical student at Monash University.

### SPOKESMAN

They travelled to Adelaide with Mr Rangiari yesterday for a meeting. They then planned to return to Wattie Creek.

40's and is married, with an adopted daughter.

He has become a spokesman for the Gurindji because he is one of the most articulate tribesmen. At Wattie Creek, he helps in the camp and is unable to do heavy work because of a riding accident about 10 years ago which affected a leg.

Mr Sloane will do medical studies of Gurindjis, particularly child nutrition and physical development.

There is a medical sister in the Wattie Creek district.

Mr Sloane said there was official recognition that Aboriginal health had been neglected. Aboriginal infant mortality was about 150 a thousand. The Australian average was about five a thousand, he said.

Mrs Culley will survey gemstone deposits in Wattie Creek area and take a sewing machine and material for Gurindji women who want to make their

Mr Rangiari told the Horsham meeting his people needed saddles and bridles for brumbies they planned to break for a mustering team.

Mr Rangiari has met the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Wentworth, and the Minister for the Interior, Mr Nixon.

Horsham's link with the Gurindji was made last month when a group of Horsham people visited Wattie Creek to take building materials and water-supply equipment.

### MAY PARK PATH

Cr Brian McGrath wants Horsham City Council traffic committee to look at a footpath at the east end of May Park.

He told this week's council meeting: "Near the traffic roundabout the footpath just seems to stop and the road continues. "I've received complaints that it's danger-

Mr Rangiari: "For ever!"