

Blacks tell it like it should have been

By ENRICA LONGO

St Kilda beach took on a new face yesterday. It became the landing place for Governor Phillip revisited, who helped rewrite history the Aboriginal way.

Yesterday was the second year that Victoria's Aboriginal community re-enacted the landing of the First Fleet during the Australia Day weekend.

Their version of history would have events such that the white immigrants who settled Australia did not declare the land terra nullius — empty land — but instead recognised that the Aboriginal people lived on the land.

Governor Phillip, the captain general of the First Fleet, was stopped yesterday by a group of Aboriginal people from declaring the land terra nullius. They explained that the new settlers were welcome if they agreed to abide by the immigration and customs laws of the indigenous people. — 1 FEB 1993

The new settlers also agreed to "pay rent" to the original inhabitants for use of land.

The re-enactment was a protest against the 205th anniversary of white invasion of Australia, the Aboriginal activist Gary Foley said yesterday.

He said Aboriginal people in the southern and eastern areas of Australia did not benefit from the Mabo case, which had given Aboriginal people in the north of Australia right to the land, because the decision said they had to show their claim to the land.