

# Batman's deal

## rejected

*The Age*  
12/7/69

## by Aborigines

The Aborigines handed back the Batman Treaty yesterday not far from the spot designated the site for a "village".

Pastor Doug Nicholls returned it to the white man, represented by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Meagher).

A lunchtime crowd of 500 watched the ceremony in City Square.

It marked the first National Aborigines' Observance Day.

Mr. Meagher represented European followers of John Batman, who signed the treaty on June 6, 1835, giving the white man about 100,000 acres of land in Port Phillip, including the sites of Melbourne and Geelong.

Eight Aboriginal men from the Dutigallar tribes signed the treaty with X marks, giving the land in return for "50 pairs of blankets, 50 knives, 50 tomahawks, 50 scissors, 50 looking glasses, 20 suits of slops and two tons of flour," a year.

The instalments were never paid, because Governor Bourke scrapped the deal and claimed the land for the Crown.

Last night, a variety of concerts and displays were held all over Victoria, including a corroboree at Northcote town hall.

Mr. Meagher yesterday named the six appointed members of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council who will sit with six elected Aboriginal representatives.

They include Pastor Nicholls and Mrs. Margaret Tucker.

The other appointed members are: Mr. W. K. Allen, Victorian Regional Director of the Department of Labor and National Service; Mr. A. G. Booth, Director of Family Welfare; Mr. T. L. W. Emerson, Director of Special Services in the Education Department, and Dr. P. W. J. Leighton, who was

appointed from a list of names submitted by the Australian Medical Association.

Five of the six elected members of the Council are Messrs. L. Cooper, A. F. Kirby, E. J. McGuinness, J. S. Murray, and W. L. J. Tregonning.

An election is now being held for a representative for the West Gippsland region.