

'Give us better deal'



A petition "to the people of Victoria" pleading for a better deal for aboriginals was presented to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Meagher, in a City Square ceremony today.

The petition, in the form of a long scroll, said in part:—

"Let us enter your society on our terms, living side by side with you but remaining for all time aboriginals," a race of people with an identity.

"We are tied to tribal customs which we do not want to lose. We know our culture can be of benefit to European society."

The petition said aboriginals wanted to work with white people to

tackle the problems facing both groups.

Aborigines Advancement League officials handed the scroll to Mr Meagher before a gathering of Government and church leaders and students from the universities and technical colleges.

A corroboree will be held tonight in the Northcote town hall as part of Australia-wide celebrations to mark National Aboriginals' Day.

PASTOR DOUG NICHOLLS reads the Batman Treaty of 1835 before handing it to Mr Meagher in the City Square.

Herald 7th July 1969