

Aboriginals in

FAIRS

"SUN"

Melb

15 JUL 1972

ABORIGINAL rights protesters brought peak-hour traffic to a standstill during a 90-minute march through the city last night.

big city protest

Trams and cars banked up for blocks behind the 800 singing, chanting marchers.

There were no arrests, but twice mounted and foot police forced marchers to move on during sit-down protests at major intersections.

About 50 demonstrators were aboriginals — including babies and children — and they led the march under a 20 ft. long banner.

Other marchers played guitars, a didgeridoo, whistled and carried banners and placards demanding land rights for "kooories."

Some wore red headbands and carried symbolic red, green and black flags — red for blood shed, green for land and black for aboriginals.

Demonstrators smashed tram windows and threw fruit at police horses during several minor scuffles. Slogans were scrawled along trams.

A tense moment came at Elizabeth and Collins Sts. when marchers decided after another sit-down to move on to busy Flinders St.

Most of the 60 police on duty formed a semi-circle with riot wagons and horses to turn the march up Collins St. to the City Square.

Aboriginal leader Bruce McGuinness said: "It's all right for us, but we can't confront the cops with all the children."

The marchers dispersed after a brief rally at the City Square.

In SYDNEY, police said 13 people had been charged with 26 offences after a similar demonstration.

They will appear in court on Monday.

In BRISBANE, marchers sat down in the street after office workers pelted them with water bombs.



THE VANGUARD of a crowd of more than 1000 demonstrators in Collins Street, Melbourne, yesterday.

16 held in rights protest marches

AT LEAST 16 people were arrested yesterday during marches through Australian capital cities in support of Aboriginal rights.

More than 8000 people took part in the largely peaceful demonstrations that became violent briefly in Sydney and Brisbane.

More than 3500 people marched through Sydney to a rally at the Town Hall but scuffles broke out on the way when militant demonstrators tried to occupy the roadway despite police warnings to keep to the footpath.

Sixteen people were arrested, five in one incident at Railway Square when two policemen and three marchers were cut about the face and arms.

In Melbourne more than 1000 people, guided by mounted police, marched through the streets for two hours waving placards and calling for Aboriginal land rights.

The demonstrators sat for about 10 minutes at the crowded intersection at Swanston and

Collins streets, delaying several trams and a long line of cars.

In Brisbane helmeted police and 1000 demonstrators confronted each other in a tense climax to a three-hour protest that ended peacefully when the protesters, after a long delay obeyed police instructions to disperse.

Earlier, water bombs were thrown at the demonstrators as they marched under the Government Tourist Bureau building in Adelaide Street.

In Adelaide a special corroboree by eight full-blooded Aborigines was called off because of the cold weather but nearly 2000 people marched through city streets.

The men came from Indulkina in the far north to perform the corroboree but at the last moment with temperatures at 5. degrees it was called off because they said it was too cold to take off their clothes.

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