

# Black out to claim England

**ABORIGINAL** activist Burnum Burnum arrived in London yesterday to claim England for his people, as a man considered by many to be the father of land rights died in the Northern Territory.

Vincent Lingiara, who led the Gurindji people in a walk-off from Vestey-owned Wave Hill Station in 1966 to protest at poor working and living conditions, died in the remote community of Daguragu.

Tributes poured in yesterday for Mr Lingiara, who was believed to be in his late 70s or mid 80s.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Gerry Hand, has asked to attend the funeral with permission from the Gurindji leaders.

Meanwhile, black actor Burnum Burnum has been mobbed by the British media, which he says he is manipulating to bring attention to the plight of Aboriginals.

BBC-TV had him in for a midnight interview and he was scheduled for breakfast time TV six hours later.

On Australia Day, Burnum Burnum intends to paddle a canoe ashore on the Kent coast, then stand on the White Cliffs of Dover, read the Burnum Burnum

Declaration and take possession of England in the name of the Aboriginal peoples.

But there is more to his trip than making what he agrees is an absurd speech.

One of the reasons he has promoted himself as a representative of his people is his belief that his is the "gentle, spiritual" voice of the Aborigine, unlike those he called the present, self-appointed leaders of Australia's black community.

"The reason there is so much urgency for me to come here is because I've got the answers and remedies to the problems of the Aboriginal people," he said.

- AAP

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