



PORTRAIT OF BENNELONG
a native of New Holland



ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP
Governor of New South Wales

NO MAN'S LAND.

*Australia,
a vast continent just over the
edge of the known world. A near-mythical land
of plenty, waiting to be claimed and settled.*

*Empty, un-owned and free for all or so it
was decided. But there were people here and as eleven
ships sailed into Sydney harbour, these people watched,
waited and lit fires for protection from evil. They were afraid.*

*The people on the shore were Aboriginals and this was their land.
In fact it was home to 250 individual nations, spanning the entire continent,
each with their own language, laws and territorial boundaries.*

*Australia represented a 60,000 year-old civilisation where 2,500
generations had gone before.*

All of this was to change.

*It was decreed that the ways of the Indigenous people were not familiar
and therefore in the eyes of the British Empire, did not exist.*

*Australia was declared Terra Nullius (nobody's land) and on
the morning of 26th January 1788,
the visitors to this land went ashore.*

First Australians

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SIX BILLION STORIES AND COUNTING...



TRUGANINI

(1812 - 1876)

ON THE
8TH MAY 1876

TRUGANINI
DIED.

THIS MARKED
THE
CLOSING CHAPTER
OF A PROUD PEOPLE
WHO HAD
LIVED ON THIS LAND
FOR GENERATIONS.

THE
TASMANIAN ABORIGINALS
WERE NO MORE.

OR SO IT WAS THOUGHT...

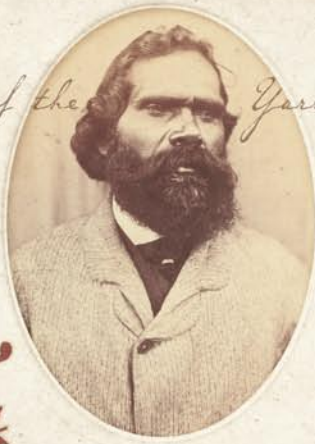
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Simon Wonga, King of the Yarra tribe. Died in 1875.



Survival of the Fittest

*William Barak
1824-1903*



It was 30 years since settlement of the area known as Victoria.

~ The colony was growing strong, now numbering more than 500,000. ~ At the same time the Indigenous population had diminished from 60,000 to just 1000. ~ Something had to be done and, as the Leader of his clan, Wonga, together with his cousin Barak, launched a human rights movement. ~ By negotiating on white man's terms and in the language of white people, they bypassed local government and went straight to parliament. ~

Success! ~ In 1881, a Law was passed giving Barak's people the right to remain on what was left of their land. ~ Sadly this was short-lived.

First Australians

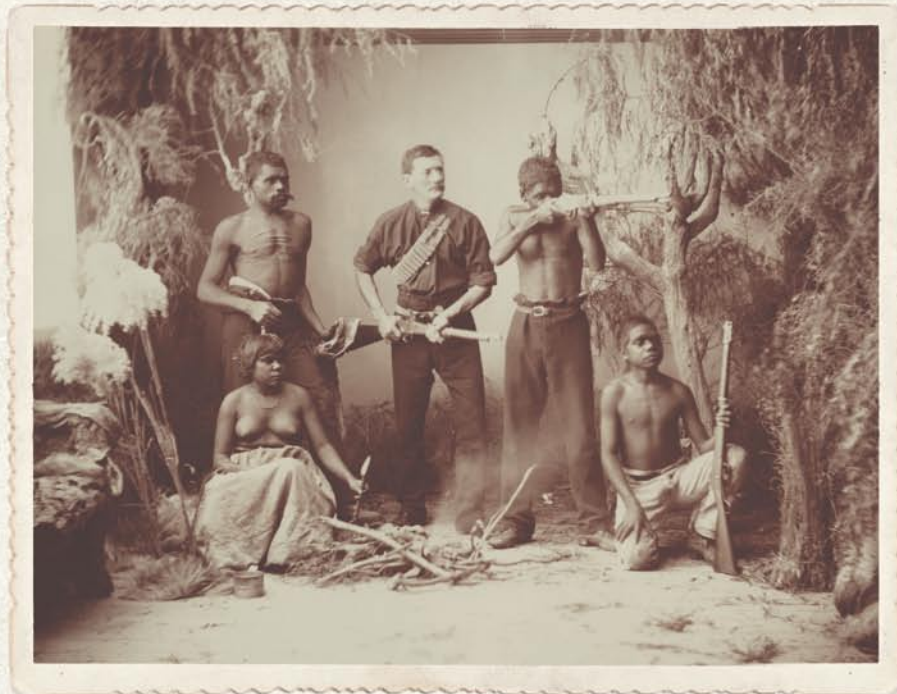
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SIX BILLION STORIES AND COUNTING...

I AM THE LAW.



“**MEN** would not remain so many years in a country like this if there were no **WOMEN**.

And, perhaps **THE ALMIGHTY**

MEANT THEM FOR USE

as **HE** has placed them **WHERE PIONEERS GO**.

☞ What I'm speaking about is only natural.

ESPECIALLY FOR MEN WHO ARE SO ISOLATED WHERE WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND SIZES ARE **RUNNING AT LARGE.**”

William Willshire, Head of Police, Central Australia 1886.



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EVERYONE IN THIS PHOTO IS WHITE.

According to A.O. Neville they were. In fact from 1905, every child of mixed descent in Western Australia was considered white and could be put into government run homes. Neville was chief protector of Aboriginal People and this was part of his plan to assimilate the Aboriginal race into white society with a view to breeding out colour altogether. His methods were thorough. Once taken into care, the children were classed according to the shade of their



skin as well as the shape of their facial features. It was quite simple, the whiter the child looked, the more advantages they were given. The darker children learnt manual skills, the lighter children were sent to school. Neville's agenda became national policy. Assimilation held strong in Western Australia until 1970. It is estimated that over 60,000 children were taken from their families. Most of them were under five years of age, most never saw their parents again.



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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Aborigines Protection Act 1909 - 1943, Section 18c.

General Certificate of Exemption

Photograph of



This document entitles the bearer JOSEPH EDWARDS to:

Leave the reservation or mission at which they live - to go to work.

Additional benefits include:

Walk freely through town without being arrested

(Note: Curfews apply)

Enter a shop or hotel (You may or may not be served - at proprietor's discretion)

Special conditions apply. In order to gain this Exemption Certificate, the following must be strictly adhered to:

Speaking in native language - Prohibited

Engaging in dance, rituals, native customs - Prohibited

Associating with fellow indigenous people (including family) - Prohibited

Assimilate into the wider community.

If all conditions are met with and satisfactorily upheld, you may also be eligible to live in town unsupervised.

Note: Strictly segregated housing areas.

This is your chance to be free of the Aborigines Protection Act and live like a white man.

Dated the 10th day of March, 19 51.

Issued by E. P. Meagher Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board



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DON'T TOUCH WHAT ISN'T YOURS. IT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU AND YOU DON'T BELONG THERE.

This is Malo's law, the law of the land.

One that had been respected by the people of Murray Island in the Torres Strait for generations.

The Islanders knew whose land was whose and what belonged to whom. But according to the Queensland government, the land wasn't theirs at all, it belonged to the crown.

The Islanders weren't going to let that happen.

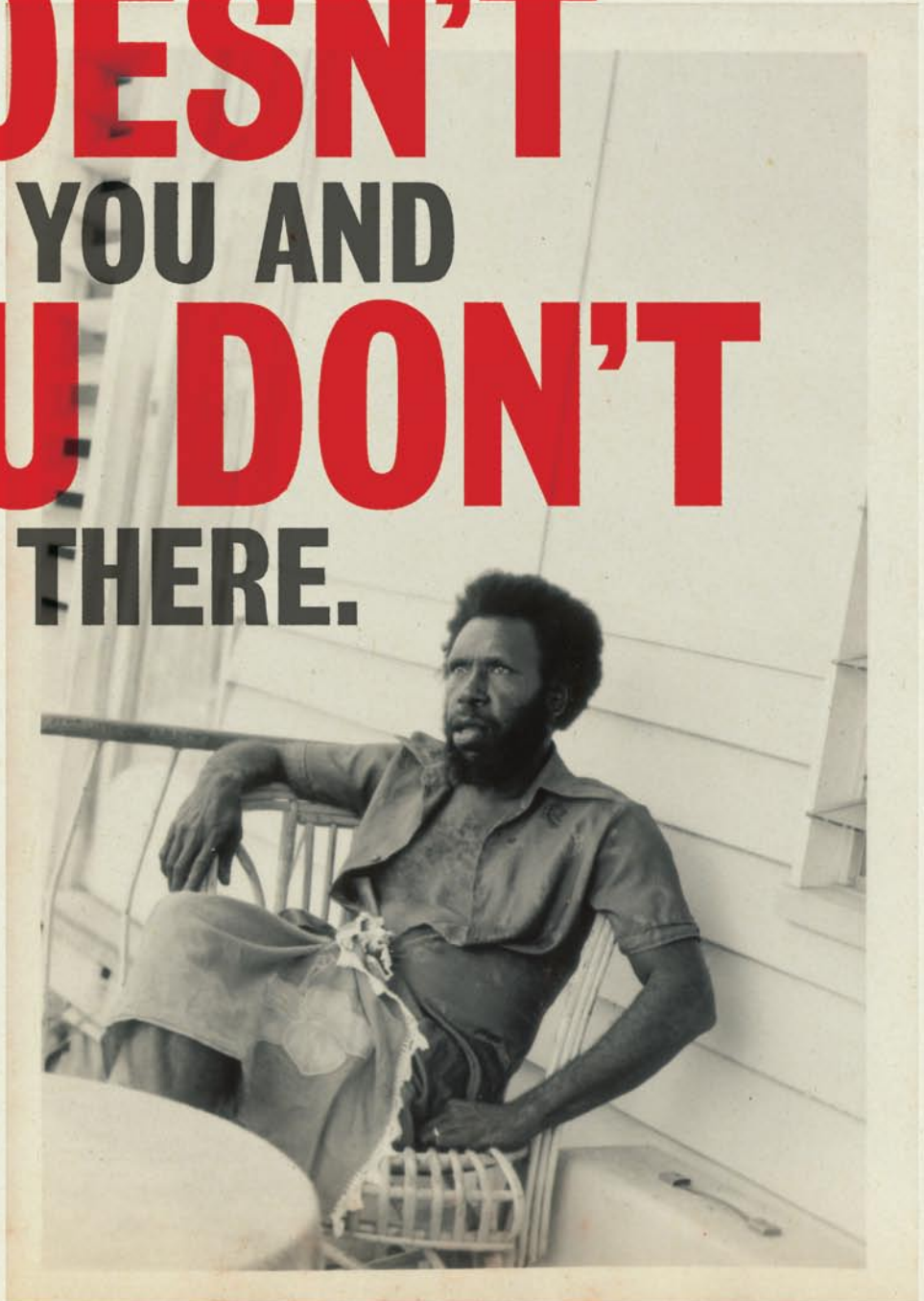
Eddie Koiki Mabo was a gardener from the islands who led five of his people to lodge the case for native title.

Indigenous Australians had a right to their land and they were set to prove it.

Although in exile from his land, Mabo fought for more than ten years before successfully gaining recognition from the High Court.

Sadly he would not live to see the outcome of a landmark case that changed recent history forever.

Terra Nullius overruled.



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