

Thankyou for your reply. I had assumed my submission did not get through so spent yesterday afternoon re-doing it via email.

Would you believe I was then unable to get it through due to system protocol involving a mail server. The remedy suggested was beyond my poor technological ability so I sent a copy to Recognise asking them to forward my submission on to you.

They have not long ago replied, without acceding to what I thought a simple request, but referring me to the obviously troublesome address.

SO, HERE I GO AGAIN.

This time I've copied my submission into this email and will now attempt to get it through to you.

At least there's an extra week to keep trying. If this rejects I'll ring the mobile number included in your subject email. Many thanks.

Most warmly,

Maurice.

0418 677 913

Follows: Submission from the rejected email;

"Subject: CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

Date: Sunday, 7 May 2017 5:22 PM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I MAURICE JONES SALUTE AND HONOUR THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND UPON WHICH I WAS BORN BEFORE MAKING THIS EMAIL SUBMISSION DATED 7TH MAY 2017, WHICH IS MADE MADE IN RESPONSE TO THE REFERENDUM COUNCIL INVITATION.

SUBJECT: as headed; CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

CONTEXT;

On my matrilineal line I am a fourth generation Australian Citizen, with all those of us born beside the Tweed or Richmond rivers. On my fathers side: third generation Australian, with his father born near the "Eureka" goldfields in Victoria about ten years after the Bentley's hotel there was burnt not long before the stockade events. his mother near Bathurst. His parents were Welsh - who arrived in Australia via Port Phillip - and his mothers English - her father arrived via Moreton Bay. All my mothers line were originally Scottish).

My father himself was born at Eastwood to two Teachers.

My mother at Tumbulgum to a Cane Farmer whose - own father had been a Dairy Farmer at Pyrmont, and mother a farm girl. Her own mothers family was displaced when she a child by the Highland clearances in Scotland and she was brough, with siblings, by own widowed mother to Australia. Her grandfather was transported from Glasgow after a failed break in to a store. They settled separately near Dungog in the Hunter, her mother being born after they were drawn to the Tweed - becoming farmers near the base of Wollumbin (Mt Warning).

My father became a country Solicitor and my mother a teacher. I am one of their four sons, age now 77. All of us were born at Kyogle on the Richmond and were taken "walkabout" for a month every Christmas to the coast near Tweed Heads....

And so many white Australian "settlers" families stories go....

I write this here as my family came to this continent almost surely entirely unknowing of the decimation, unwittingly and wittingly perpetrated on the original inhabitants by their similarly white skinned predecessors.

Those emigrating members of my forebears and their families came in, one via southernmost Queensland and moved overland to near Bathurst, others via Sydney thence overland to the Hunter and then the Tweed, Richmond, Brunswick and Clarence river areas. Others from Wales to Melbourne, overland to Victorian goldfields spreading from there also to the Bathurst area in NSW. Others movements I know little of.

I know nothing of any of their personal interactions with original "Australians" - except one anecdote of Mum's re her mothers concern at "natives" coming around the farm home on the banks of the Tweed at night.

Now those early boat peoples descendants (of which I and my two children - and theirs are in turn descended), are widespread across the whole continent and I have wondered often at the impact my family must have had/still has over something like seventeen decades on the individual members, culture and heritage of those original custodians of country who walked lightly upon and revered it for millenia upon millenia. With many, and growing, thankfully sti doing so.

I have, more than once in tears, earnestly said "Sorry" for my own attitude or behaviour in past years, and for anything my forebears may have visited upon this age old race of, what becomes more and

more apparent, immense wisdom - many of whom brought low by nearly two hundred and fifty years of many and varied impacts of forced occupation of their country by foreigners. And yet they have the grace to say to us now "One Mob". And still more and more arrive..... I have read, studied, talked, taken such action as I have, to recognise, to support, to raise awareness - but nowhere near enough. Hence I very much feel it a weighty responsibility to accept the invitation issued.

THEREFORE, FURTHER TO THE ABOVE I SUBMIT:

In response to the questions shown on pages 13 - 15 of Council's Discussion Paper;

1. I strongly support specific constitutional change and any other necessary legal changes flowing therefrom.

2.

.1 I feel strongly that something along the lines of the wording suggested by the Expert Panel and shown on page 9 of the Discussion Paper should be added as the opening statement of the Australian Constitution.

2.2 Further, that the first suggested para there starting "Recognising" have added to it: "and that this continent and its islands were taken from them without their consent;"

2.3 That the third para have added to it between the words "languages" "and heritage" a comma and the word "lore".

2.4 That the fourth para there should be amended to read: "Acknowledging the need to secure the right to pursue their traditional ways on their recognised unalienated traditional 'country' and the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: within the framework of law applicable to all Australian citizens;"

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

5. No - my view is as in 2.1 above with any necessary "head of power" needed elsewhere to reflect that opening statement.

6. As in 2 above.

7. If this relates to the question of deleting section 25 outlined on page 12 - a Yes seems self evidently warranted. As to the rest of the Constitution I am not equipped to comment.

8. Yes but specifically to redress wrong done and still possible of being done - so long as consistent with the opening statement proposed in 2 above.

9. No - this is not in my area of experience/knowledge.

10. Yes.

11. No.

12 All.

13. By the introduction of specific well drafted law.

Comment. It would seem that the time for a Bill of Rights for all Citizens is very much long overdue and such should encompass protection from any form of discrimination as well as placing a check on the introduction of wide ranging illegal ? law/regulation such has been introduced under the "bogey" of "terrorism".

14. Yes if specifically about, or impinging on them - see reply 8 above - otherwise the same right as all other Australian citizens or recognised groups of them.

15. Yes - they should have rights to a timely voice especially given that they are such a small, and rapidly growing smaller, proportion of the population which would seem to be even less likely to understand and value what remains of such a treasure trove of culture, consciousness and wisdom that was here prior to their world being invaded as each day passes.

16. Yes - given the changes put forward in 8 and 2 above.

17 Only that it should be set up with full knowledge of what has and has not been beneficial in the past and a totally fresh approach developed agreed upon on a non partisan basis involving all "Aboriginal and Thursday Islanders" of say 15 and above who choose to be involved in such utilising the latest of technological and social communication,

psychological etc etc knowledge developed around the world - such for example as voice activated phones/devices for non literate folk in India - etc etc.

MOVING TO PAGE 15 QUESTIONS.

18. See 7 above. If the contentions made by the statements on page 12 are indisputable deleting section 25 removal removes the possibility of "bad" law being enacted by any State - how about Territory ?

19. See 18 above. In that light No.

20.. Other comment ?

This whole process MUST not be allowed to become a political football.

It is too important and too long overdue for that to be permitted in any shape or form - idealistic I know - but there I go.

With very best wishes.

Thankyou for the oportunity to participate.
