

***The Age*, 26 October 1937, p. 10, News of the Day. Aborigines' Plea to King**

Amelioration of the lot of the native inhabitants of Australia, and their representation in the Federal Parliament, are proposed in a petition which has been forwarded to the Governor-General for despatch to the King. The hon. secretary of the Australian Aborigines' League (Mr W. Cooper) has collected 1814 signatures to the petition from many parts of the Commonwealth, and he said yesterday that many who would otherwise have signed were afraid that it would react on them personally. In the case of some missions no one had dared to sign, although the authorities had allowed the lists to be circulated. Such a petition, he claimed, showed that aborigines were advancing into the culture of the British race, and that they were conscious of their disabilities and anxious for release. The petition declares that the Commission issued to those who came to Australia, that the original inhabitants and their heirs and successors should be adequately cared for, has not been observed. "Our lands", it is stated, "have been expropriated by your Majesty's Governments and legal status is denied us by those Governments. Your petitioners humbly pray that your Majesty will Intervene on our behalf and, through the Instrument of your Majesty's Governments in the Commonwealth of Australia, will prevent the extinction of the aboriginal race and give better conditions for all, granting us the power to propose a member of Parliament, of our own blood or white men known to have studied our needs and to be in sympathy with our race, to represent us in the Federal Parliament".