

***The Age*, 13 February 1939, p. 13, Problems of Aborigines. Yarra Bank Views**

The white population of Australia had scandalously treated the original natives of this country, Mr P. Laidler said at a public meeting on the Yarra Bank yesterday afternoon. The object of the meeting was to expose the conditions of aborigines in Victoria and other States with a view to constructive action.

Other speakers were the president of the Australian Aborigines' League (Mr A. P. A. Burdeu), Mr Cain, M.L.A.; Miss Helen Baillie and a number of aboriginals. Resolutions put before the meeting were: — That this meeting welcomes many of the new regulation especially that which provides for a Native Affairs branch of the Interior at Canberra. It believes, however, that the administrator appointed should have had personal understanding of the aboriginals and of Australian conditions, and recommends the appointment of Dr F. Strehlow, Government patrol officer for the southern part of the Northern Territory, for this post.

Seeing that the chief menace to the native women of Arnhem Land is caused by the Japanese crews or Australian-owned luggers, the meeting calls on the Federal Government: to introduce legislation to prohibit Australian-owned luggers, as well as Japanese, from entering the three-mile radius. It also urges that Melville Island be declared a native reserve.

Other resolutions requested a housing scheme at Antwerp, Victoria, and a protest against the attack on West Australian missions by the Chief Secretary of West Australia (Mr Kitson).