

William Cooper to Rev. Ernest Gribble, 26 October 1933, E. R. B Gribble Papers, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 1515, Box 11, Item 66

Your most kind letter reach me safely to day. and no need to say how pleased I was to received it, it is the first letter I have rec'd of the Kind, and I feel sure I am going to get on alright, now you are Taking part in this good Cause, There are many more. I am sure will help in that Part of this Continent. that you are acquainted with, now I will tell you a little of my work in Correspondence with one and a-nother, first Called a meeting with my Native people to Disgusse [i.e. discuss] about aranging a petition to be forwarded to his Majesty King George V, and we unanimously decided to Carrie on with it, my first step was to write to the Aboriginal protection Boards in the five states, replys received as follows Queensland refuses south Australia give permission to all Aborigines to sign any petition they wish to, Victoria very stubborn. Copy of my letter was forwarded to Lake Tyers Mission for consideration, and again wrote to the Board and no answeare, I was compelled to appoint one of the members to see the Board on our behalf, so I should be getting a reply next week, N.S. Wales forwarded a Copy of my letter to the Commonwealth Government also for Consideration, west Australia no reply, I have written to the Prime Minister seeking for a definit reply from all Boards, when I receive the reply from the Prime Minister I shall send on[.] we must keep in close touch with each other till the Petition is Completed, you will please find inclose a Copy of the Petition, and no need to tell you what to do with the Petition as you will know Better with it. it is the Duty of Every man and women with Aboriginal Blood in them over the age of 20 years to signe the Petition, and I hope my people will not fail to signe, and help all they can that we may get improvement in our Conditions, I may say if you wish to take Copy of the Petition in Closed you are at liberty to do so, to send to some of your acquaintance in that part of the continent, I am adressing this letter to the adress I sent to befor, so, when your answering give me your adress again,

I am trusting to receive some more good information from you.

Closing with kindest regards to all my Aboriginal friends,

Not forgetting you

I am your

faithfull

Friend ...

P.S. to avoid weight in letter I am not send the forms as I trust you will arrange them