

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to Isaac Selby, 16 March 1937, Isaac Selby Papers, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, MS 694, box 226**

The kindness of your references to our people at the Batman memorial, to which I have referred previously, and your sympathetic gesture in sending my letter to the "Herald" has shown me how genuinely you are our friend and it is a pleasure to count you in with the noble army who agree that when we ask for "A fair deal for the dark race" we are not asking anything unreasonable ... I am writing now to tell you of the result of your sending the letter for publication.

First I should like to say that I have not had good success in getting publicity and many letters sent have apparently reached only the Editors' wastepaper baskets. I have at times been very grieved at the refusal to publish for my letters are always marked with moderation, an aboriginal characteristic, if I may be permitted to mention something well known, and for their avoidance of anything which may be thought offensive. I have always felt that the path for me to take is that of winning by the sheer justice of our cause, though believe me, aboriginal folk do feel the indignities put on them and many a camp fire has heard the old folk tell the younger ones of the baptism of blood that has been our portion. But to tell you of the result of your letter:—

I had not expected publicity and when one after another referred to my letter in the "Herald" I was at a loss to follow what it was all about. When I received letters, including one from a Collins Street specialist, who is, out of hours, interested in the cause of the right, inviting me to meet him to talk over the matter, you can see the letter has caused a stir. Papers have referred to it with suitable comment, and altogether, you have been able to do more for us that we would have been able to do ourselve[s.] For this, very many thanks.