

William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to Isaac Selby, 5 April 1937, Isaac Selby Papers, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, MS 694, box 226

I have received the letter sent to Mr. Burdeu and have noted the contents. We will gladly give you 1½ hours of programme and feel quite sure that you will be satisfied with the quality of the contribution[s] and the unusual character of the items. At the moment plans are complete for a concert tour by artists from Cumerogunja. These folk pass through Bendigo on Saturday next, 10th inst., and from 12.30 pm to 12.45 pm on that day they will be broadcast from 3LO, the Bendigo broadcasting station. Our local artists have been broadcast from 3DB broadcasting station. I mention these things merely to dispel from your mind any doubts you may have as to the satisfaction our artists will give.

We thank you for the opportunity of bringing to the Melbourne public further evidence that our race is not a wastrel one, as so many seem to think but, instead, a people for whom the best should be done in the way of restoring something in place of what was wrested from us. When Australia responds to our appeal for "a fair deal for the dark race" our white brethren will receive more than they give for a civilised aboriginal population, trained in modern methods will be the best possible means of developing Australia's vast empty spaces, her chief weakness.