

Koorakookoo

## **WALLAGA LAKE MAKES LAND CLAIM**

People of the Yuin tribe of the NSW South Coast near Wallage Lake are claiming land from the NSW government.

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The land claim is signed by 50 people led by three tribal elders: Ted Thomas, A.J. Campbell and Percy Mumbler.

They say:

“In the past, before the coming of the white people, we were free to use all the land and to travel over it as we wished. We were free to use the land and its mountains, its rivers and lakes the nearby sea and all the food and wildlife just as we wished. It was all our land. It was part of us and we were part of it.

“Today we have had almost all of it taken away from us. We are forced to live on just a few acres that remain to us, and even this we cannot call our own as long as we do not have the title deeds.

“We must always live in fear and insecurity, worrying if even the little we have will be taken away from us, just like the Aboriginal people in Queensland.

### **HOLIDAY HOMES FOR WHITES**

In 1949 part of our land was taken away from us and given to white people for their holiday homes. This was done without any consultation with us. It made us very angry and still does. This bit of land was very important to us because it contains one of our sacred burial grounds.

When this land was taken away from us it was under the control of the NSW Aboriginal Welfare Board. Today our land is under the control of the NSW Aboriginal Lands Trust, which we do not trust any more than the old Welfare Board...

### **PLANS FOR THE LAND**

The Yuin people have made plans for the use of the land.

They include:

- decent housing, built by Aboriginal labourers
- a commercial oyster lease
- a motel and caravan [sic] park for local employment and accommodation of Aboriginal visitors and white tourists
- a market garden
- timber getting for local employment and construction.

### **NO TRUST IN THE LANDS TRUST**

Two more points made in the land claim are:

- 1) “We do not trust the NSW Aboriginal Lands Trust and we do not want it to control our land. We are quite capable of managing our affairs and we want title deeds for our land handed over to the community to be held in perpetuity
- 2) In making our land claim, we in no way reject the idea that the Aboriginal people must be compensated for all the land taken away from them and lost to them forever.....”

The Yuin people appeal to others to back their claim by (1) Writing to Neville Wran, Parliament House, Macquarie St., Sydney (2) Writing to your local member at the above or his local address (3) Let us know about your action.

The Yuin tribe can be contacted through:

Mr. E. Thomas  
Tribal Elder,  
Yuin Tribe,  
Wallage Lake  
Free Bag Mail  
via NAROOMA 2546