

[Leaflet]

“YOUR EDUCATION IS OUR LIBERATION—PAY THE RENT”

How does it work?

In effect the payment of rent would mean that you recognize indigenous sovereignty of this country. Rent payed would be used to maintain indigenous culture and eventually maintain economic independence of the indigenous nations. Rent is assessed according to a number of factors.

1. The ability to pay.
2. What damage has been done to the land.
3. What profit is received from the land which is occupied.

The minimal payment of rent is 1% of your gross annual income. Therefore if you earn one hundred dollars per week it will cost fifty-two dollars per year in rent. Payment of rent is the only reconciliation that is reasonable, rational and responsible. To pay your rent please contact

PAY THE RENT CAMPAIGN,
P.O.BOX 277 NORTHCOTE
VICTORIA 3070
PH: (03) 4806377

Why should we pay the rent?

The indigenous nations of this land never consented to the occupation of the first fleet or anyone else following them. By disobeying his orders, Captain Cook created the legal lie of Terra-Nullius—a land without owners. This enabled the invaders to convince themselves that they had legal and moral rights to the land because Australia had never actually become the property of the resident indigenous nations. This idea had become accepted legal doctrine in the first generation of settlement and it has played a central role in relations between black and white ever since.

The possession of Australia by Captain Cook was seizure of territory, an undeclared act of war upon the indigenous peoples. Right up until today the legal lie of Terra-Nullius is still used to give us non-aboriginals residency in this country. It also enables us to use aboriginal resources at great cost to the indigenous peoples.

Because of these insane historical facts, indigenous people (what is left of them after the massacres) are still being destroyed. They and their culture are on the brink of extinction. All because we have denied them access to their resources which had been in their care for hundreds and thousands of years. Indigenous peoples have the right to be themselves in their own country, and if we are intent on staying in this country it is high time we started to recognise their rights and begin to Pay the Rent for using their resources.

What is Pay the Rent?

1. It is a reasonable, rational and responsible way of insuring that real justice is a reality for the survival of the oldest living culture in the world.
2. It is recognizing sovereignty; being the basis for the protection of the environment enabling indigenous people to nurture their culture.

3. It is a simple but powerful way of recognizing the need of continuing non-aboriginal occupation of their land.
4. It is at last after two hundred years giving the indigenous people their true identity, and the opportunity to become self determining by detaching themselves from the domination and welfare dependency of past and present governments.
5. It is the basis for a relationship that must exist between us and the indigenous people for the survival of this land and its culture.
6. It will begin to legitimize our occupation of this country for the first time in two hundred years, since the invasion in 1788.
7. It is not a threat to our right of personal property.
8. Will redress the mistakes made by our ancestors which has lead to the decline and eventual demise of indigenous nations, flora and fauna of this country now known as Australia.
9. It will become the process of reconciliation.
10. Is a sign of the growing maturity of today's "Australians".