

74 years later, Germans take protest letter

New role for Szoke



HELEN Szoke is leaving her position as Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner to become chief executive of aid agency Oxfam Australia.

Dr Szoke, who will start the position in February 2013, said joining Oxfam was 'a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'.

She will replace Andrew Hewett, who was Oxfam CEO for the past 11 years.

Dr Szoke was just 16 months into her five-year term as Australia's first Race Discrimination Commissioner. A replacement is yet to be announced.

Story and pictures by DEVI RAJARAM



A YORTA Yorta man's letter condemning the Jewish persecution in Germany has been

formally submitted to the German consul-general in Melbourne – more than seven decades after it was written.

The submission follows a re-enactment of the world's only known private protest against the atrocities of Kristallnacht ('Night of broken glass') that took place on 9 November 1938, when Nazis attacked Jews in Germany.

Upon hearing about the atrocities, William Cooper, who himself had limited rights in his own land, led a protest march from his home in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray to the city's German Consulate.

The 77-year-old co-founder of the Australian Aborigines League intended to submit a letter requesting the then German Consul (Dr R W Drechsler) to forward the resolution to his Government, but the letter was refused.

Exactly 74 years on and a re-enactment of the historical march by Mr Cooper's grandson, Alfred Turner (widely known as Uncle Boydie), last week saw the current German Honorary-Consul in Melbourne, Michael Pearce, accept a replica of the letter.

Uncle Boydie, 84, presented the letter to Mr Pearce in Collins Street last Thursday after sharing its contents with a group of about 50 people.

"We protest whole-heartedly at the cruel prosecution of the Jewish people by the Nazi government in Germany. We plead that you will make it known to your government and its military leaders that this cruel prosecution of their fellow citizens must be brought to an end. We respectfully request that you accept this resolution and we look forward to the news of an immediate end to these atrocities," the letter read.

Mr Pearce told those gathered that he was pleased to 'right the wrong' committed by his predecessor at the same place 74 years earlier when he refused to accept Mr Cooper's original letter.

"It was undoubtedly wrong of the consul to refuse to accept the resolution from William Cooper," Mr Pearce said.

"It was wrong because it denied the responsibility of the German government for the crimes that were then being committed against the Jews.

"It was also wrong because it failed to acknowledge the courageous gesture of a people whose freedoms and rights in their own land were heavily circumscribed and whose very survival in their own land at that time remained precarious."

Mr Pearce told the crowd he would work with the German embassy in Canberra to ensure the replica letter received a prompt and sufficient response from the German foreign office.

"We'll see exactly what they do respond but I think it's a strong sense



Uncle Boydie (second from right), William Cooper's grandson, with Kevin Russell (third from right), great grandson of William Cooper, on Collins Street, Melbourne, with participants of the re-enactment march waiting to witness Uncle Boydie's submission of the replica letter to the German Consul.



Uncle Boydie, middle, with Kevin Russell, left, leading the re-enactment march in Melbourne.

from a lot of people that we've closed the circle here," he said.

Uncle Boydie remembers his grandfather as a 'fairly big man' who 'a lot of times, couldn't get out of bed, was really sick but used to write letters in bed to prime ministers, politicians'. He said to 'finish the job' was good for him, the family and for everyone.

The re-enactment brought together not only different Australian communities but also survivors of Kristallnacht.

Marianne Roth, 92, was about 18 and living in Berlin when the atrocities against which William Cooper protested took place. During the course of the re-enactment, she recalled taking her brother out to see what was going on despite her mother telling her not to go.

"Non-Jewish people came and were very rude to the people that were sitting in the cafes. They were breaking windows of the shops and crystal pieces were everywhere on the floor," she said.

"We then walked back home to our flat and that was a start of horrible things – synagogues... I saw it burning."

Kevin Russell, great grandson of William Cooper, said the re-enactment was 'another step in the awareness and acknowledgement that we (Aborigines) as a people have that compassion'.

"That we're good people. We're wearing a label that was stigmatised with all these tags. We're good people and we want to take our rightful place in the community because racism is so rife in the community today still sadly," he said.

Mr Russell said he hoped the re-enactment would bring together the German and Aboriginal community in Australia.

NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Meeting

Newcastle Yowies would like to invite 2 delegates (*only*) from each Knockout side to attend a meeting at;

Venue: Yamuloong Centre
Date: Saturday 15th December 2012
Address: 71 Prospect Road, Garden Suburb, NSW, 2289.
Time: 10am.

The meeting will be dealing with items that relate to the 2013 Knockout.

Please confirm your attendance by calling Yamuloong on (02) 4943 6877, or if you would like any further information contact Jim Wright.

CITY OF SYDNEY

NAIDOC WEEK EVENT MANAGEMENT 2013
Quote No. 216/12

The City of Sydney invites quotations from suitably qualified and experienced organisations for the management of the City's NAIDOC Week Event in Hyde Park on Monday, 8 July 2013.

The bidder will be required to manage all aspects of the event including planning, creative content, community engagement, event operations, booking of vendors and entertainers and event marketing. The bidder will be required to liaise with City staff as required.

Bidders are required to demonstrate their capacity, financial and technical capability for completing the project within the required timeframe, have had previous experience on similar sized projects and demonstrate a commitment to WHS and environmentally sound principles.

Quotation documents can be obtained by registering through the e-tendering portal at www.tenderlink.com/cityofsydney

If you experience difficulties accessing this website please contact the Tenderlink helpdesk on 1800 233 533.

Contract enquiries may be addressed to the Tendering Officer via the online forum accessed on the portal.

Alternatively for further enquiries please contact:

Mr Michael Lowe, Tendering Manager:
Telephone: (02) 9265 9057
Email: mlowe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Submissions endorsed 'Quotation No. 216/12, NAIDOC Week Event Management 2013' must be lodged online at www.tenderlink.com/cityofsydney or alternatively placed in the Tender Box on Level 2, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney no later than 11am on Tuesday, 22 January 2013.

LATE SUBMISSIONS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED

Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

Aboriginal Heritage

Newell Highway, Trewilga realignment

Roads and Maritime Services invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places for the Trewilga realignment to register to be consulted.

To register your interest, please contact:
Jeffery Charlton, phone: 6861 1444 or
email: Jeffery.Charlton@rms.nsw.gov.au

Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by **Friday 21 December 2012.**

Roads and Maritime Services proposes to realign the Newell Highway, 36.6km to 43.1km north of Parkes. The project would make the road straighter, improve the sight distance and provide wider shoulders on the highway making the road safer, and more consistent with adjoining sections of the Newell Highway.

The proposal may result in Roads and Maritime Services:

- Applying for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and/or
- Undertaking investigations in accordance with the *Code of practice for archaeological investigations in NSW 2010*, and/or
- Undertaking an environmental impact assessment under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

For general information please contact the project manager, Mr Dane Hendry on (02) 6861 1444.