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Alf (Uncle Boydie) Turner met Sir Peter Cosgrove, the Governor-General at 3pm today at Government House, Canberra to hand over a historic petition. Uncle Boydie was accompanied by Abe Schwarz, Barbara Miller and David Jack, part of the group called Uncle Boydie's Dream.

"I feel that my dream to complete my grandfather William Cooper's unfinished business is accomplished" said Uncle Boydie. "I'm over the moon about it. He gave us a warm and lengthy interview and will forward the petition to the Queen at my request."

"Why I feel I had to do this is that my grandfather, William Cooper, managed to get 1814 signatures on a petition to King George V to intervene to prevent the extinction of Aboriginal people and to have representation in federal Parliament. He also raised the issues of the expropriation of Aboriginal land, legal issues and the gap between the conditions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people" said Uncle Boydie.

"My grandfather was very disappointed that the Australian Government did not forward his 1937 petition to the Queen because Aboriginal people were British citizens but lost their Australian citizenship at federation" said Uncle Boydie.

"I decided to pick up the baton, and as his grandson, gather fresh signatures on the original petition and give the petition to the Queen, the granddaughter of King George V. We have been working on this project for about 18 months" he said.

"It is fitting that the petition was handed to the Governor General in Reconciliation and on the exact day of the 47th anniversary of the 1967 referendum" said Uncle Boydie. "The refusal to send William Cooper's petition to the King in the thirties was a key factor leading to the campaign for the 1967 referendum to change the constitution. This enabled Indigenous people to be counted in the census and for the federal government to make laws for Indigenous people".

While the meeting with the Governor General was private, he is on record as saying that he particularly wanted to address regional and rural development and Indigenous affairs as Governor General.

Signed: Alf (Uncle Boydie) Turner