

Holocaust Survivor Helps Launch William Cooper Book in Adelaide to the Sounds of Jimmy Little’s “Yorta Yorta Man” and Geoff Bullock’s song “The Great South Lands of the Holy Spirit” Stirs Hearts at the Launch of the European Quest Book

By Barbara Miller



Thanks to Jenny Hagger, Director of AHOPFAN and team who organised my book launch for the State Library on 10 July. Norman and I arrived in Adelaide about 11am from Perth on Monday 7 July and we immediately did an interview by phone with Christian radio from Brisbane on National Aboriginal and Islander Observance Committee (NAIDOC). My first book is about William Cooper who is the father or originator of NAIDOC, the first one being held in January 1940 on the first Sunday before Australia Day. On Wednesday, Norman did interviews with ABC Cairns and Christian radio re NAIDOC.

Greg Sinclair, a relative of William Cooper, was not at a Wednesday meeting of the Adelaide Aboriginal and Islander Congress but Norman met him at the NAIDOC march Friday morning. We spoke at a number of meetings while in Adelaide, having a full schedule.

I had invited Andrew Steiner, a sculptor and Holocaust survivor to meet us at the State Library at 1.30pm before our 2-4pm book launch on Thursday. I had not met Andrew but have been on regular teleconferences with him assisting Alf Turner or Uncle Boydie to complete his grandfather William Cooper’s unfinished business. Norman asked him to address the book launch.



Andrew Steiner, Barbara & Norman
Photo – Rhonda Pooley

Jenny addressing book launch Photo - Andrew Lothian

Over 60 people attended and enjoyed refreshments and the social event. As host, Jenny Hagger introduced the event. Andrew spoke of how he had helped get recognition of William Cooper in Australia and Israel. Norman played the “Yorta Yorta Man” song by Jimmy Little who wrote the old hit “Telephone to Glory”. Norman spoke and also played “My Island Home” by Christine Anu and “The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit” by Geoff Bullock. I spoke at length on both my books – “William Cooper, Gentle Warrior: Standing Up for Australian Aborigines and Persecuted Jews” and “The European Quest to Find Terra Australis Incognita: Quiros, Torres and Janszoon.”. I did an acknowledgement of God and country at the beginning. One of the things I mentioned is that South Australia is the only state that has had an Aboriginal Governor and that was William Cooper’s nephew, Sir Pastor Doug Nichols whom he had mentored.

On Friday, Hugh and Ruth Magarey kindly took Norman to the NAIDOC march so he could support it and to get signatures for the boomerang petition for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people. They also took me to 5 bookshops. Norman was happy he got every space filled up on the petition sheets he had available. I was happy every bookshop wanted my books. Unfortunately as I had run out of Cooper books, I had to post them from Cairns on return.

My books are now available from the following bookshops – Collins Edwardstown, Dymocks, Unibooks at Adelaide University, Dillons Norwood, the Map Shop and Imprints Booksellers. They are also available from AHOPFAN.



Book launch – Front Row L to R Cynthia Lothian, Gael Harrison, Brian Hagger, Norman & Barbara, Photo – Andrew Lothian