

SHEPPARTON News

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PANPA 2013 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR


**FROM WARDROBE
TO MARKET** + WHAT'S ON PAGE 19


The Prince and the elder

Mooroopna Aboriginal elder Alf Turner (right) chats with Prince William (left) during their meeting in Sydney on Friday last week. Mr Turner was seeking to present a letter about Indigenous rights his grandfather William Cooper had written and tried to send to King George VI in 1937. **Story, page 4**

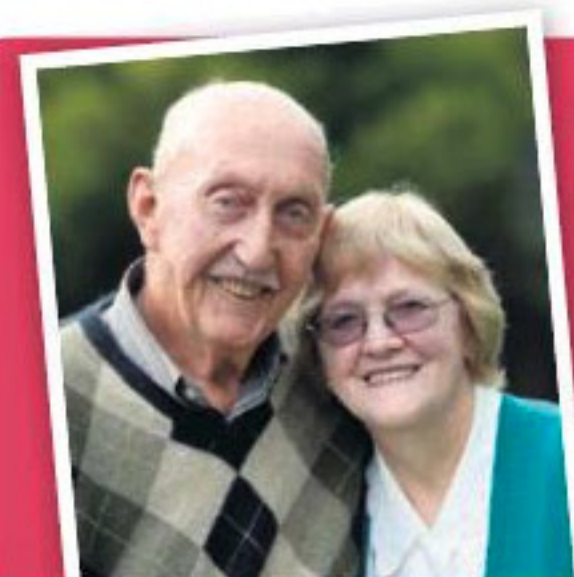
ACCUSED'S HATE MAIL

By DARREN LINTON

A semi-professional footballer charged with one count of committing an indecent act with a child under 16 has been granted bail, with the magistrate warning the public against jumping to conclusions.

Shepparton Magistrates' Court heard yesterday Barooga Football Club had dumped Samuel Boxsell, 24, after it was alleged he followed a mother and daughter in a Cobram supermarket on Monday and indecently touched the seven-year-old girl.

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**60
YEARS
OF LOVE**

+ NEWS PAGE 4


**SPECIAL
ANZAC DAY
COVERAGE**

INSIDE TOMORROW'S NEWS


19° TODAY
Partly cloudy

22° TOMORROW
Early frost

21° SATURDAY
Showers

WEATHER
Page 2

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Prince meeting gives hope

ABORIGINAL ELDER DETERMINED TO REALISE GRANDFATHER'S DREAM AFTER ROYAL AUDIENCE IN SYDNEY

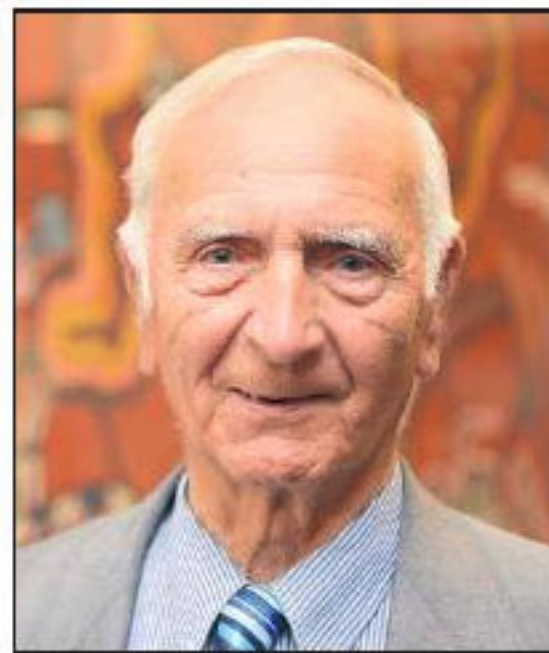


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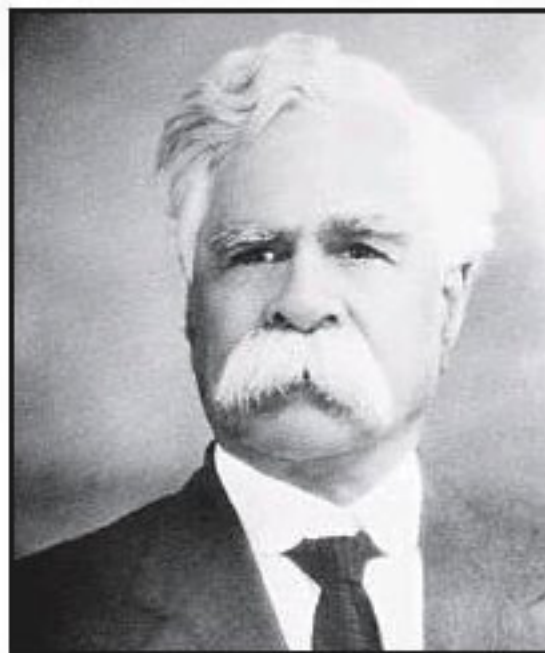
Mooroopna Aboriginal elder Alf Turner's meeting with Prince William on Friday last week has given him hope his dream to fulfil his grandfather's wishes will be realised.

Mr Turner's grandfather William Cooper wrote a letter in 1937 asking the Prince's great-grandfather George VI to support his push for Aboriginal rights.



Alf Turner

The letter, along with 1800 signatures on a petition, was delivered to Australian Prime Minister Joseph



William Cooper

Lyons, but was never forwarded to the King.

Mr Turner, 85, hoped to hand the Prince a copy of

his grandfather's letter during a 12-minute private audience in Sydney on Friday.

While he was not able to deliver the letter, Mr Turner said the Prince's support encouraged him.

"We were advised not to give the Prince the letter. But he did listen to my grandfather's story and he was very interested in what we had to say," Mr Turner said.

Mr Cooper was a founder of the Australian Aborigines League and an energetic activist, organiser and lobbyist for Indigenous rights.

He also led a delegation of the league to the German consulate in Melbourne in 1938 to protest against the treatment of Jewish people under the Nazi regime.

Mr Turner, known as "Uncle Boydie", was accompanied by two members of Melbourne's Christian and Jewish communities during his visit to the Prince on Friday.

Mr Turner said he was buoyed by the Prince's response to his request that his grandfather's letter be finally forwarded to the monarch.

"I said, 'Can you help us

get this done, sir?' He said, 'I certainly will'," Mr Turner said.

Mr Turner said he was advised if he forwarded the letter to Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove it would be sent to the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

"That is what I want to do now. I want to get it to where grandfather tried to send it. I've been at this now for 30 years. I'll keep at it until we succeed," he said.

● **To help support Mr Turner's push to realise his grandfather's dream, visit www.uncleboydiesdream.com**