



Josephine Cashman <jcashman@brii.com.au>

Re: FW: Referral Correspondence: MC19-000320 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

1 message

Josephine Cashman <jcashman@brii.com.au>
 To: peter.dutton.mpj>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 9:57 AM

Dear Minister Dutton

I trust you are well.

Would you please kindly respond to questions below.

Regards

Josephine Cashman

On Thu, 23 Jan 2020, 21:51 Josephine Cashman, <jcashman@ wrote:
 Dear Minister Dutton,

I appreciate the fact your office forwarded my request for an investigation to the AFP, concerning Bruce Pascoe and his Aboriginal ancestry claims. Unfortunately the AFP has closed the possibility of an investigation which is disappointing, especially for the voiceless Aboriginal people *on the ground*. The AFP says it cannot determine the fact Pascoe has broken federal laws: '*no Commonwealth offences have been identified*'. This is odd because Pascoe has been unable to prove his Aboriginal ancestry which is a legal requirement. In fact, this means inventing Aboriginal ancestors is acceptable to the Commonwealth government. It is worrying because there is a link between false identity claims and Aboriginal community dysfunction. This fact might help explain the reason why nothing ever changes. False identity claims dwell in all realms of society.

Pascoe has benefited financially from claiming Aboriginal ancestry he has been unable to prove. This is despite the fact:

- comprehensive genealogical records have traced his family on both sides and can be forwarded to you. They have been compiled by a professional genealogist who conducted a thorough investigation. The report proves all of Pascoe's ancestors were of English descent. If there had been a scandal as Pascoe infers, it would have been impossible to cover up in the community;
- he claims to be descended from Boonwurrung in Victoria, Yuin in NSW and tribes in Tasmania. His claims have been rejected by the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council in Victoria, Yuin representatives on the south coast of NSW and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council;
- he has not been able to name his Aboriginal ancestors which is disturbing and/or provide proof of his Aboriginal identity;
- he claims his Aboriginal ancestry comes from one of his two maternal great grandmothers, who he says was a Boonwurrung woman, only to admit later, '*she was in fact, born in England*'. She was born in England according to genealogy records;
- he has claimed to be descended from five Aboriginal tribes or groups in five States, including ancestors on the Lockhart River he had previously described as *white*;
- he says the five different groups of ancestors would, '*fall below the line*' of some '*blood quantum*' testing. I do not know what that means!

I am confident experts would be able to unravel the complexities, if required. After all, this is the 21st century.

Why is Pascoe's Aboriginal identity claim acceptable legally? I do not accept he is an Aboriginal person and his books *Dark Emu* and *Young Dark Emu* are disturbing for Aboriginal people, especially the *voiceless* people living in communities *on the ground*. You know these people are suffering. I argue a false identity claim is one reason why nothing has changed *on the ground*, despite huge amounts of government money being thrown at it!

The AFP obviously had a narrow brief. It would appear it accepts Pascoe's Aboriginal ancestry claim, despite the evidence not upholding the possibility. This is not to mention his claim Aboriginal people were not hunter and gatherers (with no evidence and worse). Please read the ABC letter. Pascoe makes absurd false history claims, without evidence and he distorts the facts. Unfortunately, distorting facts and attempting to change history are probably legal! Misrepresenting Aboriginal cultural heritage is unacceptable and the children's book is being distributed to pre school and primary school children, while the ABC continues to promote his books.

Is it not a breach of federal law to make a false claim to the government to gain financial benefit? Why is the government doing nothing to help Aboriginal people protect against false identity claims? While it is not a new problem, it is a growing problem in urban, regional and remote communities and Aboriginal people are fed up with it.

I need more information so I can refer this to the Attorney General and request a tightening of federal laws to protect Aboriginal people, so it can never happen again. It is a sad fact this Pascoe affair has been allowed to go so far.

I will be in Canberra the first week Parliament returns in early February, accompanied by Jacinta Price. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you please.

Yours sincerely,

Josephine Cashman

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **NAT-OCC-FAC-Coordination** <[NAT-OCC-FAC-](#)

Date: Thu, Jan 23, 2020 at 3:29 PM

Subject: FW: Referral Correspondence: MC19-000320 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

To: [jcashman@](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Ms Cashman,

Please find the attached correspondence in response to your referral to the Australian Federal Police dated 24 December 2019, regarding allegations of fraud against the Commonwealth by Professor Bruce Pascoe.

Yours sincerely,

COMMANDER PAUL OSBORNE APM

MANAGER CRIMINAL ASSETS, FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION
ORGANISED CRIME

www.afp.gov.au



POLICING FOR
A SAFER AUSTRALIA

UNCLASSIFIED

WARNING

This email message and any attached files may contain information that is confidential and subject of legal privilege intended only for use by the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient be advised that you have received this message in error and that any use, copying, circulation, forwarding, printing or publication of this message or attached files is strictly forbidden, as is the disclosure of the information contained therein. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your inbox.

AFP Web site: <http://www.afp.gov.au>

--

Josephine Cashman

w: +61 2 9238 8156, m: +61 400 420 674

Level 29, Chifley Tower

2 Chifley Square

Sydney NSW 2000

Australia



Josephine Cashman>

Fwd: Attention Minister Dutton, AFP referral Aboriginal Identity Fraud - attachments from letter provided yesterday

1 message

Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 12:37 AM

>

[u](#)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Josephine Cashman** <jcashman>

Date: Thu, 19 Dec. 2019, 21:31

Subject: Fwd: Attention Minister Dutton, AFP referral Aboriginal Identity Fraud - attachments from letter provided yesterday

Dear Prime Minister

I wish to draw your attention to Pascoe fiasco.

I represent the voiceless Aboriginal people. We have been begging for the Government to do something for weeks! Others including researchers and traditional owners have been lobbying for years. No one has been listening and or appears to care.

Would kindly contact Minister Dutton urgently, please? It would appear my letter has been blocked. The journalist writing the Pascoe article to be published in the Australian on Saturday is waiting for a response.

I am advising her to mentioned Minister Dutton has not responded to my letter (I phoned his office to advise them).

I understand its Christmas however we are talking about a miscarriage of justice. *Quiet* Aboriginal Australians are upset about it especially those without a voice.

Merry Christmas, peace and joy.

Yours sincerely

Josephine

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Josephine Cashman**<jcashman@

Date: Wed, 11 Dec. 2019, 12:31

Subject: Attention Minister Dutton, AFP referral Aboriginal Identity Fraud

To: <peter.dutton.mp@

Dear Minister Dutton,

Re: Aboriginal Identity Fraud

Thank you for your valuable community service before you entered politics. As a former criminal prosecutor, I understand the vital service the police offer communities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for defending Australian values. I know it is not always popular. I want you to know many Australians value your brave contribution and appreciate your commitment. I have always been impressed by your courage and determination to serve The Australian people. You are inspiring.

Do you remember the time I spoke to you in Arnhem Land when I accompanied Prime Minister, Tony Abbott on a visit as a member of the Indigenous Advisory Council which uncle Warren Mundine chaired? I remember your moving address. My name is Josephine Cashman. I am a Warrimay woman whose traditional land stretches from Port Stephens to the New South Wales mid north coast. I married into a south coast Yuin family whose traditional land stretches from below Sydney to the Victorian border. My son, Joseph is a Yuin man and my ex partner is a Yuin traditional owner. I am also proud of my colonial heritage and wish to emphasise the fact most Aboriginal people are proud of our *hunter gather* heritage together with our creation stories and our ceremonial ancient culture. Our people lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years which is something worthy of celebration and admiration.

I recommend you watch the Bolt Report interviews with eminent Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Peter O'Neil and others who have criticised the historical incorrectness of Pascoe's false claims (including plagiarism). I also recommend you watch the two separate Bolt interviews with Jacinta Price and myself. For context I also refer you to relevant documents I will send under separate cover. I assure you there are many Aboriginal community people who have been upset by Pascoe and they have had enough of him and others like him. I am writing on behalf of my Aboriginal communities calling for urgent reform so this outrageous circumstance can never happen again.

I recently had the privilege to meet the Hon Pat Conaghan, the Member for Cowper. He is also a former police officer and he understands the community complexities embedded in our region. I am committed to resolving it. I am writing to you in your capacity as the Minister responsible for the AFP. I request immediate assistance and the referral of a matter which is politically contentious for the government and/or the Operations Monitoring Centre (OMC). I am calling for an investigation into *dishonesty offences* pursuant of *Section 29, 134-5, Criminal Code Commonwealth (1995)*. This section relates to a significant matter of public interest and it is relevant to the Aboriginality claims of Bruce Pascoe as it relates to the financial benefit he has derived as a result of his false identity claims.

Aboriginal Ancestry

Bruce Pascoe is not an Aboriginal person which has been established by a comprehensive genealogy search and the three Aboriginal groups Pascoe claims to belong. All three Aboriginal groups have rejected his Aboriginal heritage. A Yuin letter has been acquired rejecting Pascoe (attached separately). Jason Briggs, a Victorian traditional owner has also rejected Pascoe's Aboriginal heritage claim (attached separately). His mother has been fighting to stop Pascoe for a long time and she has suffered. Tasmanian traditional owners have rejected Pascoe's claim in writing (Andrew

Bolt can verify). Briggs is in dispute with the Andrew's government concerning money being given to organisations without checking Aboriginality claims (see attached Briggs email).

Financial Advantage

Pascoe has been appointed as an Aboriginal professor at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). The university receives federal funding to support Pascoe's appointment and his associated affairs. UTS has rejected my request for an investigation into Pascoe's false identity claims and his attempts to alter Australian explorer history records and Aboriginal cultural heritage. I have threatened to burn my 2018 Alumni Law Award during a ceremony out the front of the building if nothing is done about it. Morry Swartz, owner of the *Saturday Paper* and *Black Books Inc* has recently published Pascoe's new book, *Salt*. I believe the *Saturday Paper* may have won a government grant recently which makes the recent non factual article about Pascoe more distasteful.

Pascoe's relative lives in Kempsey and runs a bush food business which has appropriated a Yuin sacred totem the *Umbarra* or black duck for its logo. My Kempsey relatives do not know of this Pascoe relative and we know who we belong to in our communities. The *Dark Emu Exposed* group has been tracking Pascoe's financial links and more (attached separately).

The ABC receives federal funding for Aboriginal programs and this includes the production company for the planned Pascoe documentary. Despite Aboriginal community objections and the outcry from Aboriginal representatives like myself and Jacinta Price, I believe the ABC intends to go ahead and produce and screen the Pascoe documentary which promotes inaccurate Australian historical facts and misrepresenting Aboriginal culture. Many ABC journalists have publicly supported Pascoe's false claims and I believe everyone who have supported this fraudulent behaviour deserve to be reprimanded.

Commonwealth fraud is a serious matter. Not only can it constitute a criminal offence, it also reduces desperately needed funds in Aboriginal communities for delivering housing and other valuable community services. It also undermines the integrity of the government because communities tend to blame the federal government for its lack of action. The Australian community rightly expects entities and officials to acknowledge and fulfil their responsibilities as stewards of public funds to make every effort possible to protect valuable public resources.

Given the number of grants received by Pascoe and his associates, I believe a referral to the AFP is appropriate as a matter of urgency in the public interest. As this fraudulent scheme appears to involve instances of *obtaining property by deception*, I also believe his franchise is worthy of scrutiny. Certainly selling books on false pretences is fraudulent and *Dark Emu* book sale proceeds have been significant. The fact the childrens book version, *Young Dark Emu* has been published and is being distributed to Australian infant and primary schools is profoundly disturbing to many Australians.

In tandem I also seek your support on the question of government reforms concerning Aboriginal identity. *'Do you identify as an ATSI person?'* is failing Aboriginal communities. I invite you to assist me in collaboration with the Attorney General and the Prime Minister to develop a national strategy for establishing a register for Aboriginal people. I suggest a panel composed of traditional owners, on the ground elders, government experts and others to examine the most efficient manner to achieve identifying Aboriginal people. We are fed up with fake claims. Once the procedure has been designed and agreed upon, it should be easy to register an Aboriginal birth because it could be linked to existing Australian birth registration and native title genealogical records. It is doable.

Yours sincerely

Josephine

Following my letter, please see the documents:

Aboriginal groups:

1. Jason Brigg - Boonwurrung (below)
2. Joe Brown - Yuin (attached)
3. Micheal Mansel, Andrew Bolt and this is public

Please note, Genealogist Jan Holland (from the Dark Emu Exposed website) confirmed he is not of Aboriginal descent. This has been verified by another expert.

Bushfood businesses:

1. Pascoe's old Pty Ltd company, Gurundgi Munjie, then established, a non-listed Public Company called Black Duck Foods Ltd, family members are directors (no Yuin), registered in October 2019.
<https://www.facebook.com/blackduckfoods/Advertising> for a manager, which it looks like they may be funding with a grant from First Australians Capital Ltd - (attached)

Publishers:

1. Grants, Magabala Books for Dark Emu publication, received:

- Australia Council, Commonwealth Government
- Department Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WA Government
- Shire of Broome, WA (attached, on page 2)

Funding

- Pascoe Publishing, 2013-2014 \$20,000 for east roots and leaves (attached 3 screenshot)
- Screen Australia, funded Pascoe to purchase a \$7000 (Attached 4 screenshot). See source reports at <https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/annual-reports> & <https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/annual-reports>

Other benefits:

- First Nations Australia Writers Network, <http://www.fnawn.com.au/> and Uncle Bruce is a member <http://www.fnawn.com.au/category/blog/>
"Membership is open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander storytellers, writers, poets, playwrights and editors.
To be eligible for membership, you need to be able to provide proof that you are:
a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which they live."
<http://www.fnawn.com.au/fnawn-membership/>
Pascoe is a member, completed a form similar (attached).
- And much more.

Yours faithfully

Josephine

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jason A Briggs Lawyers** <jabriggs> Date: Thu, 28 Nov. 2019, 15:50
Subject: FW: Pascoe

Hi Josephine,

Copy of email to Andrew Bolt.

I will follow up re UTS later – as I have appointments most of today.

Regards

Jason

From: Jason A Briggs Lawyers
Sent: Thursday, 28 November 2019 3:31 PM
To: 'andrew bolt' <boltandrew> **Subject:** RE: Pascoe

Dear Andrew,

My name is Jason Briggs, I am a practicing Solicitor and the Chairman of the **Boonwurrung Land & Sea Council (BLSC)**.

We are the representative organisation of all Boonwurrung Traditional Owners over our ancestral lands and waters (from the Werribee River eastward across the Two Bays of Port Phillip and Western Port down to and including all of Wilson's Promontory).

To the best of our knowledge and research, we do not accept Mr Bruce Pascoe *as possessing any Boonwurrung ancestry whatsoever*.

We have a sophisticated (and utilised in a recent Federal Court of Australia matter) ancestral database of all peoples/families who can rightfully claim to be of Boonwurrung (aka Bunurong) descent.

The BLSC has never accepted or recognised Mr Pascoe's claims to be of the Boonwurrung community. We are also unaware of any contribution Mr Pascoe has ever made towards our community.

There is no compelling evidence whatsoever to support his claims of holding such an identity and we refute his claims of any ancestral link to Boonwurrung (aka Bunurong) people.

The BLSC is an organisation of integrity that holds in high regard the protection and preservation of our cultural heritage sites of significance, knowledge and all artifacts. We support evidenced-based historiography and do not support the fabrication of historical primary source documents.

Identifying (and profiting) from fraudulent claims to our ancestral and cultural heritage has been an ongoing problem for many years.

The thing is, people who falsely claim our identity have simply gotten away with it.

There have been many instances of people using and profiting from our ancestral name and our cultural heritage – in effect, exploiting our heritage for personal profit.

However, the Victorian Andrew's Government has often turned a 'blind-eye' to the growing problem or, actively supported unfounded, no-evidence based Aboriginal ancestral assertions; from people and organisations that have often made millions of dollars falsely claiming a heritage they have no right to.

We are not surprised by the Government and University's tacit approval of Mr Pascoe's ridiculous claims – given that the Victorian Andrew's Government currently provide hundreds of thousands of dollars to support an organisation (known as the **Bunurong Land Council**) based in Frankston; which is fully made up of Tasmanian and Western Australian residents who make similar fraudulent claims. Incidentally, this organisation is currently under ORIC (Cth Govt.) investigation.

We, along with the wider Australian tax-paying community, are fed up with the scandalous activities of a few, which reflects upon the rest of us who genuinely care about an important part of Australia's heritage. There are limited funding resources that were designed to go to the most needy and disadvantaged in our communities, that instead, have gone to individuals and so-called community organisations; that often engage in these unscrupulous activities with the Victorian Andrew's Government's tacit approval.

We believe that Mr Bruce Pascoe should come – clean about his real ancestry and stop abusing and benefiting from our community's cultural integrity.

Carolyn Briggs AM, a person highly regarded in the community for her knowledge of Indigenous genealogies and Boonwurrung culture supports the BLSC position on this issue; and refutes the claims made by Mr Pascoe regarding his fraudulent assertion of a Boonwurrung ancestry.

Regards

Jason A Briggs BA LLB (Melb.)

Principal Solicitor

Chairman, BLSC

From: andrew bolt <[boltan](#)> **Sent:** Thursday, 28 November 2019 12:51 PM
To: Jason A Briggs Lawyers > **Subject:** Pascoe

Jason

I am sorry to trouble you.

You are probably aware of the doubts raised about Bruce Pascoe. I am reporting on this tonight and interviewing Josephine Cashman.

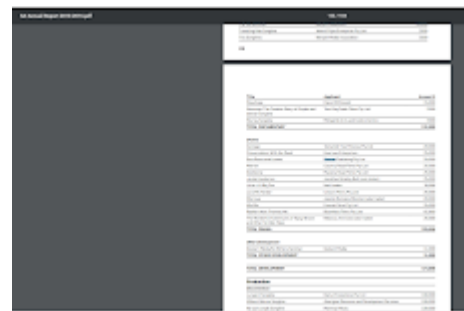
Pascoe says he is of the Boonwurrung people. Does that seem correct to you?

Andrew Bolt

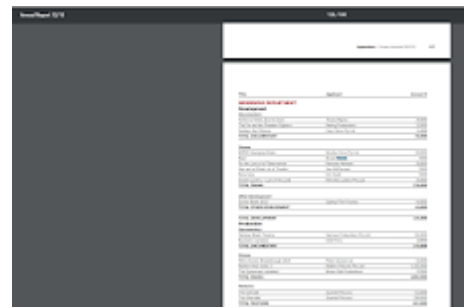
<http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/>

Australia






7 attachments



screen australia 3.png
220K



screen australia 4.png
196K

-  **Joseph Terry Brown.docx**
97K
-  **BLACK DUCK FOOS LTD - PASCOES NEW COMPANY.pdf**
164K
-  **GURUNDGI MUNJIE BACK TO COUNTRY PTYLTD.pdf**
166K
-  **Dark Emu Book.pdf**
1468K
-  **FNAWN-Membership-Form-2019-1.docx**
85K