

Bruce Pascoe, Koori Mail

14 July 1993

Calling Sarah Matthews

I have been looking for my Koori family for a number of years without much success. My great grandmother Sarah Matthews was born at Dudley, South Gippsland on or around 1848 and she gave birth to my grandmother, Gertrude Cowland, at Pleasant Creek Victoria in 1875. Sarah Matthews may have come to South Gippsland on a sealing vessel. If anyone has any knowledge of this family, I would be very grateful. I am trying to let my children know about their people and we would all like to be able to join our family group again.

Bruce Pascoe Apollo Bay, Victoria

Rule reversal

Retrospective legislation making illegal acts that were legal when they were committed is obnoxious enough.

Even more obnoxious is retrospective legislation that legalises acts that contravened existing legislation.

Yet the Australian Government tends to do just that by legalising very illegal extinction of native title done by various governments since 1975 in contravention of the Racial Discrimination Act.

Two questions arise: is that act worthless when it comes to Aboriginal people? If so, why did Australia bother sending delegates to the recent international conference on human rights?

C M Friel
Alawa

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