

My name is Michael J Connolly and I live in Queensland. I do not consider myself a Queensland Aboriginal – I am an Australian Aborigine who just happens to live in Queensland. It is the *whitefella* who call me a Queensland Aboriginal. My People come from all over Australia – I am from that big Australian mob – where *you* from?

I am also an Australian Aboriginal Artist, Didgeridoo Master-craftsman and Performer. I was born in Charleville South West Queensland. My father is Kullilla People and my mother is Muriwari from north-west New South Wales. I presently live in Redcliffe on the Queensland Sunshine Coast.

I am the “Numberplate” guy. I have designed the very first Aboriginal Australia numberplate, which was officially launched here in Queensland on 9th July 2005 [after 15 months of battling with Government]. The personalised plates are available for purchase here in Queensland.

I have recently made submissions to every other State Transport Department in Australia in an attempt to have this design available Australia-wide. Unfortunately the Northern Territory Minister has rejected my initial submission basically because he feels there would not be enough interest to warrant the “prohibitive manufacture costs”. As yet I have not heard from any other State other than Western Australia who have given early indications they too may be rejecting the submission – just too difficult!! I certainly do not accept the Northern Territory Minister’s decision and will be fighting for his approval. The Queensland Transport Minister said no to me for more than 15 months until the Department and the Government saw reason *so let the games begin!!!!*

Great News – Aboriginal Australia numberplates soon to become available in Victoria. The Victorian Govt has agreed to adopt these plates and we are presently making arrangements with VicRoads to get that happening in the very near future – SO WATCH THIS SPACE!!! Get your orders ready Victoria!!!

I am constantly amazed by the amount of effort Government Officials waste on making a submission a failure when it could be put to use to see how best the submission can work – half empty or half full?? Depends on whose agenda they are wanting fulfilled.

For some time now and it is now become Australia-wide, Australians are experiencing huge cultural problems with the new wave of Immigrants wanting to impose their cultural beliefs and way of life upon them and they do not like it. 218 years ago Aboriginal Australians experienced the same thing – a new wave of Immigrants came to our shores and imposed their cultural beliefs [Christianity] and way of life upon our People and the rest is history. Now the 2nd load of “boat people” are doing it to the 1st load of “boat people” and the 1st Boat People do not like it – nothing has changed in 218 years except the 2nd load of boat people are a lot less brutal.

These second wave of Immigrants are beginning to dictate what flags we should or should not be flying – what customs should or should not be celebrated – what laws should be amended to suit their cultural beliefs and understandably the first wave of Immigrants [First Fleeters] are a little upset about that. Here's a thought – WHAT ABOUT US – THE FIRST PEOPLE OF THIS LAND – we seem to be forgotten in this entire milieu. Our cultural beliefs and way of living have all but been wiped out – many languages are lost – many traditions have been lost – many of my People have been lost.

I for one am getting sick and tired of *Whitefellas* telling me what is culturally acceptable and what is not. We have *Whitefellas* teaching Aboriginal Art, we have *Whitefellas* teaching us Aboriginal Culture, we have *Whitefellas* doing our art and exploiting our culture. Now the shoe is on the other foot and the *Whitefellas* don't like it. They say "walk a mile in MY shoes" – well they wouldn't last an inch in mine.

My Aboriginal Australia numberplate design represents all of us as One People - the Aboriginal People of Australia and that is what is the most important - they have certainly not read nor understood the meaning behind this design - how can THEY understand when THEY can't hear our words.

All I want is for MY PEOPLE – the Aboriginal People of Australia to be recognised and this is a simple but effective way of doing it and I don't see why Governments need to put up barriers. Governments talk about "reconciliation" all the time but they have absolutely no idea what it means. How can you reconcile if you can't recognize and respect.

Well the time has come to start recognizing and respecting and it begins with this Aboriginal Australia numberplate AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE IT AUSTRALIA WIDE **if we all come and stand together**. For too long we have been fighting with ourselves – this is our Country – *we never gave it away*.

I have been amazed and heartened by the support and unity that the Aboriginal Australia numberplate is generating. For the first time in a very long time I can see my People coming together and standing together for this common cause. Just imagine what we can do with real issues like Health and Education when we are standing together. I truly believe that it has been my quest to re-unite my People and if it is the Aboriginal Australia numberplate that commences this unity – then so be it. For too long Governments have divided and conquered us – now we Unite and Fight for a better place in Australia for OUR MOB.

I have listed details of the various State Transport Department Ministers responsible for approving/rejecting this design. We have to let them know that we want this to happen and to do this we need "OUR MOB ONE MOB" power. Please send an email or fax to the Minister in your State saying

I/we support the Aboriginal Australia numberplate design submitted by Michael J Connolly and would like it adopted in this State. I would be interested in purchasing a set of these personalised plates ONCE they become available.

Signed:

Dated:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Northern Territory

Hon Dr Chris Burns MLA

Fax [08] 8901

Email: minister.burns@nt.gov.au

Western Australia

The Hon Francis M Logan

Fax [08] 9222 8951

Email: francis-logan@dpc.wa.gov.au

Ref: 3691

Victoria

The Hon Peter Batchelor MP

Fax [03] 9655 8617

Email: peter.batchelor@parliament.vic.gov.au

Ref: DOI053153

New South Wales

The Hon Joe Tripodi

Fax: [02] 9228 5466

Email: joe@tripodi.minister.nsw.gov.au

Ref: MO5/10897

South Australia

The Hon Patrick Conlon MP

Fax: [08] 8226 0844

Email: minister.conlon@saugov.sa.gov.au

Ref: 05MTR/2916

Tasmania

Bryan Green MHA

Fax [03] 6434 6352

Email: bryan.green@parliament.tas.gov.au

Ref: 00 04 98 – 02; M04/2762

ACT

Simon Corbell MLA

Fax: (02)6205 0535

Email: corbell@act.gov.au

Get a collection of names and send it in together and also send me details as well so I have record details of all my supporters so I can let you all know when and where you purchase your new Aboriginal Australia numberplate – how deadly will that be!!!

For those of you living in Queensland you can now purchase your own set for \$425.00 per set – 3 month lay-by terms also available. Just contact me and will send you out an Order Form or you can download from website – www.dreamtime.auz.net. Email me if you have any queries at kullilla@dreamtime.auz.net.

If anyone has any queries or whatever, please feel free to contact either myself or my wife, Jo who will be only too happy to assist.

My aim is to have approvals from every State by mid-year and plates available Australia wide by the end of the year. **2006 – the Year of the Blackfella**

WE'RE BLACK – WE'RE PROUD AND WE'RE JUST TOO DAMNED DEADLY

Yours in the struggle
Michael J Connolly

Dreamtime Kullilla-Art

Authentic Aboriginal Art & Craft

by Michael J Connolly

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