

26 Stanley Street,
Northcote 3070
4th October 1995

Pat Swan'
c/-NSW Minister for Health,
Miller Street,
North Sydney NSW

Dear Pat

re: Assistance Sought to Index Catalogue ,Restore and Preserve Historic Archive

INTRODUCTION

I write to explore the possibility of gaining assistance in saving the "**Foley Archive**" from further deterioration. This collection has been compiled over a thirty year period by veteran Koori Activist Gary Foley, and includes a wide range of rare papers, documents, correspondence and historic items from the Aboriginal political struggle since the 1930's. The Archive is currently stored in 25 cartons in a house in Melbourne and parts of it are beginning to show serious signs of deterioration, consequently we are seeking urgent assistance to save this vitally important collection and to properly index and catalogue all items in it.

THE PROBLEM

The "**Foley Archive**" is an extraordinary collection of important material from the "inside" of the Aboriginal political resistance struggle of the past 50 years, and because it has been sitting in a garage of a Melbourne house for the past five years is now in serious danger of deterioration beyond recovery. Further, because this collection contains extremely rare papers, documents and letters that provide a unique insight to most of the major Koori/Australian political events since the 1960's, it is also important that the material be properly collated, indexed and catalogued. This would then enable the Archive to be accessed by the numerous students, researchers and historians who are today interested in the history of the Aboriginal struggle.

Therefore the problem is twofold. Firstly, steps need to be urgently taken to properly store and preserve (in an appropriate place) the collection to prevent further deterioration, and secondly we need financial assistance to employ Mr Foley and two research assistants to properly catalogue and index the material. Further, we also seek to utilise the expertise of legendary veteran Koori political activist, Mr Bruce McGuinness, as a consultant on the project.

THE CONTENTS OF THE 'FOLEY ARCHIVE'

Items contained in the Foley Archive include a wide range of documents, news clippings, letters, Koori newspapers, pamphlets, reports, films/videos, audio-tapes and memorabilia from the Koori political struggle over a fifty year period. Whilst most of the collection is of material accumulated by Gary Foley since the mid-1960's, the most valuable and historic item of interest is an original banner used by Jack Patten, Bill Ferguson and others during rally's and demonstrations in 1938.

The collection also includes:-

1. Rare collection of audio tapes of early Koori radio programs (including first-ever Koori radio program by Bruce McGuinness & Gary Foley on 3ZZZ in 1973); rare recordings of Koori musicians including Silva Linings, Black Lace, Bobby McLeod, Doug & Paul Meredith, and Mac Silva; rare tapes of Koori programs on Sydney's Radio Redfern and Radio Skid Row, Koori & Maori programs (early 1980's) and Melbourne's 3CR Kooriprograms (late 1970's - early 1980's) including only copies of 4 years of the legendary Koori Survival Show with the Cosmic Avenger" (1991 - 95). In addition, there is included a wide range of copies radio interviews with such Koori political activist as Gary Foley, Oojeroo Noonuckle (Kath Walker), Bruce McGuinness, Charles Perkins, Mick Dodson etc ranging back to the late 1960's. The entire collection has never been properly catalogued, so it is uncertain what else in there, but it is estimated that there are at least 600 hours of recordings, perhaps much more.
2. An extensive collection of newspaper clippings of events related to Aboriginal affairs going back to the 1930's - 40's. This includes every item that appeared about Kooris in every Victorian metropolitan, suburban & country newspaper between 1965 and 1974 as well as extensive files on the dynamic period of koori political activity in the late '60's and early '70's, including the "Freedom Rides", 1967 Referendum, Denis Walker's Black Panther Party of 1971 and the 1972 "Aboriginal Embassy".
3. A recently indexed selection of virtually every paper, document, letter and newspaper clipping generated by the historic and successful two and a half year battle to re-open Northland Secondary College in Melbourne (1992-95) after the Kennett Government closed the school and its world-famous successful Koori education programs. This is the most complete collection of documents relating to the Northland story that exists, and as such is a wealth of information for researchers and historians.

(See attached index "The Northland Papers")

4. Collection of films on VHS videotape featuring Gary Foley, including:-

" <i>Ningla Ana</i> "	Dir. A. Cavadini	1973
" <i>Backroads</i> "	Dir. Phil Noyce	1977
" <i>Buckeye & Pinto</i> "	Dir. Phil Pinder	1978
" <i>Going Down</i> "	Dir. H. Keenan	1979
" <i>Dance of Rainbow Serpent</i> "	Dir. Nina Gladitz	1980
" <i>Where the Green Ants Dream</i> "	Dir. Werner Herzog	1982
" <i>Dogs in Space</i> "	Dir. R. Lowenstein	1984
" <i>Pandemonium</i> "	Dir. H. Keenan	1988

5. Collection of more than 25 hours of videotapes of variety of television appearances by G. Foley, including :-

" <i>Basically Black</i> "	ABC-TV (1973)
" <i>Geoffry Robertson's Hypothetical</i> "	ABC-TV (1989)
" <i>Lights, Camera, Activist</i> "	"60 Minutes" (1990)
" <i>A Country Practice</i> "	Channel 7 (1989 & 1990)
" <i>Flying Doctors</i> "	Channel 9 (1991)

Plus footage from TV programs "This Day Tonight", "4 Corners", "Sunday", "Midday Show", "BBC Panorama", WDR-TV (Germany) telemovie featuring Foley, and videotape footage of all TV news coverage of Northland Secondary College battle 1992-95.

6. A large collection of personal correspondence over 25 years between Foley and eminent people some of whom include, Fred Hollows, Paul Coe, Bobbi Sykes, Charles Perkins, Neville Bonner, Gough Whitlam, Philip Adams, Oojerro Noonuckle (Kath Walker), Faith Bandler, Mandaway and Gulawuy Yunipingu, Naomi Mayers Petra Kelly, Philip Noyce, Dinny O'Hearn, Wim Wnders, Werner Herzog, Richard Lowenstein, Eartha Kitt, Michael Mansell, Bob Hawke, Paul Keating, Noel Pearson, Pat and Mick Dodson and every Minister for Aboriginal Affairs since 1973.

7. A small collection of political memorabilia including badges, stickers, posters and handbills from numerous Koori political campaigns and actions since the late 1960's.

The rest of the "**Foley Archives**" comprises an extensive archive of documents and papers, which includes material that ranges from copies of "Protection Board" files dating back the beginning of the century; copies of the 1938 *Abo Call* newspaper edited by the legendary Jack Patten; minutes of establishment meetings of pioneer Koori organisations such as Legal, Health, Housing and Women and Children's Services in the late 1960's and early 1970's; a variety

of Koori publications, including rare copies of now defunct, important Koori political newspapers and periodicals; and personal writings and letters over a 30 year period.

The collection is unique because it contains material from the personal involvement of one of the major players in the most dynamic era of the Koori political resistance 1966 to 1974, and who has since that time become a significant figure on the national Koori political stage. Mr Foley's involvement at the heart of major historical events such as the 1972 "Aboriginal Embassy", development of Koori Legal and Health Services, early innovative Koori education programs, the first all-Koori theatre and TV productions in 1972-3, the Commonwealth Games demonstrations in Brisbane in 1982, the anti-Bicentennial demos in '88, and the more recent successful battle to re-open Northland Secondary College, makes the collection particularly significant.

THE PROBLEM

The current problem is very simple. The current custodians of the material, in conjunction with Mr Foley, seek some minimal financial assistance so that the full collection might be properly catalogued, indexed and preserved to prevent further deterioration to its contents. To assemble the collection into some form that would make it accessible to the now numerous Koori students, non-Koori Aboriginal-Studies students, researchers and historians is regarded by Foley to be a matter of urgency.

Neither Mr Foley, nor ourselves have the financial resources to cover the small costs involved in ensuring that the collection is properly preserved, stored, collated and made accessible. Consequently, we are seeking financial assistance to help enable that these things can happen as soon as possible.

We are currently seeking negotiations with the University of Melbourne to obtain a small storage space in or near their Koori student centre, and consequently are seeking financial assistance to employ two research assistants and Mr Foley as supervisor, to complete the immediate task of cataloguing and indexing the collection. We anticipate the task to take about four weeks, at the end of which we would know exactly what the full extent of the collection is. We will then be in a position to offer the collection to an appropriate Education/Research/Historic group that might be interested in acquiring it.

THE PROPOSED BUDGET

1. Wages

Research Assistants X 2 @ \$300/week X 4 weeks.....	\$ 2,400:00
Supervisor @ \$500/week X 4 weeks.....	\$ 2,000:00
Consultant @ \$1,000/week X 1 week.....	\$ 1,000:00

2. Administration Costs

Photocopying.....	\$ 400:00
Telephone, fax, postage.....	\$ 400:00
Computer costs (hire, disks, software etc).....	\$ 1,000:00
Transport (car or truck hire, petrol, fares).....	\$ 200:00

TOTAL \$ 7,000:00

CONCLUSION

As you can see, the “**Foley Archive**” is an archival collection of particular significance and importance for both Koori history and Australian history generally. We therefore seek your urgent assistance in helping ensure that this collection is restored and preserved for the sake of future generations of all Australians.

Thanking You.

Mr Gary Foley
Curator “**The Foley Archive**”

Attachments:

To provide you with a small sample of some of the material in the collection, please find the following attachments. These two documents represent a small part of two cartons out of the 25 cartons of material in the “**Foley Archive**”

1. Index of documents, papers, letters etc on Northland Secondary College Battle 1992 -1995. (90% complete)
2. Index of material from “Writings” Box of “**Foley Archive**” (50% complete)