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60 YEARS SINCE THE FREEDOM RIDE

A defining moment in
Australia's history.



WHAT WAS THE FREEDOM RIDE?

In **1965**, 30 students from **Sydney University** hit the road.

Led by the late **Charles Perkins**, they exposed **racial** discrimination.

They travelled through **rural NSW**, challenging **segregation**.

WHAT DID THEY SEE?

THE CANBERRA TIMES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1965

Apathy and indifference to Aborigines squalor

THIS week has seen attention focused on the problems of our new settlers, but what of the squalid existence still being led by the majority of our original Australians — those 100,000 remnants of the aboriginal inhabitants of our continent? Neither integrated nor assimilated in 177 years through apathy and indifference, their condi-

By **FRED WELLS**



for them. In certain cases a wage of £2/8/3 may be paid.

Queensland is preparing legislation to ease some of the worst conditions, but there will still not be freedom for Aborigines to have liquor on their settlements, nor will there be any change in the low wage. In both Queensland and the Northern Territory, Aborigines will be able to elect to parliament only Aboriginal representatives who may vote only on Aboriginal matters.

There are some bright spots, of course. At Groote Eylandt, on the Gulf of Carpentaria, B.H.P. pays all its Aboriginal employees full award wages.

- ✗ Aboriginal children **banned** from public pools.
- ✗ Servicemen denied entry to **RSL clubs**.
- ✗ **Segregation** in shops, cinemas, and hospitals.

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WHAT HAPPENED?



- The protests made **national headlines**.
- Even The **New York Times** reported on it.
- The pressure led to changes in **local policies**.

THE 1967 REFERENDUM CONNECTION



- The Freedom Ride built momentum.
- 90.77% of Australians voted **YES**.
- The referendum recognised Indigenous Australians in the census.
- Gave the federal government power to make laws for Indigenous Australians
- It was a historic step toward **recognition and equality** in Australia.

WHY IT STILL MATTERS



- The **Freedom Ride** shaped modern Australia.
- It reminds us to challenge **discrimination**.
- It's a **legacy** of standing up for what's right.

HONOURING 60 YEARS



New Moon (Aketi Meb) collaborated with Woodside and Toolbox Media to produce and create a short Freedom Riders social media video. Check out Woodside's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages for more details!



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