



Prince Charles arrives in Arnhem Land earlier today.

Yolju Leader Gives Prince Charles A Treaty Letter Stick... And A Diplomatic 'Middle Finger'

By Chris Graham on April 9, 2018

Aboriginal Affairs

If you read the [mainstream news](#) on Prince Charles' visit earlier today to Arnhem Land, everything apparently [went swimmingly](#). Except it didn't.

The future King of Australia – and the direct descendant of the family who oversaw the dispossession and slaughter of a continent of First Peoples – received a “spiritual blessing by a world didgeridoo master” and a traditional headdress during a visit to the Buku – Larrngay Mulka Centre in Yirrkala.

Media reported Prince Charles responded: “I feel better already.”

It wasn't to last.

Shortly after, Prince Charles was met by a delegation of Yolju clan leaders (convened by Dennis Wanambi and Waka Mununggurr) and lead by the Member for Nhulunbuy in the NT Parliament, [Yingiya Mark Guyula](#), and things got real.

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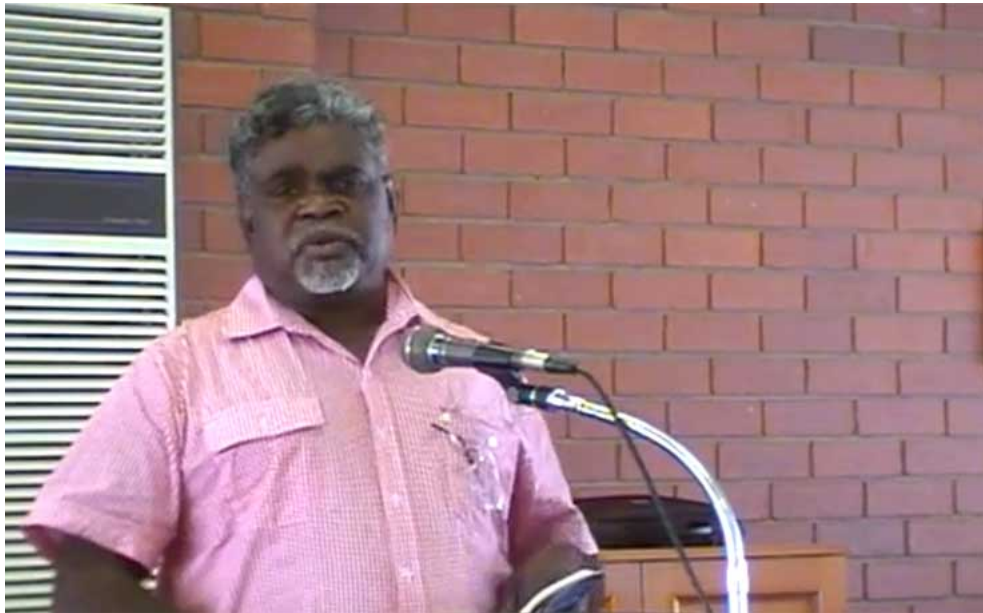
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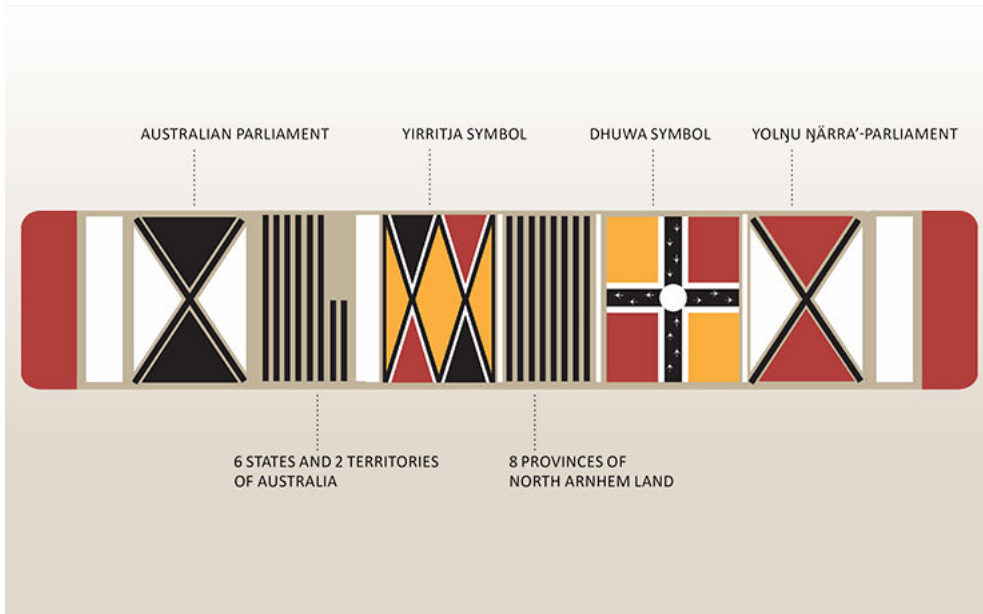
Yingiya Mark Guyula, the new independent Member for Nhulunbuy in the NT Parliament.

His Royal Highness was presented with a 'Letter Stick', and it had none of the warm welcome attached to it that Charles had earlier enjoyed.

It read: "This here is Yolngu Land, we are sovereign people and we live by Yolngu law.

"We have many difficulties with the Australian Governments because they do not recognise our sovereignty. We need to correct this situation, for the sake of our children and their children, for our cultural survival, - for our ancestors. We are the oldest living culture in the world.

"I request, on behalf of the people standing before you, and the Yolngu nations that you intervene on our behalf and take a strong position to acknowledge our sovereignty and promote a pathway to Treaty.



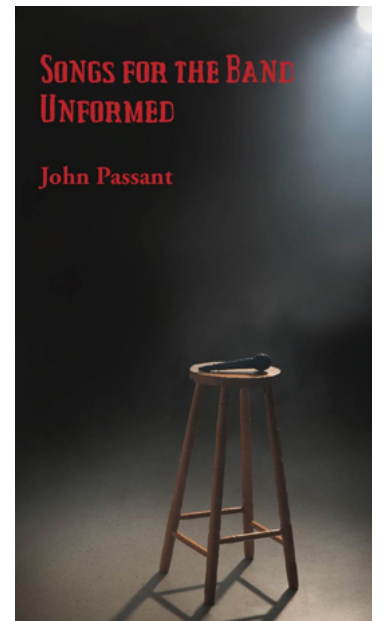
A graphic of the letterstick presented to Prince Charles earlier today.

"We are the only indigenous people of a Commonwealth country that does not have the respect or dignity of a Treaty with our people. Will you advocate on our behalf for our justice?"

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In diplomatic terms, this is a pretty big deal – generally speaking the Australian Government goes to enormous lengths to ensure Prince Charles and family avoid delicate matters like ‘family history’. That might explain why Yingiya Mark Guyula – the elected representative for the region – wasn’t even aware the Prince was visiting until a few days ago.

Guyula’s press statement added: “Prince Charles graciously accepted the letter stick.”

It’s unlikely Malcolm Turnbull’s reaction will be quite so gracious.

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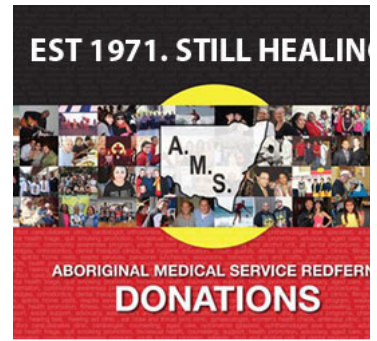
Chris Graham



Chris Graham is the publisher and editor of New Matilda. He is the former founding managing editor of the National Indigenous Times and Tracker magazine. Chris has won a Walkley Award, a Walkley High Commendation and two Human Rights Awards for his reporting. He lives in Brisbane and splits his time between Stradbroke Island, where New Matilda is based, and the mainland.

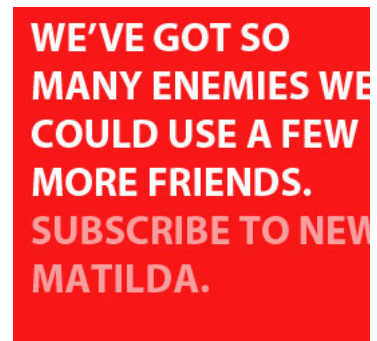


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Actually Scotlands people are also sovereign, and the bastard British won't allow us to go.. Time we all stuck together and rid our Indigenous nations of these parasites.

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Jon Campbell · Los Angeles, California

Scotland voted to stay british moron.

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Catriona MacKenzie · Franchise Owner at Surfing Buddha Emporia Girvan

Jon Campbell, well your surname says it all... And if you knew anything about Scotland and her politics you'd also know our referendum was rigged! As was Australia's Republic referendum... Go research traitor spawn.

Like · Reply · 15 · 1w



Lorna Doone

Jon Campbell that's for Yanksplaining. Scots voted (narrowly) to stay in the UK because of the threat of being blocked from staying in the EU (they have the internet in California, look it up).

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FREEDOM.

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Deadly Yolgnu, bring on #treatynow !

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Sharon Kuiha · Echuca High School

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Ronaldo Guivarra · Works at Kalkadoon Community

Absolute brilliance.

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I really hope it reaches the right people to begin the treaty!!

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Tiger McKenzie

Like I said it's waste of time speaking to Parliament go straight to the queen

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Catriona MacKenzie · Franchise Owner at Surfing Buddha Emporia Girvan

 Sadly she owns us and our lands...

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Deborah Rayner · Swan Hill, Victoria

lets hope he takes it all in..

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Mish Cat · Singer at Mack & Mish

Getting there slowly, taking the stand, courageous!

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