

# Ellen José MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



## CELEBRATE THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF **MABO DAY** SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE – 12:00PM at Federation Square, Melbourne (corner Flinders & Swanston St)

Ellen died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, one day before the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic High Court judgement delivered on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1992. This year her family and friends will continue this tradition

Join us at midday on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Melbourne's Federation Square to celebrate the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mabo Day.

### THEN

Join us from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church (110 Grey St, East Melbourne 3002) for an afternoon of music, singing, conversation and afternoon tea to celebrate the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mabo Day.

Bring your family and friends with you to breathe life back into the stalled Reconciliation Process between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians by celebrating Mabo Day with us.



Ellen José's - R.I.P Terra Nullius  
26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1788 - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1992





**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE  
26<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MABO DAY**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE – 12:00PM**

**at Federation Square, Melbourne (corner Flinders and Swanston St)**

**RECONCILIATION WEEK BEGINS ON SORRY DAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY  
AND ENDS ON MABO DAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE**

**WHY CELEBRATE ON MABO DAY**

When Australia was invaded and colonised on the 26th January 1788, the British colonisers acted as if this land was uninhabited. Over forty thousand years of civilisation was swept aside in an orgy of destruction that resulted in the violent dispossession of people who had a long and fruitful association with the land.

For 204 years the legal fiction of **TERRA NULLIUS** – the land of no one, was used to legally reward the murderers who colonised this land although the original inhabitants had never ceded their sovereignty over their lands.

In 1982 three traditional land owners from the Island of Mer in the Eastern Torres Strait, Eddie Koiki Mabo, Father Passi and Grandfather Rice, set in train a series of events that began in the Queensland Courts and ended in the High Court of Australia that overturned the doctrine that Australia was unoccupied (terra nullius) at the time of the British invasion. The High Court of Australia on the 3rd June 1992 ruled that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests in land and water survived the assertion of sovereignty by the Crown.

The judgement caused consternation among Australian land owners. It didn't take long for the spirit and the letter of the judgement to be buried in bucket loads of extinguishment by successive Federal Governments.

Twenty six years after the High Court judgement gave Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders rights to land in law, the question of sovereignty, the extent of native title and a need for a treaty between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians continues (despite attempts by successive Federal governments to bury the issue) to be the single most important impediment to reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

**HAPPY MABO DAY 26<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!!**

Bring your family and friends to celebrate Mabo Day at midday at Federation Square next year.