



Mr Reg Worthy, Director of the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, admires the painting presented to Sir Rohan Delacombe by the people of Lake Tyers.

## Lake Tyers Celebrates

It was a real day of celebration on July 24 when the people of Lake Tyers were formally presented with the title deeds to their land by His Excellency, Sir Rohan Delacombe, Governor of Victoria.

Among the distinguished guests were Mr E. R. Meagher, State Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Mr Reg Worthy, Director of the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, and Pastor Doug Nicholls, Senior Vice-President of the Aborigines Advancement League.

More than 700 people attended the presentation ceremony, which was followed by a Thanksgiving Service for the restoration of St John's Church, held by the Right Reverend D. A. Garnsey, Bishop of Gippsland.

Aboriginal families, as well as many non-Aborigines, travelled from all over Victoria and from other States, to witness the historic occasion.

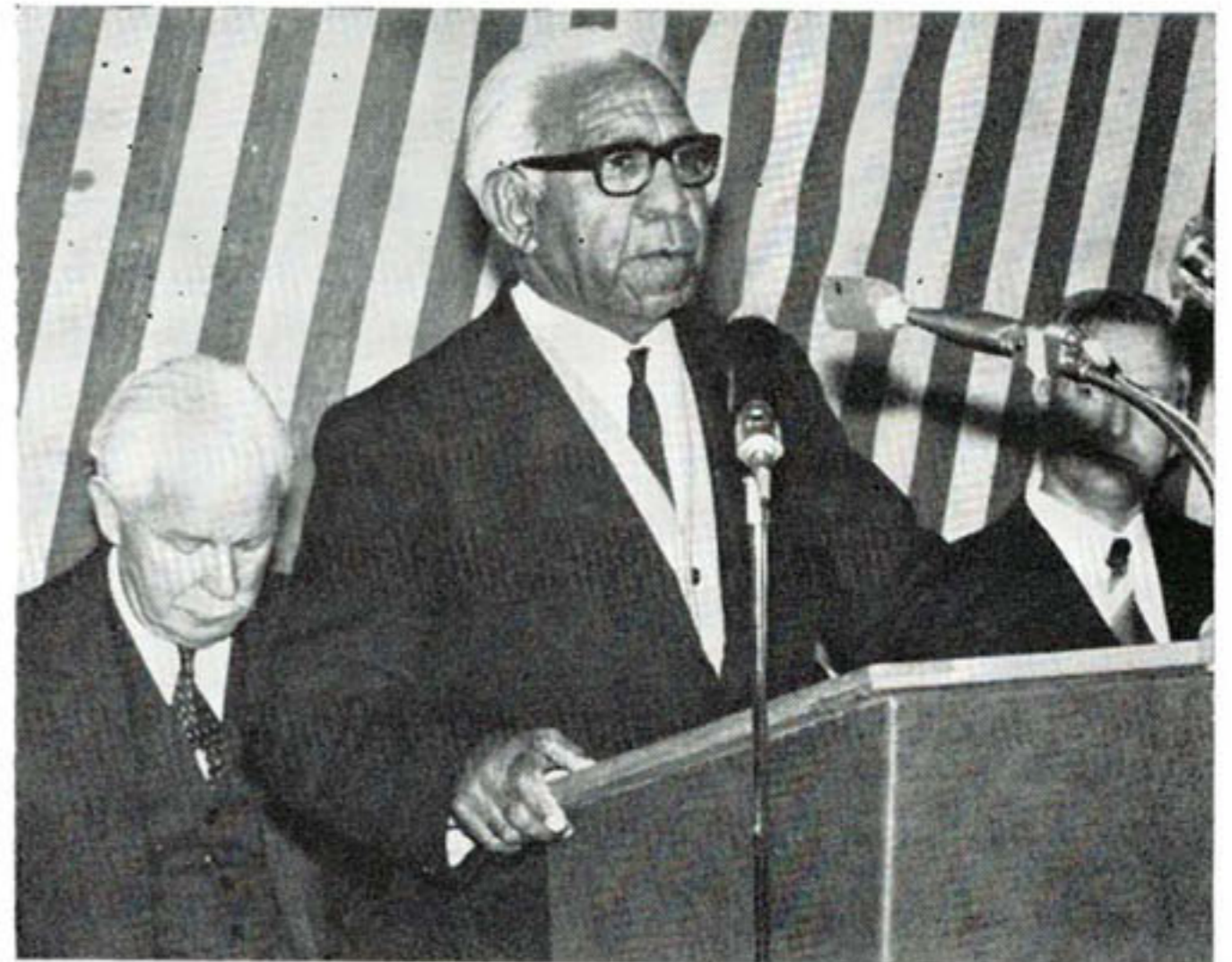
After the official ceremony they were entertained with an impressive display by the Coonawarra Aboriginal Marching Girls of Echuca. Trained by Mr Russ Emond, the 14 girls from seven to twelve years of age, have won eight medals since the team was formed two years ago. They travelled from Echuca in their own small coach and were chaperoned by Mrs Val Mitchell and Mrs Malva Johnson.

Other events included dancing and didgeridoo playing

by Aborigines in ceremonial costume, and a basketball match between men of Lake Tyers and Bairnsdale.

Following a barbecue meal, a social was held until late in the evening with dancing to 'pop' groups and a gum leaf band.

To mark the occasion, a pamphlet was issued by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, and commemorative covers with special pictorial postmarks were also available.



Pastor Doug Nicholls, Senior Vice-president of the Aborigines Advancement League, addresses the crowd at the presentation ceremony.