



COLOURFUL CEREMONY IN MARTIN PLACE

The highlight of National Aborigines' Day in Sydney on July 10 was a colourful demonstration in Martin Place in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. Sir Kenneth Street.

Speeches from prominent persons associated with Aboriginal Welfare were interspersed with musical items from Aboriginal artists.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, represented the Premier, Mr. J. B. Renshaw. The Police Commissioner, Mr. Allen, was represented by Supt. Chaseling.

National Aborigines' Day and Aborigines' Sunday two days later were organised by the National Aborigines' Day Observance Committee, formed in 1957 by the National Missionary Council of Australia.

At the Martin Place ceremony 14 Aboriginal lads from Nowra, brought to Sydney for the occasion as guests of boys from the Collaroy Plateau Public School, formed a Guard of Honour for the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Chairman of the ceremony was the Deputy Lord Mayor, Ald. C. Noble.

He said that in these days of rapid change the Aboriginal people were moving towards a more significant part in the national life.

"We are all interested in trying to help Aborigines to help themselves," Ald. Noble said.

"The days of hand-outs are gone. The task ahead is to enable Aborigines to take their rightful place in the nation."

An Aboriginal, Miss Joyce Mercy, addressed the gathering on behalf of the Aboriginal women of New South Wales.

Miss Mercy said: "In the past, our women have not taken a very prominent part, but many of us are beginning to realise how vital it is for us to do something about the problems that confront our people, especially if we are to help our children.

"I would like to thank N.A.D.O.C., which has done so much to bring to your attention the needs of our people.

"I would also thank the other voluntary organisations which are helping our people to take their place in the community.

Mr. Charles Perkins welcoming guests to the National Aborigines' Day ceremony in Martin Place