

Ellen Mannix

From: Chairwomen <assi.pj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 November 2018 3:42 PM
To: Ellen Mannix
Subject: in protest of Forced Removal of Pacific Island Artifacts from the Australian Museum (SSD 9452)

To whom it may concern,

My name is Waskam Emelda Davis and I am the Chairwomen of not for profit group Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) (ASSIPJ) who represent the descendants of eighty Melanesian Islands reaped of their male populations as a result of Australia's Blackbirding of the Pacific trade, we are also representative of our ASSI NSW State Alliance.

" Our national membership do not agree to the removal of the Pacific collections off site and there has been no consultation with the Pacific communities on this matter."

The Australian Museum's action is detrimental to the current political climate in addressing Pacific relations and especially in consideration of the Australian Government Foreign Policy 'White Paper' commitment to soft power engagement.

Regards,

(Waskam) Emelda Davis

Masters of Arts (Research) candidate UTS-FASS: ARC Scholarship recipient

'Children of the Sugar Slaves'

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currently:

President - ASSI (Port Jackson) Ltd.

Australian South Sea Islanders NSW State Alliance (*working group*)

National ASSI Association - Roundtable

Recipient of;

2017 Rotary Inspirational Women's Award

2016 NSW Sydney Local Women of the Year

2015 NSW Council for Pacific Communities Award

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watch video: ABC TV Late Line

<http://www.assipj.com.au/video/>

join us on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/assipj/>

Historical facts:

- 62,000 individual South Sea Islanders, 95% men, were kidnapped, tricked and coerced from Vanuatu, Solomon's and 80 surrounding islands starting in NSW in 1847, with the majority entering Queensland between 1863 and 1903.

- 30%, around 15,000 people, died due to lack of immunity and maltreatment deceased estate wages were used to pay for the Commonwealth Government's inhumane mass deportation of some 7,000 Islanders under the White Australia Policy.
- Mandatory deportation required Islanders to pay a portion of their return fare from their pittance of a wage.
- The Australian Census 2016 figures increase of 133% participation on 2011 figures doesn't reflect the guestimate 70,000 plus surviving descendants today
- ASSI have an identified kinship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, given they were placed on same missions, reserves, workstations under the same Acts of Parliament.
- Torres Strait Islanders have the most prominent ASSI ancestry, as ASSI were taken into the Torres Strait from 1860 onwards for the pearling and bêche-de-mer industries as well as through the London Missionary Society. The most significant ASSI 'colony' is on Mua (St Pauls) Island in Torres Strait, established by the Anglican Church in the 1900s. ASSI also worked closely with Aborigines in the pastoral industry.