

"2 Tribesmen with a big worry"

"SUN"

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GURINDJI tribal leader Vincent Lingiari and his senior elder Donald Nangiari came to the city for the first time yesterday.

And they have a big worry.

They fear that the Federal Government and businessmen are robbing them of a traditional right that goes back thousands of years.

The Gurindji tribe's ancient hunting grounds are part of a 6000-square-mile cattle station leased by the Government to Vestey's, a British-owned meat company.

The tribe says it wants a 500-square-mile "pocket" around Wattie Creek because the land is the very basis of their religion and way of life.

"We are only asking for what is ours," Mr Nangiari said yesterday.

Most of the tribesmen have refused to live in a \$500,000 settlement built for them by the Government near Wattie Creek.

With the help of builder

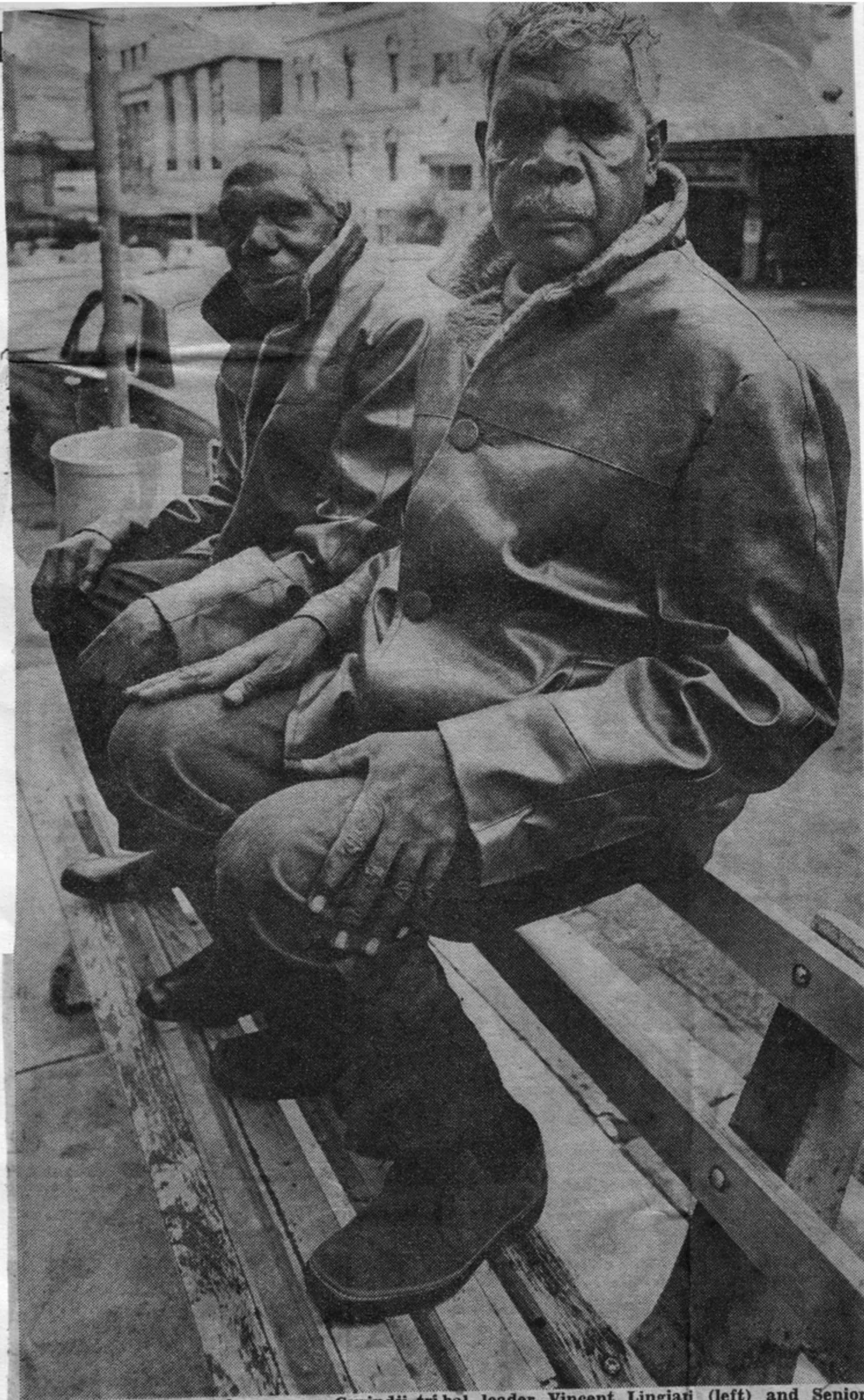
Mr Alan Thorpe, they have started building houses on their tribal land and hope that the Government won't tear them down.

The two Gurindji leaders yesterday visited the Victorian Opposition Leader, Mr Holding, and hope to see the Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, and the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe.

They will meet ACTU president Mr R. J. Hawke today and later Mr Lingiari will speak at a demonstration in Melbourne over the Yirrkala land rights issue.

Later, in Sydney, they hope to meet Aboriginal Affairs Minister Mr Wentworth, and the minister for the Interior, Mr Hunt, before going to Canberra.

The trip is Mr Nangiari's first away from Wattie Creek. Mr Lingiari has been to Adelaide and Townsville.



Almost a study in cast bronze . . . Gurindji tribal leader Vincent Lingiari (left) and Senior tribal elder Donald Nangiari rest during a walk around the city yesterday. Picture: ALAN BIRTLES