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BRENTON EDWARDS



Jimmy Pike and Pat Lowe after the garden party: "The Palace wasn't bad"

Outback pair see fiction come true

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

AN ABORIGINAL artist who inspired a book about the Queen and her corgis visiting his desert home attended a Buckingham Palace garden party yesterday.

Jimmy Pike was moved by his Walmajarri people's land rights campaign to grumble that the authorities should return part of Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert because "the Queen never been walkabout round here".

The remark inspired his wife, Pat Lowe, a British-born author and psychologist, to write a children's story, *Jimmy and Pat Meet The Queen*, in which the monarch flies to the desert, accompanied only by her pilot and pets, to learn about native hunting methods.

The book, a success in Australia, led to the invitation. "The Palace wasn't bad. It's a nice place but there was a whole mob of people there," Mr Pike said last night. "I didn't get to speak to the Queen, but we were in the front row and she passed right by us."

He and Mrs Lowe met at Broome Prison, Western Australia. She worked there while serving six years for a tribal killing. She featured in a recent *Channel 4* film on expatriates.