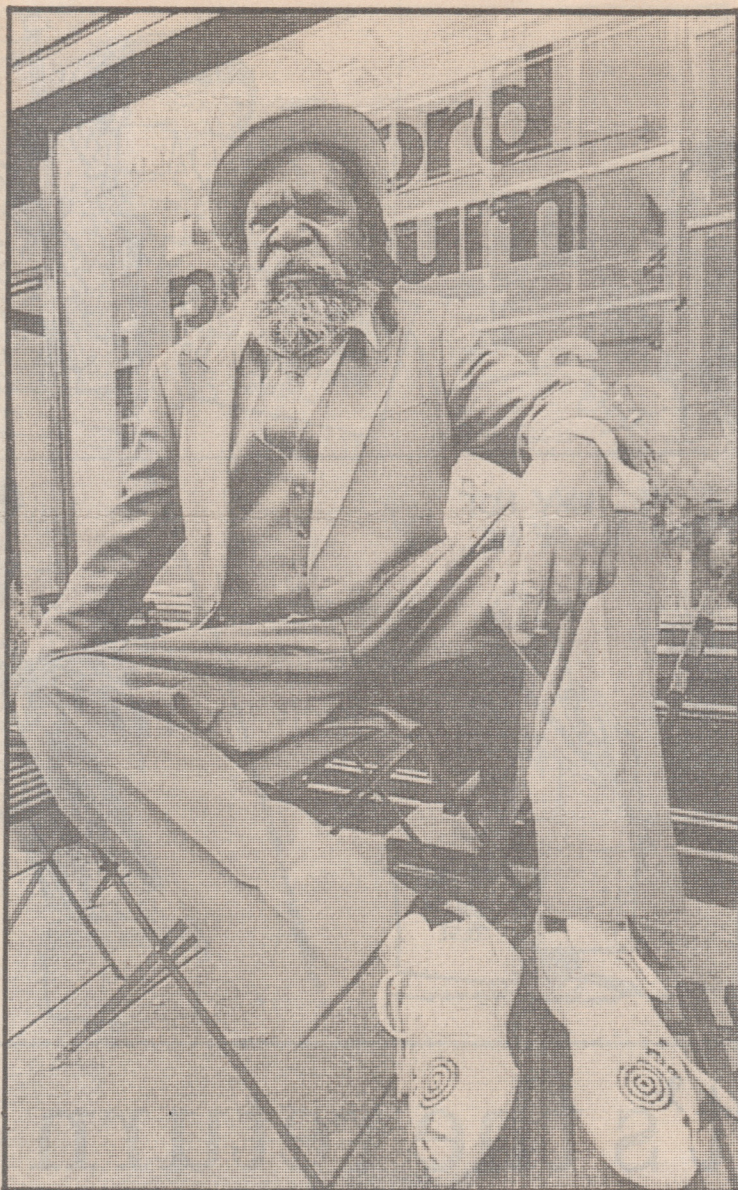


# WORLD NEWS

THE SATURDAY MERCURY, JULY 21, 1990

TASMANIA



All dressed up in top hat and tails, stunningly set off with painted sneakers, Aboriginal artist Clifford Possum puts his feet up after meeting the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

## Black artist has his day at the Palace

London

AT 6pm yesterday Clifford Possum emerged from the gates of Buckingham Palace, hot, tired, but satisfied.

Yes, he had met the Queen, confirmed his gushing London gallery contact, Ms Rebecca Hossack.

It is not much fun getting dressed up in formal gear in 30° heat. But as a concession to comfort, Possum was allowed to wear his white sneakers, hand-painted with possum symbols.

"I know it's not exactly protocol, but we couldn't get him anything else in time because it was too hot and he has very big feet," said Ms Hossack.

Possum, who is regarded as one of the finest Aboriginal artists from the Western Desert, became the first Aboriginal to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Royal protocol, and security men, stopped him from personally handing over the painting which soon will be hanging inside Buckingham Palace.

As the Queen appeared before 8000 people attending her annual garden party, Possum was placed first in line to speak with her.

"And Princess Anne was just dying to meet him," said a breathless Ms Hossack, who is showing Possum's paintings at her trendy London gallery.