

Privileged to join Invasion Day protest

THE march protesting Invasion Day that snaked its way down to Parliament lawns was big and powerful and very welcoming.

There was an eerie moment when we formed ourselves into two lines facing each other, holding one minute's silence for all those indigenous peoples who have fought and died in so many ways over so many years.

As we stood, an elder walked slowly

between us carrying a wreath. Then into that silence came the sound of cannon fire from some other event, where some other people were celebrating.

The sound of cannons, as the next speaker suggested, reminds us of the massacre of Aboriginal people at Risdon Cove in the early 19th century.

January 26 is not a day that unites Australia — it is a day to remember all the kinds of violence that have

been used against Aboriginal people.

At one point Jim Everett thanked all we non-indigenous people for coming.

I would like to thank him and all Aboriginal people for making this land a habitable place, for still making non-indigenous people welcome at events like these when they have no reason to, and for being such an inspiration.

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