

## THE CHAMP - FRED FOGARTY

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The Larrakia raised their flag  
Upon the courthouse pole  
To claim the land where Darwin stands  
On soil the British stole

Red is for our people's blood  
And red blood we too may shed.  
The tree the camp at Kulaluk,  
Land where our people bled

From east to west the word went out  
A boxer heard the cry  
Fred knew how to "own the ring"  
Should land thieves ever try.

The land claim grew, the city spread  
The old story was repeated  
Blacks must move for white man's houses,  
But Kulaluk was not defeated.

Against the ropes, the fight seemed lost  
"Til "Stand and fight," Fred cried  
"Hold high the flag, we'll take them on,  
Remember how they died."

Firebombs flew, a truck was burnt  
Fred's steely fist was raised  
The Larrakia had claimed their land  
Their will to win was praised.

Fred honed his skill in boxing tents  
Not in a white man's court  
He faced this ring, his head held high  
With the courage in which he fought.

"Twelve months hard labour," the judge  
decreed  
To be served in Fannie Bay.  
"It's British law that rules this land  
On that, you have no say."

"Free Fred Fogarty!" the banners read  
While Fred was in his cell  
The Larrakia had other plans  
Before the final bell.

The land will win, it always has  
The sacred places tell.  
Darwin town was blown away,  
And the prison walls all fell.

Fred walked free, the land was safe  
As he returned to camp  
The loving arms of Violet dear  
Embraced the mighty champ.

From the ruins Fred built a home  
On land that he had won  
The sacred places of the land  
Had found a favourite son.

More battles yet were still to come,  
Greed reared its ugly head.  
Fred blocked and sparred, he held his ground  
Until they found him dead.

The hero lies in Dalby soil  
United with warriors old  
The fights he won, the land he saved  
Around the fires told.

His spirit calls us once again  
To stand up for our rights  
"A treaty now!" is the demand  
Forever in our sights.

Now when the fish are biting  
And the tide is running fast  
Violet and Fred go fishing,  
Together 'til the last.

