

# The Next Step



## Canberra Aboriginal Church

Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist Tradition) and Canberra Aboriginal Church  
Worship Services SUSPENDED due to COVID-19 coronavirus threat

### Pastor Doug Nicholls



Like Jimmy Little, the singer, Douglas Ralph Nicholls was an aboriginal man of the Yorta Yorta people who rose to prominence.

A hard worker with a cheerful disposition, Doug was a talented sportsman. He competed in sprint events at athletics meetings, winning several 'gift' races which led to being paid an appearance fee to enter races. Australian Rules Football provided another showcase for his sporting talent. Although only 5' 2" he was recognised as the best wingman in the Victorian Football Association (VFA) while playing with Northcote with whom he won a premiership. Switching to the Victorian Football League (VFL) he played with Fitzroy and also was selected for the state team on four occasions, the first aboriginal player to play for Victoria at that level.

In the football off-season he boxed as part of a travelling sideshow boxing troupe, taking on all comers.

Taunted and shunned particularly early in his football career, Doug took an active

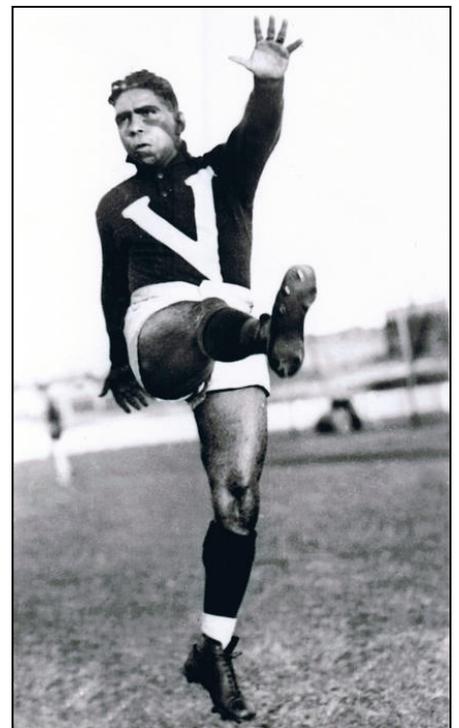
interest in Aboriginal affairs and worked to improve the position of aboriginal people within Australian society, meeting with Prime Ministers and other politicians and holding office in various organisations.

The Second World War saw Doug Nicholls called up for service, however it wasn't long before he was released from his unit at the request of Fitzroy police to become a social worker amongst the Fitzroy Aboriginal community. As he helped deal with alcohol, gambling, crime and other social problems, the community gathered about him and he became pastor of the first Aboriginal Church of Christ in Australia and was ordained as a minister. His early upbringing had included strict Christian principles and after his mother's death in the 1930s his interest in Christianity had been renewed.

Douglas Nicholls was knighted in 1972 and received a second knighthood in 1977 while Governor of South Australia. He had been appointed Governor in December 1976 but served only 150 days, resigning due to ill-health after suffering a stroke while in office.

We can look to Sir Douglas Nicholls as someone who maintained a strong Christian faith and applied it to his life, guiding his actions and making a positive difference to the community he was a part of.

the information above was found in Wikipedia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\\_Nicholls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_Nicholls)  
There are also a number of other internet sites with information about Sir Douglas Nicholls.



## Chaplains

Please pray that the chaplains we particularly support can adapt their ministries to the conditions we all currently face. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



### Devotional material



Prayer



### Contacts

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### Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

## CHURCH SIGNS



If you think it's hot here, imagine hell

Church Shopping? We're open Sundays



I HATE this church! - Satan

Can't sleep? Counting sheep? Talk to the Shepherd



You may party in hell, but you will be the barbecue!

Choose the Bread of Life or you are toast

You may have pain, but you don't have to be one

Eternity: Smoking or Non-Smoking?



## News from Bob Prior

Catching up with Bob (on the phone), I discovered he had been out exercising on a bike and 'taken a tumble' with the result he could have a fractured wrist. He requested prayer that the wrist will heal up quickly and well. If fractured it is likely to take around 6 weeks before it is right again.

Although not permitted at the racecourse currently, Bob's contact with those he has been most in touch with has continued and the racecourse authorities have informed everyone there that they can put people in touch with Bob if there is the want for it.

## Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia, that they will stay safe and coronavirus free
- for Aboriginal pastors across the nation as they minister in these changed conditions
- for Bible translators working to make the Bible available to Aboriginal people in their own language



and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church Sunday virtual gatherings for worship and fellowship using ZOOM that have been well supported.