

News (Adelaide), 16 December 1937, p. 2, Native Appeals for Chance for Race

An appeal for better treatment for aborigines was made at the annual smoke night of the Fitzroy branch of the Australian Natives' Association by Doug Nicholls, a former Fitzroy aboriginal footballer.

“Although we have not been given a fair deal,” Nicholls said, “we hold no grudge against the white people who govern us.

“Many things could be done to enable us to take a worthy place in the life of the Australian community. I believe that a better time is coming for my race, and I hope my belief is justified.

“When you celebrated your centenary you did not reveal there were 70,000 of my people still inhabiting Australia, and that fewer than 5,000 of them are educated. The remainder are wandering wild and superstitious.

“Give us a chance to take our place in the life of the Australian community in co-operation with you,” he concluded.