

Fellowship

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW

Volume 36:3:2011

President's Report

As I write this annual report, I would like to acknowledge all Churchill Fellows. This year, once again, 107 Churchill Fellowships were awarded nationally, adding to the more than 3,500 that have been awarded since those first Fellowships in 1965; a remarkable achievement. It is interesting to reflect that many of the 'new' Fellows in 2011 were not born at the time of Winston Churchill's death.

In this newsletter you will find a report on our annual dinner on 5th August; 27 Fellowships were awarded to NSW residents. You will also find a report on the Medallion Lunch on 29th October; 23 Churchill Fellows who had completed the requirements for their Fellowship were presented with a cast medallion featuring Winston Churchill.

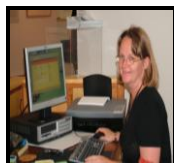
The Churchill Fellows Association of NSW is coming to the end of a busy year. Although we are the state with the largest population and consequently the largest number of Fellows, it seems to be difficult to keep Fellows involved in the activities of the Association. Nevertheless, an intrepid band of Fellows have worked hard to provide a varied and interesting program during 2011. I would like to thank them for their efforts throughout the year in assisting with organisation of our various activities, participating in committee meetings and taking on various tasks and roles, and in attending and supporting our functions. This is a very important group of busy individuals without whom the Association would not be able to host events.

In November, we held our AGM and barbeque and elected a new committee for 2012. I was encouraged to stay on for another year as President of the Association.

Were you unable to attend the AGM and function but would like to get involved in the work of the Association? We would welcome further members to join the committee as we are looking to expanding roles. We would particularly welcome committee members or occasional 'helpers' with media skills.

As the year comes to a rapid end, I would like to wish you a very safe and happy holiday season and new year.

Elizabeth Comino CFA NSW President Elect



From the Desk of Newsletter Editors: Jennie Nelson and Judy Ridge

Please contact Jennie (j.nelson@uws.edu.au) regarding any aspects of the newsletter, including ideas for articles, but beware, you may then be asked for a literary contribution.....

Australians striving for excellence

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW



Churchill Fellows Association of NSW 2012 Committee:

President: Dr Elizabeth Comino; Vice-President: Superintendent Ian Krimmer; Secretary: Mr Grant Wargren; Treasurer: Mr Kevin Gardiner; Newsletter Editor: Ms Jennie Nelson & Ms Judith Ridge; Membership database: Mr Raymond McCluskie; Website: Ms Lynne Challinor. Committee Members: Ms Louise Halsey, Mr Anthony Hatch, Ms Margi Cunningham, Dr Debra Dunstan, Ms Judy van Gelderen.

Churchill Fellows 2012:

Congratulations to the latest group of NSW Churchill Fellows. May your journeys over the next 12 months bring you satisfaction and personal growth.

Daniel BLINKHORN; Tony CRAY; Sue CRIPPS; Shannon CROFTON; Kim FOSTER; Matthew FULLER; Wendy GRAHAM; Christine GRIFFITHS; David HOLM; Steven JAMES; Galina LAURIE; Bruce LIN; Tracey MACKIE; Jill MARGO; Alessio MARIANI; Christopher MAXWORTHY; Paul MEEK; Manoj MENEZES; Lachlan SKIPWORTH; Helen SMITH; Tracey TAY; Linda TAYLOR; Simon THEW; John VEDELAGO; Tanya VINCENT; Kathryn WHITE

Vale:

Elizabeth Barnett (Churchill Fellow 1978)

The NSW Committee has been notified of the passing of Elaine Barnett OBE (Fellow 1978) in August 2011. We extend the sympathies of all Fellows to Elaine's family on the passing of a woman who devoted her life to helping others. The following obituary was published by the Sydney Morning Herald on August 13, 2011.



Elaine Barnett (1925-2011)

Over a long, varied and distinguished career, Elaine Barnett never gave up her fight for social justice and helping the disadvantaged in the community. As the first female parole officer in NSW to deal with both male and female prisoners, Barnett gained the respect of otherwise uncooperative male criminals and was prominent in reforming the prison system.

She also applied her skills in rehabilitating prisoners to other areas, granting her greater recognition, respect and admiration in the wider community.

Elaine Valmai Barnett was born in Strathfield, Sydney, on September 5, 1925, to Ernest Barnett and his wife, Ellen.

At 28, Barnett became the first female parole officer at what was then known as the NSW Prisons Department (now the Department of Corrective Services).

At that time, paroling prisoners was a new, controversial feature of the justice system and Barnett used her skills as a social worker to assist men and women with the difficulties faced when reentering the community.

Barnett was responsible for developing the resurgent group program at a maximum-security prison for male recidivist prisoners in Parramatta.

After leaving the Prisons Department in 1975, Barnett was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the liaison bureau at the Department of Youth and Community Services. This gave her the opportunity to assist in the formation and implementation of policy.



Barnett returned to rehabilitation work in 1978, this time at the Workers' Compensation Commission. She was part of a team involved in the rehabilitation programs for injured workers.

After 25 years of service, Barnett left the state public service in 1986 to become a social worker at the Department of Defense, helping soldiers and their families with the issues associated with adjusting to the army.

Prison reform and social justice were of great importance to Barnett throughout her career and in later life. She represented the International Alliance of Women in 1963 at a United Nations seminar, speaking of the role of police in the protection of human rights.

In 1973, she assisted with the establishment of a work release plan, allowing prisoners to go out into the community and work each day, thus making their transition into the community easier.

Barnett campaigned vigorously for better and fairer treatment of prisoners, while never failing to base her decision-making primarily on what was best for the community at large.

She wanted prisoners to have hope, will and opportunity to change their behavior and she advocated greater civilian participation in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Even in retirement, Barnett remained active in the community. In 1998, she and Vera Abell established the BEA (named after Abell's mother, Beatrice Ellen Abell) group. This continues to help disadvantaged single mothers and families in conjunction with Anglican Family Services at Mount Druitt.

Throughout her life, Barnett was recognized and rewarded for her work and achievements. She was named woman of the week by the *Sydney Mirror* in 1963, was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1978 and received an Order of Australia Medal in 1991.

Barnett continued to undertake formal education throughout her life, receiving a Masters of Letters degree from the University of New England as recently as 1985.

Elaine Barnett is survived by her nieces and nephews and their families.

Churchill Chat: Report on Churchill Chat – 21st September 2011

On September 21 a group of Fellows gathered for a Churchill Chat at the Malvern Hill Uniting Church Hall. A Churchill Chat is a forum focusing on the work of a small group of Fellows with similar professional experiences and interests. Unlike our more formal occasions, when new and returning Fellows have limited time to present their work, the Chats allow Fellows to discuss their projects in detail. The topic for the September Chat was 'Fellows helping in disasters'. There were four presenters.



An interested audience enjoying the presentations

The first speaker was Dr Zhe Li (2008). Dr Li is the chief medical scientist in charge of the Skin Laboratory at Concord Hospital; a leading research and treatment unit for patients with severe burns. Zhe explained development in skin replacement techniques. Traditionally, patients were treated with grafts of skin from uninjured parts of the body. In recent years there have been significant advances in techniques to culture skin cells from stem cells harvested from patients.



Zhe explained the difficulties and slow advances that are occurring in the development of tissue that more truly reflects the natural structure of skin. During his Churchill Fellowship, Zhe was able to study some of the new developments at leading skin cell laboratories in the US, UK, and Europe and on his return, shared developments at the Concord Hospital laboratory. Much of the incentive for Zhe's research occurred in response to the treatment of patients injured in the Bali Bombings.

Second speaker Bill Clifford (1994) was for many years a leader in the development of peer support programs for the NSW Fire and Rescue Service. These programs were established in response to the trauma experienced by rescue workers called to serious events such as the Grafton and Kempsey bus accidents and the Newcastle earthquake.

Bill described the Fire and Rescue Service response to the 1997 Thredbo landslide. This terrible disaster attracted international media attention—who can forget the rescue of Stuart Diver after nearly 3 days trapped under rubble. Bill took us through the process of setting up a peer support process for workers who are involved in a protracted rescue such as this. The strategy involves assessment of need; provision of family support; demobilisation of those who are directly involved; debriefing and follow up. As Bill explained, peer support for rescuers and their families become particularly important in situations that extend beyond 4 or 5 days. In retirement, Bill continues to be involved in peer support through his involvement with the NSW Men's Shed Association—he is currently president of the NSW branch of the Association.



Bill Clifford

To close the evening, Anthony Hatch and Ian Krimmer, from the NSW Fire Brigades and SES, described the process of sending a rescue team to help out in the Japanese earthquake disaster earlier this year. Rescue teams can involve up to 72 members and their gear, and upon deployment are self-sufficient so that they are able to assist and not be a burden in disaster situations, where local services are already at capacity. Ian and Anthony took us through some of the difficulties of their deployment, including camping out in -17° temperatures, proximity to the crippled nuclear reactor in Fukushima, and the total devastation of the towns in which they were deployed to carry out search and rescue. Ian and Anthony spoke highly of the Japanese people and their stoic response to the disaster.



Anthony Hatch

We have revamped the Chats this year in an attempt to stimulate interest from the wider community of Fellows. If you would like to talk about your work at a Churchill Chat, please let us know. Churchill Chats also provide an opportunity to promote the work of the Trust and the opportunities that Fellowships offer to the community at large.



Churchill Fellow Update: Jennie Nelson (Fellow 2008)

I was asked to write this report by members of the Committee, in spite of it referring to my current travels as an Endeavour Executive Award holder.

I was a Churchill Fellow in 2008, travelling to the UK and Canada in 2009. In 2010, lightning struck twice and I was afforded the honour of receiving an Endeavour Award from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). This has allowed me to revisit Canada for the last 4 months to work with the extraordinary staff at the University of Toronto and St Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia in the area of forensic science education.

My travels this year began only 5 weeks after the birth of my first grandchild, a gorgeous girl called Scarlett Lee. I established my base at the University of Toronto on the Mississauga campus, 45 minutes west of Toronto. I had initial reservations at living on campus in student residence housing but it has been wonderful and it's been fun and the squirrels have amused me each morning outside my door.

My first official travels involved travelling to Halifax, in the province of Nova Scotia, to help teach a week-long field school in forensic archaeology for St Mary's University. The field school was conducted at Mt Uniacke estate, 40 km north of Halifax. Four grave sites, complete with large animal bones and other evidentiary items, had been established 8 months earlier.



**Students at work at site # 1: Mt Uniacke Estate,
Nova Scotia, Canada**

Eighteen students from St Mary's University (SMU) and Windsor University, Ontario spent 5 days processing the scenes and excavating the remains and evidence using appropriate standard methods under the direction of myself and a member of SMU teaching staff. As a result of this work, I was invited to return to SMU in November to deliver a guest lecture on mass grave excavation, a skill I learnt during a course completed in Bournemouth, UK, during my Churchill Fellowship in 2009.



**SMU student, Jacques operating a soil sieve looking
for minute pieces of evidence on site**

In September, I attended the Canadian Identification Society (CIS) conference in the nation's capital, Ottawa. This conference, hosted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), is the national conference for forensic identification professionals in Canada.

Fascinating presentations of particular interest to me included work presented by staff at the University of Ottawa on a national database of stable isotopes analysed from hair samples obtained across the country. This database has been successfully used to help to geographically profile unidentified bodies by comparison of data from hair samples obtained from shallow graves with the national data.



I have spent a large proportion of my time in Canada assisting with the teaching of forensic identification at the University of Toronto. This discipline of forensics involves the systematic processing of crime scenes for forensic evidence. At U of T, I have had the very great honour of working with Professor Wade Knaap, President-elect of the CIS, who has developed innovative techniques for collection of forensic impression evidence, particularly on textured surfaces.

Given the intense scrutiny currently being applied to the veracity of forensic evidence in criminal cases worldwide, it is essential that all forensic evidence entered into the court system be collected and processed professionally and appropriately to ensure a fair and accurate outcome to a case.

In November, I travelled again to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to deliver an invited lecture at St Mary's University on mass grave excavation to 80 students and staff in the Forensic Science program. On Wednesday afternoon of that week, I received a call from staff at the Medical Examiner's Office inviting me to join a team travelling the next day to Amherst, two hours north of Halifax, for a case.

Leaving at 6 am, after packing the van with a full compliment of excavation equipment, we travelled north to very close to the provincial border with New Brunswick. Here on the side of the highway, the road headed south had been partitioned off with yellow crime scene tape. In the llama paddock to the side was a large wood secured by more tape.

Police from two local areas, in addition to the Canadian Mounties, were present and advised that human remains had been located within the woods and were suspected to be those of a woman missing from a nursing home for over 13 months.

Changing into appropriate clothing (five layers thick including waterproofs), we carried our gear to a staging point within the paddock and headed into the woods.



Our team captured by media photographer with a telephoto lens

In a quiet clearing within the woods sat a backpack on a fallen tree trunk and various scattered personal effects. Further in we began to detect the quiet remains of a human being. Very sadly, these had already been discovered by coyotes over the course of the previous year and were spread over a large area. The next 10 hours or so were spent crawling through the llama faeces, swamp, scrub and mud, to systematically locate and recover all biological and evidentiary material related to the case. In the photograph above, I'm the one in the yellow pants. Glad they caught my best side for the front page of the local newspaper! Believe me, this work is nothing like the TV show, CSI!!!!



End of day, job done, team photo.



Rather, this was a completely unique chance to examine first-hand the operation of a Medical Examiner system compared to a coronial system as we have in Australia and several Canadian provinces. I am currently back in Toronto but I'm on recall to Halifax if any further cases are listed before I return to Australia in early December.

I recommend to each of you the Endeavour Executive Award website at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/Pages/Home.aspx>. If your families can spare you again for more professional development on foreign shores, consider an application! It may be the second most rewarding opportunity of your life after the Churchill Fellowship!

A Visit with a Legend: Elvie Munday OAM

Note from Sally Pang-Rippingale (Churchill Fellow 1989):

"My husband Noel & I were delighted to catch up with Elvie Munday at home in Canberra 11.11.11. To all who know Elvie with much affection, she is "mother"...the perfect hostess...pop in to see Elvie...you stay for lunch. You ask her husband Jim how to grow dahlias, you are given a bulb to grow with expert advice. We were fortunate in seeing their daughter Karen too! I asked Elvie to write a memo for the Churchill Association Newsletter....I know you will be impressed with her achievements."

My name is Elvie Munday and I have been fortunate in having had the most wonderful career anyone could have asked for.

When I retired from The Trust in 2001 I had been responsible for 2468 Churchill Fellows. With many of these Fellows I had built up a personal relationship and it was the most rewarding – although at times stressful – job one could have asked for.

Following a Churchill Fellow from the time they request forms, then seek help with the forms and then hopefully to when they get an interview and ultimately a Churchill Fellowship is a wonderful journey.

To see those same Fellows return to Australia with their new found knowledge, brimming with confidence, eager to put into practice the information they have gained. It is wonderful. And most of them say that the Churchill Fellowship opened doors that would not otherwise have been opened to them.

One of the offshoots of the Fellowship is that Fellows make contacts and even some personal friendships along the way and they have these for many years. In many cases these contacts are a continuation of their fellowship as they exchange information and in many cases revisit their contacts or indeed their contacts come to Australia to visit with them, some set up workshops, others come to share information which is a two way street.

For me the Fellowship is just a beginning and as I say to Fellows, once a Churchill Fellow always a Churchill Fellow and from 1970 to 2001 they are Elvie's Fellows. I have been truly blessed to share in their lives and to follow them as they grow in confidence in their respective fields. I also hear about their ups and downs and also share in the milestones of their lives e.g. marriage, birth of children, graduation of children, grandchildren etc. Like me, many of them now have grown up grandchildren.

I will always be interested in "my" Fellows and my door is always open at 6 Stockdale Street Dickson, ACT. 2602 or elvie.m@bigpond.com

Mother Elvie



Achievements:

- Born in Wagga Wagga but lived in Canberra since 1941
- Joined the Department of Trade in 1956 – served 2 1/2 years in Japan (1958/59/60) with The Trade Commissioner Service.
- Married in 1961 – to Jim Munday – 2 children and now 4 beautiful grandchildren.
- 1971 began work with the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
- 1976 became Assistant Executive Officer in charge of Fellowships Australia wide
- 1993 Awarded an OAM in recognition of service to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and its Fellows.
- Retired from the Trust after nearly 31 years in 2001 due to ill health.
- Interests: Introduced Japanese Language into Ainslie Primary School mid 1970s and then Campbell High School and eventually Dickson College. Began a Careers Counseling Service at Campbell High School late 1970s.

Annual Medallion Lunch: (October 29, 2011)

On Saturday, 29th October, the Association hosted a lunch to celebrate the achievements of recent Churchill Fellows who had completed the requirements for their fellowship and presented their report. In recent years we have had these events as a lunchtime function to encourage Fellows who may not be keen to travel to the city at night.

Twelve completing Fellows were presented with their medallions at the function and all spoke enthusiastically about the experiences and opportunities that the Fellowship offered them.

They spoke of what they were doing now that they had completed their study and were moving on to apply their learning. The medallion lunch was a highlight of the year; the enthusiasm of Fellows for their diverse and sometimes funky interests is testament to the vision of those who supported the establishment of the Trust in 1965.

Medallion recipients:

Tim ANDERSON; Vicki BITSIKA; Cristina BORNHOFEN; Michelle BROWNING; Steven CALDWELL; Bibiana CHAN; Grant HARPER; Nicolette HILTON; Judith HUNT; Rochelle HUTSON; Sean LAL; Sarah MADDISON; Ann McINTYRE; Darren MITCHELL; Diana PALMER; Anna ROSE; Judy SABA; Oliver SMITH; Rob SUTHERLAND; Clare THOMPSON; Grant WARGREN; Elizabeth WATTS and Helen LOCHHEAD

2012 Churchill Diary:

**** Closing date for Churchill Fellowships:
February 29, 2012**

www.churchilltrust.com.au/

**** Annual Dinner and New Fellows' Presentation:**

Date: TBA

Location: TBA

**** New Fellows' Morning Tea:**

Date: TBA

Location: Central Fire Station, Sydney

**** Returning Fellows' Lunch and Medallion Presentation:**

Date: TBA

Location: TBA

**** AGM and Christmas gathering:**

Purpose: AGM and BBQ lunch

Location: TBA

Date: TBA



