

Fellowship

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW

Volume 37:1:2012



**The Churchill Fellows' Association of WA
invites you to join them
for the**

2012 National Churchill Fellows' Convention

When: Friday 19 – Sunday 21 October 2012

Location: Beautiful Fremantle, WA

Friday evening

- Welcome reception at Government House

Saturday morning



Fremantle Prison Gates restored by Bradley Jackson (2011 Fellow)

- Spend the morning exploring Fremantle & then hop on the bus to head up the coast to Hillarys Fisheries & Marine Research Laboratory

Saturday evening

- Join us at the Art Gallery of Western Australia for an evening of entertainment

Sunday

- Enjoy the morning with Churchill Fellow-guided tours of the magnificent Kings Park & then join us at the University of Western Australia's Winthrop Hall to be entertained by our musical & visual artists!

For more information see

http://www.churchillfellowswa.org.au/ConventionFlyer_Oct2011.pdf

Australians striving for excellence

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW



President's Report:

Welcome. In this newsletter you will find lots of information about Fellows' comings and goings. If you would like to write a brief article about yourself or your work, please do. The article from Clare Abbott (Thompson) is just lovely. Congratulations to Scott and Clare on their marriage. It just goes to show that a Churchill Fellowship is an opening to the unexpected.

Recently, I picked up a book written by Alexandra Tolstoy, the great-grand-daughter of Leo Tolstoy. The book describes the adventures of four young women who rode the Silk Road across Asia Minor to China on horse and camel. One of the four, Sophia Cunningham, received a Churchill Fellowship to support this enterprise.

Other Fellows are headed this way in the next little while. Catherine Lowenhoff is a Health Visitor from the UK who is coming to Sydney to look at provision of a 'Learning to Communicate' program for new mothers. This is a research program that I am involved in through my work. We are planning a Churchill Chat during May to showcase this work. This will be a joint University of New South Wales Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity and Churchill Fellows Association of NSW meeting. The subject will be sustained nurse home visiting for vulnerable infants and families, of which the 'Learning to Communicate' is a significant program.

Another Fellow visiting these shores is Jim Robinson, who writes:

'While in Sydney, the focus of my visit will be the NSW Treasury. Some info about the programme I'll be discussing with them, known in Australia as 'Social Benefit Bonds' (SBBs), is at: http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/site_plan/social_benefit_bonds SBBs – usually referred to as 'Social Impact Bonds' (SIBs) in other countries – are under development around the world, and are the subject of my Fellowship. SIBs are an innovative public service delivery mechanism which combines Payment by Results (where public sector commissioners pay for real-world social outcomes rather than simply activities) with external investment finance.'

We will organise a meeting with Jim while he is in Sydney and let you know through the website. Or let us know if you are interested.

There are also a number of activities coming up. Currently the selection process for 2012 Churchill Fellows is underway. There were 282 applications in NSW that will be shortlisted to 92 for interview to select 42 finalists who will attend final interviews at the end of April. New Fellows will be announced around the end of June. You are invited to attend the Awards dinner, which will be held again this year at the Stranger's Dining Room, NSW Parliament on 5th August. This is a great opportunity to celebrate with and to hear about the plans of this year's Fellows. Further details and an invitation will follow shortly. We will host a lunch in October to acknowledge Fellows who have completed the requirements for their Fellowship.

Excitement is also building for the biennial Convention of the Churchill Fellow's Association. This year the Convention is being hosted by CFA WA over the weekend of Friday 19th to Sunday 21st October. Information about the Convention is included in this newsletter and you can check out more details as they become available on their website at <http://www.churchillfellowswa.org.au/>. This promises to be an interesting and varied weekend showcasing the work of Fellows from Western Australia. We would like to see a strong group of Fellows attending from NSW. This is a great opportunity to include a wilderness experience, visit the famous Margaret River wines, or enjoy the wild lower season as well. This is doubly important because in 2014 NSW for the first time will have the privilege of hosting the Convention.



Sadly, Jennie Nelson who has been the newsletter editor for the last few years is hanging up her hat and stepping down. I would like to thank her for the work that she has done on pulling together the newsletter in recent years. You will all agree that the newsletter has been terrific and she leaves big shoes to fill. We would welcome volunteers who might like to be involved in producing the newsletter. We aim to produce 3-4 a year. It is usually distributed electronically and we are seeking to align it more with the website which currently is also getting a facelift. If you would like to assist with these activities please let me know.

That is all for now, see you soon

Elizabeth Comino CFA NSW President CFA NSW

Churchill Fellows' Association NSW

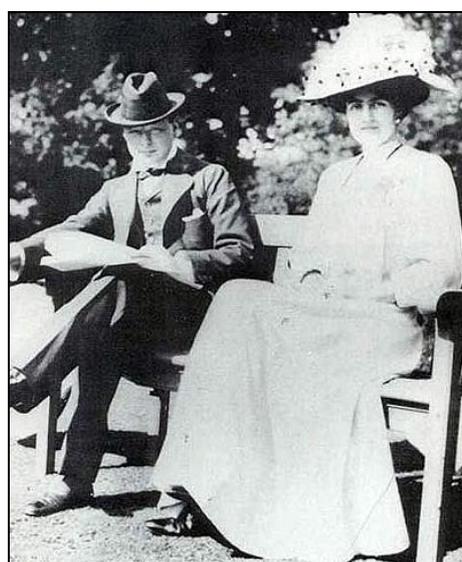
Committee for 2012

President: Elizabeth Comino; Vice-President: Ian Krimmer; Secretary: Grant Wargren; Treasurer: Kevin Gardiner; Newsletter Editors: VACANT; Web site: Lynne Challinor; Data base, Membership, Face Book: Raymond Mcluskie; New Fellow Mentor: Louise Halsey; Committee members: Anthony Hatch, Debra Dunstan, Margi Cunningham and Judy van Gelderen

A Churchill Moment in Time: Valentine's Day Special: Winston and Clementine

Continuing the popular series of special moments in the life of Sir Winston Churchill and in honour of the recent celebration of Valentine's Day, this newsletter details the enduring love story that was Winston and Clementine.

They met for the first time in 1904. She was Clementine Ogilvy Hozier and aged just 19 years. Four years later, in April 1908, they would meet again at a dinner party and this time, Winston wasted no time in pursuing her and asking for her hand in marriage just 4 months later. One month on, their marriage took place at St Margaret's Cathedral, Westminster. Churchill was more than 10 years Clementine's senior in age and already well established within British parliament.



Winston and Clementine shortly before their marriage in 1908

Together their marriage produced five children: Diana (1909–1963); Randolph (1911–1968); Sarah (1914–1982); Marigold (1918–1921); and Mary (b. 1922). Only the youngest, Mary, is still alive today.

The Churchill marriage was an enduring one. Sir Winston led a life of service to his country and travelled extensively in that capacity. Much has been made of the extensive letters written to each other during their separations, but equally much is written of the fiery arguments that often punctuated their lifetime together.



Whatever the truth, it is obvious that Clementine provided the secure home life that enabled Sir Winston to lead the active public life he did across so many decades. Their letters often end with drawings that illustrate their pet names. She called him her "pug" whilst she was his "cat." Their marriage endured 57 years until the death of Sir Winston in 1965.

In January 23, 1935, Sir Winston wrote to his absent wife sentiments that echo down the years:

My darling Clemmie,

*In your letter from Madras you wrote some word vy dear to me, about my having enriched yr life. I cannot tell you what pleasure this gave me, because I always feel so overwhelmingly in yr debt, if there can be accounts in love. It was sweet of you to write this to me, and I hope and pray I shall be able to make you happy and secure during my remaining years, and cherish you my darling one as you deserve, and leave you in comfort when my race is run. What it has been to me to live all these years in yr heart and companionship no phrases can convey. Time passes swiftly, but is it not joyous to see how great and growing is the treasure we have gathered together, amid the storms and stresses of so many eventful and to millions tragic and terrible years?...
Your loving husband,*

Ever present at each other's sides throughout 57 years of marriage: Sir Winston and Lady Clementine Spencer.

References:

Library of Congress:
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/churchill/wc-affairs.html>

Winston Churchill to his darling, Clementine:
<http://www.gyford.com/archive/2009/04/28/www.geocities.com/Paris/Parc/9893/winston.html>

Churchill Fellow Update: Clare Abbott (Fellow 2011)

Editor's Note: Continuing the romance theme, here's a touch of romance paired with a modern day Churchill moment.....*Viva l'amour!!!*

My Churchill Fellowship – Research & Romance

I took off on my Churchill Fellowship in January 2011 to investigate the provision of education and settlement services for primary school refugee children and their families. The Churchill started in London and then took me across the world with stops in Oslo, Copenhagen, Toronto, Montreal and Washington DC before ending in New York.

Highlights of the trip included gaining access to schools with wonderful programs, interviewing many inspirational people working for non-government and educational organisations and fighting through knee-deep snow and wind storms in -25 degree temperatures to interview asylum-seeker families on the outskirts of Montreal.

After four countries and seven weeks of researching and travelling far and wide, my partner Scott joined me in Washington DC. Exploring this great capital city together was fantastic. Interviews were interspersed with trips to amazing museums, monuments, galleries and trying to catch even just a glimpse of Barack Obama.

Then we headed together to New York. This was the first visit for both of us to this magical city. I was at the United Nations by day and Jazz Clubs and Theatre by night.



Clare and Scott in Times Square, New York



Then on one perfect New York winter's day, Scott and I headed out for a walk through Central Park, a visit to the Guggenheim and a stroll down Fifth Avenue when we came to Tiffany & Co. I'm still unsure how it all happened, but an hour later Scott was bending down on one knee in the opulent foyer of the famous Plaza Hotel with Sinatra playing in the background and holding a little Tiffany blue box tied with a white ribbon. What a way to end the Fellowship!



All smiles in the foyer of The Plaza Hotel, New York

We got married on the 29th October at Mackerel Beach, Pittwater and the Churchill Fellowship was credited in a number of the speeches. I left Australia on the opportunity of a lifetime to research a topic I felt so passionate about and came back inspired, engaged and incredibly happy.



Wedding day at Mackerel Beach!!

Clare Abbott (nee Thompson)

2012 Churchill Diary:

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

www.churchilltrust.com.au/

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

Date: August 5, 2012

Location: Stranger's Dining Room NSW Parliament

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

Date: August 6, 2012

Location: Central Fire Station, Sydney

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

Date: October 6

Location: TBA

**** AGM and Christmas Gathering:**

Purpose: AGM and BBQ lunch

Location: TBA

Date: TBA



