

Fellowship

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW

NSW CFA President's Report:

Volume 36:2 July 2011

Dear Churchill Fellows

I should like to commend to you this edition of the 'Fellowship'. In it you will find lots of information about the Association's activities, news about Fellows past and present, and most importantly information, on the new 2011 Fellows.

In May, I had the privilege of spending my weekend with a number of others sitting on the final NSW selection panel for the 2011 Fellowships. It was our task to interview all shortlisted applicants and to rank them according to a set of selection criteria. This is both an exhausting and inspiring activity. The range of interests of applicants and their willingness to invest time and energy in their chosen field is truly inspiring. It was lovely to see the final outcomes of the selection process in the list of awardees that was released on July 6 by the Trust.

The 2011 Churchill Fellowships will be awarded at Government House by her Excellency, the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir, on Friday 5th August. Following the Awards Ceremony, your Association will host the NSW Churchill Fellows Association Annual Dinner at the Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament. This is an excellent opportunity for Churchill Fellows to gather and to celebrate with the 2011 award recipients, their families and guests, staff of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, award sponsors and members of the NSW judging panels. A highlight of the evening is the opportunity afforded each new Fellow to give a brief 1 minute mention of their award topic. I would urge you to support this event.

In May, we hosted a very successful Churchill Chat. These are opportunities for Fellows to present their work in more detail and are an opportunity to promote Churchill Fellowships to the wider community. The next Chat will be on Wednesday 21st September. We are seeking Fellows who have been involved in some way with 'assisting in disaster situations' to speak. Please let me know if you are interested.



I look forward to welcoming you to the dinner.
Cheers

Professor Elizabeth Comino, 2002 Fellow

Elizabeth

Newsletter Editor: Jennie Nelson

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.....



Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW



Australians striving for excellence

Vale:

The NSW Committee has been notified of the passing of two Churchill Fellows: Robert (Bob) Brooks OAM (1969) in February 2011 and Carol Penning (2002) in May 2010.

Bob devoted himself throughout his long career to working for the disabled, whilst Carol's pioneering work changed the way people are treated in Australian nursing homes.

We extend the sympathies of all Fellows to both families on the passing of two people who devoted themselves to helping others.

Carol Penning, Churchill Fellow 2002

By Deanne Penning, Carol's daughter

Carol Penning started her career from the ground up in 1973 as a trainee floor nurse at Blacktown Hospital until 1976.

From there she moved to Fairfield hospital to work in Intensive Care, then later as an Evening Supervisor in 1985. In those early days Carol developed a passion for person-centred care and this stuck with her throughout her career. She recognised that every patient deserved the best treatment and the best care; that every person should be treated with the highest respect and integrity.

In 1987 Carol became the Nurse Unit Planner for the brand new Fairfield hospital located in Prairiewood NSW. She was responsible for the planning & design of the new hospital and the smooth transition of staff and patients from the old hospital to the new. In parallel to her role at Fairfield, Carol was diligent to always better her skills and completed 2 university degrees through the New England University, in nursing and management.

In 1990 and after the successful launch of the new Fairfield Hospital, Carol moved to Coffs Harbour to take on the role of Deputy Director of Nursing at Coffs Harbour Base Hospital where she could develop her new-found management skills.

In 1997 Carol moved to Newcastle and took on the role of Director of Nursing at Annandale Aged Care facility in Cessnock under Hunter Area Health. While at Annandale Aged Care she was successful in building a professional nursing team, built on person-centred care and the highest level of integrity. She then progressed and took on the role of Director Aged Care and Rehabilitation Services with Hunter Area Health, where Carol was enabled to spread her wings and focus on building good care practices.

In 2003 Carol was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to travel to Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, UK and the USA to study person-centred ways of caring for people with dementia, with an emphasis on differing models of care, physical environments, activities and measurement tools for promoting well-being. Carol was honoured with the privilege of presenting her paper "Person-Centred Care: A philosophy of care and management of carers" to the Bradford University in the UK.

After completing her Fellowship, Carol fast became known around the Hunter Valley and then the country for her philosophies in person-centred care in aged care and dementia, presenting at a number of conferences around the nation, including a guest lecturing position at the University of Newcastle.

After working for Hunter Area Health, Carol moved to Uniting Care as a Director of Residential Care Services at Uniting Care Ageing. While in this role she was enabled to truly embrace the person-centred care principles and embed them into the practices within Uniting Aged Care. Recently, to honour my mother's memory, Uniting Aged Care created 2 awards in Carol's name that will be awarded annually to those practicing and living the person-centred principles. The awards are called the Carol Penning Award for INSPIRED CARE Leadership and Service Delivery. Each prize comes with a \$15,000 grant to assist in further studies of care practices.

My mother dedicated her life to people and ensuring the best care for the aged and those suffering from dementia. I again thank you for honouring her work, and assisting in her goal of leaving a care-focused legacy within the health system, which focused less on self and more on others.



Introducing the NSW 2011 Churchill Fellows....

It is our pleasure to introduce the latest additions to the NSW Churchill Fellows' community. We hope that they make the most of this amazing opportunity and forever remain a part of our state and national groups through the simple acts of promoting the Association and supporting suitable candidates in their applications each year.

We look forward to following their journeys throughout the next 12 months and wish them every success in their endeavours.

2011 NSW Churchill Fellows:

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

A Churchill Moment in Time:

We've looked, over the last 12 months, at Sir Winston Churchill and examined many of the lesser known aspects of his life, including his mastery of the written word and art. This vignette will explore his love of travel, which went far beyond travel associated with duty in his various roles over the course of his lifetime.

The one thing that we all share as Fellows is the amazing opportunity we've been given to travel the world and experience and learn from other people who share our passion for a particular endeavour. In the UK, these Fellowships are actually called Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships.

Sir Winston stated in the preface to his 1908 book, *My African Journey*:

For the formation of opinion, for the stirring enlivenment of thought, and for the discernment of colour and proportion, the gifts of travel, especially travel on foot, are priceless.

That said, Churchill preferred to travel in luxury. He is famously quoted as having once remarked, "My tastes are simple. I am easily satisfied with the best."

Churchill's first trip abroad at age 9, with his father, Lord Randolph Churchill, was to Paris. Young Winston was enchanted and remained enraptured with all things French for his remaining years. By 1908, he was widely travelled on four continents, having campaigned with various military assignments in Cuba, India, the Sudan and South Africa.

His American mother, Jennie Jerome, encouraged him to visit North America and he would make that trip many, many times. During the Second World War, these trips, taken to meet with President Roosevelt about the continued war effort, were fraught with danger from land and sea.

During this time too, meetings with world leaders including Stalin and de Gaulle, occurred in the Middle East in exotic places like Cairo, Marrakesh, Tehran and Algiers. These places, particularly Cairo and Morocco, would feature prominently in the art work of Sir Winston over the years.

Lee Beeston (Churchill Fellow 2003) was fortunate enough to visit Morocco in 2010 with her husband and provided the following comments about her trip.

I really know so little about Churchill, I was surprised and delighted when we stayed at the de el Minzah Hotel, Tangier, on arrival in Morocco. I have included this photo of Churchill arriving at the hotel. He was one of many famous people who stayed there in the hotel's heyday.



Sir Winston arriving at the de el Minzah Hotel, Tangier, possibly 1935

When we went to the Ourika Valley, we stopped at a place from where Churchill was said to have painted some scenes. We also visited La Mamounia Hotel in Marrakech where there is a bar and apparently a suite named after Churchill. I didn't get a photo of the bar but did appreciate Churchill's privilege of being in such luxury for a short walk around the renowned gardens and to have a drink there.



Fellow Lee Beeston, enjoying the view of the Ourika Valley and Atlas Mountains, North Africa in 2010

Churchill's love of travel would remain for life. In later years, he preferred the comforts of sea travel. He made eight journeys aboard the *Christina*, the luxury yacht belonging to Aristotle Onassis, between 1958 and 1963, cruising the beautiful blue waters of the Mediterranean and the West Indies in absolute opulence.

For Churchill, change rather than rest was the 'master key' to a satisfactory life: he believed that the best solution for the avoidance of worry and stress was change. For him, travel provided that change, without interrupting his work—which in whatever form, writing, politics or painting—travelled with him. Perhaps something for us all to ponder...

References:

- Beeston, L. (2011) *Personal correspondence*
- Sandys, C. (2003) *Chasing Churchill, The Travels of Winston Churchill* Carroll & Graf Publishers, New York

Notes from the Churchill Chat May 18, Sydney

By Margaret Cunningham, Churchill Fellow 1994

Four Fellows from an education background presented at the recent Chat, with an audience of recent and older Fellows present. The presentations focused on what each Fellow learnt during their tour.

Steven Caldwell, Churchill Fellow 2010 To study programs that support young Australians to develop positive values in online communities.

Steven made the observation that *fear is leading the education agenda around young people and on-line communications*. He noted that ACMA (Australian Communication and Media Authority) in Australia provides a wide range of valuable resources to assist young people, teachers and parents with engaging on-line and with managing the on-line environment. He demonstrated through visual and online media:

- The on-line worlds that young people are engaged with
- The values behind some of these worlds e.g. Barbie.com, targeting under 12 year olds with how and where to shop
- That the discourse by some current trainers in the field is reactive with a focus on child safety and is an unhelpful discourse overall.

Steven wondered 'what is missing?' and his trip focussed on identifying ways values such as calm, care, consideration and compassion could be introduced into young people's on-line experience – changing reactivity to creativity.

His inspiration came from the Me to We program, the Charter for Compassion and Momo (work of Michael Ende the author of *The Never-ending Story*).

Steven attended the New York Centre for Non-Violent Communication and completed a workshop based on Dr Marshall Rosenberg's work on deep listening which presents a model for empathic listening of:

*When I... I feel... Because I...
Would you be willing to...*



He noted some of the ways that interrupt deep listening processes and separate people in communication: discounting, comparing, fixing, educating, data gathering, one-upmanship/competition, and sympathy. All these communication patterns distance people.

Steven noted that while the New York State Office of Educational Design and Technology had available resources, there was no mandate required to implement them in schools. The New York City Library has children and young people designing the on-line resources, but schools don't have the infrastructure to make these accessible in school.

The Department of Homeland Security's ThinkConnect is the first national cyber safety program in the US and provides a one page resource of Dos and Don'ts.

Quest Atlantis (www.atlantis.crlt.indiana.edu) is based on values. Students are central and important and the on-line game builds character and skill.

Steven's recommendations from his Churchill study include:

- Inclusion of young people in design of on-line environments
- Empowering young people to find solutions to address some of the challenges they face in on-line environments
- Importance of values based education in on-line environments
- Need for a youth council to develop strategies.
- Beware of 'Juvenioia' – the exaggerated fear of young people.
- Join TED (technology, education and design – www.ted.com) to keep abreast of what is happening in the space.
- Recognise that young people have classroom language, outside school language and virtual world language.

You can see Stephen's presentation on: <http://vimeo.com/23987070>



Anthony Williams and Raymond McCluskie enjoyed the speaker's insights at the Churchill Chat

Andrew Best, Churchill Fellow 2008

To study how environmental education programs in schools increases student engagement, particularly for Indigenous students and how accreditation enhances sustainability programs in schools

Andrew visited the UK, where the Federation of Environmental Education has developed the concept of Eco Schools, a program where schools can compete for a series of honours.

In Scotland he visited a school that had received the highest award and spoke with children about the ways the environmental education project assisted them in having a more meaningful school experience. He noted that in Scotland there is mandatory reporting from school principals on their environmental school programs.

Andrew spoke about the book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from nature deficit disorder* by Richard Louv, which emphasises the importance of nature for children's wellbeing. There is anecdotal evidence amongst educators that children with challenging behaviours re-engage more effectively with school if they are involved with environmental projects.

At the Ithica Children's Garden, Andrew saw a pizza garden the children had built. The garden was shaped like a pizza and only food you can put on pizza in its segments.

To address some of the key elements involved in successful learning outcomes for Indigenous students, he visited schools in Alaska, including the Effie Kokrine Charter School, a primary and high school for native Alaskan young people.

The school has changed its school holiday and start times to ensure young people can participate in culturally relevant activities such as the Moose Hunt. Environmental education is part of the school's annual curricula.

The Effie Kokrine Charter School is founded on traditional Alaskan values and has a flexible learning program where year 10 high school students can begin university courses and obtain credits for higher degrees before they have completed high school.

Inspired by the trip, Andy hopes to engage Australian schools in becoming part of the Eco Schools program.

Brian Trench, Churchill Fellow 1999

To studied how farmers in the UK are trained to run their farms sustainably

Brian visited the LEAF program which links farmers, communities, and schools around environmental education. In the late 1990s British schools had league tables reporting on numeracy and literacy levels. It was discovered that this was detrimental to school curricula and Britain and the USA have moved away from this kind of reporting on schools (unfortunately Australia is taking it up).

The UK LEAF program (www.leafmarque.com) selects leaders in local farming communities and trains them to be a leader and trainer of farmers. Leafmarque certified farms achieve change in farming practices where none existed before. The farms are managed by a Board with local business participation, and are supported by two fulltime staff members.

Under the program, identified heritage-significant buildings and equipment are made safe for children to climb. Historical farming equipment is made available for people from the community to try. Some working farms also became tourist attractions through this heritage activity and/or by specialising in rare breeds of animals.

In Australia, Belgenny Farm in South Western Sydney (<http://www.belgennyfarm.com.au>) has incorporated some of the ideas from this Churchill study, such as dedicated events for Mothers' Day (about 5000 people attend), Fathers' Day and Farm Day.



Happy faces as the Community of Fellows enjoys a night of thought-provoking presentations

Joseph Mitchell Churchill Fellow 2009

To study services for refugee children

Joseph is the principal of Fowler Rd Public School which specialises in providing education to children with mental health issues. Due to the school's location in Western Sydney, refugee children are often a significant part of the school community. One example cited a child at school requiring a case conference and the discovery being made that over 20 people from 7 different organisations were part of the care context for this child.

One of the aims of this Churchill Fellowship was to visit refugee camps and identify ways of building connected organisations.

In Tanzania one refugee camp is structured into villages of 10,000 people each. This arrangement assists refugees to create a sense of community. Every worker knows what is needed and people are trained to respond appropriately, whether they are the main person responsible for the case or not. For example, AIDS education has been so successful that the AIDS rate in this camp is only 1%, which is lowest rate across refugee camps.

Agencies in Tanzania have a non-competitive funding system, which means that organisations work together, are involved in joint training across organisations, practice joint coordination across organisations, and share joint celebrations of successes.



The largest refugee camp in the world is in Kenya. People are housed in tents. There is only 1 teacher per school of 80 children and 1 desk to 6 students, although these facilities are actually better than the Kenyan national average.

Australia is currently doing poorly in its management of refugees. The basis of refugee service provision should be compassion. In Canada and Sweden, refugees are provided with free housing, education and health care. In Canada, asylum-seeker applications are processed within 6 weeks with a 12 week appeal system. Compassion and non-competitiveness are key ingredients for service delivery to refugee children.

Joseph's presentation was accompanied by a photo exhibition and slide show.

2011 Churchill Diary:

**** Annual Dinner and New Fellows'**

Presentation:

Date: Friday 5 August

Location: Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament

Time: 6.30 for 7.00 pm

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

Date: Saturday 6 August

Location: Central Fire Station, Sydney

Time: 9.30 for 10.00 am

**** Churchill Chat:**

Date: Wednesday 21 September

Location: Malvern Hill Uniting Church

Time: 7 for 7.30 pm start

Topic: Fellows at Work in Disaster Relief Areas

**** Returning Fellows' Lunch and Medallion**

Presentation:

Date: Saturday 29 October

Location: Lachlan's Restaurant, Old Government House, Parramatta

Time: 12 noon for 12.30 pm

**** AGM and Christmas gathering:**

Purpose: AGM and BBQ lunch

Location: The home of Vice President Ian Krimmer

Date: Saturday 12 November



Membership & communication preference

Membership fees (\$25) for 2011/12 are now due.

Creating a community of Fellows is our primary goal; therefore we will continue to email newsletters regardless of financial status, however financial members will receive a discounted price on all Churchill Fellowship events.

Newsletters will be mailed to all financial members for key events, but we appreciate if you could let us know if you prefer email, as this will be our primary means of communication. As with all organisations we can only keep in touch if our address lists are up to date.

To confirm your contact details and indicate preferred way that you would like to receive the newsletter, please complete the form below and return with your membership payment.

In addition to newsletters, all information and updates will be posted on the NSW Churchill Fellows Association Webpage: www.churchillfellowsnsw.org.au and event invitations will be emailed.

Your membership fees will support the activities of the Association.

Please pay by direct transfer, and mail completed form with your cheque payment to:

NSW Churchill Fellows Association
PO Box 1429
ASHFIELD NSW 1800

Direct Debit to St George Bank
BSB: 112 879
Account: 043 276 470
Reference: member (*insert Surname*)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr	Given name	Surname
Fellowship year	Title of award	
Postal Address		
Suburb	State	Post Code
Phone	Email	

Newsletters will be emailed unless otherwise indicated

Yes, I would like to receive newsletters by post.

“You make a living from what you get; you make a life by what you give”
Winston Churchill

