

Fellowship

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW

Volume 35:4 October 2010

Message from Churchill House, Canberra

Each year The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust awards over one hundred Churchill Fellowships. Many of these Fellowships are awarded to Australians who are already high achievers and who have impressive academic and professional qualifications. Given the prestigious nature of a Churchill Fellowship, awards to Australians who fit this mould is hardly surprising. These Fellowships are readily identifiable, studying topics that range from regenerating heart cells and chronic disease prevention/treatment through to programs for asylum seekers, indigenous youth programs, eye bank retrieval systems, orchestral conducting, sexual abuse and the environment.

Fellowships are also awarded to individuals who might better fit the mould of the archetype Churchill Fellow that I suspect Sir Winston Churchill may have had in mind when he agreed to the formation of a Trust to honour and commemorate his memory. These Fellows are just as passionate about their fields of excellence and are also high achievers. Certainly, there is room for both in the Fellowship awards and this is a real strength of the Trust.

At the time of the formation of the Churchill Trust in 1965, research into the thinking showed that the objective for the award of Fellowships was to ensure that the Fellowships should be available to any Australian of general promise or ability, in his or her calling or occupation, without discrimination, and that the awards be spread as far as possible, fairly and reasonably, across all walks of life. This followed on from then Prime Minister Menzies' characterisation of the Trust which was to describe it as "a system of Churchill Fellowships, not necessarily confined to people in the academic world, but extending to people in industry, to tradesmen, to Trade Union officials, to musicians, to artists of all kinds – a great variety of people, who by proceeding overseas and improving their knowledge of some particular matter can improve their own capacity for being a citizen in their own land."

Australians striving for excellence



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



Churchill himself spans many of the professions, trades and the enormous range of skills, occupations and talents that many of the Trust's 3,485 Churchill Fellowships have been awarded for. Many of us would be aware that during his rich and full life, Churchill was a journalist, editor, war correspondent, soldier, Member of Parliament, Minister who held many different portfolios including that of Prime Minister, social reformer, great orator in the classic style, master of English prose and a fine historian. He was also a bricklayer, a painter of significant merit and a gardener.

It is, therefore, very pleasing to conclude that the Churchill Trust is very much achieving the purpose for which it was established. Fellowships are being made available to any Australian of general promise or ability in his or her calling or occupation without discrimination, and that the awards are being spread as far as is possible, fairly and reasonably across all walks of life. I am sure that Sir Winston Churchill would be delighted with his legacy in Australia and the manner in which his name is being remembered and commemorated.

Paul Tys
Chief Executive Officer
The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

NSW CFA President's Report:

As I write this report for the September newsletter, we are all basking in the enthusiasm generated by the announcement of the 2010 Churchill Fellows, their presentation at Government House, and the successful annual dinner. Thank you to all Fellows, especially the members of the committee, who contributed to the success of the dinner.

The Churchill Fellows Association is a voluntary activity of Churchill Fellows and exists to nurture a community of Fellows. We aim to support new Fellows as they prepare for and then set out on their fellowships, celebrate the success of those who complete them, and maintain links for all Fellows who reside in New South Wales.

The Association depends on the support of and good will of a small, but enthusiastic group of volunteers. Do you see yourself in this role; we would love to hear from you. The committee meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, usually at the Fire Brigade Headquarters in central Sydney. Any interested fellow is welcome to attend.

We would like to commend our activities for the remainder of the year. The highlight will be the 2010 Churchill Fellows National Convention in Melbourne from 22-24 October 2010. We would like to encourage you to attend. For more information please see: <http://www.churchillfellowsvic.org.au/> for further information and booking details.

The medallion lunch on 6th November 2010 at Lachlan's Restaurant, Parramatta will honour those recent Fellows who have completed their fellowships. These Fellows will be honoured with a struck medallion featuring Winston Churchill.

Finally, our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 4th December, 2010 from 11.00am to 2.00pm at Bicentennial Park, Homebush. This will be followed by a picnic. Family, friends, dogs and other hangers on are all most welcome. Please bring your own food and drink.

The Churchill Trust was established in 1965 to honour the memory of Sir Winston Churchill by awarding overseas research Fellowships known as 'Churchill Fellowships'.



More than 3,400 Australian Fellows have been recognised in the years since. Like Churchill, all are innovative, filled with a spirit of determination and possess a strong desire to benefit the community. Applications for Fellowships for 2011 open on 1st November. Do you know anyone who fits these criteria? We would urge you to encourage them to apply for a Fellowship in 2011.

Members of the committee and I will look forward to meeting you at some or all of these events in the near future.

Elizabeth
President

Dr Elizabeth Comino
2002 Fellow: General practice research
networks and epidemiological methods
in primary care



A Churchill Moment in Time:

Continuing the series of articles on the amazing life and times of Sir Winston Churchill, to whom all Fellows owe such a debt of gratitude, this edition looks at a different Churchill; a man of the written, rather than the spoken word. Churchill wrote incessantly throughout his lifetime, producing 43 books between 1898 and 1961.

In 1953, members of the Swedish Academy bowed to many years of pressure and awarded Churchill the Nobel Prize for Literature. The award cited "*his mastery of historical and biographical descriptions as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values.*"

Sir Winston had first been mooted for this award, and possibly the Peace Prize as well, in 1946. His nomination, supported principally by the Swedish writers and historians, was overlooked time and again.

In 1948, a report by Professor Nils Ahnlund of the Swedish Academy described Churchill as the incomparable painter of the history of our time. He stressed the great documentary value of Churchill's magnificent work on World War I, *The World Crisis* (1923) and the four-volume biography of his great ancestor Marlborough, the conqueror of Louis XIV (1933-38).

However, even Ahnlund was unsure that Churchill's historical writing in isolation was enough to deserve the Nobel Prize. He concluded that if Churchill's literary reputation were to be reinforced by his activity as an orator, there could be no doubt that he would fulfil the conditions of the Prize. "No man has better known how to awaken such an echo by his eloquence, or to reach so vast a public," Ahnlund commented. "It is, then, basically for his oratory that Churchill deserves the Prize; but his art as an orator is well framed by the rest of his production."

Even with this recommendation, it would be another five years before Churchill would be awarded the Nobel Prize. In 1953, his competition in the last remaining round of 25 contenders included British writer, E.M. Forster, American Ernest Hemingway, Icelandic writer Halldor Laxness, and Spaniard Juan Ramon Jimenez. Each of these last three authors would receive Nobel Prizes in subsequent years.

Sir Winston himself was not present in Stockholm for this particular moment in time as he was delayed at an international meeting in the Bermuda Islands, where Eisenhower had summoned English and French leaders to discuss questions regarding the mutual defence of Europe following the death of Stalin and the first experiences of atomic warfare.

Instead Churchill was represented by his wife, Lady Clementine Churchill and their youngest daughter, Mrs Mary Soames. During the award presentation, Lady Churchill read her husband's acceptance speech, which was met by thunderous applause by a gathering of nearly one thousand guests.



Lady Clementine Churchill and her daughter Mary Soames at the 1953 Nobel Prize Award ceremony in Stockholm

References:

- 1) <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/biography/redux/nobel-prize-for-literature>
- 2) <http://booksbypoliticians.editme.com//winston-churchill>



2010 NSW New Fellows' Reception and Dinner:

This year's new Fellows Annual Dinner on Friday 23 July was again a highlight of the Churchill calendar. After presentations from the Governor and afternoon tea in the splendid grounds of Government House the new Fellows and their families ventured across the city to Doltone House on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour.



New Fellow, Bibianna Chan, her guests and Her Excellency, Governor Marie Bashir enjoy afternoon tea on the terrace at Government House, Sydney

An evening of great food and fellowship followed as each new Fellow described with excitement their forthcoming ventures. We heard about such things as the management of wild dogs in Botswana, unmanned aerial vehicles in Israel, cutlery manufacture in South Korea and teacher and school leadership in Finland. The biggest difficulty for all the new Fellows was how to encapsulate the extent of their proposed studies into just a few short minutes at the microphone. Even the earlier (and dare I say some "older") Fellows couldn't help but feel enthused with the contagious excitement as each of the 23 speakers inspired us with descriptions of their forthcoming adventures to the four corners of our planet!



2010 Fellows, Brad Purcell and Gerry Cassis enjoy a chat as they compare notes for their upcoming expeditions

The evening enabled some of our valued sponsors to spend time with the sponsored Fellowship recipients and we again acknowledge the wonderful on-going support of our sponsors who provide increased opportunities for Fellows from across NSW.

The Fellows all acknowledged the privilege of being amongst a very elite group of Australians dedicated to improvements within our society and thanked the work of the National Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and the NSW Regional Committee in providing such opportunities.

The organising of the dinner was another great example of the dedication of a small team of committee members and in particular Bernie Heard, who ensured that every detail of the night reflected the importance of the event. It was wonderful to receive so much positive comment and feedback from many who attended and I'd encourage any Fellow to come on board the committee and be part of the dedicated team who plan a number of events throughout each year.



NSW Fellows' Association President, Elizabeth Comino and New Fellow Mentor, Louise Halsey, at the Dinner

One of Sir Winston Churchill's favourite sayings was "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference" and based on what we heard from the 2010 Fellows we can now look forward to seeing some big differences!

Ian Krimmer AFSM
Vice President



2010 New Fellows' Morning tea at Fire Station 1, City of Sydney:

July 24, 2010 dawned as a typical cold wintry Sydney day as I trundled in from the Hawkesbury region on a series of buses and trains to join the newest NSW Churchill Fellows for morning tea at Fire Station 1.

That time provided me with a little window of nearly two hours to reminisce about the last two years since I too was one of those 'newbies' to the community of Fellows. At that exact time in 2008, I was on such a high from the announcement and the presentation at Government House, that I wasn't sure I would ever be quite the same person again. Life changing? You bet!

This year's Fellows looked similarly bright and shining: glowing with anticipation and still buzzing from the previous day's social whirl. If they thought this was to be just another social event, they were in for a big surprise. Although there was most definitely food and chat on the menu, this event actually marks the beginning of the planning process and very valuable lessons were about to be provided by some of our wonderful, successfully returned 2009 Fellows, fresh from their own voyages of discovery.



2009 Fellow, Anthony Hatch: King of the iPhone

I listened in rapt attention for several hours to details of voice recording pens that transfer voice to written documents and other technological wonders; saw with my own eyes how some Fellows packed for their entire trips in bags similar in size to the toiletry bag from my own trip and heard about wonderful applications for my mobile phone, cable of doing everything except writing my final report for me.

Mostly, I saw the infectious joy of newly returned Fellows still riding the highs coupled with the wondering expectation of new Fellows, eager to begin their own journeys in the next few months.

Thank you, as always to Ian Krimmer and the staff at Fire Station 1, for their wonderful hospitality in hosting this annual event. It really does mark the beginning of a journey that I hope won't end when these Fellows return home.

Jennie Nelson

2010 Churchill Diary:

October 22-24: Winston Churchill Fellows' Associations National Conference in Melbourne

November 6, 2010: NSW Churchill Fellows of NSW Association AGM and Churchill Medal Luncheon

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

December 4, 2010: NSW Churchill Fellows Association AGM

Location: Bicentennial Park, Homebush

Time: 11.00am to 2.00pm

Please bring your own food and drink



Membership & communication preference

Membership fees (\$25) for 2010/11 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**

