

Fellowship

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW

NSW President's Report:

Volume 35:2 April 2010

Welcome to the next edition of the NSW Churchill Fellows Association newsletter. Your committee has been busy organising activities for the year. For a small organisation with a few activities during the year, your committee is kept busy. If you have a few hours to donate and would like to become more involved we would love to hear from you. Not sure how you can help? There are some particular activities related to the committee that need a carer. Some immediate opportunities:

- **Membership Secretary:** this requires someone with some database skills to maintain the excel files of Churchill Fellows.
- **Assistance with functions:** we will have two major functions and a few small functions throughout the year. Extra helpers with these would always be appreciated.

Applications for 2010 Fellows closed at the end of February. There were 334 applicants. Now the task of sorting out applications and arranging interviews begins. All applications are carefully reviewed and a shortlist prepared for the first round of interviews. This is a huge effort, so spare a thought for the various panels. Successful applicants will be announced by the National Office towards the end of July.

New Fellows and their families will gather at Government House, Macquarie Street on 31st July to receive their awards from the NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir. The celebrations will continue with a dinner hosted by the NSW Fellows. Do you remember when you participated in these activities to receive your Fellowship or the euphoria of hearing what others were doing and the amazement of the range of Fellowship topics? I urge you if you have not been along to an award function in recent years, or even since you were awarded your Fellowship, to come along and support the new fellows, celebrate their success. Please mark this date - booking details will be announced shortly.

I would like to thank the members of the committee listed in this newsletter for their commitment and participation. The committee usually meets on the first Monday of the month either in person or by teleconference.



Dr Elizabeth Comino

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

.... and introducing the 2010 Committee of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW:

President:	Dr Elizabeth Comino	Vice-President:	Ian Krimmer
Secretary:	Judith Ridge	Treasurer:	Kevin Gardner

Committee: Kate Armstrong-Smith, Tracey Cain, Louise Halsey, Benjamin Hardaker, Bernie Heard, Matt Jones, Sarah Tracton, Anthony Williams

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.....

Australians striving for excellence

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A Churchill Moment in Time:

We all know that Winston Churchill was a man of many talents: a great orator, politician and leader to mention just a few. This new addition to the Newsletter will seek to provide an insight into some of the lesser known facets of the man and his life. If you know of a suitable Churchill Moment, feel free to email me for inclusion in later editions of the Newsletter.

Yousuf Karsh: Canadian Photographer of the Roaring Lion

Most adults alive today will instantly recognise the subject of this picture as Sir Winston Churchill. Many will not know the story behind this Churchill Moment.



Yousuf Karsh (1906-2002) was born of Armenian heritage in present-day Turkey. At the age of 14, Karsh and his family escaped the Armenian genocide by fleeing to Syria. Two years later he was sent to Quebec province, Canada, to be raised by an uncle, George Nakash, who as Fate would have it, was a photographer. Yousuf's fate was sealed and he would rise to be one of the most famous and accomplished Canadian portrait photographers of all time.

In 1941, Sir Winston had addressed the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa and Karsh had been commissioned to take a portrait photograph to mark the occasion. As Churchill strode into the Speaker's Chambers, Karsh remarked, "I hope I can make a portrait of this occasion," to which Churchill replied, "You may take one."

Churchill then refused to surrender his customary cigar and Karsh plucked it from his mouth and fired the camera. The resultant scowl that we see in this iconic photograph was the direct result of Karsh's action. Karsh said later that Churchill looked so fierce, he looked like a 'roaring lion' and that term was forever cast.

A second photograph was also taken just after the first with Churchill in a similar pose but this time smiling. It was said that Karsh himself favoured the second photograph but the public much preferred the first and it became a symbol of British defiance during the Second World War.

References:

- 1) <http://www.metronews.ca/ottawa/local/article/262106--churchill-photographer-a-proud-canadian>
- 2) <http://www.karsh.org/>

2009 Medal Recipients' Lunch: Lachlan's Restaurant, Old Government House, Parramatta (October 24, 2009)

On a beautiful October day last year, a group of Churchill Fellows from 2007 and 2008 gathered at Old Government House, Parramatta to celebrate their recent return from far-flung lands and the completion of their Fellowships with friends and family, at the annual Churchill Medal Presentation.

Together with Committee members, senior staff from the Churchill Trust Head Office in Canberra and representatives of major sponsors, Fellows and their guests was treated to a wonderful lunch in the grounds of the heritage listed property in Parramatta Park.

After lunch, Fellows received their Churchill medals from Mr Paul Tys, CEO of the WCMT and were invited to make a short presentation outlining a defining moment or event from their study trip as a symbolic finale to their experience. Guests were left amazed at the diversity of projects represented: from art to agriculture and millinery to medicine.

Some Fellows found it particularly difficult to condense their expeditions into a single moment and their enthusiasm was a highlight of proceedings. All were unanimous in their appreciation to the Trust for the life-changing experiences afforded by their Fellowships.



Mr Paul Tys (CEO, WCMT) and Rachel Hampshire





Paul Tys congratulates Elias Messaïke on the completion of his Fellowship



Zhe Lai receives his medal from Mr Paul Tys



Dr Elizabeth Comino, Mr Paul Tys and visiting UK Churchill Fellow, Ms Hazel Biggs

2009 Recipients of Churchill Medals:

Medal Recipients (Fellows 2007):

Jennifer Edmonds; Lynden Esdaile; Elias Messaïke

Medal Recipients (Fellows 2008):

Andrew Best; Rosie Boylan; James Casey; Michael Condon; Danielle Cronin; Dominic Fitzgerald; Rachel Hampshire; Benjamin Hardaker; Daniel Howard; Sharon Lamb; Anissa Lawrence; Zhe Lai; Heather McIntyre; Joanne McNeill; Jennie Nelson; Christine Sanderson; Sarah Scott; Daniel Spillane; Ian Thompson; Anthony Williams; Sarah Yule

NSW Fellows' Morning Tea Report:

Sarah Tracton, Churchill Fellow 2009, recently took time out from preparing for her upcoming international study examining cinema access for audiences with a disability, and organised a Fellows' morning tea.



Sarah and Paul Tys, CEO WCMT at Government House 2009

On February 6, an enthusiastic group of Fellows met at Kinokuniya Bookshop Café in Sydney for that morning tea. Most were 2009 Fellows, newly returned from their travels or keenly anticipating travels to come. Some were more familiar faces: Fellows keen to join the new kids on the block, share experiences and perhaps provide guidance.

Over cups of steaming coffee and fresh sandwiches, Fellows enjoyed a presentation by Lynne Challinor on her Smart Pen, a computer within a pen that enables users to record and sync audio with what they write. What a boon for new Fellows! We have all felt the strain of daily transcription of mountains of notes from each of our meetings over the many weeks of our study tours. Worse still, having left it for a day or two, to have to catch up on those skipped days can be a nightmare.

Congratulations to Sarah for taking the initiative to bring new Fellows together for such a wonderful networking opportunity: to hear about, and learn from, each other and maintain contact beyond the more formal presentations of the Trust and Association.



Coffee, cake and shared dreams.....



A Churchill Chat with the Tumut Five:

As reported in the last newsletter, November 2009 saw a small but enthusiast group of Fellows and their families head south to the Tumut region for a wonderful weekend of fellowship and fun. Here they were entertained by an extraordinary group of Fellows who spotlighted the continuing work they are carrying out in this beautiful region of NSW.

It seemed like a great opportunity for us to learn a little bit more about each of these Fellows by inviting them to write a short piece about themselves for this issue of the newsletter. Enjoy!

Mark Lees

**Visitors Services Manager for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Churchill Fellow 2003 (National park visitor services and visitor centre operations)**

Mark manages the Tumut Regional Visitors Centre which is located in the historic Butter Factory situated at the intersection of Gocup & Adelong Roads, Tumut, providing information & resources on Kosciuszko National Park and the Tumut Region including Adelong, Batlow, Talbingo and Tumut. Mark initiated the interesting Regional Display Gallery. The National Parks & Wildlife Service headquarters are also there.

Hugh Packard

**President & CEO Valmar Support Services Ltd.
Churchill Fellow 2002 (to examine rural employment options, particularly within modern timber industries, for people with disabilities)**

Valmar is a leading provider of services to people with disabilities in the Eastern Riverina/Southwest Slopes area of NSW covering the local government areas of Tumut, Yass Valley, Tumbarumba, Gundagai, Queanbeyan and Goulburn.

It is a community-based not for profit organisation. Valmar's operations are overseen by a voluntary Board of Directors, which carry out the Corporate Governance of the organisation. Valmar delivers its outcomes in line with the NSW & Commonwealth Disability Service Acts. In addition to providing services for people with disabilities they also provide support services for the frail, aged & youth at risk.

Hugh gained valuable insights from his many visits to smaller rural disability services in the countries he visited, including some cautionary tales about what not to do.



Hugh Packard describes the work done by Valmar to the Churchill Fellows and families.

Valmar has now turned around to become a distinctive viable organisation. We were really impressed to find out how Valmar were able to utilise timber (which is the main source of income for Tumut) waste products normally thrown out – now a viable commercial concern – even down to sawdust! This is truly a symbiotic relationship with a large-scale timber industry. Valmar has now expanded its resources to supply meals on wheels and run a regional recycling service.

Other services it now operates post Churchill Fellowship are Career Development Initiatives, Social Support, Active Ageing, Life Choices and many new group houses and accommodation options.

Liz MacPhee

Churchill Fellow 2006 (Rehabilitation techniques for restoring steep, high altitude areas)

Liz travelled to Finland, France, USA, Chile and Argentina to look at high altitude rehabilitation techniques. We visited Liz at the Tumut Landcare nursery to see what she is doing now. Her work involves the planting of a lot of native plants grown in tubestock, many of which are grown in Tumut.

The Tumut Landcare nursery is a mostly volunteer run organisation and any money made from plant sales is put back into local Landcare projects. Due to the involvement of NPWS and Liz with the rehabilitation work for Kosciuszko National Park a full time nursery coordinator is now employed with over 70,000 tubestock being produced from this small nursery with most of the work being done by volunteers.





Liz describes her work to an avid audience

Liz's main work is to rehabilitate the former construction sites and townships of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme. These are mostly quarries, spoil dumps and small areas of disturbance. There are about 400 sites around Kosciuszko National Park. Heritage is an important part of the rehabilitation as well as addressing environmental risk. Some sites have millions of cubes of spoil in them and sit above major waterways.

The work is technically and logistically difficult and requires a lot of organic and plant material to be successful. Many sites are at high altitude and steep. To date techniques adopted and skills learnt have proved to be successful. After 5 years on the project Liz describes herself as a rehabilitation juggernaut – she is spot on – what a mover and a shaker – what a passionate activist for the cause!

Neil Kell
Churchill Fellow 1993 (Design and installation of lighting to showcaves)

Neil travelled to New Zealand, USA, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Barbados to study the design, installation, and management of show cave lighting systems. Yarrangobilly Caves is in Kosciuszko National Park – a 77km drive from Tumut. Formed in a belt of limestone laid down about 440 million years ago the caves are some of the most beautiful to be found in Australia.

During the recent Winston Walk Weekend in Tumut, we were indeed fortunate to have Neil as our guide to the South Glory Cave – a self guided walk – much better with an expert guide in Neil!

Neil, a Cave Lighting Designer with a Diploma in Interior Design, was instrumental in lighting up Jersey Cave, showing it brilliantly. Since then Neil has worked on many cave lighting projects in Australia, South Korea, USA, and Bosnia Herzegovina.

The highlight was Neil guiding us on a night tour to Jersey Cave – noted for its rare displays of black & grey flowstones; the Jersey Cave is home to some of the most stunning & diverse cave decorations found at Yarrangobilly. Cleopatra's Needle, a remarkable 4 metre stalagmite that almost touches the cave's ceiling is just one of the many fantastic features that we saw as we went back over 700,000 years in time.



Neil Kell at home in the caves of the Southern Highlands.

Louise Halsey
Churchill Fellow 2000 (Preservation of heritage buildings)

There will be very few NSW Fellows who haven't had contact with our own Louise Halsey. Louise is the first person they encounter after the initial telephone call from the Trust to tell them they've been successful in obtaining a Fellowship. Louise is the new Fellows' Mentor; the welcoming voice that calms us in our initial panic and makes it all seem possible as we struggle to plan and carry out these amazing life-changing journeys of discovery.

Louise is also one of the plethora of talented Australians who call this beautiful southern part of NSW home. May there be many more to come!

Churchill once said.....

“You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else.”

and ...

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”



2010 Churchill Diary:

May, 2010: Churchill Chat Supper

Location: Uniting Church Hall, Murray Street, Croydon

Date: TBA

July 23, 2010: New Fellows' Reception and Dinner

Reception Location: Government House, Sydney Botanic Gardens

with Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of NSW

Dinner location: Doltone House, Pyrmont (<http://www.doltonehouse.com.au/sydney>)

October 22-24: Winston Churchill Memorial Trust National Conference in Melbourne (more information in near future)

October, 2010: NSW Churchill Fellows of NSW Association AGM and Churchill Medal Presentation Luncheon

Location: Lachlan's Restaurant, Old Government House, Parramatta (<http://www.lachlans.com.au>)

Date: TBA

Members' Contact Details:

Have you changed mail address or email address since your Fellowship and not advised the NSW Churchill Fellows Association? Do you know a Fellow who has? If so, this is your chance to update those records or pass the word on. Please see the last page of this newsletter for details.



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
BSB: 112879
Account: 04327647
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

