

Fellowship

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW

Volume 36:1 March 2011

NSW CFA President's Report:

Dear Churchill Fellows,

"Once a fellow always a fellow"

Welcome to the first edition of the NSW Churchill Fellows Association newsletter for 2011. I have so much to tell you that it is hard to know where to start this President's report.

At this time of the year there is considerable activity among your committee as we meet and plan activities for the year. As you can see from the Events page in this newsletter there is a lot happening. We hope that you will try to support the activities of the community of Fellows during 2011. You can do this through participating in our various events. Would you like to talk about your work during or following on from your Churchill Fellowship at a Churchill Chat? Do you live in the Richmond/Windsor area? Would you like to contribute to the Winston Walk? Are you able to promote the work of the Trust to your friends or colleagues who may benefit from the opportunities to travel overseas and study? Perhaps they would consider applying for a Fellowship.

A major topic of discussion at the committee meeting was the maintenance of our database and website. Our capacity to stay in touch with you depends on the quality of this database. Churchill Fellows, we need your support in maintaining this. Firstly, please keep us posted about your changes in contact details. Currently we have email addresses for about half of you and many incomplete postal addresses. We are planning to try to address this in 2011 and will be contacting you through various media. Secondly, if you have particular skills in designing or managing web pages and databases and would be willing to assist us we would love to hear from you. Please contact myself or a member of the committee.



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

Newsletter of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW



In addition to our annual dinner in August and Medallion dinner in October, we are planning three events to promote and celebrate the work of NSW Churchill Fellows. The Churchill Chat on May 18 will focus on education-related Fellowships. Some of our Fellows have been involved with disaster relief recently. They will present their work at a Churchill Chat on September 18. Perhaps there are others of you who have also been involved in this way. Would you also like to share those experiences?

Later this year, we are hosting a Winston Walk in the Hawkesbury district (Windsor/Richmond) on the North West outskirts of Sydney in the second half of the year. A Winston Walk is an opportunity to celebrate the work of Churchill Fellows. This is being organised by three Fellows, Judith Ridge, Anthony Hatch, and Jennie Nelson and they are planning a weekend of activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of the activities of these and other Fellows who live and work in this region.

How does forensic investigation, large animal rescue, jet boating, animal handling, or creative art grab you? Not to mention the opportunity for a family day out with a difference enjoying the great ambiance of the region. The program will be circulated soon and will be available on our website at <http://churchillfellowsnsw.org.au/>.

You can be involved in two ways:

1. Volunteer to get involved or showcase your work if you live in the Richmond or Windsor area or
2. Come along to all or a part of the weekend and have a great time.

Do you know anyone who is interested in applying for a Fellowship or someone who has not thought about this, but who you think would be a suitable person to receive a Churchill Fellowship? I am encouraging my hairdresser! Applications for 2011 Fellowships closed on 28th February but will reopen for 2012 in late 2011.

Finally, please remember that when you become a Churchill Fellow, it is a life sentence. We would encourage you to continue to support the program through promoting the Trust and its work in providing Fellowships to ordinary Australians doing extraordinary things; maintain association with, and help to build a strong community of Fellows by coming along to our events to enjoy that wonderful energy and camaraderie that Fellows generate. Not sure what you can do? Please contact members of your committee.

I hope to meet many of you in 2011.

Cheers

Elizabeth
President

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



Updates on Fellows:

Editor's Note: Remember to send me through any brief updates for this segment please!!

** Ian Krimmer (Fellow 1993) and Anthony Hatch (Fellow 2009) were recently deployed in Japan with the NSW Fire Brigade undertaking search and rescue functions in the areas affected by recent earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear station failures.

** Sarah Tracton (Fellow 2009) was selected as an Australian representative for the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth (JENYSYS) Program and travelled to Japan in late February to present an overview of Arts Access Australia's work in the area of arts and disability.



** Jennie Nelson (Fellow 2008) recently received an Australian government Endeavour Executive Award 2011 which will allow her to travel back to Canada in late 2011 to spend 4 months teaching and researching with the Crime Scene Investigation staff at the University of Toronto.

** Lynne Challinor (Fellow 2009) has been instrumental in the introduction of a new program with NSW Police targeting young offenders with a history of violent offences, to teach them positive communication and empathy techniques. The program pairs the young offenders with shelter dogs from the Yagoona RSPCA to make the animal more adoptable using only positive reinforcement. This work was recently reported in the NSW Police Monthly newsletter.

A Churchill Moment in Time:

Following on from recent articles on the many facets of Sir Winston Churchill, this cameo looks at Churchill, the artist.

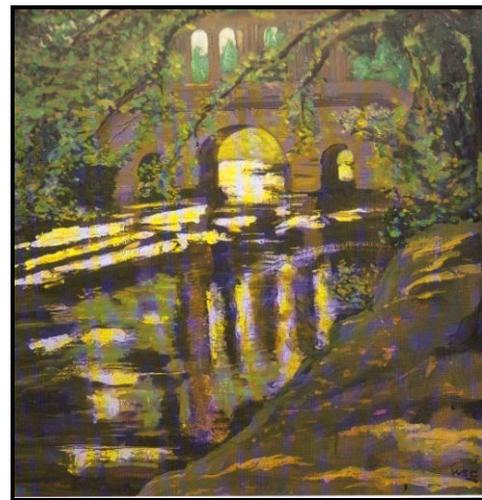
Latent artistic ability is often correctly recognised and nurtured from a young age. For Winston Churchill, this was not the case. Instead his early teachers recognised an inherent gift for the English language and a life-long love of history. He himself wrote that nothing in his life's experiences prepared him for the fact that hidden within him was an artistic ability waiting to be called to life.

Sir Winston was 40 years old, married six years to Clementine and the father of two small children when a chance encounter began his love affair with the Muse of Art.

It was 1915 and his sister-in-law, Gwendoline, and her two sons were visiting Winston and Clementine at Hoe Farm, whilst her husband, Jack, served in Gallipoli. As she sat in the garden sketching with watercolours, Winston wandered past lost in thought. He watched her work for a few minutes and then asked to try his hand. He would be forever hooked!

From these first tentative steps, Winston decided to extend to oils. Those first attempts were assisted greatly by the fact that close neighbours of the Churchills in London were the celebrated artist, John Lavery, and his artistically talented wife, Hazel. John and Hazel took it upon themselves to guide his earliest brushstrokes and this soon developed into a warm and lasting friendship.

In direct contrast to many artists, Churchill painted a wide variety of subjects across his lifetime, from still life studies to everyday family scenes. His earliest subjects were the houses and landscapes around him: Hoe Farm in Surrey and the London home of the Churchill family, both interiors and exterior views. Lavery also instructed him on portrait painting and Churchill repaid those lessons with a portrait of Lavery, which would become his first exhibited piece, when it was shown in 1919 by the Royal Academy of Portrait Painters.



The Palladian Bridge at Wilton 1925
from the private collection of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Churchill also packed his artist's chattels when he returned to battle as a Colonel of the 6th Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers in France in early 1916.



Throughout his life, Churchill would paint the people from places he visited and lived, from Egypt to Marakesh, Venice and Lake Como in Italy. He would continue to paint until at last in 1960, five years before his death, he simply laid aside his brush and painted no more. The Muse's work with Churchill was done.



WSC painting at the Villa Choisi, Switzerland in 1946

Happy are the painters, for they shall not be lonely. Light and colour, peace and hope, will keep them company to the end, or almost to the end of day.

Sir John Lavery (1856-1941)

References:

Lavery, J. (1940) *The Life of a Painter* Little, Brown and Company, Boston, USA

Soames, M. (1990) *Winston Churchill: His Life as a Painter* Collins, London, UK

A Churchill Chat with Anthony Hatch (Churchill Fellow 2009)

The first time I considered applying for a Fellowship, I looked at the website. I viewed other Fellows' brilliantly completed reports, the impressive subjects that were studied and the amount of letters following many of the Fellows names—some having more letters *after* their name than I have *in* my name.

This was clearly not for me, after all I was just a kid from the bush whose mother was told one parent teacher night that “Anthony will amount to nothing and will either be in jail or dead by age 21”. (*Note to Sir: today is my 40th birthday!*)

So what is Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) all about?

As a fulltime Firefighter in NSW and a SES Rescue Operator on my days off, you get to go to many of the USUAL animal rescues.... you know.... a horse stuck up a tree, a cow in a swimming pool, the circus trailer tipped over on the freeway with an elephant and giraffe stuck inside, just the usual stuff.

We turn up and everyone says “Thank God you’re here” and expects that we know what to do. Truth is, in Australia TLAER is normally undertaken by well-meaning rescuers working with no specialised equipment and no training in this area at all.



Large animal rescue, Aussie style

Unfortunately, this approach has led to a number of rescuers and animals being injured. One rescue involving a cow in a dam went horribly wrong when a co-worker of mine was kicked by a cow and almost had his leg broken. He could have been killed.



That was it; off to the only place that I thought could fix the problem—WWW.GOOGLE.COM. Well, if you type in Animal rescue, up comes Mrs Tiggy Winkle's Hedgehog Sanctuary; she rescues abandoned hedgehogs. After a little more searching, I found people in the USA and the UK; everywhere except Australia were teaching TLAER. They all helped me by sending photos, manuals and information but I couldn't do the hands on learning and ask the thousands of questions that I wanted to know.

Thank God the Winston Churchill Fellowship Selection Panel didn't want to see my parent teacher school report.

Somehow I ended up sitting on a plane by myself heading around the world to study large animal rescue.

Four hours after landing in San Francisco, I went off for a walk. It was 2am and I couldn't sleep. Some guy came up and said give me your wallet or else. So I explained that he should leave me alone (thank goodness for martial arts training). That was it, four hours into my Fellowship and I already wanted to go home!

From then on I met the most amazing people, like John and Deb Fox, who have set up an animal rescue team in Felton, a small town (a bit like Kick- a-Tin Along in Australia) where they train firefighters in Animal Rescue almost every day. They took me into their home and treated me like a member of the family. I learnt to rescue a horse from the bottom of a steep cliff, how to get an animal out of an overturned trailer *safely*, but most importantly how to do all this with only the equipment we carry on our fire trucks back home in Australia.

The next stop was San Diego Zoo, not for sightseeing but to work alongside some of the most highly regarded veterinarians and animal keepers in the world. Here I learnt about sedation of VERY large animals including giraffes, rhinos and elephants.

I had the most unique opportunity of petting a four day old baby giraffe—"oh so cute". I watched the anaesthetisation and surgery of a fully grown elephant which had a tooth ache, followed by the not so easy task of getting him back on his feet again.



Next stop: San Diego Zoo for a house call to a baby giraffe!

No time to rest, it was off to meet Drs Tomas and Rebecca Gimenez who run "Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue", a training company for you guessed it, TLAER.

Rebecca even pulled a few strings and took me to a "top secret" building that I can't tell you about, but it was shaped remarkably like a pentagon. There I was introduced to a veterinarian who works with the US Special Forces Teams looking after their animals such as bomb dogs and transport donkeys. That might come in handy if I ever have to rescue a horse that has been shot (very likely in some of the areas of Sydney that I have worked in).

Then it was into another advanced course in TLAER where I learnt to get horses and cows out of bogs, dams and septic tanks (now that's a crappy job). But one of the most interesting lessons was an advanced technique, lifting a horse with a helicopter when all the other options are not suitable. Keep an eye on the sky because you may just see the first horse in Australia to fly under a helicopter one day.





Correct lifting is essential for the safety of not only the animal but also the rescuers

The next leg of the learning experience was in England with Jim Green, the Animal Rescue Specialist from Hampshire Fire & Rescue. As you would expect with all the rain in England, there are lots of heavy animals getting stuck in mud all over the countryside. For a month I responded with the team to lots of different rescues but the one that makes every Australian laugh was a call to 20 European carp in a puddle. I will say nothing more about that apart from: it was not a joke.

I was invited to meet the veterinarians who are responsible for the Queen's Horses, Household Cavalry at Buckingham Palace and Kings Troop. Not a bad place to be invited to for a cuppa tea if you're over that way. They were right. Just mention that you are a Winston Churchill Fellow and it does open up some very impressive doors.

One of the most fascinating things I learned was that the Fire Brigade's Animal Rescue Specialists actually teach the veterinarians across the United Kingdom how to rescue large animals during a four day intensive course.

I was invited to help teach on one of these courses at Cambridge University. So, to that teacher who made my mother cry all those years ago on parent teacher night, next time you're teaching at Cambridge University can you pick up my coffee cup I left in the teacher's staff room.

See you all at the next Winston Walk.....
Anthony

2011 Churchill Diary:

** Churchill Chat:

Date: May 18

Topic: Education initiatives

Location: Croydon Uniting Church

Time: 7 for 7.30 pm start

** Annual Dinner and New Fellows'

Presentation:

Date: August 5th or 12th

Location: Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament

Time: 6.30 for 7.00 pm

** New Fellows' Morning Tea:

Date: Saturday August 6th or 13th

Location: Central Fire Station, Sydney

Time: 9.30 for 10.00 am

** Returning Fellows' Lunch and Medallion Presentation:

Date: Saturday, October 29th

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

Time: 12 noon for 12.30 pm

Churchill Chat:

Date: September 21

Topic: Disaster relief

Location: Croydon Uniting Church

Time: 7 for 7.30 pm start

** AGM and Christmas gathering:

Purpose: AGM and BBQ lunch

Location: Turramurra

Time: 4 pm



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**

