

# ACT CHURCHILL FELLOWS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 2009

## Stories and pictures



**Achievement** - 2007 Churchill Fellow Alisa Moss (right) with ACT Churchill Fellows Association president Wilma Davidson. Alisa won a 2008 overseas fellowship from the International Specialised Skills Institute



**Dedication** - Elvie Munday still participates in Churchill activities after decades of commitment to hundreds of Fellows.

## ACT Churchill Fellows Association - Committee for 2009-09

Wilma Davidson – President  
Helen Palethorpe – Secretary  
Meg Byers – Treasurer  
Doug Wright  
Peter Minchin  
Juanita Caddy

Jo Slattery  
Helen Walker  
Alisa Moss  
Alan Howes  
Peter Clack - Newsletter editor

## President's report 2008

This year I concluded my two year term as CFA President. It has been an insightful period and a rewarding one as the ACT CFA remained successful in providing a network for ACT Fellows and provides a welcoming organisation for new fellows and those from other states who are moving to Canberra. As well, with help from Churchill Trust staff, closer links with CFAs from other states have also been developing to the mutual benefit of all CFAs.

The annual Fellows' dinner was once again a highlight of the year with eight new fellows being presented. The presence of the upright 93-year-old Retired Air Commodore James Coward, who served with Sir Winston Churchill during the Second World War, and his wife Cynthia, added to the occasion.

Thanks as well to Shane Drumgold gave a fascinating presentation in May to Fellows about his time working with RAMSI in the Solomon Islands. It is hoped that more such occasions can be organized in 2009. There is an enormous pool of gifted people in our midst with fascinating stories to tell.

Wilma Davidson was elected President at the annual dinner and a strong group of committee members. They will work diligently to keep you up to date with ACT CFA happenings, work in close cooperation with Churchill Trust staff and continue to build the links with CFAs around Australia.

It was a privilege to serve as president of this small organisation for the past two years and I thank you all and the Churchill Trust staff for your support and encouragement over that time.

**Helen Palethorpe**  
President 2007-08

## Churchill dinner - eight new ACT Fellows presented



Peter Minson and Lindsay McDonald at the Churchill dinner, with some very well known Churchill faces in the background - Photo by Alisa Moss

**Brian Babington**  
CEO Families Australia

To study multi-jurisdictional child protection systems -  
Canada, UK, USA, Ireland

**Peter Batten**  
Special Education Teacher  
(Autism) Belconnen High

To study mentoring programs for young people with  
Autism/Asperger's Syndrome - USA, UK

**Nicole Canham**

Artistic Director  
Canberra International Music  
Festival  
Pro Musica Inc.

To investigate the positive impact of culture in diverse communities - USA, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela

**Jane Crick**

Self-employed Potter and  
Pottery Teacher

To investigate non-institutional educational ceramics workshops - USA, UK

**Stephen Jiggins**

Media Adviser to the Governor-  
General  
Government House

The NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust Churchill  
Fellowship to study media guidelines for the reporting of  
road crashes by the news media - USA, Canada, UK,  
France

**Karen Middleton**

Journalist - Chief Political  
Correspondent  
SBS Television

To investigate the role and operation of parliamentary  
press galleries in comparable organisations - USA,  
Canada, UK, Ireland

**Cheryl Peers**

Education and Public  
Awareness Manager  
Australian Academy of Science

The Nancy Fairfax Churchill Fellowship to study  
inquiry-based primary science education - USA, France,  
UK

**Itzell Tazzyman**

Archivist/Glass Lecturer  
National Film and Sound  
Archive/Australian National  
University

To further develop skills in traditional glass carving  
techniques - USA, Czech Republic, UK, Ireland

**Drinks on the House**

Around 40 Fellows and their partners attended our 'Drinks on the House' on Friday, 5 December, held at Churchill House. It was a most enjoyable gathering and the committee was thrilled at the turnout, in particular the attendance by 'mother' Elvie Munday and the Trust's CEO Paul Tys and his wife Lori. We have prepared a collection of photographs from the drinks, shown below.



Doug Wright, Lori Tys and Helen Palethorpe



Peter and Nicole Batten and Wendy Dodd



Paul and Margaret Wright, Helen Walker, Gemma Black and Berendina de Ruiter



Meg Byers and Louise Stenhouse



Sandra Moffat and Peter Minson



Wilma Davidson and Alisa Moss



Alice-Anne and Tim Macnaught with Shane Drumgold



Juanita Caddy – behind the scenes



Hardy Palethorpe, Peter and Elizabeth Comino, Louise Halsey and Paul Tys

## Comment from Churchill House

**Paul Tys - CEO  
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust**



A project has begun to compile an account of the Trust's first fifty years to be released on 12 April 2015. This historical account will cover what the Trust and its Fellows have achieved for Australia, an account that, conceivably, could be launched by the Prime Minister or the Governor.

The history of the Churchill Trust is unique. It covers a myriad of topics, interests and concerns for which Australians were awarded Churchill Fellowships.

For the historical account to have broad appeal it must be more than just a victory lap of what has been achieved by individual Churchill Fellows. Instead, the account will take a themed approach.

The initial stage will seek to obtain a sense of the stories of the Churchill Fellows and the impact the fellowship has had on their lives and on Australia.

The project will capture the accounts of those who are not Churchill Fellows but who have played a pivotal and important role in the history of the Trust over a long period of time. The National Office has appointed a professional Oral Historian (Lesley Jenkins, a 2004 Churchill Fellow from Queensland) to start compiling information for the Trust. Lesley will produce an interview CD and transcripts of interviews with a number of selected individuals. The first subjects to be interviewed will include Mrs Elvie Munday and Dr Mick March (a 1969 ACT Fellow and a member of the ACT Regional Selection Committee).

These interviews will be used to provide information for the eventual writing of the Trust's history. The National Office will consider whether to conduct more interviews. The Churchill Trust and interviewees will hold joint copyright over the CD and transcripts. We will explore the impact that fellowships have had on the lives of recipients. Sponsors are especially interested in the outcomes from

their generous donations. Over the last few years a small number of Fellows have been approached on this issue and summaries compiled and sent to some sponsors. However, it is timely to approach a complete year of Fellows, say those who were awarded their Fellowships five or ten years ago, and invite them to respond to a questionnaire addressing this issue. Many Fellows have told us that their personal and career achievements would not have been possible without their Fellowship experiences.

Over the past five years the Trust has lost contact with about 30 per cent of a group of 100 Fellows. Many changed their addresses or employment and failed to tell the Trust their new contact details. Surprisingly, a small number of Fellows say they do not wish to receive any further correspondence from the Trust. I hope to provide more details as we progress both of these important projects.



### **‘Second’ Fellowship for interior design**

Alisa Moss, a 2008 Churchill Fellow and one of our committee members won significant recognition in 2008 when she was awarded an Overseas Fellowship by the International Specialised Skills Institute.

The Fellowship will enable Alisa to study design aspects for indoor environment quality and healthy buildings.

The ISS Institute said that Alisa was awarded the Pratt Foundation/ISS Institute Overseas Fellowship.

Alisa is a Commercial Senior Interior Designer with Daryl Jackson Alastair Swain, Canberra.

## **On our agenda**

The committee is reviewing the ACT Churchill Fellows website: <http://churchillfellowsact.org.au/>

We will be seeking to introduce a content management system on the website that will allow the committee to present information in a more flexible way. A content management system will allow the committee to deliver newsletters on line and to provide a means for Fellows to provide advice and information to the committee. We hope this will make the website a source of regular information for former Fellows and their families.

Other matters on the agenda include exploring suitable informal venues throughout 2009 that will enable Fellows and their families to meet and keep in touch. The committee will inform you as these ideas take shape. We invite all Fellows to provide us with your ideas on these get togethers and also to provide stories and pictures that might be suitable for the newsletter.

Peter Clack  
Newsletter editor  
0418 978 090  
[pdclack@bigpond.com](mailto:pdclack@bigpond.com)