



December 2010

ACT Drinks on the House 2010 (Friday 3 December)

Early December the ACT Churchill Fellows Association held their regular Christmas Drinks on the House. The evening was well attended with nearly 50 current Fellows, past Fellows, National Churchill Office staff and family members in attendance. ACT Churchill Fellows President Helen Walker and CEO Paul Tys spoke to the audience inviting Fellows to promote and encourage the wider community to apply for a 2011 Churchill Fellowship.

The ACT Churchill Fellows committee wish all Churchill Fellows and their families a happy and safe New Year.

Churchill Chat (Thursday 21 October)

Thank you to Siwan Lovett for sharing her fellowship and her experiences with other Fellows at our 2nd Churchill chat. Siwan has kindly provided us with a summary.

Belief, Belonging, Behaviour: Foundations for an Australian River Restoration Centre by Dr Siwan Lovett, Director, Australian River Restoration Centre

Australia is a continent of incredible diversity, with rainforests, deserts, tropical savannahs and mountain ranges. This diversity is reflected in the many different types of rivers, streams and creeks that are the lifeblood of a dry and thirsty continent. Currently, however, we know that only about one third of Australia's river systems remain in first-rate condition, another third show clear signs of degradation and the remainder are already in poor condition and getting worse. Without water and the river systems that sustain its quality, our rural, urban and unique ecological communities cannot survive.

Many agencies, groups and individuals are keen to get involved and help improve the health of our river systems, but are unsure about priorities for action, the works needed,

or how to ensure funds are spent to best effect. In Europe, a network of River Restoration Centres exist to try and provide the link between science and practice, and to assist people in their river restoration efforts. In 2008, Dr Siwan Lovett travelled to Europe supported by her Winston Churchill Trust Fellowship, to examine these River Restoration Centres and to assess the applicability of the model for Australia. She subsequently went on to establish the Australian River Restoration Centre (ARRC), as a way of helping communities overcome the uncertainty that characterises river restoration, and to provide people with access to information, knowledge and opportunities for interaction.

Siwan's Churchill Chat talked about her findings in Europe and how she has built on the strengths of what is working overseas to establish the ARRC. She discussed the principles upon which the ARRC is founded and focused on Belief, Belonging and Behaviour as the keystones of the Centre's work. The ARRC is founded on the **belief** that people are valuable natural assets who need to be provided with opportunities to share their knowledge and passion about river restoration. As a result of this belief, those who work in the ARRC are keen to provide people with access to resources, information, stories, workshops and conferences that combine to develop a sense of **belonging** for those people who care about Australia's rivers. When people feel they belong to a group they are more likely to feel motivated, valued and to behave in ways that optimise river restoration outcomes.

Siwan also discussed the concept of knowledge, as the ARRC places a high value on experiential knowledge. She pointed out that the way we tend to describe our rivers is often defined in prescriptive, 'rational' ways, yet when it comes to making decisions, we know that people use emotion to guide their **behaviour**. The ARRC values and celebrates emotion as a vital part of inspiring, connecting and celebrating our river restoration efforts, as it is local communities who are relied upon to undertake river restoration projects, often voluntarily, as the scale and vastness of the country cannot be covered by government agencies alone.

The presentation concluded with an overview of progress to date in setting up the ARRC, plans for the future, and an invitation for those present to contribute their ideas, experience and inspiration in how to make the ARRC bridge the gap between aspiration and practice in river restoration.

Further details can be found at; www.australianriverrestorationcentre.com.au

For your diaries next Churchill chat
Friday 18 March 2011
Speakers

<p style="text-align: center;">Courtney Page-Allen & Kelly Richards More details to follow</p>
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Pete Halsey 2009 Fellow awarded \$50,000 ACT grant

Pete Halsey Churchill Fellow 2009 travelled to Switzerland and the UK to study technology and systems used to support the hearing impaired. Pete found a program in the UK called Hearing Aiders which he thought would be useful in the ACT. This program provides a basic hearing aid maintenance/service to residents in Aged Care facilities and to the general public in set locations such as libraries, community halls etc.

Pete's organisation, the ACT Deafness Resource Centre (DRC) located in Holder, was recently awarded a \$50,000 ACT Government Innovation Grant from Disability ACT to introduce a similar Hearing Aiders program in the ACT. ACT has some 30 Aged Care facilities. This will assist our Aged Care residents and will be expanded out into the general community in 8 locations around Canberra, probably at our libraries.

Anyone in the extended Churchill Fellow family who might be interested in becoming a volunteer and provide a day's support per fortnight (weekends are ok) is invited to contact Pete on mob 0438 203 110, email pete.halsey@actdrc.org.au or website www.actdrc.org.au Further information on the UK Hearing Aiders program can be downloaded at http://www.hhas.org.uk/volunteering/hearing_aider.html Other volunteer roles within DRC are also available.

5th National Convention, Melbourne (22nd - 24th October)

The Victorian CFA committee which worked so hard at developing the wonderful program for the National Convention of 2010 must be congratulated! The weekend was one of catching up with old friends, making new ones, hearing the inspiring stories of Fellows young and old, seeing and learning all sorts of new and wonderful things and having lots of fun.

The highlights of the weekend included

- the welcoming reception at Government House hosted by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Krester.
- A relaxed and most entertaining cruise on the Yarra to visit Herring Island (did you know this island was in the Yarra close to the city?) and the Melbourne Science Works, all the while being entertained by talks and displays by Victorian Fellows, including a cupcake decorating display.

- A formal dinner in the James Stynes Room at the Melbourne Cricket Ground – lots of fun and entertainment provided by Victorian Fellows
- Breakfast in the old Melbourne goal – a more gruesome setting for a jovial breakfast can hardly be imagined.

Unfortunately the Canberra contingent was small with just five people traveling to Melbourne for the event. In 2012 Convention will be held in Perth – don't miss it!! It's an amazing opportunity to learn more about the work of the Churchill Trust, the truly varied and amazing projects that fellows undertake and to see their work showcased in the places where they work.



A few words from Bill Caddy ACT 2010 fellow in the UK

Having a wonderful time. Loads of new info and contacts on Walking. Heaps of meetings and conferences. Great opportunities to do some sightseeing as well.

Personally thanked Winston for his assistance.

Look forward to catching up on my return Cheers bill



Some words from Paul Tys CEO,

Vital Statistics – and what they show!

From time-to-time National Office compares statistics of where the Churchill Trust is today (2010) to where the Trust was in 1966 – its first year of operation - and to see if that comparison might provide us with some useful conclusions. Some of the more salient statistics are:

Australia's population: 1966 – 11 million; 2010 – 22.5 million.

Fellowship applications: 1966 – 1,200; 2010 – 1,119.

Fellowships awarded: 1966 – 49 of which ten were awarded to females; 2010 – 101 of which 59 were awarded to females.

Average Fellowship cost and length of time away: 1966 - \$5,000 and away for seven months; 2010 - \$25,000 and away for about six weeks.

Capital base: 1966 – \$4.3 million, 2010 – \$65 million.

The interesting fact to emerge from this comparison is that we have improved remarkably well in all areas except in the Fellowship application numbers: 1,200 in 1966, down to 1,119 today and this is from a population base that has more than doubled in that time!

Of course we need to keep these figures in some sort of perspective. In 1966 the memory of Winston Churchill and the Trust itself, would have been very vivid in the minds of most Australians with the public collection for the Trust having taken place in the previous 12 months. There were also fewer fellowship and scholarship opportunities available in 1966 – many more exist today, and Australians today are also more mobile, many more have already experienced overseas travel, have higher incomes and are better educated.

If the Trust is to continue to remain relevant and highly respected by the Australian community, if the Trust is not to be over-looked as a deserving recipient of on-going financial support either from individuals or from corporate sponsorship, and if we want more Australians to know about the Trust and to access the Fellowship Reports, strong promotion and marketing of the Trust is essential.

I have mentioned previously that I see a very important role for the Trust's alumni associations - the Churchill Fellows' Associations (CFAs) - and Churchill Fellows and their families, in achieving this aim. Both can play a very significant role in the successful marketing of the Trust and in encouraging Australians to apply for a Fellowship. Here I am talking about word-of-mouth and making direct contact with potential applicants.

But it's more than just talking to the usual Churchill Trust 'family faithful'. It's about reaching out to new and different audiences and promoting the Trust with them. It's really worth giving serious thought to what might work and being innovative in this thinking. Financial support is available to CFAs for this type of promotional activity.

The CFA of South Australia did this just recently when it organised over 200 people to meet at an auditorium at one of Adelaide's universities. For over an hour the CFA shared with potential applicants how the Trust started, the application process and how it all works and three Churchill Fellows shared their personal stories of fabulous Churchill Fellowship experiences. This was followed by question time and then refreshments. It will be very interesting to see if such a successful function translates into a noticeable increase in application numbers in South Australia during the 2011 application round.

Of course, every year, the Trust's advertising and marketing strategy is analysed very closely to ensure that it remains effective. Certainly the Board believes that over the years the number of Australians who are now aware of the Trust and the Churchill Fellowships has increased markedly but more can always be done. The CFA's and the individual Churchill Fellows (as ambassadors for the Trust) play a very important role in this task. I hope that together we can lift the application numbers to over what we had in 1966.

News from Churchill House – extract from Paul Tys CEO

50th Anniversary of the Trust on 12 April 2015

This Anniversary is clearly a significant one and would be ideal for the release of an historical account of the Trust and what has been achieved for the benefit of Australia. By 2015, the Trust will have been in operation for 50 years and will have likely awarded over 4,000 Fellowships (now nearly 3,400). It is, therefore, timely that in 2015 a definitive history of the Trust should be published.

The history of the Churchill Trust is inarguably unique and is an account over a fifty year period of the topics and areas that were of most interest and concern to Australians for which Fellowships were then subsequently awarded. However, for the historical account to have wide appeal it must be more than a 'victory' lap of what has been achieved by individual Churchill Fellows and probably a thematic approach is more appropriate.

The primary purpose of the history is 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 could also 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. This includes those who took part in the initial fund-raising campaign, those who served on the Board, those who served on selection panels and committees, and those who funded sponsored Fellowships and contributed financially to the Trust. The fortunes of the Trust from an investment, profile and future perspective could also be addressed.

An underpinning theme might be developed to make the account of the Trust's history more appealing. For example, why has the Trust been such a successful institution from the time of the initial fund-raising to the present day? Suggested titles for the fifty year project include:

- *'Growing Australia; The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 1965 to 2015'*, or
- *'A Success Story; The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 1965 to 2015'*.

Two books already exist which provide an excellent foundation for the fifty year history. Both books are by Margaret Auchmuty. The first is; *'A Perpetual Trust: The Story of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowships'*. This book covers the first two decades spanning the formation and first years of the Churchill Trust. The second is; *'Churchill Fellows of Australia 1966-1977'*. This book provides an account of the Trust's stewardship over the first 12 years of its operation by collating, classifying and analysing the study projects of the Churchill Fellows. A thematic approach has been taken in this book.

A number of discussions on how best to proceed with the project have been held with prominent historians as well as a number of journalists.

From a planning perspective the timings for this project are likely to be as follows:

1. 2010 – selection of the appropriate individual
2. November 2010 to June 2011 – observe selection procedures and the operation of the Trust and plan the project
3. 2012 – commence writing

I would very much appreciate any suggestions from Churchill Fellows on what is proposed for this anniversary commemoration and how we are planning to approach this task. CFA's may also have a view on how to celebrate this upcoming milestone.

Paul Tys