



November 2009

Stories and pictures

## Celebrating a year of fellowship

Seven ACT Churchill Fellows in 2009



The Annual Churchill Presentation Dinner at University House at the Australian National University: Sir David Smith KCVO AO, Chairman of the ACT Selection Committee and a Director of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, Wilma Davidson, President, ACT Churchill Fellows Association Inc, and Paul Tys, CEO, Churchill Trust

### Large turnout for 2009 Presentation Dinner

The Annual Churchill Presentation Dinner proved to be the ACT Churchill Fellows' night of the year at University House on Monday, 10 August. A total of 106 turned out for the dinner, which was among

the most memorable presentation dinners in recent years. The 2009 ACT Fellows were introduced and Churchill Medallions were presented to returning Fellows who have completed their reports: Brian Babington, Philip Brown, Jane Crick, Stephen Jiggins, Siwan Lovett, Christopher Pidcock, Helen Walker and Douglas Wright.

The presentation dinner brings together Churchill Fellows and their families and it serves as a night for renewing acquaintances and meeting the new Fellows and their families and friends. It is also the ACT Committee's annual general meeting and a new committee is elected on the night.

## New Association Committee 2009-10

Wilma Davidson



Helen Walker



Helen Palethorpe



Peter Clack



Chris Clarke



Full committee: Wilma Davidson – President, Helen Walker – Vice-President, Helen Palethorpe - Secretary, Peter Clack - Newsletter Editor, Chris Clarke – Treasurer, and Juanita Caddy, Jenny Dibley, Jo Slattery, Doug Wright, Peter Minson and Alisa Moss.

## Churchill Fellows for 2009



Josephine Alchin

– The ACT Government Audrey Fagan Fellow who will study programs that assist women whose parenting has been compromised by violence. She will travel to the USA, Canada and the UK



Eric Chalmers

Eric has won the NRMA ACT Road Safety Trust Fellowship. He will study road-related child injury prevention programs in NZ, USA, the UK, Netherlands, Austria, Germany and India and is already on his study tour



William Fargher

William will undertake a comparative study of international water policy and management arrangements to inform the next generation of water reform in Australia - He will go to the USA, France, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Sri Lanka.



Rowan Harvey-Martin

Rowan has won the Stuart and Norma Leslie Fellowship to study orchestral and opera conducting with Johannes Fritsch and the Graz Philharmonic Orchestra. She is going to Austria, Germany and the USA.



Peter Halsey

Peter will study the technology and systems used to support the hearing impaired. He will travel to Switzerland and the UK.



Courtney Page-Allen

Courtney is travelling to the UK early in 2010 to identify lost portraits of Australians killed in World War I.



Marluce Silva Peters

Marluce has won an ACT Government Audrey Fellowship to investigate programs to support overseas born women surviving family violence. She will go to Finland Sweden, UK and Austria.

## Churchill newsbites

Philip Brown (2007 Fellow) who works at Black Mountain School, was one of two ACT recipients of the 2009 Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence. Philip's Fellowship was on 'abuse prevention training for people with intellectual disability or autism'.

Alisa Moss (2007 Fellow) returned from a second overseas Fellowship in just two years – this time, however, it was a Pratt Foundation/ISS Institute Overseas Fellowship awarded by the International Specialised Skills Institute. Now a mum, Alisa took her four-month's old baby with her. The Fellowship enabled Alisa to study design aspects for indoor environment quality and healthy buildings. Alisa is a Commercial Senior Interior Designer with Daryl Jackson Alastair Swayn, Canberra. She keeps herself busy though, and is also a member of the ACT Churchill Fellows Committee.

Heather Barman (2005 Fellow) recently had her picture in *The Canberra Times* – Heather accompanied Canberra Grammar School's 2009 Chamber Choir ANZAC tour to England. Heather was awarded the 2005 Dame Roma Mitchell Churchill Fellowship for the pursuit of excellence in the Performing Arts.

Your committee encourages all Fellows to talent spot and encourage people you know to apply for a Churchill Fellowship. Applications opened on 1 November 2009 and they close on Friday 26 February 2010.

Churchill Chat – this event is being planned for Friday 19 February at 7.30pm – it aims to be a warm and casual event where we will hear from four outstanding fellows, their study tour and their achievements since returning to Canberra. The venue and speakers are still to be confirmed. There is no charge and wine and food will be provided. Stay tuned for more details soon.

The Churchill Fellows Convention will be held in Melbourne over the long weekend in October 2010. These gatherings of Fellows from across Australia are outstanding events and truly inspirational. Stay tuned for more details.

## Drinks on the House

Drinks on the House is being held again at Churchill House, ANU on Friday 4 December 5.30pm. The committee invites you and your family to attend. It is one of our most convivial events of the year. We have sent out a note. If you wish to attend please RSVP by 30 November to Peter Clack at [pdclack@bigpond.com](mailto:pdclack@bigpond.com) or to Helen Palethorpe at [hpalethorpe@grapevine.net.au](mailto:hpalethorpe@grapevine.net.au)

## Comment from Churchill House



Paul Tys, Chief Executive Officer

One of the many comments made to me by Churchill Fellows about their Fellowship experience is that they often describe their award as a 'life-changing event'. When this comment is made by Fellows who received their award 25 years ago or even longer, the comment clearly carries considerable weight and validity. I can even relate to this personally to some extent as my father is a 1970 ACT Churchill Fellow and I can recall the profound impact his Fellowship made on his life in both a professional and personal way.

Fellows comment that as a result of their Fellowship, doors opened, business and professional opportunities arose, their own self-confidence grew enormously and their standing in the organisation from which they came was enhanced.

Fellows comment further that when a career change was considered and eventually embraced the Fellowship experience influenced their lives in directions they had not even contemplated when they first applied for a Fellowship.

I think it accurate to say that with a Churchill Fellowship everyone benefits – the individual because their determination, drive, dedication and enthusiasm is recognised, their organisation because one of their own number is recognised for excellence, and Australia because the Churchill Fellow returns with skills and information not readily available here.

In the words of one Fellow (Peter Batten 2008 CF): 'I left Australia aware of how much I didn't know and I returned having learnt that it is not what you know or what you don't know, it is what you do with the resources you have at hand. During my Fellowship I met a group of people who were further ahead of me on their learning journey, but equally passionate about working with this population (people with Autism/Asperger's Syndrome) and brutally honest about their own lack of wisdom when they started. What follows (in my report) is my attempt to improve the way we in Australia work with young people with Autism/Asperger's Syndrome.'

I am sure many Fellows can relate to these sentiments expressed so well by Peter.

The Australian community is enormously enriched by the knowledge gained from overseas and I think it interesting but not surprising, that the topics proposed for study in the Churchill Fellowships often mirror the concerns of our society at the time. In 2009 for example, the topics range from assisting Indigenous communities, climate change, the national curriculum for schools, helping children with learning difficulties or hearing loss, child sexual abuse intervention strategies and managing chronic disease. I also think it a real strength of the Churchill Trust that a number of Fellowships outside these core or mainstream concerns are awarded. Hence a number of Fellowships deal with topics such as identifying lost portraits of Australians killed in the First World War, improving the quality and rigour of secondary education in the area of philosophy and ethics, and developing innovative

cultures of entrepreneurship and venture investing. There are also Fellowships for the Arts including orchestral and operatic conducting and classical music teaching.

To the 2009 Churchill Fellows I say prepare for this life-changing experience and embrace all the richness that it offers. The Fellowship gives you an opportunity to investigate the best ideas in the world, to do things you never thought possible and to meet people who inspire you in your chosen field. A Churchill Fellowship catapults you into a position to contribute to our country – few people have that opportunity and I urge you to grab it and make the most of it.

## NSW Fellows invite - Winston Walk December 5<sup>th</sup> 6

Louise Halsey invites us to join NSW Fellows in a visit to Tumut. Tumut is home to several Fellows. Cycle a mountain bike path designed by Matt Pope, visit the Yarrangobilly caves with lighting designed by Neil Kell, or learn about the revegetation of the High Country from Liz McPhee, and visit some heritage sites. Louise has worked on including the historic Adelong Falls Gold Mill Ruins. A bus will be available for the day tour which will end around a campfire dinner. Children are welcome. Sunday will be at your leisure, canoeing cycling or simply enjoying a late brunch on the river bank. Cost is approximately \$90 and includes bus and all meals, Saturday brunch and Sunday lunch.

Contact Louise on 02 6947 3208 or [louise.halsey@bigpond.com](mailto:louise.halsey@bigpond.com)

## Presentation Dinner pictures



Sir David Smith and Paul Tys



Wilma with William Fargher



Doug Wright



Mother Elvie and Peter Minson - 1995 Fellow, glass blowing: Peter is also a committee member.



Great overhead shot by photographer Jennifer Nagy



Wilma and Eric Chalmers



Right: 2008 Churchill Fellow Steve Jiggins and his wife Tracey. Steve received his Churchill Medallion.

Photographer: Jennifer Nagy

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**Please note:** We have a full collection of photographs. Please contact Peter Clack or Helen Palethorpe and we will make copies available to you at no charge. Framed photographs are available from Jennifer.

## On our agenda

The committee has worked to review the ACT Churchill Fellows website:

<http://churchillfellowsact.org.au/>

We will continue to update content and we invite you to submit anecdotes, stories and case studies of your travels and findings. Fellows are also invited to advise us of events in your lives that other Fellows might like to hear about.

We continue to examine ideas for informal venues for 2009 and 2001 that will allow Fellows and their families to meet and keep in touch. The committee will inform you as these ideas take shape.

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