



Enrichingsociety

www.churchillfellowsa.org.au

Events Diary

Fellows, Family & Partners Social Event

Sunday 29 March 2015

Shelda Debowski's Home
9 Jutland Parade, Dalkeith
Time: 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Please bring a plate to share and drinks

Incoming President's Welcome

RSVP by Thursday 26 March 2015
secretary@churchillfellowsa.org.au
or phone 0438 996 649

Book early, numbers limited

Parking available on Jutland Parade or Haig Road

WA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday 4 August

University Club, UWA
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

An elegant cocktail evening

CFAWA 2015 AGM

Sunday 20 September

Breakfast meeting
Time: 10.00am
Hosted at a Fellow's home (TBA)

Update your details

We urge all Fellows to advise of changes to your contact details. Please include your personal email. Please advise our Secretary by phone or email.

50th Anniversary Churchill Trust

This year will be a big year for all Fellows' Associations around the country, and for the Trust as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

The National Convention of Churchill Fellows to be held in Sydney from 9-11 October is the key opportunity for Fellows from all States spanning the last 50 years to come together. The collective wealth of knowledge, experience and community contribution will highlight the hugely significant impact that 3,816 Fellows have made on the everyday lives of Australians over that time.

Early bird bookings will be announced soon and we hope to see a strong representation of WA Churchill Fellows attending this milestone event.

Applications for the 50th anniversary Fellowships have now closed and we await the outcome with great interest. 2015 Fellows will be announced mid - year.

If you would like to mark the 50th Anniversary with an event or contribution to our WA Fellows Story Board please contact: secretary@churchillfellowsa.org.au

Extra help for rural self-employed applicants

Thanks to the commitment and fundraising efforts by WA's Fellows, our Hon Treasurer Anne McCrudden, CFAWA is able to make available up to \$12,500 to a self-employed applicant working in the rural sector.

By ensuring he or she is adequately supported on their appointment as a Fellow, it will offer the opportunity to a wider sector of the rural community.

Photo courtesy of Oak Valley Truffles



Marc my Word

Churchill Fellows a Special 'Club'

Over the past 50 years Churchill Fellows have made a difference to the lives of many Australians through their endeavours. It is something to be proud of indeed.

You are part of a unique group of men and women who have had doors opened to them and won the opportunity of following their passion anywhere in the world.

Having an ongoing involvement adds to the vibrancy of the organisation and enables you to get more out of your Fellowship. There are various ways, such as encouraging applications, mentoring new applicants, networking with other Fellows, joining the CFAWA Committee and attending or hosting a function.

We are looking for someone to host the AGM this year on the morning of Sunday 20th September.

The last couple of Annual General Meetings have been held before the annual dinner, but this has proved unwieldy so we are going back to holding it over a friendly, informal breakfast at a Fellow's home.

It is usually a small crowd of around 30 people and the Committee will assist with catering of tea, coffee, pastries, fruit platters, and possibly a sausage sizzle. All agreed expenses will be reimbursed.

If you would like to volunteer your home please let our Hon Secretary Keren McCullagh know as soon as possible on 0438 996 649.

Marc Dimmick
President



Winston Churchill's Legacy to Australia

It is hoped that with perpetual memorials like The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust*, future generations will come to understand the debt that they owe to that extraordinary



generation of which Sir Winston was a leader and symbol of dogged determination and commitment to freedom.

It can truly be said of Churchill, as perhaps of no other figure of the 20th century, that he saved the Western world.

From a seemingly hopeless position, Churchill by his dauntless and vigorous leadership, rallied the British people ... he inspired them through 'blood, toil, sweat and tears' to 'hold the ring' ... to achieve final victory five and a half years later'.

The Churchill Fellowships ... are awarded to Australians who, like Churchill, are innovative, filled with

a spirit of determination, and who possess a strong ethos of wanting to benefit the community rather than themselves as individuals, and who recognize that 'with opportunity comes responsibility'.

"To each, there comes in their lifetime, a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fitted to their talents ..."

Winston Churchill

*Extracted from the 2013-14 Annual Report

In the News

Meteor-ic fall sees Angela's star rising

Fellow Angela White (1976) made national news headlines when she reported seeing the meteor fall to earth in Gidgegannup on Monday 9th March.

"It was a white ball with a long tail and definitely seemed to be heading for my paddocks. It hasn't been found as yet so it's a mystery!"

Whilst being interviewed on Channel 7's Sunrise, enterprising newsletter Editor Christine Silbert recognised Angela and took an iPhone photo of the TV monitor.

Angela was one of four women who established Riding for the Disabled in the early 70's. Her Fellowship was to observe the latest developments in the UK and USA in residential riding holiday camps for disabled children.

"I was amazed at how kids with a disability could cope with riding a horse. In America at a similar centre I saw a thalidomide child, who only had two feet protruding from his hips, 'shinny' up the rail to get onto the horse.

"He, like other children, was so excited at being able to ride. It is good for them in many ways and they sit up high so they can see things they don't from their wheelchair.

"We don't have the predicted behavioural problems because we just treat them like normal kids and they mix with normal kids, so they act normally," said Angela.



In the News

Bones, Batavia, & Beacon Island

As WA Museum head of maritime archaeology Jeremy Green (1983) was a key member of the team who made the recent discovery of four skeletons of the Batavia victims murdered on Beacon Island in 1629.

Jeremy said it was another exciting step in finding out about the Batavia, which was so significant in the founding of Western Australia and Australia, being the earliest known European settlement here.

"Since the newspaper articles I have had calls from the United Kingdom, Argentina and Spain with lots of interest in the find. People are fascinated by it," he added.

Having been in the role for 44 years, the Batavia has been a consuming passion for most of Jeremy's life and was the project for his Fellowship grant.

"We had found one of four porticos the Batavia was transporting to Indonesia and in my research came across an illustration of the Castle at Batavia (modern Jakarta) and the water port that was being built there. The illustration was similar to what we had found on the wreck and I wanted to find out more about how they built castles and gateways.

"I went to Jakarta (Batavia), Makassa, Ambon and Banda looking for buildings with a similar portico façade. On my return I gave a couple of lectures on my findings."



Sculpture by the Sea

If you're heading down to Cottesloe beach for the annual Sculptures by the Sea, visit 2011 Fellow Brad Jackson's stunning work at Site 57.

It is the second in a series by Brad who is a blacksmith and artist working from his O'Connor based studio, Zen Ironwork. His first of the series was exhibited in Bondi and sold to a winemaker in Port Macquarie, with this one having just been sold to a collector in Melbourne.

Brad was interviewed on Channel 7's Today Show, featured in the cover shot in the West Australian as a 'dirty tradie' then caught on camera for the Social pages at the VIP Preview.

Brad's Project was to research and develop advanced techniques for the production, restoration and conservation of traditional ironwork in the UK, USA, and Italy.

"The fellowship I undertook gave me such a special insight into

international approaches to ironwork and its restoration. Blacksmithing and the arts- particularly sculpture- are often closely linked and many of the experts I met with are also involved with the arts in one way or another.

"During my fellowship I happened to be in Venice for the Biennale. Being exposed to amazing forged ironwork alongside international artists was a "pinch me" moment."

"I have been encouraging many of my clever friends to go for Fellowships with several applying this and last year," said Brad.

Cultural insight into China



Andrew Gannon's Fellowship (2014) which he is embarking on this year is important to many Australians as we increase our trade and other ties to the powerhouse country of China.

His project to investigate and experience traditional Chinese comedy as a basis for cultural exchange should offer a very valuable insight to the many companies and individuals wishing to work with China.

Andrew appeared in Community Newspapers recently with this photo, courtesy of Christine Glenister, CGA & Associates.



Visiting Fellow Seeking Support

UK Churchill Fellowship 2015 winner Vikki Raymond is travelling to New Zealand and Australia to research different models for children's centres in the early years, in particular centres more integrated with the local community running sustainable projects for early prevention to support families.

Vikki plans to visit WA from 1st August until 2nd September, spending the first part looking at the new Parent and Child centres in Perth, Mandurah and Bunbury, then Busselton and the South West.

If any current fellows can suggest contacts with organisations relevant to her fellowship please contact Vikki at vikki.raymond@childrenssociety.org.uk

2002 Fellow Margaret Owens, who works for Goodstart Early Learning in WA has already offered support and accommodation. Much appreciated.

WA expertise underpins Trust

Well-known WA businessman Warwick Hemsley is a Member of the Winston Churchill Trust Australia National Board and serves on the WA State Selection Panel. Whilst not a Fellow, Warwick was invited onto the Board for his expertise and experience.



"I hold the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship program in high regard as it enables outstanding Australians to study overseas, particularly in areas that are beneficial to our society," he said.

Rural Fellows link up

Fellow Sandy Pateman (1983) facilitated a small landholder Field Day at Gidgegannup recently and said out of 14 adults three were Churchill Fellows!

Angela Whife, who won her Fellowship as a founder of 'Riding for the Disabled' in WA, George Matchett (seated RHS) received his to 'investigate products to be made from Carob Beans' and Sandy's was to 'study the cultivation of drought-resistant perennial crops suitable for cultivation in marginal soils in semi-arid areas'.

Sandy has also identified some potential applicants, one who wants to



launch 'Large Animal Rescue training in WA' and the other to 'propagate Jujube beans (Chinese dates)'.

"Both these people live in Gidgegannup at present so there must be something in the water," says Sandy.

How times have changed

A sculpture by the sea display at Dunsborough features a robot - looking 'creature' made up of re-cycled goods. "What's that?" a small boy asks his Mum pointing to a typewriter.

That incident showed how much the world has changed in communication, says journalist Mike Zekulich (1977)

"On my fellowship, I carried the old faithful Olivetti (typewriter) to send copy back to the Newspaper as phone calls from the Middle East were very difficult.

"Mobile phones, the internet and laptops were yet to come, so research on the road or contacting key people in places like Kuwait, Iran, Bahrain, Oman, the UAE and Israel were a constant hassle.

"I left WA on a loaded sheep carrier bound for Iran and then flew the other legs, which was fine unless you were late checking in and the clerk had given your booking away.

"On the return home, airport controllers in Australia went on strike grounding all Qantas planes. Somehow, I managed through old-fashioned



communications to board various other carriers to Singapore pending a flight home.

"Fortunately the telex system mostly worked, its noisy key clacking was music to my ears as I believed the connection with home had been made."

Mike's Fellowship was in agricultural journalism, studying the rapidly growing Middle East market for agricultural products.