



# Enrichingsociety

www.churchillfellowswa.org.au

## Annual Dinner

**Date:** Thursday 16 November

**Venue:** Mercure Hotel  
Irwin Street, Perth

The annual gala dinner will be held following the Presentation of the 2017 Fellows to Her Excellency Mrs Kerry Sanderson, Governor of Western Australia at Government House.

Drinks will be served from 6.45pm and Dinner at 7.30pm. Tickets for the 3-course menu and drinks are \$90 per person.

Partners, family and friends are welcome. Bookings can be made online at the CFAWA website in the usual way using Trybooking. Bookings open on Sunday 1 October and cut off is Friday 10 November.

If you have any queries, please contact Treasurer Anne McCrudden on 0408 903 631 or email: treasurer@churchillfellowswa.org.au

Mercure Hotel is offering a Special of a Superior Room Upgrade with full Buffet Breakfast at the Standard Room rate to attendees. For more information, including weekend deals, contact Rachel Manfre in Reservations on rachel.manfre@accor.com



## The changing focus of Fellowships

Regional Committee member **Wendy Murray (2004)** became aware of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowships with a prompt from a former Regional Committee member telling her she should apply.

"Some years later I did and won a Fellowship to my eternal joy and gratitude. I travelled in 2005 to look at programs and services that reduced recidivism to less than 25% – generally it is 40-75%."

Wendy has since served on the Churchill Fellows Association and now assists in the selection of new Fellows each year.

"This is a wonderful and rewarding role – reviewing applications and interviewing the State's most innovative, passionate leaders' subject matter from a wide range of fields.

"One thing never changes – the passion to make the world a better place through the discovery of new insights and by sharing the knowledge with people in Australia. Travel is no longer necessary to access new knowledge, however talking to people and seeing practices first hand is the compelling reason for travel."

Wendy said the changes over the years are subtle.

Policing was an area that produced a lot of applicants a few years ago, this seems to have been taken over by the broad range of allied health and wellbeing professionals wanting to prevent crime through community capacity building and drug and alcohol issues.



The focus on allied health and aged care continues to grow, while land-based primary industry applications has reduced significantly over the last 15 years. This is somewhat balanced by fisheries and environmentally focused applications.

"There are always outstanding and rare topics presented, which are exciting to hear about and a thrill when the application is funded - from blown glass to whales to new materials to grow bone replacement.

"Challenging the existing wisdom is par for the course for Churchill Fellows, but so also is bringing excellence in music and the arts to our door," said Wendy.

## DIARY DATES

### • NATIONAL CONFERENCE - CANBERRA

Fri – Sun, 27-29 October

### • ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW FELLOWS

Friday 29 September

### • AGM

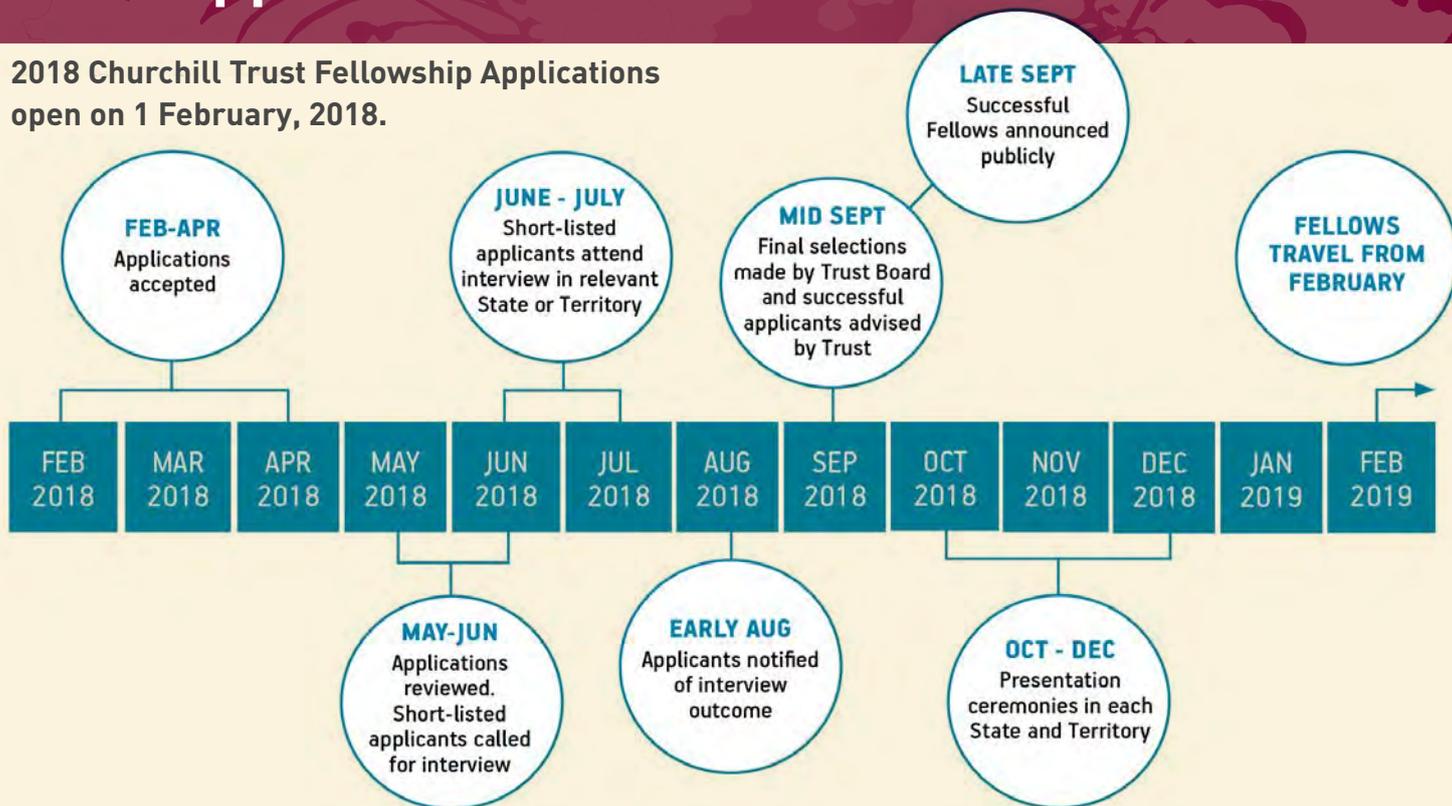
Sunday 1 October

The National Conference provides a mix of Fellows speaking across the arts, community, health, education, environment, technology, rural and regional categories along with Big Ideas conversations and excellent tours of facilities, demonstrations and Canberra points of interest.

The Conference is well worth planning a holiday or business trip around to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and expertise gathered together.

# 2018 Application Timeline

2018 Churchill Trust Fellowship Applications open on 1 February, 2018.



## Career Update



CFAWA President Shelda Debowski presenting Rejane with her Medallion.

**Rejane Le Grange (2014)** has moved into the newly-created role of dementia service manager at Southern Cross Care (WA) Inc. The role supports all their services, which includes Residential and Home care services (Southern Plus) and mental health services. Her focus is the development of supportive and empowering social and physical environments.

Rejane is applying the knowledge and skills she gained through her Churchill Fellowship on the use of light for the well-being of older people to enhance the physical environment.

"This is one of the major considerations when maintenance, refurbishments and new developments are done.

"Research is indicating that improved 24 hour-a-day light management can help older people to be more alert during the day, sleep better at night and in general experience a greater sense of well-being."

## Anna to play historical 'First Fleet Piano'

Arguably the most important piano in Australia - the first ever to have arrived on Australian soil as part of the First Fleet of 1788 - along with 130 historically significant pianos has been donated by collector Stuart Symonds to the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

It is cause for great excitement for classical pianist Churchill Fellow Anna Sleptsova (2001) as Head of Keyboard Studies at WAAPA and as one of the selected musicians to play the piano during the Keys in the City event coming up on **2 September**.

The piano is being flown from Sydney to Perth with the remaining instruments to arrive later this year.

The simple English square piano was brought into the country on the HMS Sirius by Ship's Surgeon, George Worgan, from Portsmouth, England in 1787. The first documented piano student in the country to learn on it was Elizabeth McArthur.

Keys in the City is presenting Salon style talks at the City of Perth Library then a visit to Government House to hear eminent musicians, including Graeme Gilling, Geoffrey Lancaster AM, Tom O'Halloran, Stewart Smith, Ceclia Sun, Raymond Yong and David Wickham, play the 'First' piano and other instruments.

Sessions commence at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm and you should allow 1.5 - 2hrs to enjoy the full experience.

**For bookings go to:** [www.paultunzi.com/keys-in-the-city/](http://www.paultunzi.com/keys-in-the-city/)

# In The News

## Churchill Fellow up for WA Scientist of the Year



**Prof David Mackey (2015)**, who is currently away on his Kevin Bell Churchill Fellowship, has been nominated for 2017 Scientist of the Year for devoting his career to decreasing blindness from optic nerve disorders, Leber hereditary optic neuropathy and glaucoma.

The nomination, published in the *Western Suburbs Weekly*, recognises that Prof Mackey's research has revolutionised the management of serious eye diseases.

His Fellowship is to evaluate recruitment, treatment and monitoring of patients having gene therapy for Inherited Retinal Diseases in the UK.

We look forward to his report on return and wish him all the best in the Premier's Science Awards.

## Improving rehabilitation for amputees



Senior Physiotherapist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, **Beck Hefferon (2016)** will investigate the application of physiotherapy to improve rehabilitation, quality of life and patient care after amputation in USA, Sweden, Germany, and the UK.

In an article in the *Fremantle Gazette*, Ms Hefferon said: "We know that physiotherapy is part of a multi-disciplinary approach that can make the biggest difference to improve quality of life after surgery for amputees.

"Another thing we know is physiotherapy is evolving with overseas leaders in the field not just researching but right now developing innovative, effective and beneficial treatments and techniques."

## Our Simulation Training ranks high

**Dr Ruth Blackham (2013)** visited world-leading simulation training centres in Montreal, Toronto, London and Cork to investigate the role of simulation in teaching surgical skills to health professionals.

She said one of the great benefits of the Fellowship was the opportunity to visit such a wide range of simulation centres focusing upon different aspects of surgical teaching, safety, and quality assurance programs.

Dr Blackham, who is a General Surgeon, Bariatric Fellow and Senior Lecturer at UWA and the renowned Clinical Training and Evaluation Centre (CTEC) was recently featured in *Surgical News* on her findings and views.

*She said her Fellowship had convinced her not only that Australia has some of the best simulation courses and facilities available, but that all surgical leaders are now grappling with the role it should play in surgical education and assessment.*

"Simulation training, whilst not mandated in any surgical program is increasingly becoming a necessary adjunct rather than an optional side-arm."

Dr Blackham presented the key points of her Fellowship program at the Asia-Pacific Simulation in Healthcare Conference in Singapore last year.



## Why Study Sir Winston Churchill?

This short video on the Trust's Founder reinforces the character and values that made Sir Winston a world leader with the vision to set up Churchill Fellowships to improve life for ongoing generations. Just click on the YouTube link.



# Sharing the Experience

## Youth Retention in Sport key to connecting

*Sport has an ability like no other to connect, unite and bond communities. It has a long-lasting impact on an individual's physical, social and emotional well-being, so if we can achieve greater levels of youth retention the ongoing wider community and health related benefits would be substantial.*



**Troy Kirkham (2015)** took his Churchill Fellowship through Canada, US and UK to 'Investigate innovative and inclusive retention strategies for youth participants in community sport'.

He met with some of the biggest sporting organisations in the world - NFL, the Football Association (The

FA), Rugby England and the Lawn Tennis Association - and leading researchers into Youth Sport, including Jean Côté.

"My research identified nine key areas that sport administrators need address to enhance retention rates.

My 'Interconnected Model of Youth Retention' highlights the critical components and connections that support environments to augment retention.

"Since returning I have presented my findings and recommendations to the WA Department of Sport and Recreation, state and national sporting organisations and community clubs across the state. I have also been working closely with the AFL on improving the AFL Auskick program to ensure that the philosophy and curriculum meets with current international best practice.

"As the GM of Engagement with the West Australian Football Commission, I utilise my Fellowship findings, networks and recommendations daily to guide strategy and operations.

"Next year I plan to engage with sport administrators and community clubs to enhance their understanding, and work with the WA Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries to host a conference to provide a professional development opportunity.

"I am eternally grateful for the opportunity. My full report can be accessed at [www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellows/detail/4038/Troy+Kirkham](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellows/detail/4038/Troy+Kirkham)"

## 15 Years on – Where are they now?

### Restricting the manufacture of prohibited drugs

**Paul Steel (2002)** received a Fellowship to study clandestine drug laboratory investigation, safety and hazard remediation. Today, he is Paul Steel APM, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence Portfolio) in the Western Australian Police.

"It is hard to believe it has been 15 years since my Churchill Fellowship. I reflect on the experience fondly, and am proud of the legacy that it has influenced," said Paul.

Following his Fellowship, Paul introduced precursor legislation which effectively placed restrictions around the sale or possession of certain high risk chemicals that are commonly used in the manufacture of prohibited drugs through State Parliament.

The legislation also enabled police to target individuals involved in the manufacture of prohibited drugs before the drugs were made - ie where there was no legitimate reason

for possessing precursor chemicals, police had the power to seize and destroy the chemicals, and charge the offenders.

He initially engaged with the Commonwealth Attorney Generals Department to introduce the Drug Endangered Children legislation to protect children located at sites where drugs are illegally manufactured.

Given the inherent dangers in drug manufacture and use, these laws represent a significant protection of our most vulnerable.

"I am pleased to say, that subsequently others have expanded those laws and State laws now exist which also protects children when present where drugs are used," said Paul.

"All of this was only possible through the Churchill Fellowship opportunity and these changes make for a safer Australian community."



Whilst Paul moved on from the specific area relating to his field of study, he is pleased the enduring change in his area of influence continues.

"Personally, the whole experience has helped shape me as a leader in our organisation and I regularly use those lessons to mentor and develop others.

"I wish all of those about to embark on their Churchill journey the same success and opportunity I was lucky enough to receive some 15 years ago."

# Where are they now?

## Learning difficulties and effective teaching programs

**Dr Lorraine Hammond (2002)** a former secondary English teacher who struggled to understand why the teenagers she was teaching could not read, says being awarded a Churchill Fellowship came at the perfect time in her career.

"I had just completed my PhD on the science of beginning reading so relished the opportunity to meet the 'royalty' of reading academia whose work I had been immersed in."

Dr Hammond's Fellowship was to investigate and evaluate the suitability of educational programs and professional services provided to support individuals with dyslexia, their families and teachers by non-profit organisations in the UK, USA and Canada.

"As the current President of Learning Difficulties Australia my passion for early evidence-based reading instruction to prevent literacy difficulties remains strong.

"Dyslexia affects up to 10% of the population, however the students I taught as a beginning teacher were not dyslexic, rather they were instructional casualties who had missed out on effective teaching," said Dr Hammond.

"The current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM 5) has shifted the



emphasis away from listing the typical difficulties associated with Specific Language Disorder in reading (including Dyslexia), to asking whether these difficulties persist after receiving at least six months of evidence-based intervention.

"This change highlights the importance producing quality teachers who provide exemplary instruction early and can identify students who continue to struggle, in spite of effective teaching.

"My research, work in schools and teaching at Edith Cowan University, where I offer specialist units on learning difficulties, including Dyslexia, supports this."



**CHURCHILL  
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