

# Churchill Chatter

Churchill Fellows Association of South Australia Incorporated

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## Returning Fellow *Anthony Thorogood*

In October 2007 I flew, trained, bussed, drove and walked my way around the world with the sole objective of drinking alcohol! But there was a little more to it than that. I visited the main cider regions of the world each with their own unique ciders, Somerset and Hereford in England, Brittany and Normandy in France, Asturias and the Basque region of Northern Spain, Old Sachsenhausen in Germany and finally New England in the U.S.A.. I was on a Churchill Fellowship and the final objective was for me to bring home to Australia a greater understanding of the world of cider.

Visiting dedicated cider houses and cider bars was of fundamental interest, I wanted to discover the culture of cider such as dance, song and poetry and, especially at Cider Festivals, I was able to experience much of this.

There were many highlights of the tour. Meeting Jim Binder the singer of the oldest Wassail (mid winter apple festival) in the world. Visiting the Big Apple Cider Festival at Much Marcle in Herefordshire and meeting the Leominster Morris Men, a truly remarkable bunch. Working with fellow Australian cider enthusiast David Pickering who was in France researching cider apples. Going to the apple festival/conference in Franklin County Massachusetts USA and meeting all the passionate American cider makers and finally going down to Mystic Connecticut and watching an ancient steam cider mill and press in action and trying their New England barrel ciders.

I believe that good cider could become a great addition to our way of life in Australia. It is the perfect beverage for our climate. We already grow apples as good as anywhere in the world and I believe that Australia can also make some of the best cider in the world. My world tour has only reinforced this opinion.



# Presidents Report

## Loris Glass



I have been on squillions of committees but as for being President, as far as I can recall this is a first. I could not have chosen a better committee for this first. Our immediate past President, Greg Chalmers has reluctantly relinquished the remaining eight months of his term as he is working in Alice Springs for the next few months. I am delighted to fill the President's role at least until our next AGM in August when you will all have an opportunity to put your hand up to join this enthusiastic and fun committee.

As Greg said at last year's AGM, the committee has grown to be very much a group of friends working

and socialising together. We will miss Greg over the next few months but it won't be long and we'll be making sure his valued contribution is continued when he returns to South Australia. We thank Greg for his leadership over the last more than two years.

Elizabeth Koch is another esteemed committee member whose resignation from the committee was recently reluctantly accepted. Sincere thanks to Elizabeth for her many years of service on the committee.

When I listen to the ground breaking experiences and enthusiasm for learning at the annual dinner for new Fellows, the warmth, excitement and genuine friendship seems to be uncontrollably contagious. I haven't yet been to a national convention but according to those who have, this effect is multiplied there. This year it is our turn in South Australia, for the first time to host this event. While a skeleton of a program has been put together so that we didn't miss out on venues that quickly book out over the long weekend in October, the details are far from finalised. Here's how you can get involved.

### Join a planning team:

The committee would welcome Fellows to join a planning team armed with their creative thinking juices flowing.

### Generate ideas:

If attending is not possible but you would like to email ideas, please send them to me ASAP.

### Displays:

There will be several opportunities for Fellows to display material from their Fellowship. Start thinking about how you might showcase your work.

### Billeting:

What better way to meet interstate Fellows, form new friendships and boast about South Australia than by hosting another Fellow and perhaps their partner. Let us know how many people you could accommodate.

### Skills:

Perhaps you have skills that you could predict we might need, for example, a bus driver's licence? Let us know.

*"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb." Winston Churchill*

It is the Churchill Fellowship stories of those climbs that we find so alluring. I look forward to speaking with you all as we climb together towards the next AGM with the 2008 group of interesting and talented Fellows and the National Convention.

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## WANTED: HOST FAMILIES

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In order to attract Fellows Australia-wide to the National Convention we are offering billeting with a SA Fellow as a mechanism for reducing the costs of the Convention to Fellows.

We now need a serious show of hands to ensure that this is a viable option.

If you are able to host a visiting Fellow (single or couple) for the 3 days of the convention we would like to hear from you **NOW**.

We are expecting 150+ to attend the conference.

Please contact Rebecca Knol on [verticordia@bigpond.com](mailto:verticordia@bigpond.com) or on 0409 012 007.

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## Editors Desk...

This edition of Churchill Chatter profiles returning Fellows — Antohony Thorogood & Will Hallahan—who completed their travels at the end of 2007.

National advertisements have commenced calling for 2008 Churchill Fellowship applicants. This is an ideal time to encourage others to apply for a Fellowship. Particularly as this will be the year South Australia will fund a SA Fellow. The national website is a wealth of information and well worth visiting if you have not done so in recent years. Application forms can be downloaded from the website. ([www.churchilltrust.com.au](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au))

In addition we welcome Loris Glass as incoming President and thank Greg for all his work over the past two years.

This edition also focuses on the upcoming National Convention to be held on the October long weekend. The planning for the event is well underway but we need serious support from Fellows. In particular we need a show of hands from Fellows who are able to assist with billeting. This will be the first time that billeting has been offered to registrants and we need to ensure that it is a viable option.

A special thank you to the contributors in this edition of the newsletter—as always it is the excitement of returning Fellows that makes the newsletter lively.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mary Jacobs, wife of Justice Samuel Jacobs. Mary and Sam were regular faces at our annual dinners for many years. Sam, as Chair of the Churchill Fellows Trust and selection panel, took great interest in the Fellows who were selected, and their results of reports. Our sympathy is extended to the Jacobs family and thanks for the friendship that Mary gave to so many Fellows.

**Rebecca Knol**  
Editor  
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## 2008 National Convention —Update 4,5,6 October 2008

Do you enjoy meeting interesting people who have led Australia towards excellence in all sorts of endeavours? Then the National Convention will be your feast. Churchill Fellows from across Australia are looking forward to coming to Adelaide to meet South Australian Fellows and share our hospitality and stunning vistas.

### Plans so Far ...

The plans for the weekend so far include a brilliant blend of visits to iconic SA venues where we have connections with famous SA Churchill Fellows, such as the Bradman Room at Adelaide Oval and times of wining and dining to meet and get to know other Fellows.

We are on the brink of the public release of registrations on the brand new SA Churchill Fellows website. Log on to [www.churchillfellowssa.org.au](http://www.churchillfellowssa.org.au) before the end of February to secure a top spot for the long weekend in October 2008.

The weekend will consist of tours and venues that will promote SA Fellows' work while showcasing the best of South Australia and our culture. Most importantly, venues chosen will be hosted by past Fellows.

On Friday night our venue is in the centre of our arts world overlooking our beautiful Adelaide parklands. Churchill Fellows will have the opportunity to display their wares both musically and artistically. This will set the scene for the rest of the weekend.

Our tour on Saturday will include tours of the Adelaide Zoo and the Adelaide Wine Centre. Saturday night will be our formal Churchill Fellows Gala Dinner again at a venue set in amongst our beautiful gardens and parklands.

Sunday's events will be set in one of Adelaide's most prestige's old homes which is now publicly owned—Carrick Hill. A wonderful venue to showcase talent and heritage.

Monday morning breakfast will once again overlook a beautiful part of Adelaide and be followed by a tour through the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, showcasing recent developments as a result of the Gardens 150 Celebrations.

### Where to now?

Now is the time for SA Churchill Fellows to be involved by providing your time and your talents in many different ways. It won't be an onerous task. The Committee would like to exploit this opportunity to not only engage Fellows who are official members of our association but Fellows we have lost track of. We need you all. If you know of Fellows who are not presently members of the SA Churchill Fellows Association please contact them and encourage them to become involved.

We will be in touch by email shortly as the committee needs your help and is keen for this event to be truly SA hosted. The personal satisfaction from your involvement and re-establishment or making of new acquaintances, will be all yours. If just reading this has ignited ideas... email Loris Glass now [glass.loris@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:glass.loris@saugov.sa.gov.au)

**“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference”**

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### Committee Nominations

Prior to the next AGM (mid 2008) the committee will be calling for nominations from Fellows to join this lively team. All positions will be appointed at the AGM. Please consider joining the committee as a number of positions have been vacated in 2007 and other committee members wish to “retire”

## Returning Fellow

### *Will Hallahan*

I received a Churchill Fellowship to learn more about end of life coalitions (EOLCs) - community based advocacy alliances which seek to address a very broad range of issues faced by people with a life limiting illness.

In 2007 I visited the following places:

- Washington, DC: to meet with Dr Joanne Lynn and the National Hospice Palliative Care Organisation
- Ottawa, Canada: to visit several palliative care organisations, Health Canada and the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association
- Jefferson City, Missouri: to see the Missouri End of Life Coalition in action
- Kansas City, Missouri: to meet with the Centre for Practical Bioethics
- Atlanta, Georgia: to visit hospice/palliative care organisations
- Sacramento, California: to spend some time with the California Coalition for Compassionate Care and the Compassionate Care Alliance of the Greater Sacramento Region.



A range of things have struck me as particularly important:

- end of life care issues at the community level are similar in Australia, Canada and the USA including: household and carer support, advance care planning, access to specialist services, access to affordable medications, dealing with grief and loss, and meeting the needs of so-called 'special needs populations'
- end of life coalitions have been successful in various ways in Canada and the USA: the Canadian national coalition brings over 30 organisations together to advocate for reform and more resources, while the Community State Partnerships Program of the early 2000s funded over 20 state-level coalitions in the USA which addressed an incredibly wide range of issues and developed new opportunities and partnerships
- as with most things like this, practical support from well-placed 'champions', and material resources, improve the effectiveness EOLCs
- end of life coalitions in the USA have been one response to the fact that many state hospice/palliative care associations are preoccupied with the US Government's Medicare Hospice Benefit - by contrast, Australia's state and territory palliative care associations (like PCCSA) tend to have broader mandates and memberships
- important people in North America recognise that the public health, health promoting and capacity-building elements of the palliative care message are strategically critical in terms of improving end of life care, but that these elements often struggle to compete with urgent service provision priorities
- at the level of end of life care service provision, the systems in Australia, Canada and the USA are tending to become more and more similar as more people require palliative care and fewer people are available to provide it.

My strong impression is that end of life care issues and responses in Australia, Canada and the USA are more the same than they are different. Australia is, in many areas, leading. For example, our National Palliative Care Program (administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing) has systematically addressed many of the issues privately-funded end of life coalitions have grappled with in North America, while Palliative Care Australia's population-based service provision model and quality standards are more refined than those we see elsewhere. I didn't come away with a sense that we in Australia have missed a major paradigmatic shift in the way we think about end of life care, rather that we are amongst the leaders in identifying and responding creatively to the issues which everyday people deal with when they face the end of their lives.

Special thanks to all who helped make this epic trip a wonderful experience, not least Robyn Rouvray and Hilary Reid who kept the Palliative Care Council of SA (PCCSA) moving in the right direction while I was away for so long.

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HOST  
FAMILIES

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