

# Churchill Chatter

Churchill Fellows Association of South Australia Incorporated

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## Returning Fellow

### *Jane Sloane*

I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to research humanitarian emergency response team models in Europe and North America that may have relevance for Australia and I undertook this research in November and December last year.



so many people with the experience and time to be deployed to the field and I thought "we really do need this coordinating mechanism to make this possible, should another such disaster hit."

Of course there's nothing new about the idea of a Humanitarian Emergency Response Team. At present, though, this deployment of personnel is confined to individual agencies rather than there being a coordinating mechanism to involve the military, governments, NGOs and civilians. By developing coordinating mechanisms for people to make a difference, we tap into the wealth of experiences that everyday people have to offer.

By researching models in existence overseas, I hoped to develop and introduce a similar model for consideration by Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. This model would feed into existing Australian aid agencies enriching the mechanisms that are already in place. A coordinated medical and humanitarian Emergency Response Team would better enable Australia to express its position as a concerned international citizen. This high profile, coordinated and transparent humanitarian and medical team would have a human rights and social justice orientation. The emergency response team would be involved in services such as hospitalisation, nursing, immunisation, logistics, catering, engineering, sanitation and much more.

The importance of such an initiative has taken on added significance in light of the tsunami disaster. If such a program had been in place then Australians who were trained and on standby could have been deployed to assist the operation on the ground in the affected areas. And now of course the types of disasters facing the region are of a different nature with the advent of the Avian Influenza and the need for effective coordination to respond to such a pandemic.

Given both the topicality and sensitivity of my focus it was important for me to meet with key people and agencies before I headed overseas. To this end, I met with key staff in AusAid, Australia's Federal Government Aid Agency to discuss my research and I met with Mr Downer, the Foreign Affairs Minister to brief him on my research. I have also met with Lt-General Ken Gillespie, Vice Chief of the Defence Force to discuss issues from a military perspective and with Bruce Billson, the then Parliamentary Secretary on Foreign Affairs in terms of whole of government coordination. *Continued on page 5...*

The Tsunami Disaster on 26 December 2004 left many Australians asking how they could help in the disaster relief effort - many had medical and logistical expertise but there was no central agency to coordinate this expertise. Similarly, there was no coordinating mechanism to effectively harness the efforts of NGOs, government and military response. As State Manager for World Vision for South Australia and Northern Territory when the tsunami struck, I was dealing with

# Presidents Report

## Greg Chambers

I wonder how many of us are able to remember our interview process for becoming Churchill Fellows?

At the beginning of April this process took place again and I'm pleased to say that SA will this year have either eight or nine new fellows, however in saying this only sixty five applicants were received I suspect down from previous years.

The lack of numbers support a need to reach out into the community and promote the Churchill Fellowship Trust, the experiences and memories to be gained by becoming a Churchill Fellow.

In this newsletter we also commence profiling members of the selection committee, many of whom are not Churchill Fellows but whom contribute many voluntary hours selecting Fellows.

I would like to thank David Schultz for a wonderful Zoodoo in January. Approximately 25 people attended a guided tour of parts of the Adelaide Zoo, David telling rather humorous stories and experiences along the way. I was particularly interested in David's relationship with one of the lioness's or rather her interest in David. David keeps a healthy distance even outside the fence!

Recently the National Conference was held in Queensland. Four couples attended from Adelaide and from the feedback it was a success event.

Pat Toolan has agreed to have a Churchill Chat at her meandering wild garden Open Garden in Keyneton on the weekend of 28 & 29th October, see details in future newsletters.

Also included in this newsletter are details for our AGM to be held in August—a chance to catch up with new and old Fellows as well as enjoying a very social evening.

**Greg Chambers**  
President

# Returning Fellow

## Bernadette McGinnes



Without doubt, perhaps not unlike the experience of fellowship recipients before me, the first of the many gifts I take from my fellowship has been a broadened perspective of my work which includes new thinking and more questions than answers. With that has come renewed energy and enthusiasm for what I believe can be done in the criminal justice system. The second of my gifts has been the many unexpected kindnesses and strong links made with colleagues around the world. Prior to my fellowship I never realised the potential to forge such links. For me these gifts speak to the importance and benefit of the work of the Winston Churchill Foundation.

People have asked me why I chose to study through-care of young people in the criminal justice system. My answer prior to starting my fellowship was that I simply wanted to know more about “what works” in through-care service provision, however once I began to talk with overseas colleagues my interest quickly turned to much broader questions of “when, how and why” young people make change in their lives and how positive change sustains. My fellowship travel took me to Canada, Britain and Scotland in exploration of these questions, where I was able to visit ranges of juvenile and adult custodial facilities as well as numerous community services. I specifically chose Canada because of my interest in the work there with aboriginal people. In Britain and Scotland I was particularly interested in mainstream services and step down programmes.

Apart from seeing examples and talking about through-care services I was also able to do some amazing things while away like participate in a number of aboriginal smoking ceremonies in Canada, and drive nearly five hours out across the Saskatoon prairies to the magnificent Maple Creek area (unfortunately I didn't get to see a moose!) where I visited Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge. In the UK I was also able to pretend I was on an episode of the Bill as I walked the streets one evening with the police.

On a more sober note while in the UK I got to experience first hand some of the debate about management of youth suspected of terrorism. I also got to participate in a community forum about racial conflict in a housing estate. The two issues raised so much for me to consider. In Canada I was caught in the midst of a street fight between two rival gangs which sadly ended in the stabbing of a young man. Without doubt all experiences were extremely memorable and rich learning experiences.

I am currently working on the development of a new case management system for the management of young people on criminal justice court orders in South Australia. Each day I get to draw on my experiences from my fellowship and the links I have made internationally to experts in the field. It doesn't get better than that!

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**“The plan is nothing ... *planning* is everything”**  
**Churchill**

## Editors Desk...

This edition of Churchill Chatter profiles two returning Fellows—Jane Sloane, Bernadette McGinnes. I have been inundated with articles from returning Fellows and look forward to profiling them in the next edition.

Congratulations to our recently awarded Fellows—the October edition will provide further details.

This edition is the first to profile a member of the Selection Committee—Dr Noris Iannou, Fellow and Executive Director of Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre. We look forward to profiling other selection committee members in future editions.

Apologies to Fellows who have ordered the Tasmanian Chapter limited edition bust of Churchill (advertised in the last newsletter) - I understand that there have been delays in processing orders.

Coming up is our AGM where you can meet recently awarded Fellows and catch up with old Fellows. We hope to see you there.

Thank you to those Fellows who have contributed to this newsletter and to Nigel Hopkins who has helped to locate Barry Pitman. I now only have 14 lost Fellows. Do you know where I might find them?

- Dean Patterson (1979)
- Phillip Allan (1993)
- Brian Andrews (1995)
- Colin Curtis (1985)
- D.J. Davis (1975)
- Anne Gregory (1981)
- G.G Jennings (1982)
- David Russell (1989)
- P. Savage (1983)
- Barbara Sutherland nee Seymore
- Bill Waters (1973)
- P.G. Webb (1980)
- G.W Westwood (1977)
- Stephen Woods (1993)

**Rebecca Knol**  
Editor

## Selection Committee Profile

*Dr Noris Ioannou*

*Executive Director—Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre*



I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1995 to research folk art collection and documentation in the USA. It was more recently that I was invited to become a selection committee member for the SA Churchill Fellows Association and partake in the selection of SA Fellows.

I am a lifelong advocate for multiculturalism, and believe that arts and creativity can be a conduit for greater social cohesion and harmony.

*“Celebrating difference and the richness of traditions from around the world through a creative process brings people together. We need more understanding of difference and to be more accepting of it. From this point onwards in our history none of these things are going to just happen by accident.”*

I am currently Executive Director of Nexus and am excited by our *Nexus connect!* 2006 multicultural art + life program of workshops, seminars and events throughout the year. The program is based around four celebratory seasonal themes: harvest, shelter, renewal and spirituality and includes visual arts, exhibitions, music and dance performances and concerts.

I see Nexus as workshopping multiculturalism through the arts, and the key challenge for Nexus is its ability to attract new audiences. Through programmes such as *Cultural narratives!* (- a long program of seasonal writers’ residencies featuring four writers, Stephen House, Eva Sallis, Gay Bilson and Cath Kenneally) Nexus hope to engage with multiculturalism in a challenging and provocative way.

I look forward to meeting some of you at our upcoming *Nexus Cabaret*.

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## CHURCHILL FELLOWS ANNUAL DINNER

**Wednesday 30 August  
6.30pm**

**Please RSVP by 25 August**

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## *Chatter News—Ian Tolley*

Extract from Eyre Peninsula Bushfire Recovery Newsletter...

### Cummins Recovery Update

The gardening workshops with Ian Tolley were a wonderful success and have answered many gardening questions for those that attended. Ian covered everything from windbreaks to soil types. Ian’s presentation was light hearted and entertaining. A total of 56 people attended the free workshops.

## Returning Fellow cont...

### *Jane Sloane*

During my time overseas I spent time with government, non government, military and community organizations in the United Kingdom (London, Oxford, Bradford), Denmark (Copenhagen), Switzerland (Geneva), United States (New York) and Canada (Ottawa, Kingston). In Copenhagen I was a guest of SHIRBRIG, the Standby High Readiness Brigade which is deployed to areas requiring peacekeeping operations and which often establishes the base for a formal UN presence. I spent a week with SHIRBRIG, undertaking briefings with key military personnel and humanitarian agencies. In Kingston, Canada I was a guest of DART, the Disaster Assistance Response Team, also for a series of briefings on its structure, operation and deployment.



*Standby High Readiness Brigade, Copenhagen*

My time in each of these countries provided me with a rich array of contacts and a breadth and depth of research materials in relation to my subject. Beyond the formal research it provided me new friendships and the chance to explore more deeply the role, impact and effectiveness of the aid and development industries.

On return I prepared a detailed report including the following recommendations, which I'm now pursuing both with the government and NGO sectors:

1. Create a coordinated fundraising model based on the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) in the United Kingdom which provides a coordinated non government response to disasters. Through a shared appeal, administrative costs are capped at 2% and funds are distributed across all member agencies for spend in the field. This would both significantly reduce the current administrative costs expended by aid agencies as well as ensuring a more streamlined humanitarian emergency fundraising model for the public.
2. Formalise an operational unit within AusAID with dedicated rapid response staff, similar to the Department For International Development model in the United Kingdom (and similar government models in Europe and North America). This dedicated secretariat would provide swift and effective support in the field in the event of a humanitarian emergency.
3. Work with Emergency Management Australia, Australian Volunteers International, RedR, the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Council for International Development to create a coordinated civilian Rapid Response Register. Involve RedR and Emergency Management Australia in the development of appropriate training model and materials. This Rapid Response Register could come under the banner of an Australian style DEC. Effectively it would mean that NGOs have access to a central pool of volunteers, appropriately sourced and trained, ready for deployment in the event of a humanitarian emergency and Australians would be trained and ready for deployment via a central register when a crisis hits.
4. Advocate Australia assuming formal observer status with SHIRBRIG for a 12 month period in order to determine the worth in either becoming a formal member of SHIRBRIG (like Canada) or in creating an Asia Pacific version, given the interest in this already expressed by some Asian countries.

Change is made possible by the will of the people and so in my time ahead I'll be speaking at as many public seminars as possible across Australia in order to encourage discussion, dialogue and action on these recommendations. I'd welcome support from other Churchill members in terms of identifying events and opportunities to further this discussion. For those of you interested in reading my full report, a copy will shortly be on the Churchill website or you can email me at [jane.sloane@bigpond.com](mailto:jane.sloane@bigpond.com)

My sincere thanks to all at the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and the SA State Committee for making this wonderful opportunity possible.