

Churchill Chatter

Churchill Fellows Association of South Australia Incorporated

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Returning Fellow - Michael White

One of Australia's most significant programs of urban renewal ('Playford Alive') is occurring in Adelaide's northern suburbs. I would like to see this program deliver an exemplary result for the local community and hence my Churchill Fellowship was to investigate international approaches to urban renewal.

Between July 18 and May 22 I visited five cities that incorporated particular aspects of urban renewal that were worthy of detailed investigation. These cities were: Seattle, Chicago, London, Amsterdam and Stockholm.

Seattle and Chicago had strengths around community building programmes and citizen involvement in municipal decision making. Achieving walkable neighbourhoods was a key component to their urban renewal approach which had the aim of making places that are accessible, vibrant and integrated. Of particular interest was Seattle's 'Matching Fund' program that stimulates community building and 'Imagine Chicago': a not-for-profit agency that promotes communication tools for public participation and cultivates hope and civic engagement.

Whilst in Chicago I also had the opportunity to attend the 'Richard J. Daley Urban Forum'. Municipal leaders from around the world held discussions on the role of cities in the Global Financial Crisis. USA Vice-President, Joseph Biden, gave the key note address. His primary messages included: invest in education; make our living environment 'safe, appealing and affordable'; and invest in renewal energy infrastructure.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest had strong local strategic partnerships across public and private agencies including crime prevention and social housing which was undergoing significant change. This was highlighted at the 'L & Q Housing Association' dinner I attended at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. 'L&Q' is a not-for-profit who manage over 50,000 properties across London.

The 'Bijlmermeer', an area southeast of Amsterdam has been undergoing urban renewal for some 10 years. The Dutch Central Government in conjunction with Local Government are building the local economy together with improving mass transit and improving blighted high rise residential areas by replacing many of them with low rise and mixed tenured dwellings.

The impact of the Global Financial Crisis in Stockholm appears to be minimal. "We had our housing crisis in the 1990s" I was told "and we put in place measures to ensure a robust financial basis for our housing system". There were many lessons learnt from the 'Million Home Program' of the 1960s and 1970s that are now integrated into a robust Swedish urban development system.

A number of key themes emerged that can be applied locally in the City of Playford as well as more broadly: create human scale walkable neighbourhoods; involve residents effectively in decision making; have an aspirational plan for an equitable community. Without doubt sound working partnerships were the key ingredient for successful urban renewal in each locale.

Michael at a "Matching Fund" project in Seattle, Washington, USA.



Editor's Desk..

Here I sit with the rain tumbling down... again. As they say, what a change a year makes. Here in the Hills we are having our wettest year since the early 90's. One would sound like a pariah to say I'm sick of it, but some sun would be nice, at least to let me plant some young cherry trees. One consolation I suppose it does give me a chance to put the newsletter together, because my office is welcoming warm and dry.

This newsletter sees an interesting report from Michael White on "urban renewal". I am encouraged to see someone as committed as Michael here as it seems to me that one thing the Europeans at least, do well and we could learn from, is making their cities interesting, accessible and usable.

Paul Tys flies the flag for the Trust in a comment piece from head office and reminds us of the multitude of benefits of the Churchill fellowships.

Well hope you enjoy this last Chatter for the year and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Oh, and stay warm!

Greg Cramond,
Editor

Invitation

Boutique Cider and Degustation Lunch, 2010.

Tony Thorogood has invited Churchill Fellows to lunch at Burra on Saturday 20 March 2010.

The day would consist of a cider making demonstration and tasting of freshly pressed apple juice followed by a long lunch with Tony talking about cider around the world from his Churchill Fellowship.

Fellows will then sit down to eat foods from around the world and ciders to match them. We would be trying home cured ham and cheddar cheese from England, Green sauce and German farmhouse pate, Spanish Chorizo, goats cheese and quince pate and French camembert style cheese to name some of the scrumptious delicacies.

The day would start at 11.00am in Burra on Saturday through to about 4.00pm. Fellows may care to stay in Burra overnight before or after the lunch.

The cost of the lunch will be \$30.00 per person (great value!). Transport and accommodation costs will be your own.

Express your interest in this visit by email to Peter Elder: elderp5171@internode.on.net and we will keep you informed as the program is developed.



Comment from Churchill House

- Paul Tys, CEO of the Churchill Trust

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 that 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 yourself 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.

From now on, ending a sentence with a preposition is something up with which I will not put.

Sir Winston Churchill

Congratulations to our 2009 Fellows

Mr Brenton BANHAM

Science Communications Officer, School of Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences, Flinders University. The Phyllis Primrose Whyte Churchill Fellowship to study the structure and pedagogy of targeted school and community-focused science outreach programs - Singapore, Japan, USA.

Mr Geoffrey COBHAM

Festival Production Manager & Designer, Adelaide Festival of the Arts.

To research professional event and installation artists with particular focus on creative implementation, cost effectiveness and safety innovation - Netherlands, Spain, Germany, France.

Ms Sheridan FLINT

Audiologist, Southern Adelaide Health Services.

To investigate the assessment and rehabilitation of complex adult cochlear implantees - Denmark, Germany, U.K.

Mr Timothy GUSTER

Self-employed Luthier.

To research historical lute collections - U.K., France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Czech Republic.

Ms Andrea HARMS

National Co-Ordinator, Principals Australia.

To study methods for accelerating the educational outcomes of Indigenous Australian students -Canada, New Zealand, United Arab Emirates.

Mr William LONG

Self-employed Director and Principal Consultant, Ag Consulting Co Pty Ltd.

The Churchill Fellows' Association of South Australia Churchill Fellowship to investigate large scale pollination services which have developed since Varroa Mite incursion - USA, Switzerland, Germany, France, U.K.

Mr Conor MCKENNA

Self-employed Company Director & Advisor, Twoeyes Venture & Advisory.

To investigate how regional economies can sustainably develop an innovative culture of entrepreneurship and venture investing - USA.

Ms Annie O'CONNELL

Senior Occupational Therapist, Disability SA Early Childhood Program.

To explore the management of sleep problems for children/adolescents with additional needs - U.K., Canada, USA.

Dr Ian SMITH

Veterinarian, Monarto Zoo.

To study veterinary practice, facilities and protocols in open range zoos - USA, South Africa, U.K., United Arab Emirates.



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, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.

Sir Winston Churchill

> Visit: <http://churchillfellowssa.org.au>

> for all your information on:

- [Our objectives and purpose](#)
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Diary Dates

- 2010 Churchill Fellows 5th National Convention 22nd - 24th October Melbourne, Victoria
- Applications open for 2010 Churchill Fellowships - 1 November 2009.

Churchill Quiz

1. True or False: When Churchill lost the 1945 post-war election in a landslide, he immediately resigned from Parliament.
2. In 1900 Winston's only novel was published. What was it called?
3. What popular term did Churchill coin to signify the closing off of the Communist East to Western influence?
4. Complete this Churchill quote: "If you're going through hell,..."?
5. Churchill wrote, *History of the English-speaking Peoples* between 1956 and 1958. How many volumes to this work?

Answers:
 1: False: he remained leader of the Opposition for six years.
 2: *Savrola*.
 3: The "Iron Curtain".
 4: "... keep going".
 5: 4.

President's Report

Loris Glass

2008—2009 has been arguably the Association's biggest year ever.

Lieutenant Governor Hieu Van Le became the Association's Patron. It has been some time since the Association has had a patron and we have been delighted that Mr Van Le accepted our invitation and also that he is keen to play an active role in promoting Churchill Fellowships. He is well placed to particularly support us in reaching multicultural communities which are one section of the community from which the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust receives few applications.

The other key leadership change has been the appointment of Ms Alexandra Cannon as Chair of the SA Selection Committee, another eminently qualified and strong advocate for the vision and mission of the Trust. Over the last year we have been working together to add value to each other's business; the selection panel is charged with making the best selections from the applications received and as an association of Churchill Fellows we try to make sure that the panel has a challenging task by ensuring that they get high numbers of excellent applications through our promotion of Fellowships.

The National Convention was the major piece of work of the year for the Committee. The weekend was an outstanding success from so many indicators. We received accolades from local, interstate and international visitors for weeks afterwards. Consistently the take home message was, that being awarded a Fellowship is in fact not a twelve month experience but a lifetime one. Staying connected through the Association perpetuates the opportunities to learn and share knowledge and experience for the benefits of others.

The 2009 AGM and dinner was attended by record numbers of Fellows, family and friends and again was a celebration of ideas and people coming together and new ideas and thinking being generated around and between the tables as the 2009 Fellows stimulated and intrigued us all with their plans and stories. Congratulations to Brenton Banham, Geoffrey Cobham, Sheridan Flint, Timothy Guster, Andrea Harms, William Long, Connor McKenna, Annie O'Connell and Ian Smith. We urge new Fellows to begin their connection with the Association as it has started, with passion and dedication to planning as they undertaking a valuable period of questioning, searching and enquiry during their travels. On their return the Association is here to support and encourage the 2009 Fellows to continue to share their learning journey with other Fellows over the decades and to support 2010 Fellows as they step up to the challenges and rewards of being a Churchill Fellow.

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CHURCHILLCHAT - FUN MUSIC!

On Saturday 19th September, a small enthusiastic group of potential players met under the guidance of Fellow Pam Freeman to learn some simple keyboard skills.

Pam has taught music for many years and is Director of Music at Prince Alfred College. In the late 1970s she became interested in using the then fairly new electronic teaching methods in order to teach multiple students basic keyboard skills and enjoyment. After learning that this had already been pioneered in the USA it was suggested that she applied for Churchill Fellowship to further her knowledge. Fortunately for us and PAC she obtained her Fellowship and went on to study the teaching of keyboard skills to multiple students in Illinois and New York.

So an enthusiastic group was able to appreciate that with clever electronics, a good teacher and a sense of rhythm we were able to master some simple skills and tunes very quickly.

An hour of playing was followed by tea and cakes and good Fellowship.

Grateful thanks to Pam for all her time and effort on our behalf.

Tony Phillips



> President's report continued

SA Fellows continue to learn and shine throughout life. During the last 12 months we've had Fellows who have won prestigious book and artistic awards, receive Orders of Australia, been hosted and celebrated at a Lord Mayoral reception, and continue to share their learning for the benefit of all Australians in a myriad of unseen ways.

We have been saddened too to lose Fellows; most recently Forrest Young and our sincerest condolences go to his wife Sandra, who along with Forrest regularly travelled up from the South East to attend dinners and other SA CFA events.

During 2009 Churchill Chats have been revived which I believe in earlier times were highlights on the Association calendar. The committee decided it was time to get them back there so where better to begin than with a couple of Fellows who I suspect were instrumental in their beginnings: Frank Caspers and Pam Freeman.

In November the Association Secretary, Graeme Adcock is organising a Churchill Chat with a focus on country Fellows as regional SA is underrepresented in the applications received. We plan to use country Fellows to promote Churchill Fellowships to regional leaders.

And then in March next year up at Burra our Treasurer, Peter Elder is liaising with country Fellow, Tony Thorogood who will host a Chat around cider — I'm assuming we might do a little more than just talk about cider making! Keep reading your Churchill Chatter for details in the new year.

On behalf of the Association I would like to record my thanks to so many Fellows who along with membership fees have made such generous donations which contribute to the awarding of additional Fellowships for South Australia. A second SA CFA sponsored Fellowship was awarded this year to Bill Long.

Finally I'd like to sincerely thank the entire committee for the tireless work and many hours of volunteer service given for the work of our Association. Some of this service is very visible such as the brilliant organisation of the dinner (Gillian Weiss and Chris Morris), the production of nametags and dinner place labels (Baohong Hou), the New Fellows evening (Tony Phillips), and editing Churchill Chatter (Greg Cramond). Other service is less visible and sometimes relentless such as the taking of minutes and oversight of the website (Graeme Adcock) and management of the database (Hugh Middlemis). The convention showcased many other committee talents and networks from in particular: Jane Rossetto, Pat Toolan, Chris Alliston and Tricia Williams. Overwhelmingly a very successful year thanks to a highly skilled and fabulously good-humoured team.

Bill Prior has been part of the committee backbone for many years as both committee member and President — we reluctantly accepted his resignation at the AGM but look forward to keeping in touch with him and Ann at future events. Thanks Bill for the years of very valuable service. We were disappointed that Liz Harful's life got too busy to continue her short period with the committee but very pleased that it was partially due to the huge success of her book — thanks Liz.

We also welcome to the committee of 2009—2010, John Zwar and Julie Dini.

