

# BULLDOG



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NEWSLETTER OF THE CHURCHILL FELLOWS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA  
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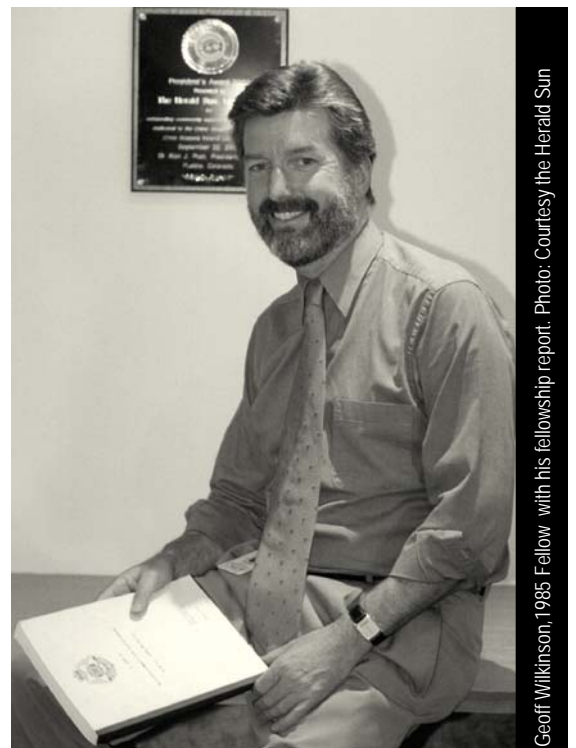
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## 20 years fighting crime: a Churchill success story

*Crime Stoppers Victoria is one of Australia's leading community crime fighting programs and this year celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The program began in Victoria on 9 November 1987 after founding Victoria Police Media Director Geoff Wilkinson was awarded a 1985 Winston Churchill Fellowship. Crime Stoppers now operates in all Australian states. Crime Stoppers Victoria has been synonymous with solving crime for 20 years and is a classic example of what can be achieved through a Churchill Fellowship. Geoff Wilkinson, today a senior writer for the Herald Sun, Australia's biggest selling daily newspaper, reflects on the Winston Churchill Fellowship that created a national crime fighting hotline.*

The brief was somewhat vague when the Churchill Trust approved the study tour that later saw Crime Stoppers introduced to Australia. Like Christopher Columbus, I knew what direction I was heading in but wasn't too sure what I'd find when I got there. The subject of my Churchill Fellowship voyage of discovery in 1985 was to be "Police-Media Relations and Community Policing Initiatives". It was to take me to the US, Canada, the UK and Hong Kong in search of ideas that could be adapted for use in Australia. A journalist by trade, I was in the middle of an eight-year stint as the founding Victoria Police media director at the time and Chief Commissioner Mick Miller, who had been a Churchill Fellow himself 20 years earlier, backed the trip. By the time I returned, wrote my report and presented it to force command, the title had changed to "Police-Media-Community Crime Solution Programs". Twenty years later, the development of a tripartite crime fighting program in Australia based on the Crime Stoppers model stands as a classic example of what the Trust aims to achieve.

My first stop was Los Angeles, where a rush of enthusiasm for an anti-drugs program taught in schools by LAPD officers could have seen any subsequent discoveries largely ignored. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education program made such an impression I shut myself in a caravan on a friend's block on the way to the Mexican border and in one weekend wrote 8000 words - longhand - on DARE's brief history and how Victoria Police could adopt it. At that stage of proceedings I was happy to have come across something so early that would justify the trip and might work back home. But not long after I reached New York, the DARE program was superseded - and the



Geoff Wilkinson, 1985 Fellow with his fellowship report. Photo: Courtesy the Herald Sun

8000 words consigned to the bottom of the bag - after discovering the simple but successful formula that quickly became the focus of the rest of my travels. During my second day with the NYPD I was fortunate enough to meet Lieutenant Pat Harnett. Not only was he happy to share his enthusiasm for Crime Stoppers, but also the comprehensive research paper he had completed for his university Masters thesis on the concept.

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# From the President



By the time you read this newsletter the Trust will be deliberating on a final selection of Churchill Fellows for 2007 drawn from across the country. It is a time of great anticipation for those who attended the second, and final interviews. As always the candidates put forward by the Victorian Regional Selection panel are of a high caliber and we are sure they will fair well. We wish everyone who participated in the final round interviews all the very best.

In past years CFAV representative has sat on the final selection panel as a non voting member, beginning this year the President of the CFAV was invited to join the panel and become a voting member. This initiative is testament to the role played by the CFAV within the operations of the Trust and the Victorian Regional Committee. On behalf of the CFAV, I would like to thank both the trust and the Regional Committee for this acknowledgement.

Since the last AGM the committee has been working tirelessly organising workplace visits and so far this year there have been two widely differing events. The first took place at the Immigration Museum; the added bonus for those who attended was a free day-pass to the museum. More recently twenty-five Fellows and their guests gathered at 9am on a Sunday to attend a special service to hear amongst others St Johns Bach Choir at St Johns Church, Southgate. The diversity of the workplace visits reflects the great contributions made by Churchill Fellowships to the community. These visits should also provide a catalyst for us Fellows, to encourage worthy applicants from any field of endeavour to consider applying for a Fellowship.

July is not far off and the committee is spending a good amount of time planning for the AGM. As the highlight of the year we are always looking for ways to find venues that can accommodate the large numbers who wish to attend this special event, at which they hear from the newly inducted Fellows. This year we have decided to again stage the event at the same venue as last year—Bayview Eden, please note the properties name change fro Eden on the Park. As always the night promises to be entertaining and provides all Fellows with the chance to meet up with old friends and to learn about the latest Churchill Fellowships. To avoid disappointment, please ensure you make your booking and payment before the RSVP closes. I look forward to seeing you all on the night—so please come over and say hello.

Since this will be the last newsletter that I address you as President I would like to thank the hard working committee for their constant support and look forward to working with our President Elect, Julie Rees, who will officially take over the position at the AGM. In closing, thank you to the committee, and in particular to Henry Gaughan, for his support and advice.

Richard Grant

## THE WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST VICTORIAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The Victorian Regional Committee of the Winston Churchill Trust held it's AGM and final round of interviews for 2007 Fellowships during the last week of April. The Committee noted with much regret and sadness the death of Henrietta Law who died late last year. Henrietta was a great personality, full of energy, enthusiasm and passion, who did such wonderful work at the Alfred Hospital Burns Unit. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Danny.

Since our last meeting in 2006 there have been some changes at Board level. Professor Ray Martin stepped down as President and Elizabeth Alexander has taken over this role. We extend our congratulations to Elizabeth and our sincere thanks to Ray Martin for his 25 years of involvement with the Churchill Trust. I first got to know Ray Martin when he was Chairman of the Victorian Regional Committee, having taken over from Sir John Holland. Ray has occupied the positions at Board level as Deputy Chairman – Fellowships, Chairman and finally President. We thank Ray for his very significant contribution to the Trust and wish him and his wife Rena all the best for the future.

At our State level, Dr David Burke has indicated to me that he intends to step down as Chairman of the Public Service Panel after this year's round of final fellowship interviews. David was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1970 and has been involved with the Churchill Fellows Association and the Victorian Regional Committee ever since. This is a wonderful record of service to the Trust over the years and we thank David for his support and for the time he has given the organisation. The Churchill Trust wishes David and his wife Julie all the best for the future.

At the conclusion of our AGM. the Victorian Regional Committee final interview panel held two days of interviews for 2007 Churchill Fellows. This year Victoria received 272 applications for Fellowships which was four down on last year and 38 down on our friendly rivals in New South Wales. As always there were so many enthusiastic applicants with great projects and it was interesting to hear what they planned to do if they were granted a Fellowship. The panel interviewed 42 people and have sent its list of recommendations to Canberra for consideration, which will finally be decided by the Trust Board at its meeting on Wednesday 27th June, and announced in the Weekend Australian on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

Mr Paul Tys, Chief Executive Officer of the Churchill Trust attended our interviews on the second day and in the afternoon the subject of panels and categories was discussed at length. As a result of a lead given by New South Wales the panels and their categories were changed this year for the whole of Australia, except for Victoria. As the Trust is a national organisation, it was felt that Victoria should follow the other States. With this in mind I want to foreshadow that there will be panel and category changes next year and when they are finally worked out, we will let you know what these changes are.

I look forward to attending the Victorian Churchill Fellows Association Annual dinner on the evening of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July, after the Presentation of the 2007 Fellowships at Government house that morning.

Robert Beggs AM  
Chairman, Victorian Regional Committee

# Music for the soul

## *J S Bach Cantatas*

April 2007 workplace visit

In the words of Pastor Tom Peitsch, 'our ears were left ringing and our hearts singing' on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April after experiencing Bach's 'Missa Brevis' of 1733, the 'Kyrie' and 'Gloria' of the Mass in B minor during the 9.00am Lutheran service at St Johns Southgate.

Twenty-five Churchill Fellows attended this particularly unique and awe-inspiring workplace visit and were privileged to hear and appreciate the talents of the Victorian College of the Arts Bach Orchestra and School of Music Soloists, and St Johns Bach Choir, under the Directorship of Marco van Pagee. This spectacular musical presentation required an orchestra of strings, woodwind, brass and tympani, a 5 part choir and soloists. Of particular interest to our Fellowship group was the accompaniment by the talented organist, Graham Lieschke, and at the conclusion of the service, we were able to relax over refreshments as Graham shared more of his Lutheran church background and passion for Bach with us.

Graham was the recipient of the 2004 Dame Roma Mitchell Churchill Fellowship, which enabled him to escape from the daily rigours of his demanding research studies into leukaemia and devote precious time to pursuing his life-long hobby and passion for music. Graham used his Fellowship to study the church-based presentation of Bach cantatas at Emmanuel Music, Boston, USA and Thomaskirche, Leipzig, Germany. On his return to Australia, a richly inspired Graham was able to use his newly gained skills, experience and knowledge to further develop and extend the Bach program at St Johns. The Bach Cantata Service Program is now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as the program continues to grow and flourish, it will be enhanced by its latest project, the commissioning and purchase of a pair of excellent *oboes da caccia* for use by the St Johns Bach Orchestra.

Julie Rees  
President Elect



# Tackling Churchill's 'black dogs'

*Churchill Fellow assisting Australians affected by mental illness*

*'From little trees  
great models grow'*



Launch of *Bonsai—The Imagination tree*  
Federal Minister Christopher Pyne cutting the ribbon;  
(L) James Merlino, MP for Monbulk, Caroline Crosse, John Thwaites Deputy Premier  
and Tony Smith, MP for Casey (partially obscured)



As well as being associated with the bulldog for his indomitable spirit, Winston Churchill also famously described the depression which afflicted him at periods as 'the black dog'. Around 20% of Australians are also affected by the 'black dog' of mental illness at some time in their lives. For some this leads to psychiatric disability, radically interfering with their ability to get on with everyday tasks and creating difficulties in relating to other people.

Having a job can make a big difference to helping people re-connect with society and feel they are making a valued contribution to their community. Sadly there is an unacceptably high rate of unemployment for people with a psychiatric disability, at approximately 75%.

A Churchill Fellowship in 2001 enabled me to visit a number of innovative programs in the USA and Europe addressing this need. It was the social firm model that impressed me as a particularly effective means of creating accessible employment for people whose lives had been affected by mental illness.

A social firm is a not-for-profit business enterprise whose purpose is to create accessible employment for people with a disability. Any modifications required for the employee in need of support are built into the design of the workplace.

A social firm has a supportive work environment that:

- employs between 25% and 50% of employees with a disability
- pays all workers at Award/ productivity-based rates
- provides the same work opportunities, rights and obligations to all employees
- generates the majority of its income through the commercial activity of the business.

As a result of the Churchill Fellowship *Social Firms Australia (SoFA)* was established in 2004, and in partnership with *Social Ventures Australia* has developed a unique process for creating social firms. The most recent example of this is the purchase of a commercial wholesale bonsai business and conversion to not-for-profit status, now dedicating positions to people with a psychiatric disability.

A cleaning business and architectural tile company have also been established as social firms. The three social firms employ 19 people with a mental illness in total, and – thanks to a Churchill Fellowship – there is now a social firm sector developing throughout Australia.

Caroline Crosse  
2001 Fellow  
Executive Director, SoFA  
caroline@socialfirms.org.au  
www.socialfirms.org.au

## Transformation through arts education Young people in disadvantaged communities



Viv with Tom at 20 months, her best achievement since the Fellowship.

I don't think I had any idea of the change that would take place once I stepped onto the plane to undertake my Fellowship in 2000. My study was to investigate innovative structures that connected young people in disadvantaged communities through arts education. My Fellowship showed me that while mechanisms and structures were important transformation on a personal, organisational and societal level needs to take place for there to be significant and lasting change. I also found that there was an international social movement where arts education and economic redevelopment were seen as progressing in parallel rather than as opposing forces.

I learnt much from the people I met and projects I saw, but I came home with questions that have since led me on a personal and professional quest. There were some pivotal moments—my first meeting with the CEO of the US Presidential Committee for the Arts and Humanities in Washington D.C who was struggling to involve big business in arts education. During my stopover in Chicago when I met Arnie Aprill, CEO, Chicago Arts Partnership in Education. Arnie invited me back to Chicago the following two years to attend conferences and forums at which I was introduced to an extensive range of cultural organisations and academics actively involved in different facets of arts education. In return, I was able to organize for Arnie to come to Victoria and participate in a statewide conference on social competencies with arts education as a vehicle for transformation; and then again with assistance from the Australia Council for the Arts who brought Arnie to Australia for the National Arts Education Forum with Director Generals for Education in every State and Territory hearing how arts education can transform students, schools and communities.

The impact my Fellowship is still evident even after seven years! I have started my own business, Via Creativa, developed an international network of associates and organisations, and I am currently working on a program for corporate executives to understand the nature of disadvantage. It is intended that this program will eventually be used in disadvantaged communities of young people in developing nations. For me the Fellowship has been a life changing experience.

Viv Sercombe  
2000 Fellow 5

**NOT TO BE MISSED**

## Annual CFAV Dinner & New Fellows Presentation

Friday, 27 July 2007

includes

CFAV AGM

Introduction to new 2007 Fellows  
three course meal with drinks

The CFAV highlight for the year when you have the chance to meet up with past Fellows and friends as well as hear from the new Fellows.

Information and booking details will be mailed out in June.  
Limited seating so book early.  
Late booking/payments will not be accepted.

### 2007 CFAV Committee

Richard Grant, President  
Julie Rees, President Elect  
Diane Lightfoot, Treasurer  
Janine Barrand, Secretary  
Henry Gaughan, Immediate Past President  
Lou Chamberlin  
Caroline Crosse  
Daphne Cheah  
Shane Ringin  
Elise Sullivan



### *Did you know ...*

1. Churchill had a pet lion named 'Rota', given to him by an admirer and was housed at the London Zoo.
2. According to Churchill a pig is the only animal that 'looks you in the eye and treats you as an equal'.
3. As a boy Churchill's great ambition was to learn to play the cello.

*Taken from The Churchill Centre*

Lt Harnett was not only the resident expert on the pros and cons of such schemes, but had been appointed to head the NYPD's Crime Stoppers unit.

The New York program began in 1983 with a focus on violent crime and two years later was clearing an average of one murder every week. Variations on the theme in Canada, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Hong Kong were examined during the rest of my trip, but the New York approach formed the basis of the hybrid version I recommended when I returned. The most attractive alternative was the high-profile, top-rating BBC program *Crimewatch UK*, which started in 1984 as a planned four-part series and is still going strong. Its results were as impressive as its ratings, but the program only screened once a month and only sought information about the crimes featured during the show. The public response each time it screened was enormous, but from an investigative point of view it lacked the permanent line of communication and the ongoing promotion and marketing to encourage a constant flow of information from the community. Presumably the locals agreed, because in 1988 *Crimestoppers UK* was established and they now have the best of both worlds.

My report to police command in Victoria in 1987 suggested that Crime Stoppers was the most productive, and cost effective, approach to community crimefighting. The beauty of Crime Stoppers, created 31 years ago in Albuquerque by a journalist-turned-policeman, is its simplicity. Its primary aim is no more complicated than to establish a formal, widely promoted and well known conduit - a pipeline to enable the public to provide information about crime to people who will ensure it is directed to where it will be put to best use. But although it was simple and logical, I knew from experience how hard it would be to sell a new, unknown concept to three such cynical audiences ... police, the media and the community.

Although we had successfully pioneered major, statewide phone-ins in Victoria in the early '80s on issues like drugs (Operation NOAH) and child sexual abuse (Operation Paradox), I had reservations. The report to police

command warned that to be successful, the Crime Stoppers program would need:

- \* an acceptance of the morality of publicly offering cash rewards to informers,
- \* a commitment by the media, or sufficient sections of it, to promote the program, its aims and successes,
- \* a commitment by a suitable community group to raise reward money and support the program with ongoing marketing, and
- \* a commitment by police to allocate sufficient resources to ensure that information provided by the public was properly evaluated and investigated and that dialogue was maintained with informants, the media and community groups.



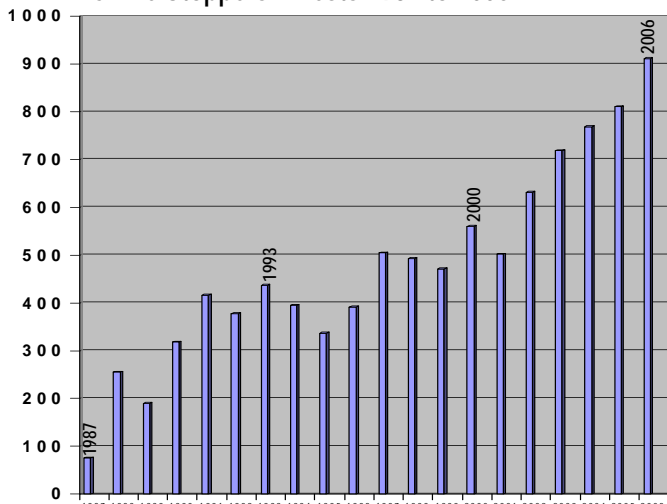
In Victoria, and to the best of my limited knowledge in all other states, all four requirements have been met. The results speak for themselves, with a total of almost 40,000 arrests and 120,000 charges now attributed to Crime Stoppers programs throughout Australia. The need for confidentiality usually prevents credit being publicly claimed by Crime Stoppers, and those not directly involved would be surprised by the amazing quality and detail of some of the information received and the extreme seriousness of many of the crimes solved.

Last year in Victoria calls to Crime Stoppers resulted in the record tally of 912 arrests and led to 3,709 criminal charges, including three homicides, 138 assaults, 142 burglaries and 29 sexual offences including rapes. Investigators also recovered stolen property worth in excess of \$4.1 million, and seized illicit drugs valued at over \$7.6 million. The results also speak volumes for not only the community's commitment to the fight against crime but their motives for getting involved. Although the size of the rewards on offer has not changed in Victoria since Crime Stoppers started, the number of people motivated by reward money averages less than four per cent - a far cry from a rate of up to 50 per cent in some US programs I examined 20 years ago. I would never have dared hope the theory behind Crime Stoppers - that most people will do the right thing if you give them the opportunity - would be so consistently successful in practice that it prompts 30,000 calls a year in Victoria alone. But, like George Peppard's character Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith, in the 1980s TV series "The A-Team", I love it when a plan comes together.

Twenty years after my voyage of discovery, and 18 years after returning to work in the media, I am still a director on the Crime Stoppers Victoria board, still committed to the cause and still excited by the results. I remain extremely grateful to the Churchill Trust - and Mick Miller - for giving me the chance to help create something so productive in the community interest. And I thank the many people from all three sections of the Crime Stoppers partnership all over Australia - police, the media and the community - for making it such a success.

**Geoff Wilkinson**  
1985 Fellow

**Crime Stoppers Arrests 1987 to 2006**



## Education, Access and Representation *Museums as Agents for Social Change*



The purpose of my Fellowship was to investigate strategies and methodologies used by the Museum of London and other related institutions in the development of public programs that enhance the museum experience and contribute to the maintenance of cohesive and civil societies. The Fellowship enabled me to gain first hand, ideas and information about some of the innovative policies and projects that are being implemented in the United Kingdom.

In recent years museums and galleries in the UK have undergone a transformation of image and practice, with a visitation of nearly 100 million people annually. At the Museum of London, working in the Interpretation Unit I investigated ways in which museums are adopting the tenets of education, access and representation through innovative programs.

In his report, *Museums and Learning*, David Anderson (Director of Learning and Interpretation, Victoria and Albert Museum, London) states that, *partnerships allow museums to extend the boundaries of what is possible: to share risks, acquire resources, reach new audiences, obtain complementary skills, improve the quality of service, achieve projects that would otherwise have been impossible, acquire validation from an external source and win community and political support.*

Partnership and collaboration was a recurring theme throughout my Fellowship and was one of the key lessons learned as I undertook investigations on the development and delivery of innovative programs within museums. Today, as Manager, Immigration Museum the importance of relationship building and partnerships is a key part of my position. I was inspired by the work and approaches articulated by David Anderson.

The methodologies and strategies that I learnt during my Fellowship at the Museum of London and through visits to several other museums have influenced the planning and development of programs at the Immigration Museum where community engagement and partnerships have become core values. My Fellowship was rewarding and enriching.

**Padmini Sebastian**  
2000 Fellow

## Workplace visit #1

### Online safety: *Learning strategies*



Travelling on my own for nearly six weeks; so whose bright idea was this anyway? My wife was convinced I would struggle and even wondered whether I would come to grips with setting the alarm clock in the hotel room. I never did but thank goodness for early morning calls from the reception desk!

My fellowship took me to the United States, UK, France, and Singapore. I wanted to study online safety programs in the public and private sector and I wanted to see how Australia compared with world best practice in this emerging area. The opportunity to travel on your own and to reflect deeply on a topic of interest to you is a rare thing. You find yourself not only reflecting on your topic but life in general. I can genuinely say that it was a period of personal and professional growth and was in some ways life changing.

I met some amazing and inspiring people from government agencies, not for profit organisations, the education and private sector, law enforcement, and the media. All gave willingly of their time, knowledge and expertise. Governor Schwarzenegger of California was a highlight and his personal commitment to online safety was clearly evident. I attended a major international conference he sponsored and opened and was introduced to him by his adviser as a delegate from Australia. He seemed especially pleased to meet me. I was never quite sure why and only discovered later that he initially thought I was from Austria!

I travelled to the UK, France, and Singapore and continued to learn from dozens of people who were committed to ensuring young people from across the globe could benefit from the most powerful communication platform ever devised in a way that is as safe as possible.

I felt privileged to be travelling under the auspices of the Churchill Trust and I felt a special responsibility to do my best to honour the faith placed in me by the Trust. I know that I will encourage others to take up this great opportunity and I will always be thankful that I did.

**Rod Nockles**  
2006 Fellow

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