

BULLDOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHURCHILL FELLOWS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
GPO Box 7244, GPO St Kilda Road, Melbourne 3008



May 2009

From the President



The start of each year is an exciting time in the Churchill community as applications for Fellowships close and the panel selection process begins. Currently there will be an excited and extremely capable group of Victorians anxiously waiting to hear if their projects have been awarded a Churchill Fellowship. To each of those applicants from such diverse fields we extend our best wishes and look forward to hearing the announcements of the successful Fellowship recipients in July. We will look forward to meeting the 2009 Fellows at our CFAV AGM/Dinner on Friday 31st July at *Bayview Eden*, Queen's Road, Melbourne.

It is an opportune time to extend our sincere thanks and congratulations to all those panel members involved in the first and second interview stages. They have a most responsible role to fulfil, investing much time, effort and care into nominating candidates, and the Victorian Regional Committee is always very proud of the calibre of Victorian nominees for Fellowships presented to the Churchill Trust for consideration.

Though it is April, the CFAV Committee is busy preparing for the 5th National Churchill Fellows' Association Convention to be held in Melbourne from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th

October, 2010. Please put that date in your diary and be prepared to join in a range of activities celebrating Melbourne and the achievements of Victorian Fellows. We do have large shoes to fill as the 4th National Churchill Convention held in Adelaide in October 2008 was an overwhelming success and our congratulations go to Loris Glass and her committee for an outstanding weekend's entertainment.

I am pleased to note that the CFAV was very well represented at the 2008 Convention. There were 120 delegates from all over Australia, and international participants from New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Those who attended were treated to a rich array of events to highlight the diversity of talents and interests of SA Churchill Fellows. The friendly atmosphere was evident at all functions and ensured there was much chatter and sharing of Churchill experiences throughout the weekend. From the Festival Theatre, the Town Hall, the Adelaide Oval, and the Adelaide Zoo, to bronze sculptures and the precincts of Carrick Hill we were introduced to a variety of Fellowship projects that encompassed the Churchill ethos of 'Australians Striving for Excellence'.

The CFAV Committee continues to plan and organise a variety of Workplace Visits for our members and we greatly appreciate the number of members who are keen to attend and learn more about the work and achievements of Victorian Churchill Fellows. If you haven't yet attended a function, I encourage you to do so as they are most enjoyable from a social as well as an educational point of view and offer a unique opportunity to participate in events and visit places that we otherwise may not have access to.

As this will be my last *Bulldog* report as President, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the CFAV Committee for their ongoing commitment to the CFAV and for their support to me during my two years as President - I greatly appreciate the camaraderie that we share as we meet to plan events and Workplace Visits. I look forward to continuing my involvement on the Committee under the leadership of our President Elect, Shane Ringin who takes on the mantle in July at our AGM.

Julie Rees
President, CFAV

March workplace visit: Cruising down the Yarra



Photography: Max Phelan, 1970 Churchill Fellow

Como landing on Sunday 22nd March at 10.30am was the meeting place for 20 enthusiastic CFAV members as they gathered to board the *PV Burnley*. This two hour workplace visit was under the guidance of 2007 Churchill Fellow, Andrew Nixon. Our adventure began with a short trip to Herring Island where Andrew shared some background information about the island. We then had the opportunity to explore the island and search for the various sculptures that form the Environmental Sculpture Park. The sculptures, created from natural materials, are nestled along bushland trails and portray a unique weathered merging of art and nature. The art theme continued with a visit to the island Art Gallery housed in the renovated scout hall building, before we reboarded the *PV Burnley*.

As we began to motor along the Yarra we enjoyed a scrumptious morning tea while we listened to our host Andrew outline details of his Fellowship which was "To study Park Ranger induction and initial training programs". His travels took him on an interesting escapade through the United Kingdom, Canada and Argentina and provided him with great insights to apply to his work environment on his return to Victoria. An added bonus to the morning's program was a commentary by Craig Lupton, Ranger in-charge of Waterways with Parks Victoria. Craig shared his vast knowledge and pointed out features of the waterways throughout our fascinating venture along the Yarra to the Docklands precinct.

During the return trip we were bathed in autumn sunshine and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to take in the city sights from the river vantage point. Those on deck had to keep a weather eye on approaching bridges as the high tide allowed only centimetres of clearance for the *PV Burnley* and everyone had to duck to avoid accidents. It was a most interesting and informative morning and our thanks go to Andrew and Craig for sharing their knowledge and insights with us.

Julie Rees
2002-1 Fellow

1. Boarding PV Burnley at Como landing. 2. Exploring Herring Island.
3. On board with Andrew Nixon.

CFAV Calendar 2009

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 11 July | <i>Weekend Australian</i> ,
2009 Fellows announcement |
| 31 July | 2009 Fellows' Presentation Ceremony
<i>Government House</i>
CFAV AGM, Dinner and welcome to
New Fellows, <i>Bayview Eden</i> |
| 1 August | CFAV New Fellows' Seminar |

2010

Friday 22nd October— Sunday 23rd October
CFAV hosts the 5th National Convention
Melbourne

Black Saturday Bushfires—Victoria

The Committee unanimously voted to make a donation to the victims of the recent bushfires that devastated parts of Victoria during the weekend of the 7th and 8th February. On behalf of the membership of the CFAV a donation of \$500 was made to the Australian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal 2009.

Hon. Bernard Teague AO, retired Supreme Court Judge and 2008 Churchill Fellow, was appointed Chairperson of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

2009 CFAV Committee

Julie Rees, President
Shane Ringin, President Elect
Diane Lightfoot, Treasurer
Janine Barrand, Secretary
Jenny O'Brien, Membership Secretary
Richard Grant, Immediate Past President

Murray Ashby
Lou Chamberlin
Daphne Cheah
Dean Cox
Jenny Dwyer
Henry Gaughan
Andy Jay
Mike Letch

Bulldog, CFAV Newsletter
Julie Rees, Editor
Henry Gaughan, Designer & Production

Enquiries

For enquiries please contact
Julie Rees—Telephone: (AH) 03 9742 7015
Email: rees.julie.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Comment from *Churchill House,* Canberra

The 50th Anniversary of the Trust falls on 12 April 2015. This anniversary is clearly a significant one and would be ideal for the release of an historical account of the Trust and what has been achieved for the benefit of Australia. It could well be a Prime Minister/Governor General type 'launch'.

The history of the Churchill Trust is inarguably unique and is an account over a fifty year period of the topics and areas that were of most interest and concern to Australians for which Fellowships were then subsequently awarded. For the historical account to have wide appeal it must be more than a 'victory' lap of what has been achieved by individual Churchill Fellows and a thematic approach is probably more appropriate.

A project to commence compiling the necessary information to contribute to the writing of an account of the first fifty years of the Trust has now commenced. The essence of this initial stage is to obtain a sense of the stories of the Churchill Fellows and the impact the Fellowship has had on their lives and on Australia. The project will also capture the accounts of those who are not Churchill Fellows but who have played a pivotal and important role in the history of the Trust over a lengthy period.

National Office has already tasked a professional Oral Historian (Lesley Jenkins, a 2004 Churchill Fellow from Queensland) to commence compiling information for the Trust. Lesley will produce an interview CD and a transcript of up to a three hour interview with a number of selected individuals.



Paul Tys, Chief Executive Officer

These interviews will be used to provide information for the eventual writing of the history of the Trust. National Office will assess these first interviews and if we consider this approach suitable more interviews will be organised. The Churchill Trust and the interviewees will have joint copyright over the CD and transcripts.

Closely linked to the achievement of the Churchill Trust in its fifty year history is what the impact has been on the lives of the recipients of Fellowships. Sponsors especially are very interested in the outcome of their very generous donations. Over the last few years, a small number of Fellows have been approached on this issue and summaries compiled and sent to some sponsors. However, it is probably timely to approach a complete year of Fellows, say those who were awarded their Fellowships five or ten years ago and invite them to respond to a questionnaire addressing this issue. Many Fellows advise the Trust that their achievements would not have been possible without the Fellowship experience.

It is worth noting, however, that out of a group of say 100 who received their Fellowship five years ago, the Trust has lost contact with about 30% because Fellows move or change their employment and then do not advise the Trust of their new contact details. Surprisingly, a small number of Fellows advise the Trust that they do not wish to receive any further correspondence from the Trust.

I hope to provide more details as we progress both of these important projects.

Paul Tys
Chief Executive Officer
The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

Regional Chairman's Comment



Robert Beggs AM, Chairman, VRC

I am delighted to report that Victoria received a record number of applications this year. When applications closed on 28th February, Victoria had received 293 applications for Churchill Fellowships – 26 more than last year and 18 more than New South Wales. The gender balance was 162 females and 131 males with applications spread fairly evenly over the 7 categories. This is a marvellous result for Victoria and again on behalf of the Trust I want to thank the very active and supportive Churchill Fellows Association of Victoria who I know have contributed in an extremely positive way in helping to achieve this result.

At the time of writing I know all the panels are busy with their interviews and will, in due course, select about six applicants from each category for final interviews on April 22nd and 23rd. The Churchill Trust greatly appreciates the work and time given by the panel chairmen and the 33 members of these panels and thanks them for their invaluable help.

Over the last six years Sarah Thomson and Mike Carroll have been valuable members of the final interview group. It is Churchill Trust policy that after six years people should retire from various committees and so Sarah and Mike have retired and have been replaced by Robert (Rob) Southey and Jeremy Upton. We look forward to working with them during the final interview process and at the same time sincerely thank Sarah and Mike for their time and contribution over the past six years.

As an aside, we are sorry to hear that Mike Carroll's parents, who live at Mudgegonga in Northern Victoria, were badly affected by the fires on Black Saturday 7th February. Their house was saved but a lot of damage was done to the rest of the property.

With regard to the Black Saturday fires and the forthcoming Royal Commission, Churchill Fellows will be aware that the Hon. Justice Bernard Teague AO, who was awarded a Fellowship in 2008, is conducting the Royal Commission. I wrote to Bernard on behalf of the Trust and Victorian Regional Committee, firstly to congratulate him on his

Australia Day honour and secondly to wish him well in his very important role in charge of the Royal Commission. As I understand it Bernard Teague is very hard working – he has already had many meetings with local communities in the fire areas and I am confident his final report will contain many worthwhile recommendations.

In February, as most people will recall, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, celebrated her 100th birthday and again on behalf of the Trust and the Victorian Regional Committee, I wrote to her congratulating her on this wonderful achievement and thanking her for the support she has given so many people and organizations, including Churchill, during the past decades.

The Churchill Trust, whilst having good financial advisers, is not immune from the global financial problems. The income from our investments is less than last year and so the Trust felt it was prudent to reduce the money allocated to each State and Territory. The result for Victoria means we have funding for approximately 22 Fellowships at an average value of \$25,000 each. The amount of money allocated for Fellowships in 2010 will be decided by the Trust's Investment, Audit & Risk Committee (IARC) at its meeting on Wednesday 15th April, with a recommendation to the Board Meeting on Wednesday 24th June 2009.

I can confirm that the Churchill Dinner, when the 2007 Fellows speak about their overseas study trips, will be at Morgans, 401 Collins Street on the evening of Friday 29th May 2009.

The presentation of the 2009 Churchill Fellowships by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser AC, will be held at Government House on Friday 31st July 2009.

On behalf of us all I want to again thank Pam Oakes for the amazing job she does as Secretary of the Victorian Regional Committee.

Robert Beggs AM
Chairman, Victorian Regional Committee

Oooo! and Ahhh!: a Fellow remembers...



Andrew at Icefield Parkway, Alberta, Canada



... on the job with Parks Victoria

Blizzards had been raging for three days across western and central Canada. For mid-spring not unusual, but this was particularly intensive. Roads were very dicey so being high in the mountains was not a good place to be. Here I was in Jasper, Alberta and the next day we were driving to Banff, stopping at Sunwapata Ranger station for a few hours with senior ranger Mike Eder, one of the trainers for recruit wardens

Day four, what a pearler! Clear skies, hardly a cloud to be seen and not a breath of wind, we were in for a treat. 300 kilometres of mountains, glaciers, pine clad valleys and yep, sparkling skies. The pines were sheeted in a mantle of fresh snow, the road was clear... gosh, I felt like bursting into song. But my host Elaine O'Neill, Recruit Warden Training Manager only had to put up with my Oooos! and Ahhhs!, around every corner we turned – there were at least 200 of them, I reckon. And to think this was a work day!

My Fellowship – a study of the selection and induction programs for new park rangers in Canada, Argentina and the UK, was an interest that had been nagging me over the last 10 years. Capturing the passion that young people have for the environment and matching it with the exemplary standards of some of my international colleagues was a worthy goal. At least I felt it was. And Hip-hooray! so did the Churchill selection panels and also my employer Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria is supportive of, *'initiatives in best practice knowledge and the diversification, retention, and enhancement of organisational knowledge and skills'*. With that kind of endorsement doors opened to me.

And so it was that I headed off to North America, a short stop with the US National Parks Service added late to the itinerary. Here I gained good insight into a successful two-year induction program for all NPS staff. And then on to Canada (crikey! it's a tough slog to become a warden), sortie down to Argentina (Guardaparques – highly respected, and highly competitive entry), and back north to the UK. What they lack for in a federal park service they make up for in unity of spirit and passion.

Once back home the Fellowship provided me a stepping stone almost immediately. I have taken up a new position as Operations Training Manager in Parks Victoria for field staff (park rangers and field technicians) across the state with one of the key projects being induction and foundation training that is a new program in the development area. So doors did open thanks to the Fellowship.

Flying over the Andes from Cordoba, Argentina to Santiago, Chile we were at an altitude where I could see Aconcagua, South Americas highest. It was a clear day and I could just make out the curve of the horizon. Having recently visited some of the most magnificent places in the Americas and experiencing the cultural riches of a number of communities; it made me ponder the wonder of our human heritage and this vast planet we are so lucky to occupy.

Ta! Sir Winston and all of you for your assistance and support.

Andrew Nixon
2007 Fellow



Roof gardens



functioning ecosystems
in the near future

I returned to Australia in November 2008 after spending two months travelling around the world on my Fellowship project to investigate building façade design and rooftops that transform city buildings into functioning ecosystems. I met with green roof and wall experts and visited numerous sites in New York, Toronto, London, Sheffield, Zurich, Basel, Sarnen, Fukuoka and Singapore. As a town planner I firmly believe that the broad range of ecosystem services provided by green roofs and walls in urban landscapes will lead to their rapid adoption in Australian cities.

In addition to the more traditional use of plants on buildings as insulation, modern green roofs help to regulate city-wide temperatures, absorb excess stormwater and provide habitat for endangered and migratory species. Building owners and tenants also benefit by increasing the value of their real estate, by paying less for heating and cooling and less overall for building management and maintenance.

A highlight of the trip for me was the green roof conference that I attended in London where it was wonderful to meet the pioneers of green roof movements around the world who enabled so many people to benefit from green roof and wall infrastructure and so heartening to experience what its like to live in countries where green roofs and walls are common place. From the sessions I attended I concluded that funding and support from all levels of government were a key factor in the development of local green infrastructure. Also, it was interesting to discover that research and demonstration projects co-funded by industries, who stand to benefit most from an increasing demand for the technology, must also play their part if green roof strategies are to become common practice in town planning.

In the ten cities I visited during my eight week trip, the arguments have largely been made and won, so instead of asking 'what is a green roof?' or 'why should we have them?', the decision makers are asking 'how can we help you build more of them?'. I found that the research sector was the third key player in the development of local green infrastructure. It is vital to the integrity of the technology that universities and other research institutions become involved early on. In this way, students learn first-hand

how to design, construct and maintain green infrastructure, whilst also conducting research to identify which systems provide the best solutions to local environmental issues.

Since returning to Australia, I have been networking with town planners, architects, engineers, horticulturalists, property developers, journalists and politicians to spread the word about the knowledge I gained during my Fellowship. As the Vice-President of the not-for profit *Green Roofs Australia*, I lecture on developing green infrastructure at seminars and trade shows and I am organising the 2009 Green Roofs Australia conference, to be held in Melbourne in September. And the idea seems to be catching on. The Committee for Melbourne launched a green roof design competition in March 2009 and green roof plant trials are underway at the University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus and Monash University.

From an early in my career, it just made sense to me that green roofs and walls could provide multiple solutions to many of the environmental issues generated by urban development. The experience of travelling the world as a Churchill Fellow gave my self-confidence a huge boost and confirmed that I was on the right track. It also strengthened my resolve to help bring about the development of green infrastructure in Australia.

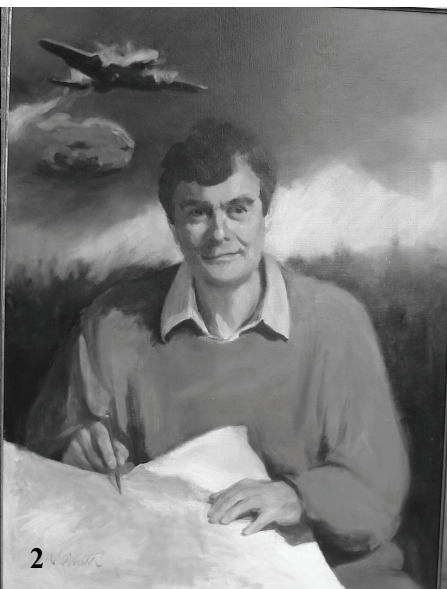
The range of services I now offer through my consultancy, *Groof*, has expanded to embrace every step in the green infrastructure development process. Having recently formed partnerships with an architect, engineer, horticulturalist and builder, *Groof* can now offer green infrastructure design, construction and maintenance services in addition to town planning services for local government and private clients. Thanks to my Fellowship, it seems that the sky's the limit for me in the future when I hope to see plants growing atop our buildings.

Ben Nicholson
2008 Fellow

1. Ben Nicholson with Peter Durrer, of Sika-Sarnafil, Sarnen, Switzerland.
2. Manfred Kohler, President, World Green Roof Infrastructure Network and Ben Nicholson at the Green Roof Conference, London.
3. Ben Nicholson on a green roof.



1



2

Woody's World *Wit on the wing*



3



4

A small group of Churchill Fellows attended a party to celebrate Conrad Wood's 70th birthday in November last year.

For the younger members of CFAV who do not know Conrad, he was one of the earliest recipients of a Churchill Fellowship in 1969, studying aviation in forestry, travelling the length and breadth of North America. He was one of the pioneers in Australia in using helicopters and aeroplanes in fighting forest fires. On his return from his Fellowship, he and a group of other early Fellows such as Doug Howick, Mick Miller, Florence Kendall and Jim Fairchild, played a major part in getting the Churchill Fellows' Association of Victoria up and running. Conrad, Doug and Jim in particular, with the help of John Rogers (the Police identikit artist) were instrumental in developing the *Bulldog* as the newsletter of the Association, which continues its good work to this day as a means of communicating with CFAV members. Fellows will recall with great affection the wit and humour of those early editions of the *Bulldog*, to which Conrad was a major contributor.

Conrad was also active generally in CFAV activities, involved in members meetings (now called working place visits) and also the earlier "weekend extravaganzas" - weekend camps which members and their families (and pets) enjoyed on the country properties of members. Conrad was a long serving and active member of the Committee and is one of that small,

elite group who are Life Members of the Churchill Fellows Association of Victoria. He was also a long serving member of one of the selection panels, under the chairmanship of Dame Joyce Dawes.

Unfortunately, Conrad has had to drop out of CFAV activities in recent years because of illness. In 2001 he was diagnosed with fronto-temporal dementia and hydrocephalus and is lovingly cared for by his partner, Claire Harwood.

It is to Claire's credit and also one of Conrad's old forestry mates, Rob Youl, who decided that Conrad's 70th birthday should not go uncelebrated and a very happy lunch party at the Lobster Cave in Beaumaris was organized and attended by over 60 friends and relatives. A portrait of Conrad by Joyce McGrath (1968 Fellow) shared centre stage with the guest of honour. Those who know Conrad would appreciate the choice of venue and understand how much he enjoyed a party even though he now finds it extremely difficult to express himself in any way. All guests received a commemorative booklet produced by Robert Youl titled, *Woody's World. Wit on the Wing* to mark this memorable event to celebrate a wonderful Fellow.

David Burke
(1975 Fellow)

1. Conrad, Claire and their dog, Henry. 2. *Portrait of Conrad Wood* by Joyce McGrath, early 1980s. 3&4 Guests at Conrad's party.

Postage

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CFAV
P.O Box 7244
G.P.O St Kilda Road
Vic 8004