

Churchill Chatter

May 2014

A magical musical tour



Photo: Tony Lewis

During January and February 2014, as The Mr & Mrs Gerald Frank New 2013 Churchill Fellow, I travelled to the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States to undertake a study of participatory orchestral education and music education programs.

To have eight-weeks to questions one's pre-conceptions, values and beliefs was an absolute privilege. During the eight-weeks I observed and participated in a variety of educational programs, which included: African drumming with disadvantaged teenagers in Edinburgh; musicianship classes with gifted young musicians;

planning a chamber music concert with high school students in London's East End and witnessed a classroom of primary school students in New York learning how to create music. Whatever I observed and participated in, I did so with a real curiosity and openness, for some of my peers it perplexed them that I wasn't excited or elated to be involved, but I knew such emotions would cloud the impact and analysis of the experience.

When I was not participating in educational programs, I attended meetings with senior orchestral management, orchestral educators and other

key people involved with the development and delivery of community based education.

In the course of those meetings and through my reflective processes, it gradually became apparent that my original plan of solely focussing on school-related education, while it made sense in terms of making the project manageable, it was in some respects closing my thinking to the more holistic and perhaps more effective approach of lifelong learning.

In coming to that realisation, I realised that, all aspects of an orchestra's work, whether it be its concerts, pre-concert talks, communication materials and programming do have an educational role. Each person when they engage have differing levels of knowledge, but most people in engaging with one's work is curious and are seeking an experience, which in part has some educational aspects.

For some orchestras at certain the times, the philosophy underlying education has been of outreach and/or paternalism, which at one level is understandable. *cont p 6*

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From the President

Dear Fellows,

It is an exciting time ahead! We are fast approaching the 50th anniversary of the awarding of the first Churchill Fellowships—a significant anniversary, and an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and those who have been beneficiaries of the program.

My first task as President was to attend a meeting in

Canberra to begin discussions of how best to celebrate in 2015 and 2016. One key event will be the Churchill Fellows Convention in Sydney in October 2015—if you are able to get there, you're sure to have a ball and discover all manner of things you never knew you didn't know! There will be other activities happening at both national and state level.

The CFA SA Committee held

a stimulating planning day in February, and we are hoping to provide a varied and exciting program of activities in the coming 12 months. Stay tuned for details. We hope you can join us at one of our events through the year—indeed, if you would like to present a chat, we'd love to hear from you!

Warm regards,

Allison

Thank you to Christine Morris



energy and enthusiasm are greatly valued!

Thankfully, though, none of this needs to be reported in the past tense. We are delighted, that Chris will continue to serve on

Allison Russell

The timing of the Annual Dinner and AGM makes for a slightly awkward changeover of Committees, and doesn't allow the opportunity to say a proper thank you to the outgoing President.

It would be wrong to allow Christine's great work to go

unacknowledged. Christine Morris provided terrific leadership to the Committee during her term as President, and we are grateful to her for all that she has contributed. They are hard shoes to fill! Her good humour, deep passion for the work of the Association and her boundless

the CFA SA Committee and also the Regional Selection Panel.

On a personal note, I am very grateful to Christine for the wonderful support she has provided to me as I try to find my feet in this new role.

THANK YOU!

INVITATION TO PRESENT

a Churchill chat

Whether your Fellowship experience is as fresh as yesterday or a misty memory, we'd like to offer you the opportunity to share it with others.

Fellows are recognised as leaders in their fields, and one of the key goals of the Churchill Fellows Association is to provide opportunities for Fellows to share what they've learned for the benefit of the community.

If you have an idea for how you would like to share something of what you have learned through your Fellowship experience and beyond, please contact us.

We understand that not everyone's work lends itself to a workplace tour, so if you'd prefer to present a 10-20 min talk/demonstration, we would love to include you in an afternoon program later in the year.

To register your interest, please contact Christine Morris
Christine.Morris@health.sa.gov.au

Meet the CFASA Committee

We're keen to activate the membership and increase the networking opportunities for all members. We thought we'd start by introducing some of the Committee to you.

Graeme Adcock (2002)



My Churchill Fellowship has been the basis for a review of aspects of rural and country policing in South Australia and New Zealand Police and is an international reference source in the Australian Institute of Police Management Library.

I am presently the Officer in

Charge of the Eastern Adelaide Local Service Area in the South Australia Police. I also completed a three month exchange with the New Zealand Police in 2007.

I continually contribute to the development of country policing and emergency

management through training, performance management and policy development.

Mike Rungie (2012)



Mike Rungie took his Churchill Fellowship in 2013 looking at the invention of roles for people in their 70s, 80s, 90s.

He visited a wide range of organisations and individuals in Britain, Ireland and America.

He not only saw a developing vision of what you do in your

70s, 80s, 90s.....but a range of 'role enablers' supporting people to develop roles, when it's not that clear what the roles are, and communities aren't that supportive of the idea of engaged and productive older citizens.

Mike is CEO of ACH Group, a not-for-profit aged care

organisation and is applying his findings both broadly in the community and more specifically in aged care.

He has become hugely supportive of the Churchill Trust potential to support older people to never stop learning.

Gillian Weiss (2002)

I joined the committee almost immediately after I got back from my Fellowship trip in late 2002. I had spent a wonderful four months in UK, Europe and North America visiting and working with harp makers in a quest to find out how to build the perfect harp. Still haven't achieved it but it's a goal worth aiming for.

Christine Morris, a neighbour and friend, who originally suggested that I apply for a Fellowship was already on the committee and said, 'Why don't you join? It's mostly social – not a lot of work.' The Fellows that I had met up

had all been interesting people and I doubted I'd run into any until the next Annual Dinner, which was ten or so months off so I thought, 'Why not?'

The committee was much smaller in those days and indeed, was quite sociable, and I got to know them all quite well over a number of very pleasant meetings. The Annual General Meeting was then, as it still is, one of the main events of the year and I shortly became involved with the planning and arrangements for that. It's not a huge task but takes up a fair amount of time in the month or so

before it takes place. But it was a great chance to have contact with the wider membership and has led over the years to my getting to know far more of the Fellows than I would have done otherwise.

These days the committee is about twice as large as when I first joined it, though it's rarely that we all make it for any given meeting! But we all feel that the work we do in supporting and promoting Churchill Fellowships is worthwhile and we continue to enjoy ourselves while we do it.

Janice Nitschke named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Congratulations to Jan Nitschke, who was named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours list for significant service to librarianship in South Australia, and to the community.

Jan was awarded her Churchill Fellowship in 2005, to study the role of the Public Library in the community: how they participate in community initiatives, support information literacy and lifelong learning strategies, develop partnerships with other stakeholders and meet these challenges.

She is Manager of the Wattle Range Libraries, and in an interview with the local radio station following the recent award, she reflected on the significant changes that have taken place in the industry in her time working in libraries. From being the first state to have free internet access for communities to the provisions of online journals allowing people to study without having to go away, libraries make a significant contribution to their local communities.

Talking about her motivation for her work, she said 'It is an opportunity to grow

partnerships, work with the community, meet people and provide another space for people. They have home and many have a work space but the library is the third space they can belong and I like providing that.' (You can see the interview at <http://wattlerangenow.com.au/2014/02/03/janice-nitschke-receives-the-member-of-the-order-of-australia/>)

Jan has won a long list of awards during her career and held many board positions. In 1986 The Hockeridge Scholarship: travelled to Texas; 1986 -1984 President of PLSA Representing Country Libraries, Libraries Board LGA; 1989: started the first Mobile Library service in the State and received a grant to do this from the CMV; 1996 The ALIA Merit Awards; 2002 The Crawford Inaugural Crawford Award; 2005 The Churchill Fellowship and The LGA Service Awards for 25 years of service.



Report: Churchill Chat at the National Motor Museum



Allison Russell, Senior Curator, Community Engagement at History SA, was working at the National Motor Museum when she was

awarded her Fellowship in 2010. In November last year she revisited the collection as she led a tour for the CFA SA. The National Motor Museum in Birdwood holds some of the nation's most significant vehicles in its collection, and these were at the heart of our tour—the 1908 Talbot, the first to cross the nation, driving from

Adelaide to Darwin in 1908 before there were roads, service stations and bridges, and the 1899 Shearer Steam Carriage, hand-built in Mannum by David Shearer.

Allison shared some of the stories behind the collection and reflected on her Fellowship experiences looking at how museums can make more meaningful connections with communities.

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However, I realised that if one operates from that model you are closing the door for real interaction and relationship building with the communities one is working with. While there is no question that orchestral education can create or play a role in social change, I came to the view that in no case should it be the principal reason for providing orchestral education.

A particular highlight of the Fellowship was to attend the Association of British Orchestras National Conference in London. Over three days I was able to learn a lot about the state of British orchestras and the key issues that exist relating to issues including: musicians' wellbeing, philanthropy, government funding, education and programming. The

opportunity to learn through case-studies and conversations was invaluable.

An additional and magnificent aspect of the Fellowship was the opportunity to attend numerous concerts, where I was able to discover new conductors, soloists and repertoire. Apart from the inspirational and emerging aspect of attending those concerts. It allowed me to learn and observe how orchestras present themselves, how program notes are used as a tool of audience engagement and to gain an appreciation of the orchestras' supporter base.

At this stage, I am still reflecting and considering how to best implement the learnings into my day-to-day work with the Adelaide Youth Orchestras. However, without doubt, I can and do imagine that in the not too

distant future, new projects and processes will evolve which are based upon the Fellowship's learnings.

In closing, I would like to thank the Association for the support it provided me as a new fellow. To be made so welcomed and to know that there is a group of people whose expertise I could call upon was much appreciated.

Christopher Wainwright is the General Manager of The Adelaide Youth Orchestras.

To find out more about Christopher's fellowship, visit: <http://chriswain74.wordpress.com/>



End of year celebration at Carrick Hill

Thanks to Director of Carrick Hill, Richard Heathcote (Churchill Fellow 2007), for hosting our end of year celebration, which included a chance to engage with our inner child.

Richard's Fellowship took him to the UK and Canada as he explored how to make heritage sites more accessible

to children through interpretation and play. He shared some of what he learned as he took us on a delightful journey through Carrick Hill's storybook trail.

Classics such as *Winnie the Pooh*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Charlottes Web* and *the Jungle Book* come to life for old and young alike. As we discovered,

apparently you don't need to be a child to enjoy the interactive interpretation! (although I suspect the glasses of wine we were all holding helped!)

Following a shared meal in the garden, we were treated to a tour of the house with Richard.

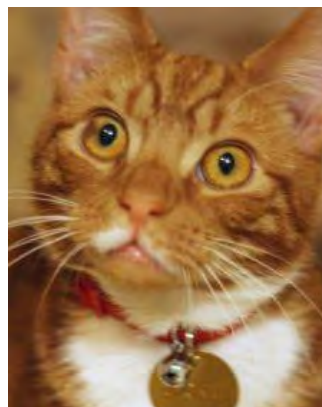


Chartwell Change of Command

Latest from the [Churchill Centre](#):

A changing of the guard took place this past month as Jock VI succeeded Jock V as the official feline of Chartwell Manor, Winston Churchill's country home. Churchill dearly loved animals and had many pets during his long life including dogs, cats, birds, pigs horses and sundry other creatures. His last pet was

an orange tabby cat given to him as a birthday present in 1962 by his long-time private secretary Sir John "Jock" Colville and thus named for the giver. Churchill asked that there should always be such a cat residing at Chartwell. The National Trust, which took over the property after Churchill's death in 1965, has always honoured the request.



Churchill Fellows Association (SA) Objectives

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Mike Rungie
Patricia Toolan
Gillian Weiss
John Zwar

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Congratulations to our Secretary, Sheridan, who was married in January.

At our recent planning meeting, we reviewed the objectives of the CFA SA. This is a summary of what the organisation aims to do:

Background

When Sir Winston Churchill died on 24 January 1965, an Australia-wide appeal raised \$4.4 million so that a continuing memorial could be created. This took the form of the Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Inc, which manages those funds enabling about 100 Australians to carry out research in other countries each year. Over 350 Fellowships have been awarded in South Australia.

Objectives

1. To promote the common interests of people who have been awarded a fellowship under the

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

2. To foster the spirit of Churchill Fellowships
3. To provide an avenue for contact between Fellows
4. To assist in the orientation of new Fellows
5. To further the interests of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
6. To raise funds for a South Australian Churchill Fellowship

Activities

One of the exciting experiences for a Churchill Fellow is to meet and to keep up contact with others whose lives have been enriched in a similar way. There is possibly no other organisation which offers members with wide

ranging skills and careers, to meet and learn from and about each other.

Regular CFA SA activities make this possible. The Annual Dinner is the major event when the warmth of the welcome for new Fellows is displayed.

Membership

Every Churchill Fellow is strongly urged to join and support the Association. Membership fees may be paid annually, or up to five years in advance. Nominations for the committee or senior office are welcome at all times.

For further information about the Churchill Fellows Association of South Australia, please see our website <http://www.churchillfellowssa.org.au>

**Over, Under,
Through and Around: Celebrating
Churchill Fellows in Australia**
**7th National Convention of Churchill Fellows of Australia
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Winston Churchill
Memorial Trust
Sydney
9th - 11th October 2015**

