

# Churchill Chatter

Churchill Fellows Association of South Australia Incorporated

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## Returning Fellow Morgan Atkinson

Having recently returned from my Fellowship on the 1st of December I have had time to reflect on what I describe as a life changing experience. Whilst the fellowship was probably one of the most challenging experiences of my life it was also one of the most empowering learning experience one could embark on. The knowledge experience and networks I developed over the 8 week tour will aid in the development of an exciting new field in exercise rehabilitation.

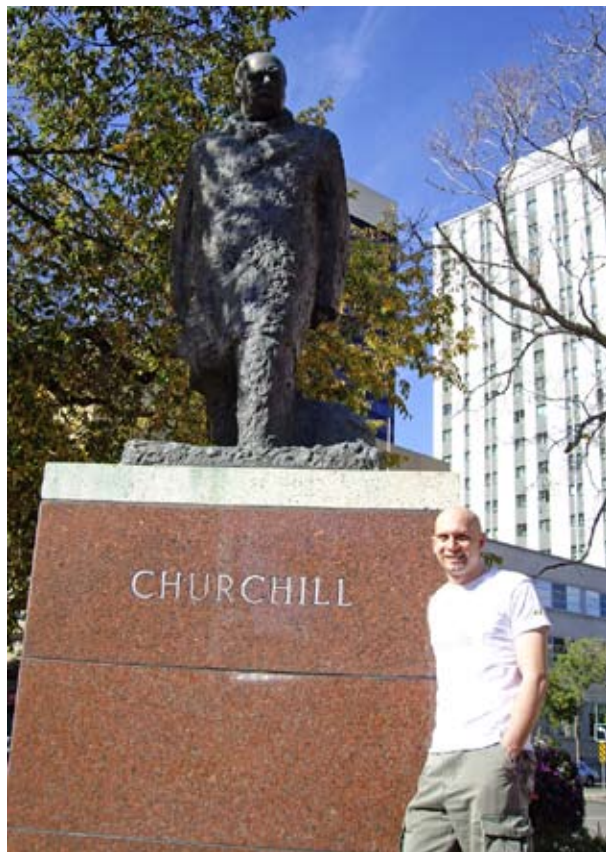
The purpose of my fellowship was to investigate exercise rehabilitation interventions for cancer patients. The journey started in America taking me through 7 states and then jetting off through Canada, Germany and Spain.

The Tour started off in Los Angeles where I was lucky enough to meet with Eric Durak at the University of California Santa Barbara. Eric is recognised as one of the pioneers in exercise and cancer recovery having published numerous papers in this field. Eric now works out of the University designing wellness programs in what would only be described as an idealic location on the Californian coast. Having spent most of my time on buses and planes whilst in California it was great to visit such an inspirational person in such beautiful location. However the next destination would be one of the most beautiful and learned programs that I would visit through out my tour.

Arriving at LAX in Los Angeles to board my 4 hour flight to Anchorage Alaska I didn't know at the time that it would take more than double that time to finally arrive in anchorage. Having spent 1.5 hours on the phone to Qantas it was finally decided that my ticket to Anchorage whilst on the itinerary was not actually ticketed and I had to find another flight to Alaska via Seattle. So some 8 hours later I finally arrived in Alaska feeling a little tired!! Whilst the journey to Alaska was challenging the exercise program and location more than made up for all the stress it took to get there. The cancer centre was a newly built facility funded by the oil companies and was truly an amazing centre with state of the art facilities. The cancer centre overlooked the beautiful Alaskan ranges and was the perfect back drop for a cancer rehabilitation program. The program was also equal to the location, utilising best practice care and support services. I was also lucky enough to have a free weekend whilst up in Alaska and was kindly taken up to Denali National park to see beautiful Mt McKinley and some amazing wildlife including grizzly bears. Unfortunately my time in Alaska went rather quickly and I was off again to a Dallas for a bone marrow transplant survivors conference.

The conference was hosted by Bone Marrow Transplant Infonet at the Hilton hotel and covered issues related to bone transplant survivorship.

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# Editor's Desk..

I have to apologise for this issue being so late, but one could say I was tripped up by technology.

Now technology is a good thing, granted, but after having a computer crash and then to find the said computer hadn't performed it's necessary back up duties I was temporarily quite at a loss.

So here I am back "on-line", but still catching up on the myriad of tasks required to get back in balance. Three million emails to sift through, numerous new projects to complete, new software to install, register and come to grips with; I am left wondering what I have learned from the experience. Probably nothing, given a few more months and I will be back to being totally enslaved by the technology that produces this newsletter and dominates every other facet of my working life.

Oh well, in the words of Ned Kelly, "such is life". My more modern axiom would be, "such is Microsoft Windows".

Greg Cramond,  
Editor

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## Invitation

Frank Caspers, 1984 Fellow (Calligraphic Manuscripts), travelled for five months through Egypt, Europe, Britain, and the USA, studying many of the world's most beautiful manuscripts, from the walls of ancient tombs, in the remains of medieval libraries, at the Vatican, the British Library, The Pierpont Morgan, and many more in between.

Frank will welcome Churchill Fellows to a Churchill Chat at his home at 1a Brahma Court, Strathalbyn on Sunday May 24th 2009, at 2.00pm.

Frank will talk about his life since his fellowship and how the insight gained has guided his approach to his craft, his more than twenty years as Scribe to the City of Adelaide, his commissions and exhibitions, his own manuscript books in libraries and private collections, and any pieces or books still on hand.

Frank also has a small collection of antique manuscripts and artefacts, and a large collection of facsimiles of both modern and ancient manuscript books, including many medieval Books of Hours.

**RSVP now before it's too late!!**

For further information call Frank on:  
8536 3045

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It was an enlightening experience talking with survivors and listening to the difference in treatment between Australia and the USA. I was shocked to learn that most people who undergo BMT in America are not entirely covered by insurance and often are required to fund raise to get the finances to undergo treatment. It really made me appreciate what we have in Australia.

My next stop was in Kansas City, Kansas, where I visited what I perceived to be the best practice program I visited whilst on tour. Whilst the facilities were under development the exercise prescription and processes to aid in recovery far exceeded any other program. I was also invited to talk to a group of nursing student at the University of Missouri. What initially was suppose to be a small talk in front of 10-20 students ended up being a lecture in front of a packed lecture theatre including all the faculty and Dean of nursing at the University. Whilst I think the students came for the free lunch it was an interesting experience and great opportunity that has lead to the possibility of an exchange program between the university and the centre for physical activity in ageing in Adelaide. My time in America quickly came to an end and I was off across the Atlantic to Berlin, Germany.

Arriving in Germany was a totally different experience and a culture shock. Having spent the past 6 weeks in America with fantastic facilities and a wealth of resource it was difficult to adjust to outdated facilities and a language barrier. Whilst the facilities were different to what I had just experienced in America the program was far more progressive and interesting. The cancer program is a research-based program with patients undergoing exercise whilst in hospital undergoing high dose chemotherapy and total body irradiation for bone marrow transplantation. Having witnessed a number of tests it was fascinating to talk with the research leader Dr Fernando Dimeo about his training philosophies for cancer patients. His belief was that cancer patients should be trained like athletes as it elicits quick results and improvements in physical function.

Finally I arrived in Spain for the last stop on the fellowship. And it proved to be the most unique program visited. The program was located in a hospital called hospital Universitario Infantil Niño Jesús a childrens hospital in Madrid Spain. What made the program so unique was that it was a program for children undergoing treatment for cancer. The program was run in a simliar way to an adults program with children undergoing a myriad of tests and training programs that replicate adult protocols. It was a privilege to witness this program as it is the only program of its kind in the world.

Having completed the tour I now realise how lucky I have been to be awarded a Churchill Fellowship. It was a life changing experience that provided me with skills and knowledge that no one else in the world has been fortunate enough to experience. I now have a burning desire to implement the numerous skills gained whilst on tour and would like to thank the Churchill trust for the privilege of becoming a Churchill Fellow.

## Churchill Chat Special - Keyboard in 1 easy lesson!

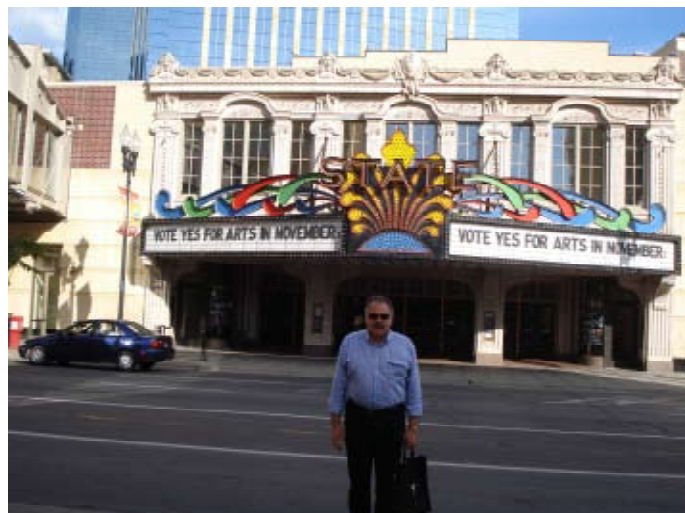
With Pamela Freeman, 1998 Fellow and Director of Music/Artistic Performance  
Prince Alfred College



No musical background necessary; come and have fun making music in this state of the art Keyboard Laboratory.

2.00pm - 3.00pm September 19th, 2009.  
Prince Alfred College, Keyboard/Computer Lab.  
Dequetteville Terrace Kent Town, S.A. 5067  
Contact: Pam Freeman  
t: 08 8334 1200  
e: pfreeman@pac.edu.au

# Returning Fellow Ken Lloyd



State Theatre, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Through my Churchill Fellowship I was able to travel to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America in order to study arts and cultural programs which have assisted regional communities' access to and participation in the arts.

My Churchill Fellowship was undertaken between 15th May and 11th July 2008.

During my Fellowship I was able to meet people working in regional arts organisations, regionally based arts workers, arts funding agencies, arts and business development organisations and to inspect both regionally based and metropolitan arts facilities. I gained an insight into numerous regional arts initiatives from both a producer and presenter perspective and saw first hand the arts programs which are regarded as priorities by arts funding agencies.

Highlights of my Churchill Fellowship included visiting numerous outstanding arts facilities including the Baltic Contemporary Arts Centre, the Wales Millennium Centre, the Muni Arts Centre, the Harbourfront Arts Centre. I was also extremely pleased to make presentations to the Promoters Arts Network, Scotland and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Minnesota.

As a result of my fellowship, I have no doubt that regional Australia, and regional South Australia, in particular is well served in terms of opportunities to access professional artists and touring programs and in being able to seek government arts support for community inspired arts and cultural projects. However, I believe there are numerous opportunities to improve access to the arts and to improve the sustainability of the regional arts sector in the longer term.

Key recommendations from my Churchill Fellowship were to:

- Improve opportunities for regional decision making within State and National arts funding agencies.
- Improve opportunities for South Australian (and national) smaller and remote communities to access professional performing arts.
- Establish a South Australian (and national) funding program which would assist in the development of arts facilities and would match the needs and requirements of the communities they serve.
- Improve arrangements between the South Australian tourism and arts sectors to establish a more cohesive and marketable annual South Australian regional arts festival program.
- Establish a South Australian (and national) challenge grants program which would match corporate sector cash sponsorships, in particular for small regional arts organisations.
- Build on the success of the South Australian Regional Centre of Culture program by establishing a national program where up to three Regional Centres of Culture can be celebrated on a biennial basis.
- Provide increased opportunities for public art commissions to be undertaken across regional South Australia.
- Establish a new relationship with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to enable exhibitions of visual arts and craft that showcases the work of regionally based artists to be displayed at Australian Embassies overseas.

> Visit:

<http://churchillfellowssa.org.au>

> for all your information on:

- Our objectives and purpose
- Links to the Churchill Trust
- Links to interstate Fellows Associations
- About us
- Membership
- Past and Present Fellows
- Latest news
- Events
- Contacts

## Churchill Quiz

1. True or False: One of Winston Churchill's hobbies was bricklaying.
2. What was the maiden name of Winston's wife, Clementine?
3. In what year did Winston win a Noble Prize for literature?
4. Complete this Churchill quote: "...we shall fight on the landing grounds,..."?
5. In what English county is Blenheim Palace, Churchill's childhood home?

Answers:

1: True

2: Hozier

3: 1953

4: "... we shall fight in the fields and in the streets..."

5: Oxfordshire

While the global financial crisis might have somewhat diminished the

Trust's income the passion to learn and advance knowledge and understanding through research overseas is as strong, or even stronger than ever. The Regional Panel under Alexandra Cannon's guidance as Chair, has been busy during March reading and recommending a stellar group of new fellowships. We look forward to hearing the announcements. The committee has also been busy finalising business from the convention and by now I hope all who attended have received their DVD of photographs brimming with wonderful memories. We're about to take another walk down memory lane with the reintroduction of Churchill Chats. For those of us who are more recent Fellows — these are events throughout the year when Fellows share a few hours exploring something related to their Fellowship. Previously these have become so popular that I hear they grew into the occasional weekend trip. In short they're about having fun together and doing what Fellows do well which is being interested in just about everything! There are two events coming up soon so please check out details in this edition of the Churchill Charter and book in now. Finally something for everyone but especially perhaps for the 'retired-from-work but not from life' Fellows: this year we recruited eight new members on to the committee which has been fantastic. In part this was to generate fresh ideas and perspectives on how the association could go forward to provide an even more vibrant reflection of Fellows' post fellowship connectedness. In reality what I have observed is that we have fabulous ideas and great spirit and energy but many of us are working longer and longer hours and putting the rubber on the road is getting harder. Liz Harfull's committee contribution we have greatly appreciated but due partially to the overwhelming success of her book we have reluctantly accepted her resignation. We wish her ongoing success and look forward to still catching up with her at AGM dinners. But this brings me to request that all Fellows whether recently returned or perhaps now a little less time-pressured can think seriously about nominating for the committee. There will be a formal call for nominations later but I am happy to receive self nominations now. Please note my new email address is:  
glass.loris@dpc.sa.gov.au.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBYN LAYTON QC

Many of you reading this will need no reminders of your debt to Robyn Layton.

She joined the Churchill Fellows selection committee in March 1979 at the invitation of then Chairman, Justice Sam Jacobs, and succeeded him in 1996. Her decision to step down following the 2008 round of selections and celebrations is widely regretted, but no one can say she has not done her share. And, with grace, wit and competence.

Through the whole process of pre-selection, short-listing and interviews sound reasoning always supported her judgment, her points irresistibly persuasive – even on the rare occasions when I disagreed with her.

Arguably (used in a literal sense) she was at her best during the committee meetings when each member put in their own pitch for their chosen candidates in each category. Each of us would prepare our own short list, the number being roughly proportional to those applying. Then it was argy-bargy all round.

Churchill Fellows almost invariably speak of, and demonstrate, their passion for their calling. I assure you, all of you, that the committee members are just as passionate as you are. Somehow Robyn would pare our final lists of around 30 down to a manageable number to be interviewed in a single day, usually about 18. There were a few noses out of joint, and even a bit of sulking when a favorite missed out, but all of us accepted that justice had been done.

The interview days, all 29 of them that Robyn and I have sat through, were exhausting, challenging and exhilarating. As Chair, Sam Jacobs's patience was apparently inexhaustible. But just as I was beginning to squirm in my chair that the candidate was exceeding their allotted time – these were the days of meticulously prepared 'presentations' with overhead projections, slides, all manner of classroom teaching aids – he would tactfully pass judgment that the interview was over. How he did it without causing offence was a matter of wonderment to me then and now.

Robyn succeeded him as Chair in 1996. We moved from the hallowed and intimidating halls of Adelaide University to light, modern, airy business premises on Greenhill Road. Things lightened up, literally and figuratively.

As each candidate arrived, secretary Geoffrey Sauer, gifted with the knack of making nervous nellies feel relaxed and comfortable, greeted them. Robyn came out of the interviewing room to meet everyone of them, usher them in and introduce the committee around the table. The general atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. Some applicants had gone to great lengths to prepare carefully worded statements and would open their huge folders ready to dazzle us. With the utmost courtesy, Robyn would say something like. "just talk to us. Tell us about yourself". "What you do, how you want to do it better and why you need to travel overseas". It always worked. They sat back, they sat forward, and they looked into our faces and smiled instead of glowering into their documents.

At the end of the interviews, we committee members went through a detailed voting process, guided on logistics by the secretary. Always there was some anguish over worthies who missed out, but I cannot recall any occasion when justice was not only done, but also seen to be done.

Incoming Chair Alexandra Cannon has a tough job ahead of her, but she could not have had a better example.

This tribute to Robyn Layton is on behalf of all the Fellows who found they were not intimidated but encouraged. And on my own behalf, for the satisfaction of watching her do an impossible job with consummate skill.

**Elizabeth Silsbury OAM**  
**Churchill Fellow 1967**  
**Member of SA Selection Committee, 1979-2008**

*Many times I have thought that if ever I am naughty enough to get hauled up into court, I hope Justice Layton is on the bench. E.S.* 

