

ADDRESS BY
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AO QC
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ON THE OCCASION OF
**PRESENTATION OF CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP
AWARDS**

Government House, Darwin

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I would like to welcome you to Government House this evening and I acknowledge the Larrakia people and their ancestors, traditional owners of the land on which this historic house stands.

There is another historic house in a small village in “the garden of England”, the county of Kent. The core of Chartwell is 15th century; however, the oldest part, where you can see Churchill’s study, was built in 1086.

Your image of Winston Churchill may well be one of the great man standing on the steps of 10 Downing Street or emerging from the War Office. But he had a very special home well worth visiting where you can learn much more about this notable individual.

Bought by Sir Winston for its magnificent views over the Weald of Kent to Sussex, Chartwell was the place from which he drew inspiration from 1924 until the end of his life. The rooms and gardens remain much as they were when he lived here, with

pictures, books, maps and personal mementoes evoking the incredible career and diverse interests of this statesman. There is of course a supply of cigars and on his desk sit two porcelain busts of Napoleon and Nelson. Outside, the terraced hillside gardens reflect the importance to Churchill of landscape and nature.

Churchill was a man of profound depth and talent. His name is widely recognised due to 20th century history books but there was so much more. Rose gardens were his passion and painting was a preoccupation over the last forty years of his life. His art, which numbered more than five hundred paintings was highly acclaimed and exhibited around the world. He wrote: *I know of nothing which, without exhausting the body, more entirely occupies the mind*".

Churchill fought in the front line trenches with the Grenadiers and then the Royal Scots Fusiliers and during the winter and spring of 1916 used any slack period in the fighting to get his paints out. Wherever he went: Egypt, Canada, Scotland, Cote d'Azur; Churchill took his painting equipment.

The fact that the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust perpetuates his memory by awarding Churchill Fellowships is completely apt. A fellowship is the "award of an opportunity" to enable Australians from all walks of life to travel overseas to further a project close to their hearts.

It is a tremendous pleasure this evening to recognise a record number of Northern Territory recipients, they are extremely worthy and their work and research is fascinating. I am sure Churchill would be the first, if he was in this room tonight, to circulate amongst you asking searching questions.

I am reminded of a couple of Churchill's famous quotes that certainly apply to your endeavours past, present and future:

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty and

Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential.

Interestingly for me as a gardener, Churchill thought his greatest achievement was the serpentine brick wall he built at Chartwell amongst his beloved roses.

One of the worthy recipients tonight is Glenn Wightman who has assisted me with plant identification over many years and has sent me copies of plant identification and their use in many Aboriginal languages. His research will pass on vital traditional knowledge on flora and fauna.

Winsome Jobling I have known for many years and she has turned all sorts of plants into paper – really the most beautiful paper.

Louise Presswell, Eileen van Iersel and Prudence Walker are all focussed on medical issues, each from a different angle. Louise will

study cancer care education, Eileen cultural and communication barriers within health services, and Prudence models of care for children with foetal alcohol syndrome. All three will greatly benefit the Northern Territory with the knowledge they acquire in areas of great need. I commend you all.

I would now like to hand over to Ms Jenny Blokland ...