

Media Release:

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Community Education Officer Awarded Churchill Fellowship

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) Community Education Officer Jennifer Cunningham has received a prestigious Churchill Fellowship to study community engagement in parks and reserves throughout Canada and the United States.

Awarded by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, the Fellowship will provide funding for Ms Cunningham to travel overseas to look at successful strategies used to promote sustained environmental stewardship in a similar context to her role at NRETAS.

“Parks and reserves operating in remote areas of Canada and the U.S. do so in comparable geographic, economic and cultural contexts to the Territory,” said Ms Cunningham.

“This Fellowship provides an amazing opportunity to see what methods and models those countries have used to get communities involved in the long-term protection and management of parks and gain ideas on how we can move forward here in the Territory.”

From September, Ms Cunningham will work with environmental education and volunteering programs through Parks Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the U.S. National Park Service in locations ranging from the Northwest Territories to Arizona.

She is one of six Territorians to receive a 2011 Churchill Fellowship out of 107 awarded throughout Australia this year.

Priscilla Leeson, a Flight Deck Supervisor at the Territory Wildlife Park, has also received the Fellowship and will explore training techniques for Western horse riding, with a particular emphasis on the reining discipline, in Canada and the United States.

NRETAS Chief Executive Jim Grant said these Fellowships are a huge accomplishment for Ms Cunningham and Ms Leeson, and the knowledge they will gain from their studies will benefit all Territorians.

“This a great way for them to further their passion and share their expertise with overseas colleagues while also learning new skills and strategies that they can share with us upon their return,” said Mr Grant.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust has funded more than 3,500 Fellowships for Australians since it was established in 1965 to honour the memory of Sir Winston Churchill.

Recipients design their own research project in their field of expertise and are given funding to travel to further their knowledge with the goal of using their findings to benefit Australian society.

For more information on the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, go to www.churchilltrust.com.au.

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Media Note – for more information, contact Jennifer Cunningham on 8999 4565 or 0421 541 910.

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