

Dr Dorothea Sandars Churchill Fellowship

The Churchill Trust each year awards Fellowships to about 100 Australians, giving them the opportunity to investigate a project overseas. The Fellowships, named after Sir Winston Churchill, cover almost all conceivable areas of interest, but some on offer are sponsored and these usually are aimed at a specific topic.

One of these focused types of Fellowships is the Dr Dorothea Sandars Churchill Fellowship, which is awarded for either the study of medical or veterinary parasitology, or the study of Parkinson's Disease.

This Fellowship was first awarded in 2002, the recipient being Dr Rogan Lee from Westmead in NSW. Dr Lee will be travelling to the UK, US, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia to update current knowledge and expand the diagnostic capacity of medical parasitology in Australia.

Applications are now open for Churchill Fellowships – including the Dr Dorothea Sandars Churchill Fellowship – to be awarded in 2003 for travel from September 1, 2003. The Fellowship includes airfares, fees and a living allowance; the average value is \$20,000.

There are no prescribed qualifications for would-be Fellows. The Trust says that the merit of the proposal is the primary test, together with a desire to share the results of the Fellowship with the community. Thus far, some 2,600 Churchill Fellowships have been awarded. Further information, and application forms, may be downloaded from the Trust's web site at www.churchilltrust.com.au. Printed forms are obtainable by calling freecall 1800 777 231, or faxing (02) 6249 8944.

Applications with references may be submitted from January 1, 2003. The closing date is Friday, February 28, 2003.

Rare white rhino born in Victoria

A Southern White Rhinoceros calf was born in late September at Victoria's Open Range Zoo, on the zoo's 36-hectare savannah enclosure. The 30 kilogram calf is the first white rhinoceros born in Australia for ten years.

Mother Letaba and father Umgana were amongst a group of four Southern White Rhinoceros imported from Africa's Kruger National Park in 1999.

Peter Stroud, Species Coordinator Southern White Rhinoceros, told a media conference that there are only

about 20 rhino zoo births around the world each year, and almost as many deaths, which is why the birth is a rare event.

There are currently around 12,000 Southern White Rhinoceros in Africa. The species is said to have recovered from numbers in the low hundreds in the early 1900s. Southern White Rhinoceros herds kept in zoos or zoo parks are 'insurance' populations, in case the African population is wiped out by disease or other disaster.

The gestation period for the rhinoceros is about 17 months.

Fenner wins PM's Prize

Professor Frank Fenner from the John Curtin School of Medical Research has won the Australia's top prize in science, the \$300,000 Prime Minister's Prize for Science.

A virologist, Fenner has made major contributions since the mid 1940's in research into infectious diseases. The two for which he is best known are controlling Australia's rabbit plague using myxomatosis of rabbits, and helping to eradicate smallpox in humans.

AVA shifts Canberra office

The Canberra office of the AVA has been relocated to 86 Wentworth Ave, Kingston, ACT 2604.

The postal address and telephone and fax details remain the same.

AVA Auxiliary announces festive luncheon

The Auxiliary to the AVA will be having a Christmas luncheon in Sydney on Sunday, December 1, from 1pm at the home of Arch and Jan Sinclair, President of the NSW Branch.

The Christmas Luncheon of the Auxiliary is held to benefit the AVA Benevolent Fund, an organisation that aims to help members of the veterinary family in need of assistance, said Mrs Sinclair.

The Luncheon will feature an open bar with plenty of nibbles and a buffet lunch. The cost is \$30 per person. The Sinclair's address is 22 Bligh Crescent, Seaforth. Information or RSVPs to Jan Sinclair at (02) 9948 6359.



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