South Australia Small Business urged to realise their finest hour and apply for a Churchill Fellowship

A national award scheme that sends Australians from all walks of life overseas to explore a topic or issue of their choice wants more people from small business in South Australia to apply.

As part of a campaign celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia is urging small business proprietors in South Australians to submit an application for a Churchill Fellowship.

As many as twelve South Australians receive a Fellowship every year. Worth an average of $25,000 each, they allow recipients to meet with, observe and learn from their peers and global experts anywhere in the world, and to establish valuable international networks.

The Fellowships were established to create opportunities for everyday Australians to travel independently and explore a topic or issue they are passionate about. People don’t need any specific qualifications to apply, and the Fellowships are not about formal academic study. In fact, they don’t even have to relate to your career. They can be based around your favourite pastime or your role as a volunteer in a community organisation, and unlike many other scholarship programs, they offer considerable flexibility in terms of timing and duration.

The key is that the knowledge you are seeking is not readily available in Australia, and that you are willing to share what you learn when you return, to help inspire new ideas, innovation and excellence so that it benefits the broader community.

The first Churchill Fellows went overseas in 1966. They included Riverland horticulturalist Ian Tolley, who travelled to Asia, Israel and the United States to investigate citrus growing in a trip that not only changed his life but Australia’s citrus industry and the nursery trade.

Mr Tolley went on to initiate and develop techniques for micro-budding citrus and growing citrus in containers, which have been adopted widely around the world. He has received many state, national and international industry honors, including the first International Plant Propagators Society Award of Merit given outside the United States. Patron of the International Society of Citrus Nurserymen, he is still going strong at 86 and working on a much-anticipated book about citrus growing that brings together an extraordinary lifetime of knowledge.

More than 360 South Australians have followed in Ian’s footsteps since 1966, exploring issues that have benefited the South Australian community.

Applications for the next round of Fellowships open on 28 February 2016 and close 15 May 2016. For more information and bookings visit www.churchilltrust.com.au or freecall 1800 777 231.