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OUR FUTURE

KISLEV- TEVET 5778

DECEMBER 2017

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Chanukah In the City

SUNDAY
17th
December
2017

4:00PM - 8PM
REDDACLIFF PLACE
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JNF Australia clarifies its position

J-WIRE STAFF – J-WIRE – 9 NOVEMBER 2017

Following the announcement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding the appropriation of KKL revenues by the Israeli Government, JNF Australia has declared it is not linked to KKL.

In a statement JNF says: “JNF Australia and KKL are linked together by history, emotion and mission. We share a common narrative that connects us to the 5th Zionist Congress and the establishment of the Jewish National Fund in 1901. Yet, we are a separate, independent entity.

JNF Australia and KKL work together in cooperation to enhance and further our mutual purposes and objectives. Each of us are legally and operationally separate, with our own separate Board of Directors, employees, and donors. No member of the Board of JNF Australia serves on the Board of KKL, and vice versa. Our donors select and designate where their contributions go and the projects and programs to support, which are actively monitored by JNF Australia.

KKL is one of many partners that JNF Australia works with all over Israel, including other not for profits and municipalities, in order to source and implement vital projects. The funds raised by JNF Australia go directly towards these projects, with not one dollar used to fund KKL. In fact on many occasions KKL have added 25% to the funds we have directed to the projects. Recent moves by the Government of Israel to appropriate some of KKL’s revenues will therefore have no impact on JNF Australia or its donors.”

ANZAC CENTENARY MISSION TO ISRAEL: 10 DECADES IN 11 DAYS

Watch 11 days in 8.5 minutes: The JNF Australia-led ANZAC Centenary Mission retraces the journey of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in Israel 100 years ago as they liberated Palestine from the Turks.



ANZAC 100 YEARS LATER

Beersheba Reconquered by the Australians and New Zealanders

JNF - 2 NOV 2017



October 31, the 100th anniversary of the British conquest of Beersheva, was the highlight of JNF Australia's 10 day ANZAC Centenary Mission in Israel. The delegation participated in the official ceremony at the Beersheba War Cemetery in the presence of the Prime Ministers of Israel and Australia and the New Zealand Governor General. They also dedicated the ANZAC Memorial Center in Beersheva, and saw the light horse cavalry parade through the city as they reenacted the historic ANZAC charge to conquer Beersheva.

Beersheba War Cemetery: World Leaders Commemorate Courage

The day began with an official ceremony at the [Beersheba War Cemetery](#), in the presence of the heads of state of Israel, Australia and New Zealand. Thousands of people from these countries and representatives of other countries came to pay homage to the ANZAC fighters. "At that time, Beersheva was a village with a few huts, and today it is a city with 250,000 inhabitants. Thank you, courageous ANZAC warriors," said Israeli Prime Minister **Binyamin Netanyahu**. "The ANZAC fighters opened the gates of history for the Jewish people. These brave soldiers played a central part in the liberation of the Holy Land and bringing 400 years of Ottoman occupation to an end. After the [conquest of Beersheva](#), the ANZAC fighters went on to [capture Jerusalem](#), Megiddo, Tiberius and further north. On their way, they walked in the footsteps of the heroes of the bible."



On the importance of this battle for the development of good ties between the countries, Prime Minister Netanyahu said: "This was a milestone for the friendship between our countries. When I enlisted for military duty, I received a wide-brimmed hat that we called an Australian hat. We sat in the shade of eucalyptus trees that were brought here from Australia, and we learned about the heroism of the Australian warriors."

Returning to the present, the Prime Minister said: "We want peace with our enemies, but we will not stand for any attack on our land and our people – whether it be by air, sea, land or underground. I would strongly recommend that no one test the strength of the Israeli people and the Israeli Army."

Netanyahu concluded: "We all stand here today on the same side of history, for the sake of progress, peace and democracy, and against tyranny and terror. Israel salutes the courage of the ANZAC fighters and will never forget them."





"The leaders of three countries have assembled to pay honor to an exceptional battle. This is a story of unbelievable courage of both people and horses," said Australian Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull**. "The ANZAC warriors knew that they were marching through a land rich in history, and they were courageous people who made history. The battle became a chapter in our military heritage, an extraordinary episode in our national story."

In relation to the ANZAC fighters, Prime Minister Turnbull said: "Imagine these people, far away from home, in a foreign land, where the names of the different sites are familiar to them from the bible. They led the last cavalry charge in history, which made the creation of a Jewish state possible."

"We have assembled here to remember the Battle of Beersheva and the military campaign for Sinai and the land of Israel," said New Zealand Governor General Dame **Patricia Reddy**. "This victory changed the region forever, and ended hundreds of years of Ottoman rule over the Middle East. During the long campaign, the soldiers demonstrated courage, dedication and self-sacrifice. They were motivated by the knowledge that they were fighting for the future and for all of humanity."

The ceremony was emceed by Major General **Dave Chalmers**, who represented Australia's Department of Veterans Affairs. Prayers in memory of the fallen were offered by military religious personnel. The representatives of the different organizations laid wreaths, and the event concluded with the singing of the national anthems.

One of the ANZAC soldiers who fell at the Battle of Beersheba was a Jewish fighter by the name of S.J.H. Van Den Bergh. **Martin Van Den Bergh**, a relative, was at the ceremony in order to pay his respects to him and his comrades. At the end of the event, he read the kaddish prayer at his relative's grave as part of a ceremony led by the Australian delegation's rabbi, Yossi Freedman. "It is very moving to stand here next to his grave," Martin said. "If not for him and his friends, it's very possible that none of us would be here today."

The ANZAC Memorial Centre: The Personal Story of the Fighters

After the ceremony, the participants dedicated the [ANZAC Memorial Centre](#), which is located next to the cemetery. The museum, which was built with the support of JNF Australia, includes an exhibition of photographs, video clips, documents, personal objects and letters of soldiers that tell the personal stories of the fighters, who were dealing with moments of great difficulty and also tremendous bravery during battle.

"This museum is a milestone in the ties between Israel and Australia," said KKL-JNF Chief of Protocol **Andy Michelson**, who emceed the event.

KKL-JNF was represented at the event by Deputy Chairman **Mike Nitzan**, who said: "Anyone who has experienced war knows that there's nothing glamorous about it, and you fight first and foremost for your fellow soldiers."



The main contribution for the memorial center came from the estate of **Ilse Wronker**. "His love for Israel continues to live here," said **Peter Smaller**, the President of [JNF Australia](#).

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, the members of the delegation went for a tour of the museum led by museum director **Nitzan Dayan**, where they experienced a small taste of what it must have felt like to be an ANZAC soldier. While watching the movie, a large elevator slowly climbed upwards with the visitors

inside it. The doors opened to an observation balcony, from which they could see the cemetery. Many of the guests shed a tear after the emotional movie and the unforgettable moment.

Buried in the Beersheba War Cemetery are 174 Australian soldiers, 31 soldiers from New Zealand and more than 1,000 British soldiers. The ANZAC Memorial Centre pays homage to these fighters and commemorates them. The museum is one of a number of museums in the old city of Beersheba that tell the city's story from the time of Abraham until today.

The Historic Charge: How Beersheba was conquered

At the end of the day, the members of the delegation watched a re-enactment of the charge of the Light Horse Riders on Beersheva. Watching the ceremony together with them were Prime Minister Netanyahu, Prime Minister Turnbull, Governor General Reddy and an audience of thousands. The horse riders included about 100 Australians and Israelis who are members of the World War One Association. Dressed in uniforms similar to the ones worn at the time, they rode for six days from the area around the Gaza Strip to Beersheva, along the route taken by the original soldiers one hundred years earlier.

After a sustained march through the desert with little water, the ANZAC fighters and their horses arrived exhausted and thirsty, but they lost not one iota of their determination. The Cavalry Division of the British Army attacked the Turkish Army frontlines west of the city. The ANZAC Light Horse Riders outflanked Beersheva and charged it from the east. The riders took the Turkish soldiers, who were dug into their trenches, entirely by surprise when they leaped over them as they galloped and then attacked them in a face-to-face battle.

At the end of the day, the city was in their hands. The water sources had fortunately not been damaged. Thirty-five Australian ANZAC fighters fell in this battle, and thirty-one soldiers from New Zealand were killed conquering the strategic [Tel Beersheva](#) outpost nearby. Several hundred Turkish soldiers were also killed.

The historian Kelvin Crombie described the battle in this way: "The Battle of Beersheba was a turning point in World War I and in world history. The conquest of Beersheba opened the way for conquering all of the land of Israel, so this battle was much more than just another military event."



In the footsteps of heroes

MICHAEL KUTTNER - J-WIRE - OCTOBER 30, 2017

Among the thousands of visitors to Israel for the centenary commemorations of the Anzac liberation of Beersheba are Aborigine descendants of the original soldiers who took part in the battles.

Hosted by KKL Israel and JNF Australia these five family members have had an extensive tour of Israel seeing for themselves the places where their ancestors fought to liberate Palestine from Ottoman occupation. In addition they have been able to witness the remarkable revival that has occurred in previously barren sites thanks to the rehabilitation, tree planting and development projects undertaken by KKL-JNF.

Visits to the Commonwealth War Cemeteries on Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, and at Beersheba were emotional highlights. As first time visitors to Israel they have been "blown away" by the sights and sounds and vibrancy of the country and marveled at its smallness as compared to the vast continent of Australia.

I had the opportunity of catching up with them in Jerusalem and hearing about their observations and experiences.

I learnt that 100 years ago the indigenous people of Australia suffered discrimination and that this was a major contributing factor in the decision of young Aborigine men to join the army. They hoped that by doing so it would afford them an opportunity to see the world and escape from an environment which treated them so badly. As expert horse handlers their skills were much sought after and they rapidly became known as fearless and brave warriors. Apparently these heroes hoped and believed that their contributions to the war effort and their sacrifices would ensure acceptance back home. Unfortunately it seems that this was not to be and it was not until many years later that they were accepted as citizens of Australia with full civic rights.

Today's descendants feel very deeply about the belated recognition afforded their soldier ancestors. In many ways this trip and participation in the memorial ceremonies is the closing of a circle. Finally they can pay tribute in person to the valour of their ancestors, witness how respected their bravery is honoured in Israel and see at first hand how the Anzacs' liberation of Palestine resulted in the restoration of Jewish sovereignty. The affinity of the Aborigine people with the Jewish people has much to do with a common history of discrimination, oppression and courage under the most trying circumstances.



Top: Peta Flynn, Doris Paton

Bottom: Adrian Hepi, Judith Ahmat

KKL Israel and JNF Australia are to be commended for enabling these visitors to join in this most memorable occasion and affording them the opportunity of paying tribute to the heroes from "down under."

Here is a brief summary of the families:

Peta Flynn: Great niece of **Charles Fitzroy Stafford** of the 12th. Light Horse Regiment. Peta said: *"I believe that the service and sacrifice of Indigenous Australians in WW1 needs to be acknowledged & remembered."*

Doris Paton: Great Granddaughter of David Mullett – 1st. Remount Unit ,No.2 Squadron. Doris commented: *"The story of our great grandfather, his accomplishments in education and his life after returning has remained in the memories of my father and aunty and shared in the family."*

Adrian Hepi: Son in law of Colin Victor Leftwich, nephew of **Harry Doyle** – 11th. Light Horse Regiment. Adrian said: *"I started doing a research project with the young people I was working with to honour the Black Diggers of WW1. I am committed to passing on the family history and stories to my children and grandchildren. I believe this is foundational for their sense of identity and strength of spirit."*

Judith Ahmat: Great Niece of **Allan McDonald** – 8th. Light Horse Regiment. Judith said: *"I believe that Uncle Allan's skills, knowledge and bush experience assisted with his survival. Uncle Allan married late in life and had no children and no direct descendants, therefore his legacy needs to be preserved and his story needs to be told."*

Terry Hutchinson: Great nephew of brothers Ernest James Firth – 1st. Light Horse Regiment; Francis Walter Bertie Firth – 2nd. Light Horse Regiment; Ernest James Firth – 1st Light Horse Regiment.

Ernest is buried in Beersheba.

Terry told J-Wire: *"I feel excited and honoured to be part of this project. It means I will be the only member of my family to visit Ernie's grave. I will pay my respects and gratitude."*



Terry Hutchinson

Commemorating the ANZAC liberation of Beersheba

ISI LEIBLER - J-WIRE - 30 OCT 2017

Today Australia is indisputably Israel's best friend in the world – in every respect...

The origins of this relationship have their genesis a century ago with the spectacular victory of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) that liberated Beersheba on October 31, 1917 and paved the way for the conquest of Jerusalem. This was followed two days later by the issuance of the Balfour Declaration which preceded the British Mandate and subsequently served as the basis for the establishment of a Jewish state.

The Battle of Beersheba was a turning point in the war against the Ottoman Empire after successive failures to capture Gaza. It was the first time Australians and New Zealanders were highlighted as having effected a critical impact. The stunning charge of the ANZAC Light Horse Brigade that overcame the Turkish defenses was hailed as a milestone of military bravery comparable to that of the Light Brigade at Balaklava in 1854 and is remembered as the last great cavalry charge, establishing it as the best cavalry force in the world. It represented Australia's first outstanding achievement as a fighting force, predating the 1918 Western Front victories.

With the disaster at Gallipoli, where over 8,000 Australians needlessly lost their lives, many initially predicted that this attempt was doomed to failure and represented yet another example of military incompetence and willingness to cynically sacrifice soldiers.

Beersheba was heavily fortified, making the town a virtual fortress, and the battle was considered a last-ditch effort to defeat the Ottoman Empire in the region. Late in the afternoon of October 31, following an order by their commander, Sir Harry Chauvel, 800 Australian

light horsemen, brandishing bayonets, galloped directly into machine-gun fire, many dismounting and engaging in hand-to-hand combat, surprising the Turks who did not imagine that the Australians would act so brazenly. Galloping over 2 kilometers at top speed, they overcame the stunned Turkish defenders in less than an hour. Thirty Australian horsemen were killed and 36 wounded. Over 500 Turks were killed and 1,500 surrendered.

It was a glorious victory, a turning point in the struggle enabling General Edmund Allenby to defeat the Ottomans in Palestine.

It also heralded the beginning of an extraordinary close relationship between Australia and Israel.

On the personal and individual level, it was enhanced by Australian soldiers temporarily stationed in Palestine at the outset of World War II who developed good relations with the Jews. Old timers still relate nostalgically to the friendship extended by the Australians as tensions were rising with the British mandatory officials.

This week the Australian and Israeli governments will jointly celebrate the centennial anniversary of the heroic Light Brigade's extraordinary role in Beersheba. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, New Zealand Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a major entourage of ministers, officials, descendants of the ANZACs, and over 100 Australian horsemen, as well as private citizens from both countries will participate in commemorative ceremonies. These will include a joint Australian-New Zealand service at the war cemetery, the opening of an ANZAC museum, and a re-enactment of the charge by the Australian Light Horse Brigade.

It is anticipated that huge numbers will attend what promises to be a spectacular event highlighting the Australian-Israeli relationship.

Australian Jewry enjoys an outstanding Jewish lifestyle and can be considered a jewel in the crown of the Diaspora. Jews were among the first boatloads of convicts transported to Australia in the 18th century.

The first military commander of Australian forces serving during World War I was Sir John Monash, a proud Jew who was also the founding president of the Zionist Federation of Australia.

In the 1930s, the Jewish community was declining and rapidly assimilating but over the course of time it became reinvigorated by Holocaust refugees and survivors. Most of the newcomers were passionately Zionist and created a unique network of Jewish schools ranging from secular Zionist to Chabad, from Modern Orthodox to Reform and even a Bundist Yiddish school. From the 1980s, the community expanded further with the immigration of large numbers of Russians and South Africans.

Many penniless Jewish immigrants to “the lucky country” became leading industrial titans. Jewish leaders were appointed prominent roles in public life, including two governors general. One, the late Sir Zelman Cowan, was an outspoken Zionist and champion of Jewish rights. My brother, Mark Leibler, a long-standing Zionist leader and head of the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council, was appointed by the government as co-chairman of the expert panel on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal Peoples.

Today, Australian Jewry numbers over 120,000, has the highest percentage of Holocaust survivors and their descendants in a Diaspora Jewish community, and is one of the most Zionist communities in the world with 15,000 – more than 10% of the community – having made aliyah.

The community, united under the umbrella of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council, could well serve as a template for other Jewish communities to emulate. The Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce has emerged as probably the most successful chamber of commerce in the nation.

Despite its geographical distance, except for two minor aberrations, Australia has consistently maintained a positive bipartisan relationship with Israel since its creation, when Labor leader Dr. H.V. Evatt chaired the U.N. General Assembly.

Both parties also supported broader Jewish concerns. Successive governments made major global contributions toward ameliorating the plight of Soviet Jews, particularly in 1962 when Australia became the first country in the world to raise the issue of Soviet

Jewry at the U.N., condemning Soviet anti-Semitism and calling for the right of Jews to emigrate. On a personal note, two successive prime ministers from each of the two major parties directly intervened to enable me to assist Soviet Jews and instructed the Australian Embassy in Moscow to provide me with maximum assistance. The embassy was regarded as a haven for refuseniks despite the tension this created with the Soviet authorities.

Australia was directly involved in efforts to rescind the infamous 1975 U.N. resolution that equated Zionism with racism. It also served as a crucial intermediary for Jewish leaders seeking to promote diplomatic relations between Israel and Asian countries.

The Jewish community can claim much of the credit for this. In contrast to their American and European counterparts, Australian community leaders have not hesitated to confront their government on the rare occasions they considered their government was acting in a biased manner or applying double standards against Israel. The all-encompassing Zionist orientation of the bipartisan Jewish community is undoubtedly a major factor contributing to the pro-Israel orientation of the mainstream political parties.

However, there are now dark clouds emanating from sectors of the Australian Labor Party, whose former Foreign Minister Bob Carr has become a spokesman for extremist Arab causes and vitriolically lambasts the Jewish community for being extreme right-wing. He is supported by former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who was once one of Israel’s greatest supporters. The growing electoral power of over 500,000 Muslims, especially concentrated in the Labor electorates, also strengthens these trends.

Yet, despite a growth of anti-Semitism and intensified anti-Israeli activity at universities, overall, the public tends toward Israel. But there are legitimate concerns that if the current government is defeated by Labor in the next elections, the Arab lobby – which now has a powerful electoral influence within Labor and its left-wing allies – will pressure Australia to adjust its Israel policy in line with that of the hostile EU.

But 18 months to the next election is a long time and meanwhile the Australia-Israel relationship has exceeded all expectations.

Netanyahu’s visit to Australia earlier this year was a resounding success and undoubtedly Turnbull’s visit will further cement this relationship.

We warmly welcome the Australian prime minister and his entourage to Israel and are confident that this will further strengthen the burgeoning economic, technological, defense and investment ties that bind our countries.

Isi Leibler lives in Jerusalem. He is a former president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Upcoming Release from Scribe Publications in February 2018

FEBRUARY 2018

HOLOCAUST / MEMOIRS

Fiona Harari

We Are Here

talking with Australia's oldest Holocaust survivors



FIONA HARARI is an award-winning journalist, and the author of *A Tragedy in Two Acts: Marcus Einfeld and Teresa Brennan*.

These are the last adult witnesses — in their own words.

When Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, he quickly began to realise his dream of a racially superior nation free of ‘inferior’ groups. His goal included the eradication of European Jewry, a plan that would ultimately claim six million lives. By 1945, almost two in three European Jews were dead. So were millions of other victims of Nazism.

For those who survived, liberation came with the enormous weight of guilt and memory as they began the second part of their lives, often in faraway places such as Australia, which would become home to one of the world’s highest per capita communities of Holocaust survivors.

Now the last of those adult survivors have reached an age once considered unattainable. They outlasted Nazism, and today, in their tenth and eleventh decades, have outlived most of their contemporaries. Eighteen of these Australians, originally from all over Europe, tell what it is like to have lived through those years, and long after them.

RRP: \$29.99
234 x 153mm pb, 240pp
ISBN: 9781925322651

e-ISBN: 9781925548464
Rights held: World

Dedicating the Gushing Pond at Rosh Tzipor Park

JNF – 9 NOV 2017

“Rosh Tzipor would not have happened without Rob’s vision and tenacity. The park we are sitting in is a miracle. Thank you on behalf of JNF Australia for the tremendous work you did in Israel.”



The Gushing Pond at the Rosh Tzipor Bird Park in Ramat Gan was dedicated in honor of Robert Schneider, former CEO of JNF Australia, Monday 6 November 2017, in the presence of many dignitaries, colleagues, family, and friends.

Among the guests were former Defense Minister **Moshe Yaalon**, World Zionist Organization Chairman Avraham Duvdevani, Former KKL-JNF Chairman **Yehiel Leket**, JNF Australia President Peter Smaller, and the heads of several regional councils from around the country. Family members arrived from Israel, Australia, the United States, South Africa and Lithuania. It was abundantly clear from the hugs and smiles that Rob, as he is known, is loved and respected by many.

The Gushing Pond is a mini waterfall and pool situated on the water supply route for the large man-made lake on the site. The [Rosh Tzipor Birdwatching Centre](#), which was opened just a few months ago, is situated in the middle of Israel’s densely populated Dan region and has already become an attraction for residents of the area. Much of the funding for the creation of the park was donated by friends of JNF Australia.

The dedication ceremony was hosted by Former KKL-JNF Fundraising Director **Zeev Kedem**, who described Rob as a tireless leader of JNF Australia, where he served as CEO from 2000 to 2013. He said that Rob was responsible for the creation of many JNF Australia-funded projects in Israel.

“The two passions of Rob’s life came together at JNF, and those are his love of Israel and his love of nature. To understand who Rob is, you must know that he has served on the boards of a multitude of nature-orientated- and Israel-affiliated- organizations in South Africa, where he grew up, and later in Australia, where he lives today.”

The plaque that was unveiled was inscribed with the words:

“The Gushing Pond at Rosh Tzipor in Honour of Robert Schneider, Chief Executive Jewish National Fund of Australia (2000-2013).

A lover of the land, the people, and the nature of Israel. A builder of bridges, and a prime mover for the establishment of the Rosh Tzipor Bird Observatory, and other vital projects throughout Israel.”



President of JNF Australia **Peter Smaller** said that this was a great opportunity to honor Rob and his wife Suzy, who have both given lifelong work to Israel through JNF.

“Rosh Tzipor would not have happened without Rob’s vision and tenacity. The park we are sitting in is a miracle. Thank you on behalf of JNF Australia for the tremendous work you did in Israel.”

Chairman of the World Zionist Organization **Avraham Duvdevani**, who was KKL-JNF World Co-Chairman during the time that Rob served as leader of [JNF Australia](#), said that he was thrilled to receive the invitation to attend the event.

“I worked with Rob for 4 years and got to know him well. Even then he always wore a T-shirt with the picture of some endangered animal. I say here without hesitation that I have never met another person with the same level of drive and commitment to the goals of JNF than I found in Rob.”

Former Head of the Central Arava Regional Council **Ezra Ravins** said that the presence of so many mayors and heads of local councils at the event bears witness to the great amount of work that Rob initiated throughout Israel during his tenure.

“He not only supported projects in their areas, he also became personally friendly with them and intimately followed the progress of the work done. It is no wonder that Rob is so close to many of the country’s leaders.”

Professor **Alon Tal**, Head of the Department of Public Policy at Tel Aviv University and former KKL-JNF Board member, told the audience that it he was his first time leaving a class early in order to honor somebody.

“In this case, there was no question that I had to be here. I first met Rob in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. I realized immediately that I was talking to a true environmentalist, someone who was involved in conservation, and who knew more about African eco systems than anyone I had ever met. Moreover, he was interested in helping make Israel a healthier, more environmental country. The friendship that emerged between us is unique.”



Newly appointed KKL-JNF Director of Tourism **Shlomo Ben-Haim**, recently returned from a 15 year sojourn in Australia where he served as KKL-JNF emissary, compared Rob to the biblical Abraham, who featured in recent weekly Torah readings.

“Abraham, like Rob, can be considered a JNF activist because he bought land in Israel when he wanted a place for the tomb of Sarah; he dug for water in Beer Sheva; and he planted a tamarisk tree. I think that you, Rob, should now continue in the footsteps of Abraham and move to Israel.”

Ornithologist Professor **Yossi Leshem**, the director of Israel’s International Center for the Study of Bird Migration, is the person who first suggested creating a bird park in the Rosh Tzipor Forest on the Yarkon River. Leshem said that he became friends with Rob after they met at an international wildlife conference some 20 years ago.

“Rob became the leader of JNF Australia some 3 years after the [Maccabiah Bridge collapse](#), which killed four Australian athletes and injured 60 when they fell into the contaminated Yarkon River. I believe that much of Rob’s motivation to create Rosh Tzipor Park on the Yarkon stems from emotions evoked by that tragedy.”

Speaking on behalf of the family, Dr. **Gavriel Schneider**, Rob’s son, thanked the guests for coming to honor his father.

“JNF was another family member that we learned to grow up with. Dad worked 16 hours a day because he woke up each morning in Australia but he lived according to Israel time, which is 10 hours later. We begged him to take on an assistant to help out, as there was no shortage of funds in the organization. However, he refused because he believed that every cent collected was for Israel.”

The last guest to speak was 84 year old **Alfred “Boydie” Turner**, an Australian of Aboriginal decent, whom Robert invited to the ceremony in order to pay tribute to Alfred’s grandfather William Cooper. In a little known episode that took place in 1938, just weeks after Kristallnacht, Cooper, who was then a leader of the Australian Aboriginal community, delivered a stern letter of protest to the German Consul General in Melbourne, condemning the Nazi treatment of the Jews.

“My grandfather walked 11 km at age of 77 to present the protest to the German consul. When Rob heard the story he traveled over 1000 miles to see the grave of my grandfather in an Aboriginal settlement. I want to thank Rob and Suzy for helping us to visit Israel.”

Responding to all the good wishes and visibly touched by all he heard, Rob put a *kippa* on his head and recited the *Shehecheyanu* blessing, which is said by Jews to celebrate special occasions.

“A lot has been said today about how much we do in Australia to support Israel. I must add that Jews in Australia hold their heads high in pride because of you here in Israel. You support us more than we support you. We have to thank you.”

Twice during the ceremony, guests were treated to a musical performance by trumpet virtuoso **Arik Davidov**. One of his pieces was performed on an enormous *shofar* (ram’s horn).

The event ended with a tour of the park by KKL-JNF Chief Ornithologist **Yaron Charka**, who said that staff at the site are getting ready for the park to start operating fully in the beginning of 2018.

“Schools around the country as well as the army are planning to bring tours here. We will supply the educational content. The site is new for the birds too. I can tell you that they are showing strong interest. Just this morning I counted over 40 different species in the water and on the trees.”

Israel’s new ambassador presents his credentials

J-WIRE - NOVEMBER 26, 2017



Sir Peter Cosgrove and Ambassador Mark Sofer

Israel’s new Ambassador to Australia Mark Sofer has presented his credentials to the Governor-General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Ambassador Sofer has previously served as Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland and to the Republic of India when he was also non-resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka.

Other diplomatic posts have included Peru, Norway and the U.S.

Prior to his arrival in India, Ambassador Sofer served as Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Division for Asia and the Pacific.



STATE ZIONIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND

STATE ZIONIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND ANNUAL REPORT – 2016/17

The State Zionist Council of Queensland had an active and successful year. At the Annual General Meeting in December 2016, the following people were elected to the Council:

President: Tony Leverton

Vice President: Paul Gould

Secretary: Dr John Skala

Treasurer:

Committee: Evelyn Charles (WIZO)

Tony Gariano (JNF)

Kathy Gould (Sinai College)

Aleks Rinon (Betar)

Tal Szumer-Menasche (AUJS)

Visit to Australia by Prime Minister Netanyahu

On Wednesday 22 February, I was honoured to be invited along with a small Queensland delegation, to attend a speech delivered by Prime Minister Netanyahu at the Great Synagogue, Sydney. In addition to supporting speeches by ECAJ President Anton Block and ZFA President Danny Lamm, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia spoke. This was the first occasion that an Israeli Prime Minister had officially visited Australia, and the historic nature of this event was also underlined by the attendance of former Prime Ministers John Howard and Tony Abbott.

“Discovering Israel” Series

The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies developed a program for the year to take advantage of visiting guest speakers and other available opportunities to highlight the relationships between Queensland and Israel.

- On Wednesday 17 May, entrepreneur Erez Saf, CEO of CRiskCo, in Brisbane as part of HotDesQ – a Queensland Government initiative - talked in a café setting about Israel innovation and entrepreneurship .
- On Tuesday 13 June historian Dr Edyta Gawron talked to the community on Jewish themes in film (particularly in post-War Poland), and JTA journalist C’naan Lipshiz talked about boycott, divestment and sanctions, and antisemitism in Europe.
- On Wednesday 14 June, C’naan Lipshiz talked in a café setting on “The Power of Dance”, the story of Roosje Glaser, an inspirational Dutch dance teacher who survived the death camps.

Shlichah presence in Queensland and associated activities

Naama Louria, Betar Shlichah, visited Brisbane on 6 March, along with Ginette Searle, ZFA CEO, and Rinat Kedem, Rosh Mishlachaht. Naama has since that time been regularly visiting as part of the State Zionist Council’s agreement with the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies to jointly fund activity by a Shlichah in Queensland about once every month. Naama has been mainly working with Betar but has prepared a draft work program for consideration by both the Council and the Board of Deputies. We really appreciate her involvement with Queensland communities.

Movie - Eyeless in Gaza

On Thursday 6 April a movie screening was arranged in conjunction with the Board of Deputies at the New Farm Cinema. Approximately 50 people attended, and funds raised went towards speaker attendance fees for the “Discovering Israel” series.

Yom HaShoah

On Sunday 23 April around 150 people gathered to commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, at the Jewish Chapel, Mt Gravatt Cemetery, compered by Betar leader Aleks Rinon. The guest speaker this year was Pauline Rockman OAM, the Co-President of the Jewish Holocaust Centre, Melbourne. Pauline travelled to the Gold Coast to address a Yom HaShoah ceremony later that day.

Yom HaZikaron

On Sunday 30 April around 100 people from Brisbane and the Gold Coast gathered to remember those who fell in defence of the State of Israel as well as those who were murdered in brutal acts of terror. In addition to candle-lighting and the recital of prayers and kaddish, those gathered listened to the beautiful piano music of Yitzhak Yedid as we contemplated the sacrifices made.

Poems were also recited – “We have no unknown soldiers” and “My father is a photograph”. A deeply moving experience.

Movie - Zookeepers Wife

On Thursday 4 May, a movie screening was promoted in conjunction with the Board of Deputies at New Farm Cinema. At the opening night approximately 55 people attended, and funds raised went towards speaker attendance fees for the “Discovering Israel” series.

Yom HaAtzmaut

On Sunday 7 May we hosted the 69th Israel Independence Day celebrations at Brisbane’s Burbank Jewish Community Centre. Around 350 people attended and almost all the Jewish and Zionist organisations had set up stalls to inform and attract visitors. Each stall was named after an Israeli city, and the State Zionist Council issued passports to visitors encouraging them to get their

“visa” stamps from every stall / city. As well as children’s recreational activities, there was organised dancing and drumming.

A highlight of the celebrations was the announcement of the Yitzhak Rabin Award recipient – Lewis Saragossi and the Saragossi Family, for their philanthropy and ongoing support of both domestic and Israel initiatives.

Yom Yerushalayim

We were honoured to host John and Ginette Searle on Sunday 21 May in Brisbane – the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem - for a Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) seminar examining Jewish attitudes towards Jerusalem. John very ably facilitated this workshop with around 25 people attending and he and Ginette encouraged us to present a summary of the views of those attending for association with other JPPI reports from around Australia. We are very grateful to both John and Ginette for the time they gave to us and for their expertise in running this seminar.

Parliamentary Friends of Israel – Jeremy Jones AM

On Tuesday 23 May I was invited to attend a Parliamentary Friends of Israel function featuring Jeremy Jones AM, Director International Affairs AIJAC, as guest speaker. It was a brief function, but well attended with MP’s from both sides of the House, as well as Independent MP Robbie Katter. Jeremy spoke in an informative and entertaining way about his observations on the United States political scene and the implications for Israel.

Meeting with Milton Dick MP

On Thursday 20 July, I joined with Board of Deputies representatives to meet with Milton Dick Federal MP for Oxley. We discussed the interest shown by some Queensland Labor Party affiliates to “recognise the State of Palestine”. The discussions were useful and enabled us to put our point of view across to a receptive MP. We are hopeful that this will result in a more even- handed approach to the Israeli – Palestinian peace process.

ZFA 2017 Plenary Conference – 90 Years

I was privileged to attend the Zionist Federation of Australia’s 90th anniversary Plenary Conference in Canberra on Sunday 10 September 2017. Also attending as part of the Queensland delegation were: Paul Gould (SZCQ), Shira Sokolov (AUJS), Aleks Rinon (Betar) and Jason Steinberg (QJBD). The conference was addressed by guest speakers Prof David Passig, a futurist; Merav Michaeli MK, Dr Mike Kelly MP and HE Shmuel Ben Shmuel, Israeli Ambassador.

In addition a panel discussion was held featuring Prof Passig and Ms Michaeli looking at perspectives on the future of the State of Israel. Prof Passig’s prediction was that, subject to conditions remaining relatively unchanged, by 2100 there would be 20 million Jews in Israel and 4 million Jews in the Diaspora. Regular business was transacted but, in the absence of delegates from NSW various constitutional amendments proposed were not considered and voted on. This latter point is now the subject of ongoing communication between ZFA and NSW, with the hope that this dialogue might resolve the differences of opinion in the next few months.

The following day a number of us stayed on and were given a private tour of the Australian War Memorial as well as a meeting at Parliament House for briefings by members from both major parties as well as media commentators.

Noteworthy for the day was a Private Member's Motion moved by Stuart Robert MP:

"That this House:

1. supports the right of Israel to defend its citizens against terrorist attacks by organisations or by individuals;
2. calls on the Palestinian Authority to cease incitement of its population to attack Israel and Israelis;
3. further calls on the Palestinian Authority to take seriously the task of educating its people on the options, process and potential for peace;
4. urges the Palestinian Authority to abide by the Oslo Accords and specifically to cease attacking Israel in an unfounded manner in international forums;
5. further urges the Israel and the Palestinian Authority to return to negotiations in good faith and without preconditions;
6. acknowledges and affirms the Jewish connection to the Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Israel; and
7. condemns the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement as inherently anti-Semitic and calls on all Australian political parties and institutions to disavow it."

Other speakers in support of this Motion were Michael Danby, Tim Wilson, Milton Dick, Steve Irons, and Mike Kelly. All made excellent contributions. In accordance with the business of the House, the motion was not put to the vote.

Significant events for Zionism – 2017

This past year has been significant for a number of anniversaries:

100 years

31 October 1917 – the famous mounted charge of the Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade. Commencing at dusk, members of the Brigade stormed through the Turkish defences and seized the strategic town of Beersheva, which enabled Allied forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza on 7 November and advance into Palestine.

100 years

2 November 1917 – the Balfour Declaration

90 years

1927 – the founding of the Zionist Federation of Australia

70 years

29 November 1947 – the UN Partition of Palestine (Resolution 181 (II))

50 years

1967 – the Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem

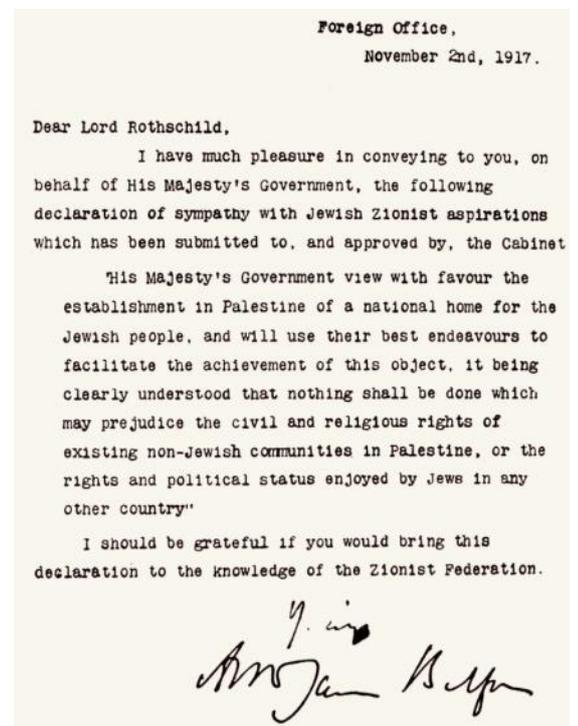
Appreciation

The Queensland State Zionist Council has again put in another good year. I am indebted to many people, particularly Paul and Kathy Gould who co-ordinated both Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut events. They, and many others who so selflessly give of their time to ensure our events are successful, are the backbone of Zionism in our State. Hadas Palevsky, our Administrator, has been outstanding as usual, and performed her duties with great effectiveness and flair.

I also want to thank Jason Steinberg, President of the Board of Deputies, who bravely shouldered both his own duties and those of President of the State Zionist Council for the past two years. My return from Europe at the end of 2016 gave Jason the opportunity to smoothly transfer responsibility for the Council over to me. Since then both organisations have continued to maintain a close and positive working relationship.

And finally, my grateful thanks go to President Danny Lamm and the ZFA executive, and to CEO Ginette Searle and her hard-working staff for all the assistance they have given to the cause of Zionism in Queensland. Your leadership and encouragement has been inspiring.

Tony Leverton President



Queensland Jewry's Steinberg hands to Myers and honours Paratz



Photo (L to R): Jason Steinberg (2009 - 2017), Paul Myers (Current) and David Paratz (1998 - 2009) have been at the helm of the Queensland Jewish community

After eight years as president of the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, Jason Steinberg, has handed the reins to long-time communal member, Paul Myers, at the organisation's annual general meeting in Brisbane on 19 November.

Steinberg, who has been involved with the board in various capacities since the early 1990s has been voted in as Vice President.

He said he was very happy to be handing over to Mr Myers, who is a former Maccabi Queensland President, to lead the communal roof-body that represents more than 4500 Jewish people.

"Paul is a well respected member of the community, a true Queensland and a great person who will bring a range of skills to the role, including a strong consultative approach," Jason said.

"I'm very proud of my role representing the community since 2009, having organised the celebrations of our

150th anniversary, helping establish the Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Israel, securing funding for Holocaust remembrance and ensuring relevant organisations established child protection policies."

"It's also been the initiatives and activities behind the scenes that have helped our community along the way to grow, resolve issues and remain safe which make me most proud."

"I look forward to maintaining my strong involvement in the community and providing a voice for Queensland Jewry." Mr Myers said he was looking forward to the years ahead as president and the opportunities the QJBD has in leading a small community that has population in Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and far north Queensland.

"Next year will be our 70th anniversary, just as it will be the State of Israel's, and we have a great opportunity to continue to support our affiliated organisations grow," Paul said.

"A key focus in the coming years for me is to provide a platform and a positive environment for our youth leaders to reach out into our broader community. We also have an aging population in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, so there's a lot to do to support this important group."

The meeting also confirmed David Paratz as a Life Governor in recognition of his dedication and service to the QJBD for more than 30 years. Paratz has served as President, Vice President, Immediate Past President and on the interfaith committee.

Mr Paratz said he was honoured to be given the position and was pleased to be able to continue to assist the QJBD in its role to provide united representation for the benefit of the whole of the Jewish Community of Queensland.

Mr Paratz joins a former long-serving President of the QJBD Laurie Rosenblum, OAM, with the Life Governor honour.



Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies Inc.

PO Box 1778, Milton QLD 4064

ABN: 80 481 321 068

The voice of Queensland Jewry since 1948

President's Annual Report 2017

Introduction

This is my eighth annual report as the President of the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies Incorporated (Board) and this year I am stepping down at our Annual General Meeting when I will nominate for the vice-presidency.

2017 has seen some significant positive moments for our community, such as the Harold Collins Exhibition held on the Gold Coast and Brisbane, but also some concerning matters such as the continued demonisation of the State of Israel.

This report covers only a snapshot of our 2017 activities and a range of other ongoing initiatives.

1. Functioning and management of the Board

The Board's Committee of Management meetings have been held at the home of our Vice President Paul Myers and we thank him and his wife Sue for their hospitality.

In addition to these meetings, we invited all communal leaders to attend every second meeting. This has assisted in creating more cooperation in the community. Sometimes these meetings have been held at the Myers' house or the South Brisbane Hebrew Congregation. We thank Gary Goldman and the board of Sth Brisbane for the use of their facilities.

Paul Myers continued his role as Vice President with passion and energy. He has deputised for me on a number of occasions and represents our community well. I will have the pleasure of nominating Paul as my successor at our AGM in November.

Scott Lewis has continued to manage our financial affairs very well and provide a strong connection with the Gold Coast community.

Sheila Levine has fulfilled her role as secretary, as well as assisting the CSG in its administration. She puts in a significant personal effort into the community.

Lee McNamee and Avi Vaknin are our two committee members. Lee provides a strong link to the committee from her roles on the ANZAC Centenary committee, Courage to Care and other organisations in which she is involved. Avi joined the Board this year and has contributed well in meetings.

This year saw the return of our former Vice President, Tony Leverton, who has resumed as president of the State Zionist Council. Paul Gould is his Vice President. Both Tony and Paul attend our meetings and this relationship with the SZC is working well.

Paul Gould also continues his role to organise Yom Hashoah and provide a link to communal activities.

In addition, we have chair people responsible for advocacy, interfaith and security. This year Libby Burke has continued to work tirelessly for the promotion of our community and Israel, bringing great cultural and other activities to Queensland. Similarly, Gail Paratz has worked tirelessly to represent our community to other faiths and maintain strong relationships. Gav Schneider has led the CSG well, with assistance from Tony Leverton and others. There has been an increased level of communication with Gold Coast communal leadership this year focussed around specific initiatives. This interaction has been very helpful.

2. Queensland Jewry's 150th Anniversary book

Under the authorship of Brisbane historian Jenny Creese, the Board published a 300+ page book, which highlights the community's 150th anniversary in Queensland. Jenny has done a magnificent job in preparing the publication, which truly celebrates our community's contribution to the State. The book provides a lasting showcase of the legacy created by the community. While sales have been slow, there have been a number sold in Queensland and other states.

3. Courage to Care

This year B'nai Brith's Courage to Care program continued to build its relationship with Queensland Police through a special program for new recruits. In addition, their in-school program is increasing in its popularity. Kayla Szumer and Lee McNamee, along with their team, are playing an important role in organising these programs and raising awareness among schools in south-east Queensland.

The board was successful in receiving a grant from the Queensland Government to provide display material for Holocaust remembrance and some of this funding has been provided to Courage to Care.

4. Yom Hashoah 2017

Communal Yom Hashoah events were held in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, with Pauline Rockman OAM (the co-president of the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne) as our guest speaker. Both events were well attended and politicians were invited to attend the services. Many attended the events, held in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

The Board co-sponsored and organised an event at the University of Queensland's Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, in collaboration with AUJS Queensland, to commemorate Yom Hashoah.

Special guest speaker was Sue Hampel OAM (the co-president of the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne). This event was well attended by students and members of the community, including survivor Dr Bert Klug and his son Michael.

5. ANZAC day 2017 and Centenary of ANZAC program

This year a local Brisbane RSL group in Clayfield again invited the community to participate in their dawn and 7am services. This was an honour for some of our retired IDF soldiers, who represented the Zion Mule Corps and they were very moved by the honour.

QAJEX (Queensland Association of Jewish Ex Servicemen and Women) also held a large service at the Brisbane city cenotaph in Ann Street to commemorate the day.

The Board's sub-committee for the Centenary of ANZAC program also held two terrific events, in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, to launch with Harold Collins photographic exhibition. These events were very well attended by various Australian Defence representatives, civic leaders and the general community. Brisbane communal resident and identity, Sharryn Goldman, Harold Collins' great niece, provided recollections and family stories of his adventures, as well as his humane view of war. Tony Leverton also spoke, outlining the service of Jewish men and women internationally in the Great War.

Congratulations to Lee McNamee, Carolyn Goldsmith, OAM and John Goldman, OAM for their efforts with this program.

6. Alef Bet Book Group

Sheila Levine continued to keep this important initiative, started by a former project officer of the Board, Nikki Marczak, going during the year, with more than 50 families using this great service. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds to distribute the books this initiative has been stopped.

7. Protection of children within the Queensland Jewish community

Tzedek has now established a Queensland representative Delwyn Cameron (nee Trigger). Delwyn leads a small committee of qualified psychologists and social workers in Brisbane and the Gold Coast to support the community.

8. Welfare and community services

Under the guidance of Paul Myers, the board has worked hard to ensure that the broader welfare needs of our community across the state are being met. With the assistance of Jewish Care (NSW), a memorandum of understanding has been signed and a new organisation established in Queensland to assist our most vulnerable. Jewish Care (NSW) have agreed to provide access to their 1800 number and a range of services.

A group of qualified practitioners, led by Howard Posner (a retired lawyer who was head of Legal Aid in Queensland for decades) are being drawn together into an organisation that will seek to employ a social worker to assist the community.

9. Holocaust remembrance grant

As previously highlighted, we were successful in receiving a grant from the Queensland Government for Holocaust remembrance. Special thanks to Courage to Care and the Jewish Holocaust Centre (in Melbourne) for their advice and support for three projects that have been able to commence as a result of these funds:

- A. *Courage to Care*** - funds were provided to produce new banners and a PowerPoint display.
- B. *Yad Vashem travelling exhibition displays*** - a series of four exhibitions, consisting of 100 display boards, are being produced and will be made available to communal organisations and schools to educate the wider Queensland populations about the Holocaust.
- C. *Museum quality display cases*** - four cases are being produced, highlighting various themes of the Holocaust. One will house a 12-inch computer screen that will show Shadows of Shoah videos and other multimedia. These cases will be available for use by Courage to Care, as well as other groups.

10. Government relations

A. *Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Israel group*

This year the group, Chaired by Steve Minnikin (State Member for Chatsworth), held an excellent briefing with Jeremy Jones, AM. This was very well attended by members of the Government, Opposition and minority parties.

B. *BDS*

It was brought to our attention that an employee of TAFE Queensland was inviting a member of the anti-Israel BDS movement to speak to their students. This communication took place on Facebook. A letter was written to the Minister responsible and after several months a reply was received apologising for any concern and informing us the individual was reminded about their employment obligations.

C. *Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA)*

In 2016, the first draft of the proposed Queensland Modern History senior syllabus indicated that Years 11 and 12 students were not able to study the Holocaust nor World War II. Through a national petition and the combined efforts of the ECAJ and others, this year we received a copy of the final syllabus that now includes the study of the Holocaust and World War II.

D. *Australian Labor Party Queensland motion against Israel*

While it was disappointing the ALP once again moved a motion condemning Israel, it was very positive that a number of ALP Members of Parliament spoke against the motion. There was significant work done behind the scenes to bring some balance to the debate.

E. *Motion supporting Israel - Federal Parliament September 11*

Mr Stuart Robert, Federal MP from the Gold Coast moved a positive motion supporting Israel and several other MPs followed - from both sides of the Chamber, including Michael Danby and Milton Dick. This was a wonderful positive statement by our Federal Politicians.

F. *Multicultural Ministerial Advisory Board*

This year I have continued in my role on the Queensland Government's Multicultural Advisory Council and have enjoyed participating to share the views of our community. This is a three-year appointment and provides a voice for our issues.

Through my senior role at GHD, I have also been appointed as one of the inaugural Queensland Multicultural Ambassadors to promote multicultural activities within the business community.

11. Media relations

Interviews were given to Christian Radio about the movie "The Zookeeper's Wife".

The Australian Jewish News and J-wire also provided coverage for various communal activities, including the JQ150 book.

We organised for The Courier-Mail to publish an obituary for communal leader George Frey, OAM who passed away this year. He was a former president of the Board, a JNF stalwart and a pillar of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation. He was also an ex-serviceman and it was fitting the obituary was published on ANZAC Day 2017.

12. Anti-semitism

A. *The Antipodean Resistant movement*

This right wing group has targeted sites across South East Queensland, including the historic Margaret Street synagogue. Posters and stickers have appeared at university campuses, public parks and other spaces including Brisbane and Toowoomba. A complete report of these activities have been provided to the Queensland Police and while the group is not large or sophisticated, there are concerns they may pose a larger threat if allowed to escalate. These discussions are on-going.

B. *Neo-Nazi comments to individual*

A member of the community (whose parents were survivors) reported being vilified by a senior manager at Aldi who made pro-Nazi remarks. A letter was drafted outlining the incident and requesting a meeting to discuss. The meeting took place and while the person concerned apologised, he denied making the comments. The communal member was not satisfied, however no further action was taken.

13. 2016 Census

The Census figures were released in July 2017 and surprisingly revealed the number of Jewish people in Australia had dropped by more than 6% in the last five years. Many communal demographers have not agreed with these statistics and say the controversy about the online data collection and the community's inherent reticence to write "Jewish" on a form has impacted on the numbers.

From a Queensland perspective, there were 4,387 people who identified as Jewish. Which was a decrease of only 1%. Based on our previous growth of 20% in 2011 and 13% in 2006, we too suggest that the number should have been higher.

14. Security

The CSG has continued to develop under the leadership of Dr Gav Schneider and Tony Leverton. Thanks to Judah Muhari who stepped down from leading Brisbane in March and we hope to see him involved next year. Gabor Somlai on the Gold Coast does a good job with minimal resources and support. The CSG struggles to find active volunteers and maintains strong connections with the authorities. We have had a number of suspicious incidents during 2017 and face a concerning picture, given the strengthening of southern Jewry's security position.

At the time of writing this report, we are working with key institutions to assist them with their applications to the Federal Government's safer community funding.

15. Interfaith

Our Chair of Interfaith, Gail Paratz, is working energetically and with the assistance of others, maintains strong relations with faith groups. Some of these activities include:

- The Queensland Forum of Christians Jews and Muslims
- Griffith University Multifaith Centre
- Synagogue and lecture tours
- Attendance at a wide range of conference and events to provide a Jewish faith perspective

We also congratulate Gail on her appointment as the inaugural chair of the Queensland Faith Communities Council.

16. Israel Advocacy

This year, Libby Burke again continued to provide boundless energy to her task. She invests a significant amount of time to organise an extensive program of activities to support the community. The activities have included:

- Jewish International Film Festival
- Premier of the documentary movie "Whose Land"
- Screening of the international movie "The Zookeeper's Wife"
- Screening of "Eyeless in Gaza"
- Talks by Dr Edyta Gawron, Cnaan Liphshiz and Erez Saf.

17. Visit to Australia by Prime Minister Netanyahu - February 2017

On Wednesday 22 February, I was honoured to be invited to attend two functions in Sydney with Prime Minister Netanyahu. A small number of Queensland representatives also attended the speech delivered by Prime Minister Netanyahu at the Central Synagogue. In addition to supporting speeches by ECAJ President Anton Block and ZFA President Danny Lamm, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia spoke. This was the first occasion that an Israeli Prime Minister had officially visited Australia, and the historic nature of this event was also underlined by the attendance of former Prime Ministers John Howard and Tony Abbott, along with other government ministers.

18. Goldsmid Bursary

The Martha Goldsmid Memorial Bursary was established for single Jewish students enrolled in a Queensland university who need financial assistance. This annual Bursary commenced in the 1950s to encourage tertiary education for Jewish students. A very generous anonymous donation was received again for this year to contribute funds. At the time of writing this report, nominations for 2017 are still to be evaluated.

19. Communal Shlichah

This year the Board and the State Zionist Council (SZC), through the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA), jointly funded a part-time communal shlichah to assist the community, particularly youth. Naama Louria has focussed on Betar and the wider community. We thank the Zionist Federation of Australia for their support with the Shlichah.

20. Finances

The Board is starting to feel the impact of the low level of income generated through affiliation fees. While we are able to function on the interest generated from investments, these are depleting. The JQ150 book had been developed as a fundraising mechanism to assist the Board, however this has not come to fruition as yet. More will need to be done to stabilise the Board's finances into the future.

21. Executive Council of Australian Jewry - ECAJ

This year Paul Myers was elected as an ECAJ Councillor. Queensland participated in regular teleconferences, whenever possible, and received frequent emails keeping us informed of national activities. The QJBD is very grateful to the ECAJ President Anton Block, Executive Director Peter Wertheim, along with other ECAJ staff, Julie and Alex, for their continued support, advice and constructive approach to a range of matters.

22. Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA)

Many thanks to the ZFA, Danny Lamm and Ginette Searle for their support of the Queensland community.

23. Thanks

In addition to those I have already acknowledged in my report, to our immediate past-president David Paratz, who is always available to provide advice and encouragement. Also, Hadas Palevsky from the SZC has also been a tremendous support and participated in a range of the Board's activities. To my wife and family who give me tremendous support that allows me to continue working for our community - thank you.

I look forward to continuing to work with communal leaders in the future in whatever capacity that may be.

Jason Steinberg President

Jewish life in Queensland

Celebrating 150 years since 1865 by Jennifer Creese, Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, 2016.

From a small collection of settler families in 1865, the Queensland Jewish community has grown over the past 150 years to more than 8,000 people, stretching from Far North Queensland down to the New South Wales border and out to the remotest Outback communities. Yet the history of Queensland's Jewish community has until now been largely silent in the discourse on Australian Jewish history.

Now a new work, "Jewish Life in Queensland", has been commissioned and published by the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies following the community's 150th anniversary in 2015, and written by Jennifer Creese of PHA (QLD). The coffee-table book takes readers on a journey through the rich history of the Queensland Jewish community across the state. With over 300 pages of text and photographs, the book illustrates the

community's story from humble beginnings in 1865 to the modern day, and showcases the roles Jewish families and individuals have played throughout the years in making Queensland great. Blending archival research with family and life histories, this rich and complex work makes a major contribution to Australian multicultural history.

"Very rewarding and difficult to put down... an outstanding work filled with stories of community growth and individual personalities. Recommended for anyone in Australia, Jew and non-Jew alike, who has the vaguest interest in Australian Jewry and Australian cultural diversity." Barry Levy (author, including "Shades of Exodus" and "The Terrorist")

3,000,000th tourist arrives in Israel

J-WIRE - NOVEMBER 8, 2017



Mihai Georgescu, Minister Yariv Levin, Iona Isac and Amir Halevi Photo: Doron Barsky

Israel's three millionth tourist this year has landed in Israel, a new all-time record for incoming tourism in Israel...and received a very special guide in Jerusalem.

Ioana Isac from Romania was accompanied by her partner, Mihai Georgescu, who became tourist number 3,000,001.

Tourism Minister Yariv Levin welcomed the couple in the arrival hall in Ben Gurion airport: "This is a special day and an historic milestone as we break the 3-million-tourist barrier and set a new all-time record. We are set to end the year with an amazing achievement, the likes of which have never been reached since the establishment of the State. I am excited to welcome the 3 millionth tourist today and I am happy with the achievements that we in the Tourism Ministry are seeing, as a result of the huge investment that we are making in marketing Israel around the world and our exceptional collaborations with airlines and the connections

that we maintain and strengthen with tour operators. All these are bearing fruit and have added about NIS 17 billion and thousands of jobs to the local economy."

The minister welcomed Ioana Isac in a festive ceremony at the airport, complete with red carpet, balloons and flowers and presented Ioana with a certificate to mark the occasion. Tourism Minister Levin and Tourism Ministry Director-General Amir Halevi accompanied the excited couple to their awaiting limousine, as they set off for a dream holiday experience with several options prepared by the Tourism Ministry.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu surprised Ioana Isac and her partner, Mihai, at the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem. The couple were accompanied by Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, who had earlier welcomed them in a festive ceremony at Ben-Gurion International Airport. They arrived at the museum where the couple found

that their guide was none other than Prime Minister Netanyahu.

During their vacation, they will enjoy an upgrade to a pampering hotel suite, a ride in a limousine, a helicopter tour in the skies of Israel, a unique Dead Sea experience, a sunset tour of the Tel Aviv promenade and a private dinner prepared by Israeli chef Nir Tzuk in his home.

In the period January – October 2017, 63,000 tourists arrived from Romania, compared to 40,100 in the same period in 2016 (increase of 57%) and 37,400 in 2015. The Romanian tourist stays an average of 7 nights in Israel. At the height of the season, there are 64 weekly flights between Romania and Israel, with most of them on the Bucharest- Tel Aviv route. There are also 15 weekly flights from Timisoara, Oradea, Craiova, Iasi and Cluj to Ben Gurion airport, with a new route from Bucharest to Ovdah beginning this month. The Tourism Ministry offers incentives to airlines opening new routes into Ben Gurion airport from destinations that have no direct flights to Israel. In addition, the ministry encourages tourism into Eilat by offering airlines a grant of 45 Euros per passenger landing in Ovdah during the winter.



Mihai Georgescu, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Iona Isac and Tourism Minister Yariv Levin. Photo: Kobi Gideon

Israeli economy flexes its muscle as shekel is deemed world's 2nd-strongest currency

ADAM ABRAMS - J-WIRE - 15 NOV 2017

The German financial services giant Deutsche Bank last week ranked the Israeli shekel as the world's second-strongest currency, bolstering the broader outlook on the Jewish state's economy.

"The strength of the shekel reflects the strength of Israel's current economic position," Leo Leiderman—a professor of comparative economics at Tel Aviv University and the chief economic adviser for Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank—told JNS.org, adding that he expects the shekel "to continue showing relative strength."

During the past year, the shekel has appreciated 6.1 percent against the currencies of Israel's main trading partners, including the U.S. dollar, British pound, euro and yen, according to Deutsche Bank's strategic foreign currency analyst Dr. Gautam Kalani. Only the Chinese yuan is stronger than the shekel, Deutsche Bank said.

The shekel's strength results partially from Israel holding one of the largest reserves of foreign currency in the world, serving to reduce the volatility of the Jewish state's native currency.

Israel's central bank, the Bank of Israel, announced record-breaking foreign reserve holdings of \$111 billion at the end of September. In April, a report by Bank of America Merrill Lynch noted that the Bank of Israel was "defying gravity" by checking the appreciation of the shekel against the U.S. dollar, which hit a three-year low against the Israeli currency this summer.

Imports and exports

Leiderman explained that Israel "exhibits a surplus in the current account of the balance of payments—that is, excess of exports of goods and services over imports of these. Obviously, a strong currency means more challenges for our exporters, and some easing of prices for imported goods and services."

Yet despite the challenges that the shekel's strength might pose for local manufacturers and exporters, Israel's exports actually rose 6 percent—to \$50 billion—during the first half of 2017, according to the Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute.

Leiderman said the jump in exports was driven by rapid growth in high-tech services and incoming tourism.

"The economy benefits from capital inflows from abroad, especially in the high-tech sector. This year, we expect a total of 3.5 million incoming tourists, which is a record-high figure in Israel's history," he said.

Israeli exports of services totaled \$21 billion in the first half of this year, boosted by the rising trend in exports of computer and software services—which grew 12 percent, to \$6.8 billion.

Exports of tourist services were up 16 percent, to \$3.2 billion, in the same period, and exports in industrial sections—including drugs, chemicals, refined oil products and electronic components—grew 5 percent. "Increasing exports is a strategic goal of the Ministry of the Economy and Industry, because the export industries feature high productivity," Israeli Economy Minister Eli Cohen said in August, Globes reported. "We are continuing our efforts to attract international companies. With the help of incentives for exporters, we will cross the \$100 billion mark, which is our annual export target."

A top economic competitor

Besides being recognized for its strong local currency, Israel is also considered home to one of the world's most competitive, innovative and stable economies.

"When looking at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries, we are towards the top of the list, almost at the head, and this is very important," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in February. "This creates jobs, raises wages and is good for the citizens of Israel."

The Jewish state is currently ranked first in the world in research and development (R&D) and venture capital investments as a percentage of gross domestic product, as more than 600 new start-up companies are launched in the country every year. Israel is also home to more than 300 R&D centers belonging to tech giants such as Facebook, Microsoft, Intel, Google, IBM and Apple. Israel is ranked second on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) innovation index and 16th on its Global Competitiveness Report. Israel moved up eight positions from last year on the WEF competitiveness index, marking the first time that the country was ranked among the list's top 20 nations.

According to the WEF, Israel this year maintained its position as one of the world's three most innovative countries, in line with Jewish state's longstanding reputation as the "start-up nation."

Israel also cracked the top 10 on the 2017 Bloomberg Innovation Index, which rates the level of innovation in a nation's economy by measuring its spending on R&D as well as its number of publicly traded high-tech companies.

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The Great War and the Jews. They also served.

A COMPILATION BY TONY LEVERTON

World War 1 wasn't just a horrifying conflict between jingoistic, military-Imperial alliances each desiring power and glory. The Jewish perspective looked to full emancipation and acceptance as loyal citizens of their respective countries. And the Jewish contribution was given in full measure, as the figures and accounts attest.

Yet tragically for the Jewish populations in this four year theatre of conflict, the shadows of hatred and war again loomed large just 20 years after the Armistice. World War 1 was the defining moment shaping the events of the entire 20th Century and, for Jews, critical to the founding of the modern State of Israel. May our deeds always do honour to the memories of those who served and those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Tony Leverton - Brisbane, July 2017



This compilation is dedicated to my grandfather John Norman Land from Townsville, Australia, and grandmother Sarah Cassell from Birmingham, Great Britain, who served respectively in the Great War as Hon. Captain of the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment in Egypt and the Western Desert (later serving as Warden of Nottingham Synagogue), and as Staff Nurse, Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve) at No. 26 Stationary Hospital, Ismailia.

PART 6 : ALLIED POWERS (CONTD.)

AUSTRALIA



Harold Boas, the compiler of Australian Jewry Book of Honour – the Great War (1923), estimated that 2,000 Jewish males enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in World War I, i.e. 12 per cent of the Australian Jewish population at that time (17,287). Boas' figure of those who served is challenged by Russell Stern as an overestimate (believing the number to be

between 1,500 and 1,600). Of those who served, 28 officers and 225 other ranks (a total of 253) are listed as having made the 'supreme sacrifice'.

More than 100 Australian Jews earned military honours or were mentioned in despatches, and one was awarded the Victoria Cross whilst serving with the AIF First Battalion at Gallipoli.

"Jewish Anzacs: Jews in the Australian Military", written by Mark Dapin (published in April 2017 by NewSouth Publishing and the Sydney Jewish Museum) details the lives and remarkable stories of mateship, sacrifice and valour of Jews who served in the Australian military, from the First Fleet to the War on Terror.

Lieutenant Leonard Maurice Keysor VC was decorated for the 'most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty' at the Battle of Lone Pine. He subsequently served at Pozières in France.

Born in England, Keysor emigrated to Australia shortly before the outbreak of the First World War. He enlisted in the First Australian Imperial Force in August 1914 and served in Egypt before landing at Gallipoli, Turkey at the beginning of the campaign.

Citation:

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at Lone Pine Trenches, in the Gallipoli Peninsula.

On 7 August, 1915, he was in a trench which was being heavily bombed by the enemy. He picked up two live bombs and threw them back at the enemy at great risk to his own life, and continued throwing bombs, although himself wounded, thereby saving a portion of the trench which it was most important to hold.



Lieutenant Leonard Maurice Keysor VC

On 8th August, at the same place, Private (Lance-Corporal) Keysor successfully bombed the enemy out of a position from which a temporary mastery over his own trench had been obtained, and was again wounded.

Although marked for hospital, he declined to leave and volunteered to throw bombs for another company, which had lost its bomb-throwers. He continued to bomb the enemy till the situation was relieved.

Another decorated Australian was Sergeant Issy Smith VC. He was formerly Ishroulch Shmeilowitz, born in Egypt. He became a stowaway to England and, after army service there, emigrated to Australia – all happening before the war. Smith served with the British in the First Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, and was also awarded the VC for heroism at Ypres in 1915.

Citation:



Sergeant Issy Smith VC

For most conspicuous bravery on 26th April, 1915, near Ypres, when he left his Company on his own initiative and went well forward towards the enemy's position to assist a severely wounded man, whom he carried a distance of 250 yards into safety, whilst exposed the whole time to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire.

Subsequently Corporal Smith displayed great gallantry, when the casualties were very heavy, in voluntarily assisting to bring in many more wounded men throughout the day, and attending to them with the greatest devotion to duty regardless of personal risk.

Other prominent Australian Jewish servicemen included:

1. **Hon. Brigadier Harold Edward Cohen DSO CMG** commanded the 6th Army Brigade, Australian Field Artillery Regiment in the Middle East, Britain and France, and was twice Mentioned in Dispatches. In 1921-26 he commanded the 4th Divisional Artillery, A.M.F., and in 1926-27 the 2nd Infantry Brigade. He was appointed adjutant-general in February 1943 with the rank of brigadier.
2. **Sydney solicitor Colonel Arthur Wellesley Hyman OBE** landed at Gallipoli and later served in Egypt and Sinai. He was a captain in the Light Horse and a Major on the staff of the Fourth Australian Division. Twice Mentioned in Dispatches, Hyman was awarded an OBE for his service, and later attained the rank of Colonel with the Army Legal Corps.
3. **Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Gray Marks DSO MC** at age 22 was one of the youngest commanding officers (he led the "Fighting Thirteenth" Battalion) in the A.I.F. For his work from September 1917 to February 1918, including the Ypres Salient operations, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. He was Mentioned in Dispatches four time. Marks was the son of Sydney Public Accountant Montague Marks and grandson of Jacob Marks JP, President of the York Street Synagogue, Sydney.
4. **Lieutenant-Colonel Eliezer (Lazar) Margolin DSO**, who was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for his part at Gallipoli, commanded the 39th Battalion Royal Fusiliers in Palestine and, following the Armistice, organised the 'First Jewish Battalion of Judea' police unit.
5. **Major Eric Montague Hyman DSO MC** (brother of Arthur, above) commanded 'A' Squadron (the lead squadron) of the 12th (NSW) Australian Light Horse

Regiment in the charge at Beersheba on 31 October 1917 by 800 light horsemen. He was initially nominated for a VC, along with his brother officers - but received a Distinguished Service Order.

31 light horsemen were killed in the charge and 36 were wounded.



Colonel Margolin riding into the Jewish village of Ben Shemen

קבלה בנים לקולונל מרגולין בבן שמשן

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 25 APRIL 1918.

Maj. Eric Montague Hyman, L.H.R. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer led his squadron at full gallop against an enemy redoubt, strongly manned with machine guns and rifles. Though the hostile fire was very heavy, yet the charge was so vigorous and determined that the enemy was overrun and his fire silenced, thus enabling the regiment to continue the assault and complete the capture of the objective.

6. **Major Cedric Errol Meyer Brodziak DSO MC** displayed "conspicuous gallantry and distinguished service near Bray-Sur-Somme on 22nd August 1918" and was awarded a Distinguished Service Order. He died in action on 31 August 1918.

7. **Lieutenant Phillip Harris** who edited the trench magazine Aussie.

A number of Jewish women served at the front with great distinction, among them Sister Leah Rosenthal



Reputed to be a photo of the charge at Beersheba. Claimed to be taken by EG Elliot - a range finder with the 4th ALH Bde

who earned the Royal Red Cross decoration 'for conspicuous application to duty whilst in the danger zone'.

Without doubt, the greatest and most revered of all Australian Jewish servicemen was former engineer



Sister Leah Rosenthal RRC

General Sir John Monash who commanded the Fourth Infantry Brigade of the AIF in 1914-15, the Second Australian convoy (landing in Egypt in 1915), the Third Australian Division in 1916, and was appointed Lieutenant-General and commander of the Australian Army Corps in 1918.

Following the Armistice, Monash directed the general repatriation and demobilisation of the AIF. In 1930 he was conferred with the full rank of General.

Monash was once described by British Prime Minister David Lloyd George as 'the most resourceful General in the British army.' The Times correspondent Liddell Hart assessed that Monash would have become commander-in-chief of the combined Allied forces had the war lasted beyond 1918.



General Sir John Monash GCMG KCB VD

Australian Jewish Military Chaplains

There were two senior Australian Jewish Chaplains during the Great War.

Rabbi David Isaac Freedman was born in Budapest, Austria-Hungary, son of Moses Freedman, merchant, and his wife Esther. Two years later the family went to London where he was educated at the Bell Lane School, Jews' College (1891-97) and the University of London (B.A., 1894).



Rabbi David Isaac Freedman

On 1 October 1915 Freedman was appointed as a chaplain in the Australian Imperial Force and he served briefly at Gallipoli and in Egypt and France. Throughout it was his policy to write home to the family of every Jewish soldier whom he met. In February 1916 the British War

Office appointed him chaplain to all Jewish men in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. In France, for two years he took no leave and in December 1917 was mentioned in dispatches for his unwavering service on the Western Front. Next year he returned to Perth, his war appointment terminated.

Rabbi Jacob Danglow was born in Wandsworth, Surrey, England, second of nine children of Michael Danglowitz, glazier, originally from Cracow, Galicia, and his wife Jessie, née Loafer. In 1893 Danglow entered Jews' College, London, where he completed his secondary education and was trained to minister to a synagogue in the English-speaking world.



Rabbi Jacob Danglow

In 1905 Danglow accepted a call to become minister of the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation. In 1908 he was commissioned in the Australian Military Forces and next year was appointed Jewish chaplain. On the outbreak of World War I he served as military censor and, after repeated requests to his congregation to release him, served overseas in France in 1918 as chaplain to the Australian Imperial Force. Danglow was appointed senior Jewish chaplain to the Australian Army in 1942. He visited New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, and at the request of Army Headquarters, was one of a group investigating the morale of the occupation troops in Japan.

Harold Collins' unique photographic record

Harold Emanuel Collins was 22 years of age and living in Bent Street, Paddington with his family when war broke out. He volunteered for active service in September 1914 and was part of the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. Assigned to the 1st Field Ambulance, Australian Medical Corps, Harold was a stretcher bearer



WOII Harold Collins

ferrying the wounded from the trenches down to the beach then onto the hospital ships.

Harold survived Gallipoli and went on to join the Australian Flying Corps, serving in France. No. 619 Master Mechanic, Warrant Officer II H E Collins was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 'recognition of valuable services rendered in connexion with the war', finally returning home on 15 December 1919.

Collins' writings and photographs record for us - their descendants and inheritors - small windows into the realities he and his comrades faced during the global turmoil of those terrible and courageous times.

Conclusion and Appreciation

From the private soldier to the top general - and most ranks in between - whether decorated for bravery or not, Jews the world over served and gave their full measure for their country one hundred years ago.

All who served, whether Jewish or not, are heroes and patriots.

Courage to Care in the Classroom - October 2017

LIBI MAXWELL

This October presented some travelling for the team. Boonah State High is just shy of 100 km south west of Brisbane, a very pleasant drive through rolling pastoral countryside. Arcadia college is roughly the same distance south east, but the high volume of traffic to the Gold Coast made the travel slower. At each of the schools we were very warmly received.



Peter Tassius guiding at Boonah SHS

Boonah was mostly a mono cultural school. The students had been prepared well and many of them had insightful questions in the sessions.

We revisited Arcadia College, a non mainstream school for disengaged secondary students. Just as they did last year, the students had lovingly made gifts for us all. Their teacher had spent time going through all aspects of our program. It was a particularly perceptive group, and the staff were amazed again that the attention span of the students stretched to our 90 minute programme.



Kayla introducing the program to students and teachers at St Catherine's Primary School.

Kedron SHS had a diverse ethnic group of students. Their principal spent some time with the team, expressing his enthusiasm in the programme, and the benefits for the Kedron students. He joined the 20 teachers who came at the end of their busy day, and listened intently to Peter's story and an overview of the programme.



Team members with the Principal at Kedron SHS.

Our last visit was to St Catherine's Primary School, which like Kedron, is in suburban Brisbane. It is always a delight when we go to a primary school, as the students are very spontaneous, perceptive, and not afraid of peer pressure to ask questions and give answers. They relate well to the Survivors, who are always the focal point of our presentation.



Peter sharing his story with the teachers at Kedron SHS.



Olya Zvenyatsky facilitating at Arcadia College.



Lee McNamee guiding at Boonah SHS.

All the students in the schools we visit are so moved by hearing the stories of those who were actually there at the time, and of the many heroes who were prepared to risk everything.



Gill Fine facilitating at Arcadia College.

As the program unfolds, it is so good to see the students realise, some for the first time, that each one of them can indeed make a difference.

Having spent time going through the program with the year 6 students, the Deputy Headmaster at St. Catherine's wrote to Kayla, 'Thank you for the goodness, effort and skill of your team in sharing their wisdom, purified amid such suffering, learning and experience. May we, in our circumstances, grow in and apply this wisdom as well.'



Gifts prepared for each team member by the Arcadia students.

WOMAN POWER

TOVA BLUMBERG

The sacred moment when a woman kindles the Shabbat lights and recites the blessing is an auspicious time for her to beseech Hashem for special requests.

Therefore, it is strongly proposed, because of the dangerous situation in which the world now finds itself, that after lighting the candles and reciting the blessing, every Jewish woman offer an additional prayer that no nuclear missiles ever be put to hostile use and that the world should never suffer a nuclear war.

"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." (Psalms 145:18)

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." (A quotation from Tennyson)



Ben Shohet

Obituary

SUN'S FINAL SHINE ON A VOICE THAT GAVE

A voice that gave meaning to the Torah and a heart that underlined Jewish charity and giving, Ben Shohet, one of the founding fathers of Brisbane's progressive Jewish community, passed away aged 84 after a long illness, on October 20.

Originally from Calcutta, India, it was with the help of Ben's money and his ideas that the Temple Shalom (now Beit Or v'Shalom) synagogue in Carina was acquired forty years ago. Ben remained through his life a benefactor to the shul and stalwart of the community, but in all that time, an unassuming man loathe to talk about himself, many did not know, or only knew in passing, of his ardent Zionism. It was a love of Israel and things Jewish that led him – at age 15 - from Calcutta to Israel in 1948.

With his brother John who followed him later, he served two years in the Israeli defence forces and lived for a further three years on a kibbutz in northern Israel. It was a time when the state, fresh from war against its Arab enemies, was still fighting for survival, politically and physically, and Ben often spoke to close family and friends of his constant hunger in the desert.

One story has it that Ben and his brother had to guard the sheep with a rifle over their shoulders as the kibbutz was not far from the hostile Arab enemy. They were exciting times for a young man, and Ben's practical outlook was already well in evidence. He and John, on their night guard duty, were helping themselves to more than their share of the eggs, and maybe chickens.

One night the kibbutz section supervisor decided to get to the bottom of it and waited in hiding to

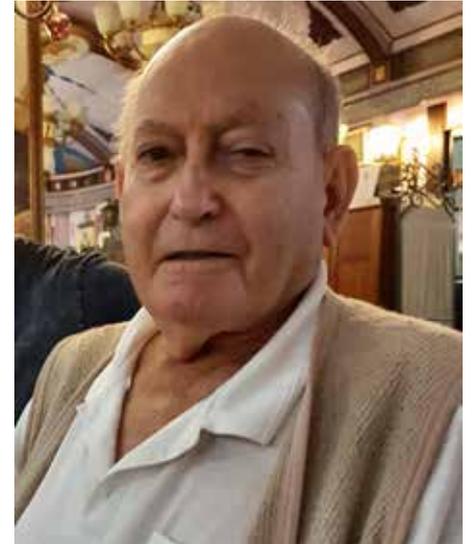


see who was responsible. Realising they were being watched, Ben found an Arab shoe, threw it over the fence in the dark, and began to shoot. When the supervisor sprang out to see what was going on, Ben told him they had scared off an Arab chicken-thief, and there was the shoe as proof!

Just as he arrived in Israel with nothing, so eventually he came to Australia with only the clothes on his back. He came to the country in 1955 at the invitation of an aunt and uncle who had moved to Perth. He worked there as a labourer for a time before travelling the country.

When he came to Brisbane, he fell in love with the place -- because of the weather and building structures which reminded him of Calcutta. He found steady work in the 1960s at Nundah Industries, a manufacturer of steel and aluminium products, and then left the company to try his hand at jobs in sales and marketing. Nundah Industries fell on hard times, and when it went on the market Ben saw his opportunity. He cobbled together enough money with his brother John and a friend and together they bought his old workplace. Several years later he took over the entire company and turned it into a great success.

Nundah Industries would become well known around the state and much of the country for its



trampolines and window awning frames. Many in the Brisbane Jewish community grew up with Ben's trampolines!

The same could be said about the many Bar and Bat Mitzvah and conversion students Ben put through their Hebrew paces – at his factory! And in a Hebrew UPJ rabbis would call excellent Sephardic pronunciation, sort of like saying “in the Queen's English”.

Ben always saw prosperity and money as a tool to achieve what needed to be done and to be generous. With the success of the factory, his family of four daughters (one adopted), no longer lacked for anything, and his generosity extended to charities such as the Smith Family and the Brisbane Jewish progressive congregation.

He also believed in supporting talent, and when he learnt that a friend's daughter would benefit from an education that her family couldn't afford, he provided a private scholarship. He once paid several hundred dollars for a violin for a busker he met on the street.

A humble man, known for his unbridled and unmatched compendium of jokes, he believed fervently - in his serious and strong-willed way -- that life was not worth living unless you could laugh at it. And that included laughing at oneself.

But he was serious about the survival of Israel, and where most dads would play their children music, in the late sixties Ben was playing his children long-playing records of events and battles from the 1967 Six Day War, said his daughter Debbie. Cantor David Bentley, who knew Ben for many years and was at his bedside before he died, said of him: "Ben's humour, his ability to make decisions, to read a situation,

his single-mindedness, his ability to simply get the job done, these characteristics all served to make him successful and well- liked. Ben improved the lives of everyone he touched.

Ben and his biblical voice that sang so lyrically from the Torah and was part of the backbone of Brisbane's progressive Jewish community, will be sorely missed by his four daughters, Diana,

Deborah, Esther and Rachel, and his many grandchildren and two great grandchildren, his friends and the community at large.

His daughter Diana, at his side on the morning he passed away, said, "Ben drew his last breath peacefully at 7.05 as the sun was coming out behind a rain cloud. Such a beautiful moment... I will never forget it."

Zichrono livracha, may his memory be a perpetual blessing.

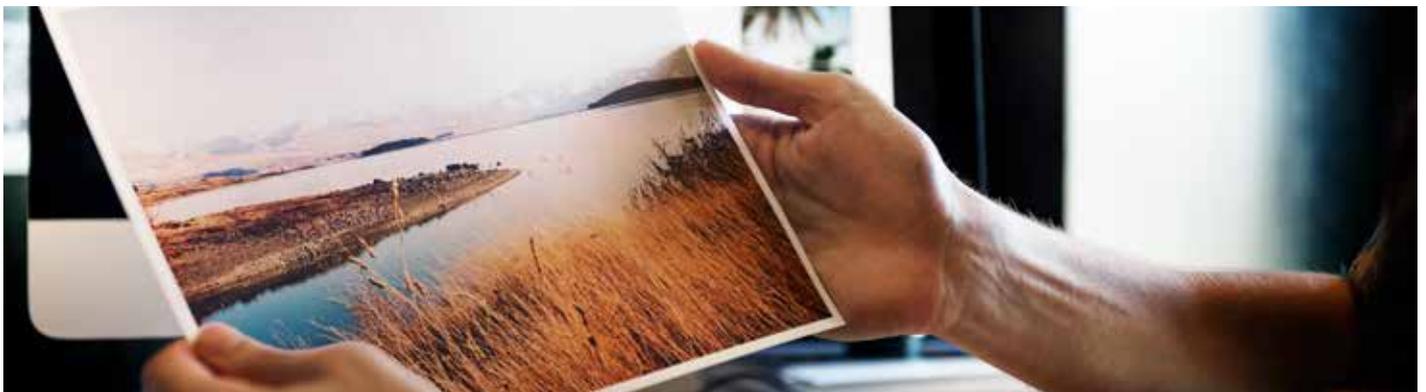
CONDOLENCE

The JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF QUEENSLAND
and SHALOM MAGAZINE

wishes to express our sincere condolences on the recent passing of

BESSIE LEVINE

We wish Philip and Sheila, Leon and Rodney and all their families Long Life
and may Bessie's memory be a blessing



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Socially Yours

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

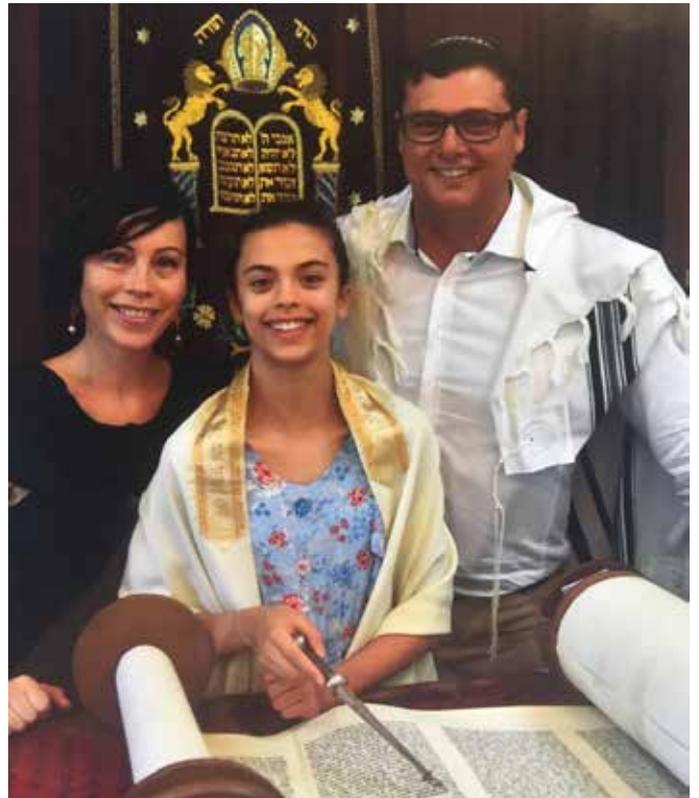
Kathy & Rick Shapiro are proud to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter Rachel Freda Shapiro to Benjamin Scott, son of Theresa and Keith Scott of Peregian Waters. Proud grandfather is Hy Shapiro of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Best of luck to Louise Heller, who is a part of CSG, who is going to Delft in the Netherlands, to continue her university studies and will hopefully return to Brisbane in 2019 to finish her studies. Her family will miss her very much but are very proud of her endeavours.



Mazel tov!

Shabbat Toldot, 19 November 2017, saw the first celebration of a Batmitzvah at the newly formed Beit Or v'Shalom. Bianca Malley was called to the Torah in front of a full congregation of family and friends and confidently read her Maftir and Haftorah. There was joy and fulfilment throughout the people gathered for this special occasion. Her teacher, Cantor David Bentley, had taught Bianca well and prepared her to present herself confidently on the day. Mazeltov Bianca! For Bianca and her family this was her entry to adulthood, and now she can be included in the minyan at Beit Or v'Shalom. For the congregation, this is the first of many such simchas since the unification of Beit Kneset Shalom and Brisbane Progressive Jewish Congregation. May the simchas and the congregation grow from strength to strength.



Lisa, Bianca & John Malley

Socially Yours is and always will be news from the community, for the community.

If you would like a special occasion included please email
sociallyyours@shalommagazine.org.au

BRISBANE HEBREW CONGREGATION

The Brisbane Synagogue
98 MARGARET STREET, BRISBANE

Regular Services

Shabbas, Friday evening: Ma'ariv 6.00pm.

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each Shabbas prior to Service.

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Membership: Email Alan Rose

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Gilad Goldman: 0401 469 709

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Phone (M) 0433 414 762

Paul Gould - Vice President
Phone (M) 0422 638 663

Bernie Goldman - Secretary/Treasurer
Phone (M) 0419 652 441

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Beit Or v'Shalom is proudly affiliated with

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Please ensure all submissions are sent to

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Only items sent directly to this email address
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ORGANISATIONS

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www.jewishqld.com**Betar** - qld@betar.org.au - www.betar.org.au**AUJS** - 0431 296 215 - David McNamee 0403 688 393**Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce**

3821 4460 or 0412 995 268

QAJEX - loris_r@hotmail.com**Qld Jewish Community Services** - 0423 194 737**Jewish Help In Need Society of Qld**

Lee McNamee 0417 723 399 - Peter Goldsmith 0409 765 394

Courage to CareKayla Szumer - 0427 380 235 - kayla@couragetocare.com.au

BRISBANE

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NCJWA

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www.ncjwa.org.au**QLD Kosher Kitchen**dvorahjaffe@bigpond.com or 0430 321 314**Rose's Army** - 3345 9509**Sinai College** - 3349 9088 - www.sinaicollege.qld.edu.au

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BRISBANE - REGULAR EVENTS

Community Diary Bookings - Kathy Gould 3411 3664 - 0402 497 413 - kathygould45@msn.com**WIZO Aviva:** 2nd Tuesday each Month (n)**WIZO Hadassim Sharon:** 4th Wednesday each month (d)**NCJW Meeting:** 3rd Monday 7.30pm**QJBD:** 4th Wednesday every 2nd month

GOLD COAST - REGULAR EVENTS

NCJWA Gold Coast: Monthly meetings – first Monday of each month – 7.30pm*We are now on Facebook and our website is*www.ncjwa.org.au - 0412 377 488 - goldcoast@ncjwa.org.au**Temple Shalom:** Office 5570 1716

-Services: Erev Shabbat 6:30pm, Shabbat morning 10:00am

-Oneg Shabbat: 2nd Friday each month following evening service;

-Seiudat Shabbat: Last Shabbat each month following Torah service

-Groovy Movers exercises: Mon & Wed 10:00 am - 12 noon, Fri 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation: All enquiries 5570 1851

- Friday Night Live - Uplifting Service every Friday Night - 5:30pm

- Shabbat Kiddush - Following the service every Shabbat at 9:00am

- Kabbala and Jewish Mysticism - Journey of the Soul Monday evening at 7:30pm

- Talmud Classes - Thursday evening at 7:30pm

- Talmud Torah Cheder - Sunday 9:30 - 11:30am

- Women Monthly Rosh Chodesh night

Have something you would like featured in
Socially Yours?

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FEBRUARY DEADLINE

Monday 22 January

Submissions, letters and articles may be edited for publication.

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