



80
years

**HONOURING
OUR LEGACY.
SHAPING
OUR FUTURE.**

SAUL SYMONDS 1945-1952
HORACE NEWMAN 1952-1955
HORACE B NEWMAN 1957-1967
GERALD DE VAHL DAVIS 1955-1957
GERALD FALK OBE 1967-1969
HARRY S GOLDSTEIN OBE 1969-1973
MAURICE ALLEN JP LLB 1973-1975
SIDNEY MULLER AM 1975-1978
ROBERT GOOT AM 1978-1982
LESLIE CAPLAN AM 1982-1985
GRAHAM DE VAHL DAVIS 1985-1989
GERRY LEVY 1989-1992
MICHAEL MARX AM B'H 1992-1996
PETER WERTHEIM AM 1996-2000
STEPHEN ROTHMAN AM 2000-2004
DAVID D KNOLL 2004-2008
ROBIN MARGO SC 2008-2010
YAIR MILLER OAM 2010-2014
JEREMY SPINAK AM B'H 2014-2018
LESLI BERGER 2018-2022
DAVID OSSIP 2022-CURRENT

Proudly supported by



The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBD) is recognised by the NSW government, its agencies, NGOs, unions, the media and other ethnic, cultural and religious groups as the representative roof-body of the Jewish community. It leads, speaks and advocates on behalf of the NSW Jewish community, with 55 major communal organisations as its constituents.

Our goal is a united NSW Jewish community, adequately resourced, enjoying physical and political security as part of a harmonious, inclusive and democratic Australian society.

 (02) 9360 1600

 mail@nswjbd.org.au

 www.nswjbd.org.au

Proudly supported by



The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet - the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.
We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



**An overview of the past 80 years of
advocacy, representation, action
and involvement in the New South Wales
Jewish Community**

1945 - 2025
Honouring our legacy. Shaping our future.



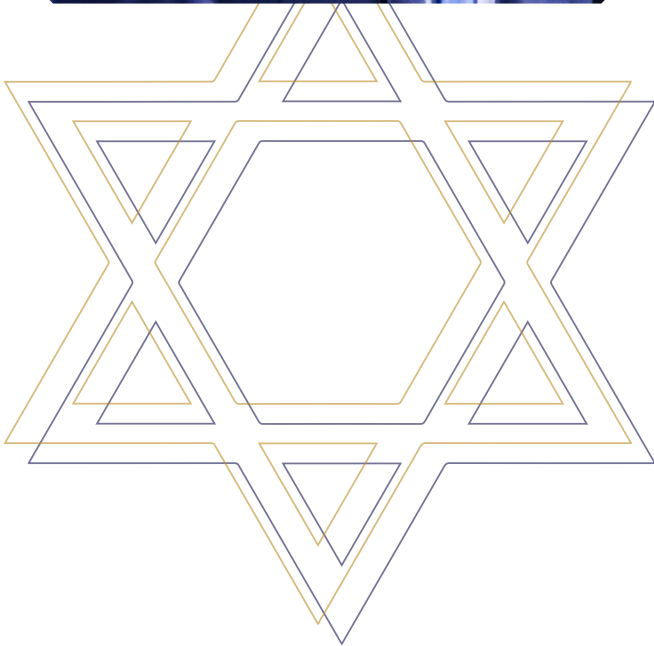
October 7 Commemoration, Christison Park 2024



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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Eighty years ago, in 1945, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (NSW JBD) was formally established to provide elected leadership and a unified voice for the Jewish community of New South Wales.

Established at a moment of profound tumult for the Jewish world, with the full reality of the Shoah still emerging and prior to the creation of the State of Israel, our founders recognised the need for a representative body that would safeguard the NSW Jewish community, advocate on its behalf and ensure that Jewish life in NSW could continue to flourish with pride and resilience.

From those beginnings, the NSW JBD has grown into the recognised voice representing the NSW Jewish community. Our task has always been dual - to protect and defend the interests of our community and to make as substantive contribution as we can to the broader fabric of Australian society.

Over the decades, the NSW JBD has committed itself to being a builder of bridges. Our outreach to political, multicultural and civil society partners has created enduring relationships of trust and solidarity. The friendships we have forged across the board with political leaders, other communities and allies have not only protected us in moments of trial but have also contributed to social cohesion.



The NSW JBD has worked with successive governments, media, law enforcement, and community groups to ensure that the community's views are heard and considered. We have also stood at the forefront of advocacy against antisemitism and other forms of hate, whether in the streets, in schools, in workplaces or online.

Equally, we have been tireless in defending the legitimacy of Israel and strengthening the bonds of connection between our local community and the Jewish homeland.

The NSW JBD has also been a leader in Shoah remembrance and education, ensuring that the horrors of the Shoah are taught widely and never repeated.

Within the community, the NSW JBD has worked closely with our constituent organisations and nurtured strong internal governance, continuity of leadership and a spirit of volunteerism that has allowed our small community to punch well above its weight. We have repeatedly adapted to new challenges and addressed issues ranging from security and emergency management to Jewish burial space and law reform, thereby meeting the needs of our community into the next century.

As we celebrate 80 years, we do so with gratitude to those who came before us - visionaries who built the structures on which we stand - and with determination to meet the responsibilities that lie ahead. In a time of rising antisemitism globally, and of new pressures on Jewish communities throughout Australia, the NSW JBD remains steadfast in its mission - to represent, to advocate and to lead.

May this anniversary not only mark our history, but also rededicate us to the task of ensuring that Jewish life in NSW continues to thrive - secure, proud, and united - for generations to come.

David Ossip
President
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies



New South Wales
Australia

Premier of New South Wales

On behalf of the NSW Government, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBD) on its 80th anniversary.

For eight decades, this unique representative body has served as a powerful voice of our State's diverse Jewish community.

JBD's longstanding commitment to combating antisemitism and prejudice has helped foster a more inclusive society in our State.

I pay tribute to its leadership within civil society, especially its work with young people – promoting Holocaust education and championing anti-bullying programs in our schools.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also acknowledge the enduring contributions of the Jewish community to our State, and the role JBD has played in helping this community to flourish.

Congratulations on this milestone and best wishes for the decades ahead.



The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales
in the Commonwealth of Australia



Hon Mark Speakman SC MP Leader of the NSW Opposition NSW Liberal Leader

Mazal tov to the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies on its 80th anniversary.

For eight decades, the Jewish Board of Deputies has exemplified the highest ideals of civic leadership—advocating for justice, safeguarding memory, and strengthening multicultural harmony across our state.

As Attorney General, I was privileged to work closely with the Board on key reforms to protect communities from hate, including reforms to hate speech legislation and the public display of Nazi symbols. These were powerful steps to uphold dignity and safety for all.



Beyond legal reform, the Jewish Board of Deputies continues its indispensable role in education, commemoration, and outreach—including through supporting and organising school programs, interfaith dialogue, and preserving memory.

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary, we honour not only the organisation but the generations of volunteers, deputies, and leaders—past and present—who have devoted themselves to the betterment of NSW and to the proud continuity of Jewish life.

In the face of rising antisemitism, your voice is more vital than ever. On behalf of the NSW Opposition, thank you for your courage, your conviction, and your enduring contributions to our shared future.

I extend my congratulations on this milestone of 80 years, my appreciation for the work of decades past and my best wishes for the decades ahead.

Mark Speakman

Mazal Tov Mazal Tov Mazal Tov

Our community speaks - 80 years of shared pride and purpose

“Congratulations on your 80th anniversary and remarkable achievements in supporting Jewish community, particularly during these current challenging times.”



Association of Jewish Engineers

“With deep gratitude, the AAJHS&D honour 80 years of the Board’s unwavering support, preserving Holocaust memory, protecting our future, and standing beside survivors and their descendants always.”

Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Descendants

“AJHS through our collection of communal records, was able to assist with information for this booklet. It is always our pleasure to work hand in hand, and we wish the JBD a hearty Mazal Tov on this milestone anniversary.”

Australian Jewish Historical Society

“Hearty congratulations on your 80th anniversary. Looking forward to a continued partnership for many years ahead.”



Australian Jewish Medical Federation

“Congratulations to the JBD on their 80th anniversary. With thanks for its untiring efforts to fight for and support the Jewish Community of NSW.”



B'nai B'rith NSW

“As an organisation that supports seniors in our community, COA congratulates you on your 80th birthday of strong leadership of the community.”



Centre Of Activity

“Mazal Tov to NSW JBD on 80 remarkable years. Your steadfast leadership has shaped and strengthened Jewish life in NSW. Wishing you continued blessings and success.”



Cremorne Synagogue

“Mazal Tov to the NSW JBD on 80 years of unwavering service. Thank you for being the voice that speaks and advocates with strength and wisdom on behalf of our community.”



Emanuel School

“Thank you JBD for 80 years of meaningful conversation about crucial issues, bringing our concerns to the people of NSW, and working for multi-cultural and multi-faith co-operation and cohesion.”

Emanuel Synagogue

“After 80 years, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies is as strong as ever, its work as vital as ever, and its co-ordination with the ECAJ as effective as ever. Mazal Tov to the entire Board team. Looking forward to the next 80 years.”



Executive Council of
Australian Jewry

“Congratulations on your 80th Anniversary and we are grateful for your strong support for tertiary Jewish studies across NSW.”



Fund for Jewish
Higher Education

“Congratulations from Jewish Arts Incorporated on 80 years of fine work in upholding the rights, safety and dignity of the Jewish community in NSW and beyond.”



Jewish Arts
Incorporated

“Mazal Tov to the NSW JBD. You’ve been a pillar of strength, advocacy, and unity for our community. Your leadership has enriched Jewish life and fostered vital relationships. Your impact is profound, and we look forward to continued collaboration to build a stronger future together.”

Jewish Communal Appeal

“The Jewish Folk Centre/ Ha’Moadon Ha’Israeli, wish to congratulate the NSW JBD on their leadership, support and guidance through 80 years to the NSW Jewish Community. May the Board continue to flourish.”



Jewish Folk Centre

“Congratulations on achieving this 80 Year milestone. We have enjoyed the relationship and working together for our community. May you continue with your good work in perpetuity. Mazal Tov”



Jewish House

“Our sages call 80 the age of gevurah - strength. We thank you and wish you only continued strength in your vital work. Mazal Tov!”



Kesser Torah College

“Mazeltov on 80 remarkable years of impact and service to community. We celebrate your legacy and stand alongside you in championing inclusion, distinction, and shared outcomes.”



Maccabi NSW

“Mazal Tov on 80 years of dedicated service to the NSW Jewish community. Best wishes for the next 80 years!”



Magen David Adom

Mazal Tov Mazal Tov Mazal Tov

Our community speaks - 80 years of shared pride and purpose

“Mazal Tov on 80 years of strengthening our community, protecting our values, and representing our voices with integrity. May you go from strength to strength.”

Maroubra Synagogue

“Mazal Tov to the NSW JBD on 80 years of leadership and advocacy. Masada College proudly celebrates this milestone with you.”



Masada College

“Congratulations on 80 years of strong leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to our community. A milestone that reflects decades of impact, Mazal Tov.”



Montefiore

“Congratulations on 80 years of leadership and advocacy, enhancing Jewish identity and supporting continuity through Jewish education. Mei-chayil el chayil, from strength to strength.”

Moriah College

“Mazal Tov on 80 years of impact. NSWJBD’s unwavering voice has guided generations. May NSWJBD continue growing from strength to strength.”



Mosaic Living

“Mazal Tov on 80 years of visionary leadership and advocacy. Your commitment to Jewish education, safety, and community is deeply valued.”



Mount Sinai College

“Congratulations on this milestone 80th anniversary and for your indomitable and unceasing efforts to protect and serve the NSW Jewish community.”



National Association of Ex-Service Men & Women

“With deep appreciation for 80 years of dedication to our community, we extend a very hearty Mazal Tov to the NSW JBD on reaching this remarkable milestone. Sincerely, President, Directors and Members NCJWA NSW.”

National Council of Jewish Women Australia

“Wishing the NSW JBD a heartfelt Mazal Tov on 80 years of dedicated service to our community.”



North Shore Synagogue

“Mazal Tov and todah rabah for your vital work on behalf of our community, year after year, decade after decade.”

North Shore Temple Emanuel



“Congratulations on 80 remarkable years, championing our values, supporting our Synagogue, and strengthening Jewish life across Sydney’s diverse and vibrant communities.”

Southern Sydney Synagogue

“A marvelous achievement and a proud history of representing our community with distinction. Mazal Tov and Kol Hakavod!”



Sydney Jewish Museum

“Congratulations to the elected representatives and employees of the NSW JBD on 80 years of exceptional leadership.”



Technion Australia

“We look forward to continuing our long standing relationship with the Board going from strength to strength for many years to come.”



The Great Synagogue

“Congratulations to the NSW JBD and particularly wishing to recognise the excellent work over the past two challenging years, as well as the past 80 years.”

NSW Board of Progressive Jewish Education

“Wishing you a hearty Mazal Tov on 80 remarkable years of advocacy, leadership, and community service. Wishing continued strength and success in the years ahead.”

Women’s International Zionist Organisation NSW

“Congratulations on 80 years of outstanding advocacy, making our community stronger, safer and more united. Mazal Tov and Kol Hakavod!”



Wolper Jewish Hospital

“Congratulations and kol hakavod to the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies on reaching your 80th anniversary and for all the meaningful work you do in the community and wider community.”

Zahal Disabled Veterans Organisation (ZDVO)

“Mazal tov to the NSW JBD on 80 years representing our community. We value our partnership in proudly supporting and advocating for Israel.”



Zionist Council of NSW

TIMELINE OF THE JBD

Formed in 1932 as the NSW Jewish Advisory Board, initially comprising only Synagogue representatives for 10,000 Jews.

>1932

In June 1944, a landmark constitution establishes democratic representation, creating today's NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

>1944

The constitution introduces a universal franchise, electing 25% of representatives from the broader Jewish public.

>1949

>1942

The Advisory Board creates the Bureau of Jewish Affairs and expands consultation to 18 Jewish organisations. Moriah War Memorial College is established.

>1945

On July 29, 1945, led by Saul Symonds, the JBD holds its inaugural meeting as NSW Jewry's united voice.

>1955

President Gerald de Vahl Davis is elected and serves until 1957. After its early years, the JBD expands democratic representation, with 50% of deputies elected directly by the Jewish community.

Maurice Allen JP LLB is elected President and serves until 1975.

>1973

Robert Goot AM, at 30 years of age, is elected President and serves until 1982, marking a historic generational shift in leadership for the JBD.

>1978

Leslie Caplan AM is elected President and serves until 1985.

>1982

>1969

Harry Goldstein OBE is elected President and serves until 1973.

>1975

Sidney Muller AM is elected President and serves until 1978.

>1981

Mount Sinai College is established.

PHOTO: *Glenayr Playground 1947*

President Horace Newman is elected and serves a record term until 1967 and the JBD forges a new role beyond local advocacy to international Jewish advocacy.

>1957

Masada College is founded, strengthening Jewish education and identity on Sydney's North Shore for future generations.

>1966

The JBD holds its first formal Annual General Meeting, marking greater structure, professionalism, and transparency.

>1968

>1960s

In the 1960s, the JBD champions Soviet Jewry's plight, using political influence to support global Jewish freedom efforts. The JBD advocates for persecuted Jews from Arab Lands and Iran, broadens its global focus, and strengthens domestic leadership, ensuring post-war migrants and Holocaust survivors are welcomed and empowered in NSW Jewish life.

>1967

In 1967, the Jewish Communal Appeal launches, professionalising fundraising and securing over 90% of the JBD's funding today. Gerald Falk OBE is elected President and serves until 1969.

The JBD marks 40 years of leadership, building schools, fostering young leaders, and strengthening its unifying community role.

The Sydney Jewish Museum is established and partners with schools to educate all Australians on Jewish life, the Holocaust, and human rights.

Peter Wertheim AM is elected president and serves until 2000.

>1984

>1993

>1996

>1983

Emanuel School is established.

>1992

Michael Marx AM is elected President and serves until 1996.

>1995

The JBD celebrates its Golden Jubilee with a historic NSW Legislative Council event, reaffirming its leadership mission. To mark the occasion, the book *With One Voice*, compiled by Emeritus Professor Suzanne Rutland OAM and Sophie Caplan OAM, is released.

PHOTO: Masada College 1968

TIMELINE OF THE JBD

The JBD leads a Jewish community group together with 350,000 people in a Sydney Harbour Bridge reconciliation walk, fostering Indigenous ties and broader social engagement.

>2000

Vic Alhadeff OAM is appointed as CEO and serves in the role until 2022.

>2005

>1997

The JBD supports victims of the Maccabiah Bridge collapse, organises vigils, advocacy, and direct talks in Israel, while also aiding Yeshiva College's expansion.

>2000/04

During the Second Intifada, the JBD strengthens political and media ties, and unifies diverse Jewish groups to ensure community solidarity and voice. In 2004, David D Knoll AM is elected President and serves until 2008.

The JBD revives the largest bipartisan NSW Parliamentary Friends of Israel group and launches the Jewish Sydney online community portal. In the same year, Jeremy Spinak AM is elected President and serves until 2018.

>2014

The JBD's "Keep NSW Safe" campaign is established, uniting 30+ groups, led by CEO Vic Alhadeff OAM, to secure new laws combating hate speech and protecting marginalised communities in NSW.

>2016

Section 93Z of the NSW Crimes Act, criminalising public threats or incitement based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status, or HIV/AIDS, passes unanimously. The same year the JBD establishes the Harm Prevention Foundation to address modern threats. In the same year, President Jeremy Spinak AM tragically passes away at 36 years old and Israel celebrates its 70th anniversary.

>2018

>2015

The JBD expands interfaith cooperation and, under President Jeremy Spinak AM, engages with leaders like Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Australia visit.

>2017

Lynda Ben-Menashe launches the We Are All Sydney outreach program, and the JBD supports Israeli PM Netanyahu's historic visit to Australia, uniting community and raising Israel's profile.

>2019

The JBD combats antisemitism with key interventions like the TAFE protocol, responds to the Christchurch shootings with fundraising and solidarity, and advances inclusivity through First Nations and LGBTQ+ working groups.

PHOTO: 75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht 2013

Robin Margo SC is elected President and serves until 2010.

>2008

The JBD successfully reverses Marrickville Council's Israel boycott through diplomacy and community mobilisation, while expanding outreach to unions, multicultural groups, and fostering Jewish-Muslim cultural and social initiatives.

>2011

>2007

The JBD establishes the Education Secretariat and Jewish Teachers' Network to combat antisemitism, launches a three-tier advocacy program, and enhances interfaith and multicultural engagement through inclusive Passover seders.

>2010

Yair Miller OAM is elected President and serves until 2014.

>2013

Over 65 NSW Parliamentarians sign the London Declaration against antisemitism. The NSW Department of Education mandates Holocaust education for all Year 9 and 10 students starting the following year.

During COVID-19 lockdowns, the JBD coordinates community safety, adapts emergency plans, provides vital support, and secures government exemptions for socially distanced religious gatherings.

>2020/21

Following the October 7, 2023 Hamas massacre, the JBD unites the community with a large vigil of 10,000 attendees, government leaders, and media, reaffirming its vital leadership role during crisis.

>2023

In February, new legislation is introduced criminalising incitement to hate on the basis of race, protecting places of worship and increasing penalties for Nazi symbols at synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

>2025

>2022

The JBD successfully lobbies for laws banning public Nazi symbols, which are passed by then Attorney General Mark Speakman SC MP. Facing burial shortages, the JBD, led by past President David Knoll, overcomes hurdles to develop Macarthur Memorial Park, securing Sydney's Jewish burial needs for decades. David Ossip is elected President and CEO. Vic Alhadeff concludes his 17-year career at the JBD.

>2024

Michele Goldman is appointed CEO in June 2024.

PHOTO: PM Netanyahu visit 2017

1945-1954

80
years

PRESIDENTS: Saul Symonds: 1945-1952; Horace Newman: 1952-1955

A COMMUNITY UNITES - THE BIRTH OF A REPRESENTATIVE VOICE

The decade following World War II marked a pivotal chapter in the formation of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies (JBD), established to transform the Jewish community's representation in New South Wales. In the wake of unprecedented global upheaval, the small but engaged community - numbering around 15,000 to 18,000 in 1945 - responded with unity, vision, and purpose. As Holocaust survivors and refugees arrived in growing numbers, the Jewish population in NSW surged to approximately 26,000 by 1954, bringing with it new energy, needs, and perspectives. In response, the JBD laid the foundations for an enduring structure that would advocate for and shape Jewish life in the state for generations to come.

However, the foundations of the JBD were laid during the war years. Originally formed in 1932 as the NSW Jewish Advisory Board - at a time when the Jewish population in New South Wales numbered around 10,000, mostly concentrated in Sydney - the body initially included only Synagogue representatives. As global events escalated, with the Holocaust unfolding, antisemitism on the rise, and restrictive immigration policies limiting refugee intake, the community's needs became more complex. These pressures underscored the urgent need for a broader, more inclusive, and democratic representative structure.

In 1942, as Australia felt the proximity of war and European Jewry faced annihilation, the Advisory Board took decisive action. It formed the Bureau of Jewish Affairs to address antisemitism and misinformation and widened its consultation to include 18 key Jewish organisations.

The turning point came in June 1944, when a landmark constitution was adopted, formalising the creation of a new institution – what we now know as the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies



Invitation to First Meeting 1945



Glenayr Playground 1947



This shift reflected a new commitment to community growth and representation. The same year saw the establishment of the Moriah War Memorial College to support the educational needs of the community.

This constitution enshrined democratic representation and paved the way for JBD's official establishment. On July 29, 1945, under the leadership of Saul Symonds, the JBD held its inaugural meeting, marking the birth of a united voice for the Jewish community in New South Wales.

Saul Symonds (President 1945 - 1952) led the newly formed JBD through its formative years, ensuring a stable and inclusive foundation. His presidency saw the JBD begin its early work in advocacy and political influence, engaging media and government to ensure the Jewish community had a place in the national conversation.



Saul Symonds,
First President

These were the first steps toward, what would become, a hallmark of the JBD's enduring role in civic life.

A defining feature of the decade was the strengthening of the JBD's democratic nature. In 1949, the constitution was amended to introduce a universal franchise, with 25% of representatives elected by the broader Jewish public. This was expanded again in 1955, under the presidency of Horace Newman (President 1952-1955; 1957-1967), to 50%, further reinforcing the JBD's legitimacy as the voice of the Jewish people in NSW.

Through these foundational developments, the JBD emerged as more than an administrative body - it became a symbol of Jewish identity, a bulwark against antisemitism, and a vehicle for solidarity with global Jewry in the aftermath of the Shoah. This era cemented the JBD's reputation as the democratic heart of the NSW Jewish community and laid the groundwork for future leadership in social justice, interfaith dialogue, and cultural continuity.

The legacy of the 1945 -1954 decade endures in the JBD's ongoing mission: to represent, protect, and empower the Jewish people of New South Wales - then, now, and always.



The Hebrew Standard August 1945



Sydney Jewish News June 1950



1945-1954

Secretary of the Great Synagogue,
Castlereagh Street,
Sydney.

I hereby nominate Mrs Marcus Marks of the Astor, Macquarie Street
as delegate for the Great Synagogue to the Jewish Board of Deputies.

Nominator.....J.C. Davis.J.P.
.....*J.C. Davis*.....
Seconder.....*M. Marks*.....

I hereby accept the nomination for the Jewish Board of Deputies.

M. Marks

RECEIVED
28.5.45
AMSD

*Nomination of
Markus Mark
May 1945*

NEW SOUTH WALES JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

243 Elizabeth Street,
SYDNEY.

Phone MA 4423

24th May, 1945

The Secretary,
Great Synagogue,
188 Castlereagh Street,
SYDNEY.

RECEIVED
24/5/45
AMSD

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that according to the number of your effective members, which is 1074, your Synagogue is entitled to 11 Deputies and 2 Associate Deputies on the N.S.W. Jewish Board of Deputies.

For the election of these Deputies and Associate Deputies, in accordance with Clause 12 of the Constitution, it will be necessary for your Synagogue to call a general meeting of its effective members, as only effective members of your Synagogue are entitled to vote or to be elected as Deputies or Associate Deputies. An effective member, as set down in Clause 13 of the Constitution, is:

- (a) Such member of your Synagogue who belongs to no other Jewish Organisation in New South Wales
- (b) Such member of your Synagogue who has duly completed and returned the Notice of Allocation indicating that he wishes to be considered an effective member of your Synagogue

We enclose herewith a supplementary list of names being:

✓ (a) a second additional list of members
✓ (b) Alterations of the original list and
✓ (c) Alterations of the first additional list: these, together with the list you had originally compiled at our office and the first additional list forwarded you attached to our letter of 11th May, 1945 are to be regarded as the only official lists in accordance with which the elections must take place. We would also refer to Clause 14 of the Constitution which provides that:

"A person shall not be eligible to be elected as a Deputy or an Associate Deputy of a Constituent Body unless of Jewish Faith and of the full age of 18 years".

As it is intended to call the N.S.W. Jewish Board of Deputies together as early as possible, and in order to proceed with the

*The Great Synagogue
Nomination Letter
May 1945*

1955-1964

80 years

PRESIDENTS: Horace B Newman: 1952-1955/ 1957-1967; Gerald de Vahl Davis 1955-1957

FROM LOCAL VOICE TO GLOBAL ADVOCATE

The decade from 1955 to 1964 saw the JBD consolidate its leadership in community representation, while stepping onto the world stage as an advocate for Jewish people. Under the presidencies of Gerald de Vahl Davis (1955-1957) and Horace Newman (1957-1967), the JBD deepened its democratic structure, strengthened ties within the Jewish community, and forged a new role beyond local advocacy, to international Jewish advocacy.

In the aftermath of its foundational years, the JBD turned its focus toward increasing participation across the NSW Jewish community. Building on the 1949 introduction of universal franchise, the 1955 adoption of a 50% elected representative model marked a significant milestone in community growth and representation. For the first time, half of the JBD's deputies were chosen directly by the Jewish community - an affirmation of the JBD's commitment to democratic values and grassroots inclusion.

This reform created a stronger, unified voice that could speak with legitimacy and clarity to the Jewish community, the broader public, and government bodies.

The leadership of Gerald de Vahl Davis, followed by Horace Newman, brought both legal and diplomatic gravitas to this transformation. Newman, would go on to serve a record decade long term as President, guiding the JBD through significant challenges and growth.

The plight of Jews behind the Iron Curtain - subject to religious repression, cultural erasure, and forced assimilation - was a cause that galvanised Jewish communities worldwide, including in NSW. The JBD, in alignment with international Jewish organisations, began using its growing political influence to raise awareness, build pressure on decision-makers, and stand with global Jewish organisations in support of those denied the freedom to live openly as Jews.



Jewish Times 1956



Scan code to read full article

During this period, the JBD began asserting itself as a moral force in Jewish affairs. The 1960s saw the first stirrings of what would become a decades-long campaign for the rescue of Soviet Jewry.

1955-1964

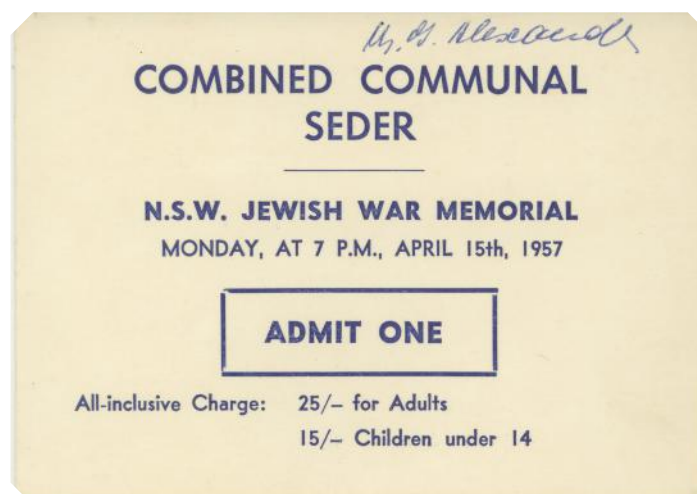


NAJEX Anzac c.1957

The JBD also turned its attention to Jews from Arab Lands and Iran, many of whom were facing persecution, expulsion, and statelessness in the wake of Israel's establishment. The plight of these Mizrahi and Sephardi communities added new urgency to the JBD's advocacy efforts and further broadened its global perspective.

Domestically, the JBD continued to strengthen its role as the peak representative body of the NSW Jewish community. It engaged with state and federal leaders, worked with local councils, and took firm positions on matters affecting Jewish life, cultural preservation, and community security. As the post-war Jewish population in NSW grew - particularly with the arrival of thousands of Holocaust survivors and migrants from Europe and the Middle East - the JBD ensured that these new voices were not only welcomed but also empowered to participate in communal life.

By the end of 1964, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies had established itself as both a respected local institution and a principled global advocate. With a foundation rooted in democracy and a vision shaped by justice, identity, and Jewish unity, the JBD entered the next decade ready to meet the complex challenges of a rapidly changing world.



Communal Seder Invitation 1957



A Junior Blue Box
For Every Jewish
Child



J.N.F. — 18 LANG ROAD,
CENTENNIAL PARK
Phone FA 4841

Australian JEWISH TIMES

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62nd YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Danger Looms Over Israel

(From our own Correspondent and Special Cable)

JERUSALEM, Wed. — The conflict between Israel and the Arab countries, Egypt in particular, has now reached a most critical climax.

Political leaders in Israel are of the opinion that the Western Powers are to blame for directly or indirectly encouraging Egypt in her provocative attack on Israel.

Before leaving for Paris for urgent conferences with the Foreign Ministers of Britain, France, and U.S., Prime Minister Sharett gave a review of the present crisis to the newly elected Knesset, and addressed an urgent appeal to world Jewry to acquire arms for Israel wherever they could be bought—"many arms and good arms."

Sharett's Attack On Russia

Mr. Sharett said that it was getting more and more clear that Russia supported not only Egypt, but Arab interests in general, did not come about on Egyptian initiative nor on that of Czechoslovakia, but that Russia had approached Egypt and other Arab states offering them arms the means for general development. At the same time, the Russian press attacked Israel as a "warmonger."

Israel also knew, Mr. Sharett continued, that the arms deal was not merely a commercial transaction, but that there were political aims involved. That was the reason for Israel's severe criticism and, if as a result of the arms supplied to Egypt, there was an outbreak in the Middle East, "it is clear who will be responsible for that."

TO MEET MOLOTOV

(Special Cable to "Jewish Times")
PARIS, Wed.: Last Monday Sharett conferred with Israel's Ambassadors to the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia. The Israeli Ambassadors were specially summoned to meet Sharett in Paris. Sharett also had a long conference with Britain's Foreign Minister, Mr. Harold MacMillan, U.S. Minister of State, Mr. Foster Dulles and the French Foreign Minister M. Pinay.



MR. M. SHARETT, PREMIER OF ISRAEL

Mr. Sharett pointed out to the Foreign Ministers the danger which is looming over Israel because of the Czech-Egyptian arms deal. Sharett will also meet the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Molotov, at Geneva tomorrow or Friday.

Meanwhile Mr. Dulles has summoned Ambassador Lawson to Paris, while Henry Byroade arrived here yesterday with the latest news of developments in Cairo.

CHANGES IN BOARDS' EXECUTIVE

D. J. Benjamin Nominated for Hon. Secretary on Board

Mr. David J. Benjamin, for many years Chairman of the Standing Orders and Constitutional Committee of the N.S.W. Jewish Board of

Deputies, has been nominated for the vacant position of Honorary Secretary.

Mr. Benjamin, on accepting the nomination for the position, resigned as Chairman of the Constitutional Committee.

Late this week no other nomination had been received for Hon. Secretary.

The position became vacant when the previous Hon. Secretary, Mr. Harry Goldstein, resigned to take over as Chairman of Public Relations.

Mr. Max Mansell was formally Chairman of Public Relations.

COMMUNAL ORGANISATIONS PLEASE NOTE

All Communal notices must reach the "Jewish Times" office not later than 10 a.m. Tuesday. All copy received after the deadline will not be included in the weeks publication.

War With Egypt "Imminent"?

Johannesburg (JTA). — "It is my personal opinion that war between Egypt and Israel is imminent," Yaacov Meridor, a member of the Knesset and a leader of Heruth, said at a press conference held today. "Egypt's new arms purchases from Communist states added to her continued border aggression make this evident," he declared.

ONE BILLION POUNDS FOR NAZI VICTIMS

The A.B.C. reports that another reminder of the terrifying years the Jewish people of Germany passed through in the days of Hitler comes from West Germany where the Bonn Government has announced it is planning to spend up to more than one-billion pounds Australian by 1963 in restitution to the victims of Nazi persecution.

This includes three hundred and seventy million pounds Australian already given to Israel, where many

refugees from the Nazi terror now live.

Under a bill to be brought down soon, refugees who fled from Nazi Germany and who still live abroad can claim compensation. Those who worked for religious societies or foreign firms and were persecuted also can claim restitution.

And people who were unable to enter their planned professions because of Nazi persecution may get compensation, in addition to those who had to give up their professions or businesses.

THE MACCABI CAR TRIAL A SUCCESS

EIGHTEEN CARS FINISH

(BY A STAFF REPORTER)

Maccabi Navigational Trial Drivers complained about the lack of organisation at Control Points. This appeared to be the only fault with the trial, which was run over 115 miles round Sydney last Sunday.

Drivers leading the field said that they arrived at the Control Points only to find that no officials had arrived in time for them to check in. This they said effected the early cars more than the later starters. However nearly every car lost points at the final control because of a misunderstanding on the part of an official. An official stated this week that this Control Point would be excluded in the final points score.

Twenty-one cars started the course, only 18 finished. The course started at Chatswood and controls were at Koala Reserve, Parramatta Park, Galston Gorge, Bobbin Head and Fuller's Bridge.

David Goldstone (Car No. 6) said after the trial that he would lodge protests. He said that he would complain that as he was the leading car, he arrived at Control Points before the officials.

Ron Solomon (No. 1) said that the trial was excellent, although he objected to answering a great number of questions.

(All cars were obliged to answer a series of questions relating to the type of country, etc., so as to prove that they had followed the route set down by the organisers.)

However, all drivers and passengers said that the trial should be a regular event. Peter Eden summed the situation up when, he said "If this trial was not as well organised as we would have liked, it did prove one thing: That the trials should become a regular communal event."

The winners will not be known until late this week. However, the final placings will be announced on Sunday week.

Prize money to be distributed to the place getters will be over £30, as well as other prizes.

ROUND AND ABOUT

By Topper

THEY'RE CALLING last Sunday's Maccabi Car Trial the "Jewex."

FOUND: My par last week re the Missing Person bought quick results. A phone call last Monday from the missing person concerned, told us of his joy at learning that both his brother and sister were safe and well in England.

OVERWORK: From Surfers Paradise comes the news that Mr. Max Freilich is suffering from a throat complaint. Unfortunately this hard working man has lost control of his voice and is forced to carry a writing pad and pencil underfoot to make himself understood.

DR. BIALOGUSKY. In one of the last chapters of the "Petrov Story" in the "Herald," Mr. Petrov discloses that Dr. Bialogusky is of Jewish descent. I wonder if we should be proud of it or cry about it.

HISTORIC DAYS. In his just published memoirs, former U.S. President Harry Truman reports about the late Rabbi Stephen Wise's visit to the President. Only eight days after being sworn in, Truman received Dr. Wise and discussed with him the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution and the then proposed Jewish State and homeland, thus laying the foundation for Truman's help for Jewish D.P's.

ONE NIGHT STAND: Have been informed that Maccabi's revue will be a one night stand on Thursday, November 24. Talent from all youth clubs will take part.

A NEW HOME: A letter from a well-known Sydney girl, Sara Sher, now studying in Paris, tells of her impressions of Israel. Sara, who states that she was never a Zionist, says that Israel will be her new home.

SAYING OF THE WEEK: "As a tree is known by its fruit, so a man by his work."



Topper

Jewish Times 1955

1955

1956

1957

1958

1959

1960

1961

1962

1963

1964

1965-1974

80
years

PRESIDENTS: Gerald Falk OBE: 1967-1969; Harry S Goldstein OBE 1969-1973

A DECADE OF MOBILISATION AND MILESTONE MOMENTS

The late 1960s and early 1970s were periods of profound transformation and growing responsibility for the JBD. Marked by global Jewish solidarity, communal resilience, and an invigorated focus on Jewish identity and education, this decade cemented the JBD's role not just as a community representative, but as a force for advocacy, welfare relief and unity.

Following the establishment of Moriah College in 1942, the formation of Masada College in 1966 marked another significant milestone in the JBD's long-term commitment to strengthening Jewish identity and education. Responding to the growing demand for Jewish education on Sydney's North Shore, Masada's founding reflected a broader communal priority: ensuring future generations developed a solid foundation of Jewish values, heritage, and learning.

1967 was a watershed year for both the global Jewish world and the NSW Jewish community. The Six-Day War (5-10 June 1967) evoked deep emotions and an unprecedented sense of solidarity with Israel. Communal concern for Israel's survival and necessary triumph translated into action on the ground in Sydney.

That same year (1967) saw the birth of the Jewish Communal Appeal (JCA) - a historic development in the professionalisation and coordination of communal fundraising. What began as a modest campaign of door knocks and donor dinners quickly evolved into a powerful mechanism that, by 1968, had raised \$250,000 - thereby securing the future of Jewish communal institutions and ending the era when volunteers personally underwrote basic operational costs.



Masada College Recorder Band 1968

Masada College Newsletter 1969

1965

1966

1967

1968

1969

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

The JBD's leadership transitioned during this crucial time. Following the retirement of long-serving President Horace Newman, the role passed to Gerald Falk OBE (1967-1969) and then to Harry Goldstein OBE (1969-1973). Both men guided the JBD with distinction, as the community's external advocacy and internal cohesion were tested and strengthened. Under their leadership, in 1968 the JBD held its first formal Annual General Meeting, a milestone reflecting the increasing structure, professionalism, and transparency of the organisation.

Internationally, following the events of 1967, the plight of Soviet Jewry grew more urgent. Jewish communities behind the Iron Curtain faced systemic oppression and were denied the right to leave or to practise their faith and the JBD continued to advocate for their freedom, working in alliance with global Jewish bodies to apply diplomatic pressure and mobilise public support. In the decades ahead, this campaign would become one of the JBD's most defining international initiatives.

This era also saw the early stirrings of the JBD's commitment to social justice and interfaith collaboration, which would blossom in the following decade. Though still primarily focused on Jewish communal concerns, the JBD increasingly recognised the importance of standing in solidarity with other marginalised groups - laying the groundwork for engagement with Indigenous rights, refugee advocacy, and humanitarian relief.

By the close of 1974, the JBD had matured into a powerful institution - one that not only represented its community but inspired it. Through its leadership in education, global advocacy, communal infrastructure, and principled action, the JBD continued to shape Jewish life in NSW with clarity, compassion, and courage.

NEW SOUTH WALES JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES EXECUTIVE FOR 1968

HON. LIFE MEMBERS:
Mr. Sydney D. Einfeld, M.L.A. Mr. Max Freilich

PRESIDENT	Mr. Gerald Y. Falk
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Mr. Harry S. Goldstein Mr. Maurice Allen
HON. TREASURER	Mr. Zygmunt Nebenzahl
HON. SECRETARY	Mr. Bernard Levy

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:

COMMUNAL INTEGRATION AND OVERSEAS JEWRY	Dr. Hanns H. Wachtell
CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS	Mr. Marcus Einfeld
EDUCATION	Dr. Joachim Schneeweiss
FINANCE	Mr. Sigo Weber
JEWISH YOUTH ACTIVITIES	Mr. Kenneth Symonds
PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS	Mr. Theodore Whitgob
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Mr. Lawrence Einfeld
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	Mrs. B. Cohen, M.B.E.

GENERAL SECRETARY:
Miss Barbara Benjamin
Office of the Board: 146 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst 2010
31 3397 — 31 3419



Mr. Gerald Y. Falk, President.




Mr. M. Allen, Vice-President.



Mr. H. S. Goldstein, Vice-President.



Mr. Z. Nebenzahl, Honorary Treasurer.



Mr. Marcus Einfeld, Chairman, Constitution and Standing Orders Committee.



Mrs. B. Cohen, M.B.E., Chairman, Social Activities Committee.



Dr. H. H. Wachtell, Chairman, Communal Integration and Overseas Jewry Committee.



Mr. Ken Symonds, Chairman, Youth Activities Committee.



Mr. S. Weber, Chairman, Finance Committee.



Dr. Joachim Schneeweiss, Chairman, Education Committee.



Mr. S. D. Einfeld, M.L.A., Hon. Life Member.




Mr. Max Freilich, Hon. Life Member.

Photographs not shown for Mr. B. Levy, Honorary Secretary and Mr. L. Einfeld, Chairman, Public Relations Committee.

NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE

Bulletin

כ"ט ניסן תשכ"ז



DIGEST
PRICE: \$1.50 PER ANNUM

Vol. 12, No. 5. Telephones: 46-3710, 46-6049

April, 1967 Adar II/Nissan, 5727

Chief Minister: RABBI DR. A. FABIAN (46-4553)

Executive Secretary: B. M. TOBEN Cantor: REV. A. WINKLER (46-4691)

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

SABBATH, 22nd APRIL, 1967

9.15 a.m.

ANZAC ORATION AT KIDDUSH: MR. S. B. WILSON

All Ex-Service Personnel specially invited
and particularly welcome

DEMONSTRATION SEDER

SUNDAY, 16th APRIL, at 10 a.m.

SYNAGOGUE YOUTH CENTRE

All Sunday School Parents and Families cordially invited

North Shore Synagogue Poster 1967

JBD Executive 1968



1975-1984

80
years

PRESIDENTS: Maurice Allen JP LLB 1973-1975; Sidney Muller AM 1975-1978;
Robert Goot AM 1978-1982; Leslie Caplan AM 1982-1985

RENEWAL, RESILIENCE AND A RISING GENERATION

The next decade, 1975-1984, marked a period of both reflection and renewal for the JBD. As the organisation celebrated its 40th anniversary, it stood as a testament to four decades of development, advocacy and solidarity. This milestone was a chance to reflect and chart bold new directions, driven by emerging voices, a thriving community, expanded advocacy, and a renewed commitment to JBD's founding values.

Under the leadership of Maurice Allen JP LLB (1973-1975), Sidney Muller AM (1975-1978), Robert Goot AM (1978-1982) and Leslie Caplan AM (1982-1985), the JBD entered a new era defined by generational change, increased political engagement, and an ever-evolving sense of communal responsibility. The election of Robert Goot AM at the age of 30 marked an historic generational shift, injecting renewed energy and perspective into the JBD's work and signalling a readiness to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

During this period, the JBD deepened its commitment to strengthening Jewish identity and education. With the successful establishment of Masada College in the previous decade, the 1980s saw the founding of Mount Sinai College in 1981 and Emanuel School in 1983, each school addressing the growing demand for quality Jewish school education in Sydney's eastern and southern suburbs. These schools provided not only academic excellence, but space to nurture Jewish heritage, values and traditions - priorities the JBD championed as essential to the future of Jewish life in NSW.

Dramatic changes on Deputies' executive

In an unprecedented shakeup, last week's annual general meeting of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies elected new honorary officers for four of the five positions available.

Three of the five new Board for the past twelve members on the executive months. are also "newcomers".

Mr. Sid Muller was re-elected unopposed as president for his second term.

Mr. Gerald Falk, a former president of the Board and of the ECAJ, lost his bid for re-election to the post of vice-president and with Mr. Harry Goldstein retiring from the other vice-presidency the second highest positions on the roof organisation of the NSW Jewish community will both be filled by first term men.

They are Mr. Robert Goot, who, at the age of 28 is believed to be the youngest man to be elected as vice-president to the Board, and Mr. Justin Jones.

Mr. Goot is the chairman of the Australian Campaign for Soviet Jewry and was honorary secretary of the outgoing executive.

His fellow vice-president, Mr. Jones, held the position of chairman of the public relations committee of the

of the Board.

They will be supplemented by Mr. Gerald Falk, Mr. Bernard Ferster, Mr. Gordon Hertzberg, Mr. Julius Nadel, Mr. Allan Newell and Dr. Joachim Schneeweiss, who are ex-officio members as ECAJ councillors.

In addition the executive has power to coopt persons from within the community to chair committees set up under the Board's supervision.

The new chairman of the public relations committee, and any other committees the Board may think necessary to maintain or establish are expected to be named in the near future.



• Mr. Sid Muller

Australian Jewish Times 1976

PRESIDENT WARNS DEPUTIES

Continuity is the biggest challenge to community

The Jewish community's principal challenge must be to ensure its continuity, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies' president, Robert Goot said last week.

He was presenting the president's report at the board's annual general meeting.

Mr Goot stressed the need for the community to increase adult education and other appropriate activities.

Mr Goot said that the past year had seen some traumatic events, externally and internally.

A significant deterioration in the Jewish position had been witnessed in a number of areas.

These included the erosion of Israel's international position, not only overseas but also within Australia; the status of rights of Jews in countries of oppression and the revival of anti-semitic activities manifested by a continuing Arab campaign against Israel.

"These are just some of the factors which have been at play during 1980," Mr Goot said.

"The Board of Deputies is committed to doing all



• Robert Goot

within its power, by itself or with others in the community to maintain and strengthen our position."

Mr Goot said the board would:

- Publish and distribute paper on the PLO;
- set up extensive media lobbying;
- investigate and improve communal security.

"This Board of Deputies and indeed, the organised Jewish community, must ensure that coming generations should want to be Jews," he said.

"We must not just fight for our rights as Jews, but discover and regain ourselves as Jews," Mr Goot added.

Board needs more money

The Jewish Communal Appeal's allocation to the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies last year, did not meet the board's financial needs, Robert Goot said last week.

Mr Goot said that the fact the board received \$25,000 from the JCA, he said,

"We are grateful to the JCA for recognising our increasing needs and whilst the figure approaches a suitable level, it does not adequately meet the board's needs," Mr Goot said.

"We will again look towards the JCA and indirectly to the community, so that a real level of funding is available this year," he said.

In his treasurer's report, tabled at the meeting, Saul E. Saul recommended that the board should increase its membership and affiliation fees.

This would enable the board to have more

INCREASED

The JCA advanced \$22,000 to the board, but for the current year this has been increased to \$21,000.

Another substantial income earner was the communal diary which this year brought in an income of \$15,000 compared with \$9,000 last year.

News Article 1981



This decade also marked the JBD's growing role in social justice and interfaith collaboration. The late 1970s and early 1980s saw the community respond compassionately to global and local crises. The JBD advocated for Vietnamese refugees fleeing post-war persecution, supported relief efforts for flood-stricken rural NSW, and began building stronger ties with Indigenous communities, recognising the shared struggles for dignity, cultural survival, and tolerance. These efforts reflected a maturing understanding that Jewish values demanded solidarity beyond communal borders.

As global Jewish solidarity remained central to the JBD's mission, advocacy for Soviet Jewry and Jews from Arab Lands continued with renewed intensity. The JBD maintained diplomatic pressure and public awareness campaigns, ensuring that the plight of these persecuted communities remained on the agenda of Australian policymakers and the conscience of the broader public.

With geopolitical tensions increasing and antisemitic threats evolving, the early 1980s also marked the emergence of JBD-led communal security programs (CSG). Recognising the need to protect Jewish institutions and communal gatherings, the JBD played a critical role in shaping the early framework that would later become integral to communal safety across NSW.



Year 3 Emanuel School 1983



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

NEW SOUTH WALES JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

40TH ANNIVERSARY WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING
1943/1983

SYDNEY - 1983

PROGRAMME

MEDITATION RECITAL	CELLIST: HANS GYORS ACCOMPANIST: BERYL POTTER
KINDLING OF MEMORIAL LIGHTS	
<u>PARTICIPATING SURVIVORS</u>	
	JANET NAGEL AUSCHWITZ YOLA SCHNEIDER WARSAW GHETTO HENIA SHAW BERGEN BELSEN
<u>WITH MORIAH STUDENTS</u>	
	ELIZABETH HOVEY MARK LAKOS GEOFFREY ROSEN
EL MOLE RACHAMIM) PSALM) KADDISH)	GABBY BITTON
<u>COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME</u>	
RESOLUTION	LESLIE CAPLAN - President NSW Jewish Board of Deputies
OBLIGATION	ALBERT HALM - Assoc. of Holocaust Survivors
MESSAGE FROM STATE OF ISRAEL	DR. MOSHE LIBA - Consul General
YIDDISH POEM	TAMARA ABESHOUSE
YIDDISH SONGS	MORIAH COLLEGE JUNIOR CHOIR Under Direction of Rosie Hersch piano Larry Hammond
ADDRESS IN YIDDISH	ABRAHAM ZELENKOW
ADDRESS WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING "DEATH TRAIN"	THOMAS KENEALLY Voice MARGARET GUTMAN DEIRDRE RUBINSTEIN
ORATION	PROF. GRAHAM DE VAHL DAVIS
DRAMATIC READING	JOHN BLUTHAL & LISA BLUTHAL
THE LEGACY	
THE ACCEPTANCE	DAVID PEARLMAN & SIMONE EINFELD
"ANI MA'AMIM" THE SONG OF THE PARTISANS	LED BY GABBY BITTON WILLY LEDERMAN
HATIKVAH	
CLOSE - CELLO MEDITATION AS THE AUDIENCE LEAVES THE THEATRE *****	
<u>CREDITS:</u>	EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DAVID TOBEN STAGED BY KARYN WHITTAKER
	ASSISTED BY TAMARA COHEN ADELLE JUTER
	SPECIAL THANKS LEON PINK CLIVE McKELLAR
	SPECIAL MENTION STAFF & PUPILS OF MORIAH COLLEGE
CHAIRMAN HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE GERALD Y. FALK, O.B.E.	

INAUGURAL MEETING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION HAKOAH CLUB 1ST MAY, 1983 AT 8 P.M.	

Yom HaShoah 40th Anniversary of the Uprising 1983

The JBD celebrated 40 years of determined leadership. It was a decade of action, transition and purpose and the JBD's role as a unifying voice grew stronger than ever.

1985-1994

80
years

PRESIDENTS: Graham de Vahl Davis 1985-1989 (2nd Term);
Gerry Levy 1989-1992; Michael Marx 1992-1995

CULTURE, SECURITY AND A COMMUNITY IN FULL VOICE

The decade from 1985 to 1994 saw the JBD deepen its identity as a fierce advocate and a proud custodian of Jewish life in NSW. Following a wave of South African immigration, the community grew and strengthened, and so too did the JBD's influence - across education, security, cultural expression, political representation, and global Jewish solidarity.

Professor Graham de Vahl Davis AM was appointed president in 1985, succeeding his father, Gerald De Vahl Davis who held the position 30 years prior (1955-1957), marking a symbolic link between the pioneering post-war leadership and a rapidly evolving contemporary Jewish landscape. Graham was succeeded by Gerry Levy (1989-1998) and thereafter Michael Marx (1992-1995) - leaders who oversaw a decade of transformation and deepening community impact..

Strengthening Jewish identity and education remained a central focus during this period. In the early 1980s, Moriah College began its transition to the Queens Park site, with the full campus officially opening in 1993. This relocation marked a significant milestone in the growth of Jewish day school education and reflected the JBD's enduring commitment to high-quality, Jewish-centred learning. The school's expansion mirrored the community's broader vision to ensure that Jewish heritage, traditions, and values remained vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

Cultural expression also found renewed momentum. That same year the first Jewish Book Fair was held at the Maccabean Hall, (the Sydney Jewish Museum), attracting more than 700 attendees. This event marked a turning point in Jewish cultural engagement, providing a platform to celebrate literature, scholarship, and communal creativity. In 1988, the JBD contributed to an art exhibition honouring the bicentenary of European settlement in Australia, proudly asserting a place for Jewish stories in the broader Australian narrative.

Meanwhile, advocacy and political influence grew more assertive and strategic.

With growing international tensions and rising domestic threats, community security and resilience became an urgent priority. In the early 1980s, the JBD helped develop the first CSG programs. These efforts proved essential in 1991, when a wave of arson attacks targeted Bankstown Synagogue in the wake of the Gulf War (August 1990-February 1991).



*Bankstown
Synagogue Gold Key*

Global Jewish solidarity remained central to the JBD's mission. While the campaign for Soviet Jewry continued, 1991 also saw the launch of a new initiative to secure the release of Jews trapped in Syria, again demonstrating the JBD's unwavering commitment to Jews facing persecution abroad.



The JBD's swift response led to increased security protocols and strengthened communal readiness - a turning point in safeguarding Jewish life in NSW.

During this period, the JBD also sustained its work in social justice and interfaith collaboration, advocating for Vietnamese refugees, rural flood relief, and the rights of Indigenous Australians, reinforcing Jewish values of justice and compassion.

In November 1992, the JBD supported the opening of the Sydney Jewish Museum, dedicated to remembrance and education of the Holocaust. This was of immense significance to Holocaust survivors living in Australia to ensure that their stories and the memory of their lost families were never forgotten.



The President of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Professor Graham de Vahl Davis has much pleasure to invite

to the
BANQUET
to celebrate
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
of
THE NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

the representative organization of NSW Jewry
in the distinguished presence of
the Premier of New South Wales
THE HONOURABLE NEVILLE K. WRAN, Q.C., M.P.
on Sunday, August 11, 1985
at the NSW Jewish Community Centre,
146 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst.
Cocktails 7.00 p.m. — Einfeld Lounge
Dinner 7.30 p.m. — Eta Saunders Room

Lounge Suit
Cover Charge \$35

R.S.V.P.
by Friday July 26th.

40th Anniversary Banquet Invitation



Sydney Jewish Museum Opened in 1992



CSG Programs Developed in Early 1980's

RESOURCEFUL AND STRONG

By the Hon. N.K. WRAN, QC, MP,
Premier of New South Wales

I thank you for this opportunity to extend my congratulations for the 40th Anniversary of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies.

Established to assist the newly arrived Jewish migrants to Australia, your Board has reached its 40th year, a resourceful and strong organisation.

Your achievements during these years have been many and I am confident the future will see the Board's position as the umbrella body for over 47 associations further enhanced.



• Neville Wran

I must congratulate you all on a number of your more recent initiatives namely the establishment of the Sister-City relationship between Parramatta and Beersheva in Israel; the creation of the Jewish Community Committee for the Bicentennial; and for the organisation of an annual Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration.

These are vivid examples of just how far the Board has come since it was first established in 1945 and of how its role has changed to suit the needs of the community.

I wish the President and Board every success in your future endeavors.

40th Anniversary Wishes from Premier Neville Wran

Better relations with community

By NICK GREINER, MP,
Leader of the Opposition

On behalf of the New South Wales Liberal Party I extend sincere good wishes on the 40th Anniversary of the Jewish Board of Deputies in New South Wales.

The Board has made a huge and ever-increasing contribution, not only to the well-being of the Jewish community in this State, but also to better relations and understanding within the community at large.

I trust the Board and its constituent organisations will continue to grow and prosper in their support of the State of Israel and in ensuring that the viewpoint of the Jewish community in New South Wales is effectively heard in a balanced and productive way on both



• Nick Greiner

sides of politics, both on domestic and international matters.

40th Anniversary Wishes from Opposition Leader Nick Greiner



1985-1994



NEW SOUTH WALES JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

THE OFFICIAL ORGANISATION OF N.S.W. JEWRY

40th ANNIVERSARY

BANQUET PROGRAMME

Introduction and Welcome	<i>Assoc. Prof. Graham de Vahl Davis, President</i>
Grace before meals - Motze	<i>Sam Karpin, O.A.M.</i>
Toast to the Queen	<i>Yehuda Feher</i>
Toast to the State of Israel	<i>Dr. Albert Silver</i>
Response and Greetings	<i>Shemy Tzur, Consul of Israel</i>
Greetings from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry & Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies	<i>Robert Zablud, M.Jur., LL.B. (Vic.)</i>
Toast to Past Presidents	<i>Hon. Sydney D. Einfeld, A.O., Dr. Joahim Schneeweiss</i>
Response	<i>Leslie Caplan, A.M. Dr. Bruce Symonds</i>
Presentation to Joyce Gordon	<i>Gerald V. Falk, O.B.E.</i>
Response	<i>Joyce Gordon</i>
Toast to Foundation Deputies	<i>Robert Goot</i>
Presentation of Foundation Membership Certificates	<i>Graham de Vahl Davis</i>
Response	<i>Vera Cohen, M.B.E.</i>
Greetings from Leader of the State Opposition	<i>Nick Greiner</i>
'Announcement of the "Julius and Reka Stone Oration"	<i>Graham de Vahl Davis</i>
Response	<i>Prof. Julius Stone, A.O., O.B.E., Q.C.</i>
Toast to the Board	<i>The Premier, The Honourable Neville Wran, Q.C., M.P.</i>
Response	<i>Graham de Vahl Davis</i>
Grace after meals - Benshen	<i>Dr. Hanns Wachtell</i>

Musical Interludes : Werner Baer, M.B.E.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

HATIKVAH

40th Anniversary Banquet Program



1788  1988

“SYMPHONY OF THE NEW LAND”

Bicentennial Concert

Sponsored by Gerda & Joseph Brender

Presented by

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
of the N.S.W. JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

featuring

FIVE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH COMPOSERS

SAM ATLAS — WERNER BAER — GEORGE DREYFUS

MARK ISAACS — LARRY SITSKY

ARTISTS INCLUDE DONALD HAZELWOOD (Violin) — RACHEL VALLER (Piano)
SYDNEY WIND QUINTET — DAVID SCHWARTZ (Tenor) & ALL COMPOSERS

SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST AT 3 PM

N.S.W. CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC
(Macquarie Street, Sydney)

Reservations:

Phone (02) 360 1600

N.S.W. JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

Suite 3, 2nd Floor, 146 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst

Tickets:

\$15.00

\$ 7.50 Students

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE AVENUE GIFT SHOP, 68 HALL STREET, BONDI
and THE SHALOM GIFT SHOP, 323 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, LINDFIELD

Bicentennial Concert Invitation 1988

1995-2004

80
years

PRESIDENTS: Michael Marx AM B'H 1992-1996; Peter Wertheim AM 1996-2000; Justice Stephen Rothman AM 2000-2004

A COMMUNITY REFLECTS, CONNECTS AND RISES

The last decade of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century marked a period of renewed confidence and increasing engagement for the JBD. As the world approached and then entered a new millennium, the JBD continued to evolve, deepening its influence across education, advocacy, cultural preservation, interfaith relations, and community security. Under the leadership of Michael Marx AM B'H (1992-1996), Peter Wertheim AM (1996-2000) and Justice Stephen Rothman AM (2000-2004), the JBD entered this era with many years of experience, renewed clarity of purpose, and a forward-looking agenda.

The decade began with a significant milestone with the JBD's Golden Jubilee in July 1995, celebrating 50 years of coordinated Jewish life in NSW and over 200 years since the arrival of the first Jews on the First Fleet. The occasion was marked by a special plenum held in the chamber of the NSW Legislative Council, the first and oldest legislative body in Australia, in the presence of the President of the Council. It was not only a commemoration of the past but also a reaffirmation of the JBD's mission to lead, protect, and inspire the Jewish community of NSW.

The organisation's history was brilliantly documented in the book *With One Voice*, compiled by Emeritus Professor Suzanne Rutland OAM and Sophie Caplan OAM. A growing priority was the expansion of affirming Jewish identity and increasing Jewish education more broadly, not only through Holocaust education. The Sydney Jewish Museum was established in 1993, recognising the importance of remembrance and the lessons of history. The JBD increasingly partnered with schools and community institutions to develop programs that educated young Australians - both Jewish and non-Jewish - about Jewish life, the Holocaust, human rights, and moral courage.



Australian Jewish News February 1995



Stephen Rothman AM

In 1997, the JBD played a vital role in supporting the community in the wake of the Maccabiah Bridge collapse in Israel - a devastating tragedy that claimed the lives of four Australian athletes and left many others deeply traumatised.



In the immediate aftermath, the JBD partnered with its constituents and other Jewish organisations to organise communal vigils, offer ongoing support and advocacy for the victims' families, and provide guidance throughout the complex and emotionally charged process of obtaining compensation.

The President of the Zionist Federation of Australia, Ron Weiser, and the JBD President Peter Wertheim, travelled to Israel at different times to meet with members of the Knesset and advocate directly on behalf of the families. As national media attention intensified, the JBD acted as a calm, compassionate, and unifying voice representing the Jewish community with dignity and solidarity during one of its most painful and publicly visible chapters.

In 1997, the JBD also played a key role in supporting the expansion of the Yeshiva College, further demonstrating its enduring commitment to ensuring a diversity of Jewish religious educational pathways.

The rise of the One Nation party in the mid- to late 1990s marked a turning point in Australian politics, breaking the long-standing consensus that racism had no place in the mainstream. Although One Nation's rhetoric was not directly targeted at the Jewish community, the JBD recognised that the normalisation of racism against any group posed a broader threat in the longer term. History had shown that once discrimination takes root, it can quickly spread. In response, the JBD strengthened its support for Aboriginal reconciliation and took a public stand against the growing acceptance of racism in political discourse. While some in the broader community questioned why the JBD was engaging with issues beyond the Jewish community, the JBD remained steadfast - acting on principle and guided by the belief that injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere.

(continued on page 34)

Jewish community allocated further refugee numbers

A FURTHER 500 refugee immigrant places for Jews from the former USSR have been allocated under the Australian Government's 1995-96 visa schedule.

But only Jews who migrated to Australia before January 1, 1992 are eligible to sponsor relatives under the program.

The Federal Department of Immigration advised Australian Jewish Community Services president Rodney Benjamin this week that the 500 places will be made available under the Special Assistance Category, administered by JCS in Melbourne and Sydney.

But the continuation of the program does not include any changes to the necessary criteria of eligibility for the sponsors. In order to be able to sponsor a close relative it is necessary for the sponsor to have had to arrived in Australia before January 1, 1992.

"This was an issue on which the Department could not be moved," Mr Benjamin told the AJN this week.

"As we were repeatedly advised, the Special Assistance Category is limited in time. We share the frustration of those who arrived after that date and now wish to save their relatives from the increasing antisemitism and general turmoil which exists in many of the states of the former USSR," Mr Benjamin said.

The Jewish community will have to consider other ways in which to help those who are not eligible, he said.

The Special Assistance Category (Visa Class 210) has been in operation for four years. More than 5000 Jews have come to Australia under this scheme.

The category is one of a number of specific programs introduced by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs as part of its overall refugee and humanitarian program. There are similar programs in place for citizens of the former Yugoslavia, Burma, East Timor, Sudan and Sri Lanka.

Mr Benjamin said the Federal Immigration Minister Senator Nick Bolkus and senior department officials were constantly monitoring the situation of various minority groups around the world, including the Jews in the former USSR.

"We will also remain vigilant and sensitive to the situation in the various republics and will quickly respond to any appeals relating to individual and specific cases involving antisemitic persecution."

In order to allow for the administrative channels to be established, application can be made from July 17 at the offices of JCS in Sydney and Melbourne.

Premier hosts Board for 50th Jubilee

IT WAS an evening of mutual admiration when the Premier of NSW hosted a reception for the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies in recognition of its 50th Jubilee.

Compliments and praises were volleyed from both sides, with Premier Bob Carr lauding the efforts of the NSW Jewry roof body, and in turn, the Board praising the Premier's support over the years.

The evening attracted more than 150 communal leaders, including many of the presidents of the 56 affiliate organisations. Guests also included several Members of Parliament and leaders of ethnic organisations like NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission chairman Stepan Kerkyasharian.

Board president Michael Marx said that despite only returning from a major international trip a day earlier, Bob Carr was still able to demonstrate his commitment to multiculturalism by hosting the reception.

"Both while in government and in opposition, you [Carr] have always championed the cause of equal opportunity and human rights for all citizens of NSW through your continuing support for anti-discrimination legislation and a fair go for all," he said.

"Our community, and in particular the Board, recognises the extremely close and warm relationship you have had with both the community and its individual



Premier Bob Carr and NSW Jewish Board of Deputies president Michael Marx. Photo: Michael Balint

members for a period well prior to that when you entered Parliament."

Mr Marx recalled that men and women of his generation first encountered Bob Carr, who as a reporter for the *Bulletin*, took a strong interest in the Middle East debate raging on Australian university campuses during the mid-1970s.

"You have always spoken with commitment and a genuine

understanding of those issues of vital concern to both the Jewish community and the state of Israel," he added.

Board immediate past president Gerry Levy demonstrated the Board's "affection" for the Premier by presenting Mr Carr with a book on Jewish art.

The Board will hold an unprecedented meeting in the chambers of the Legislative Council on July 17.

Australian Jewish News July 1995

1995-2004

By the late 1990s, Aboriginal reconciliation and the debate over native title emerged as major national issues in Australia. In a significant and symbolic step, the JBD led a Jewish community group in the reconciliation walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 2000 with 350,000 people. This marked a strategic shift, as the community became more actively engaged in broader social and political issues beyond its immediate concerns. The decision helped build goodwill, strengthen ties with Indigenous Australians, and foster lasting alliances with other ethnic and multicultural communities.

New interfaith and intercultural relationships were forged during this period, most notably with the Australian Chinese community. Recognising shared values and common goals - such as advocating for anti-racism measures and the introduction of federal racial vilification laws - the Jewish community found meaningful connection and solidarity. A memorable kosher dinner with key Chinese community leaders highlighted their mutual emphasis on family, education, and hard work. Similarly, strong and enduring ties were built with the Greek, Assyrian, and Armenian communities, forming a united front on issues of communal importance and reinforcing mutual support through times of need.

During the Second Intifada (2000-2004), a period that deeply impacted Jewish communities worldwide, the JBD responded by strengthening its public relations efforts and deepening its engagement with both the Labor and Liberal parties. Relationships with the media and the broader public were also fortified, ensuring the community's voice was heard during a time of heightened tension. In response to the external threats, the local Jewish community unified across religious and ideological lines - including the Orthodox and Conservative communities, the Rabbinical Council, and various Zionist organisations - demonstrating a powerful sense of solidarity.

Advocacy and political influence were equally prominent in this decade. The JBD worked with government to strengthen legal protections against antisemitism and discrimination, responding to a shifting social and political landscape.

As physical and ideological threats evolved, the role of the JBD became increasingly vital. Its advocacy efforts paved the way for future policy successes, including the community's united response to movements like Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) in the decade that followed.

The need to ensure the safety of the community remained a growing concern. Although the JBD had long championed communal safety, this period highlighted the changing nature of threats to the community. The groundwork laid in these years would later support more formalised responses to cyberhate, antisemitism, and physical security challenges.

(continued on page 35)



NSW JBD Executive and Staff 2003/4



PW
AG


Minister for the Olympics
President, Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games
Minister responsible for the Paralympics
Minister responsible for Darling Harbour

RECEIVED
29 SEP 1999

Mr Peter J Wertheim
President
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies Committee
Suite 3, 2nd Floor
146 Darlinghurst Road
DARLINGHURST 2010

27 SEP 1999

Dear Mr Wertheim

I am writing in response to the letter from Amanda Gordon and yourself, dated 12 August 1999, concerning a commemoration for the Israeli athletes killed during the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

In regard to this issue, I am pleased to inform you that with the full support of the Australian Olympic Committee and the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, the NSW Government and the Olympic Coordination Authority have agreed to the erection of a memorial at Sydney Olympic Park to commemorate those athletes.

The memorial will be situated at the Munich 1972 Light Tower on Olympic Boulevard at Sydney Olympic Park. Olympic Boulevard is the main pedestrian thoroughfare on the Homebush Bay site and can hold crowds of up to 300,000 people at any one time.

The important location of this memorial will mean that it becomes a permanent reminder of the tragedy and loss of life that occurred during the 1972 Olympic Games.

It will be a reminder not only to the people attending next year's Olympic Games but also for the millions of people who will continue to visit this area for sporting or other purposes for generations to come.

The commemoration ceremony for the Munich memorial will take place on 15 October 1999.

I strongly believe that this permanent memorial will provide a fitting tribute to those killed during the Munich Games and therefore, neither SOCOG nor the Government envisage holding a further official commemoration at the time of the Games.

*Letter Confirming the Erection of a Memorial
Commemorating the Israeli Olympic Athletes Killed in
Munich 1972*



New South Wales
Jewish Board of Deputies

The Representative Organisation of NSW Jewry
יבד הנתיב היהודי נ.ס.ו.

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Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia
Telephone (02) 9360 1600
Facsimile (02) 9351 4712
E-Mail bodnsw@tmx.com.au
President: Peter Wertheim
Chief Executive Officer: Sheila Fakher

14 June, 2000

Mr Ehud Barak
Prime Minister's Office
JERUSALEM ISRAEL
Fax: 0011 9722 651 2631

Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of the members of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies being the roof-body of the Jewish Community of the state of NSW, Australia we write to express our concern over the failure to meet the urgent and significant needs of the families of the victims of the Maccabiah bridge tragedy. Further, we seek your support in bringing this matter to a quick and fair resolution.

One of the essential requirements in resolving this situation is that there be payment of just compensation to the victims and/or their families.

As loyal supporters and friends of Israel we are concerned that the continued suffering of the injured and the families of the victims is impacting adversely upon the special relationship that has existed between Australia and Israel since the establishment of the Jewish State. We are also shocked to find that after nearly 3 years, the families of people who came to Israel as guests of the Israeli Government and lost their lives through criminal negligence have yet to receive any real compensation.

In light of the lack of resolution of this matter, and the failure of Maccabi World Union to respond to requests for changes that will ensure the safety of future Maccabiah Games, you will be aware that Australia is not planning to participate in any forthcoming Games.

This will deny many members of our community a unique and lasting experience in Israel at a time when we seek to strengthen those links. We believe this to be a most regrettable and sad conclusion of the inability of the Government of Israel to ensure a just outcome and that those morally, as well as criminally, responsible for this tragedy are held accountable.

We humbly request that you and your Government consider making immediate and full payment to the families and to those who were injured, and subsequently resolve the issue of recovery with the insurance companies and other defendants. We believe that it is the responsibility of the Government of Israel to resolve this matter and to help repair the terrible damage that has been done to the individuals and families and to the Jewish community of Australia.

Yours sincerely

Peter J Wertheim
President

PJWies

*JBD Letter to Ehud Barak Advocating for Families
of the Maccabiah Bridge Tragedy*

Towards the end of the decade, the JBD explored the possibility of amalgamating with the JCA, under the leadership of JCA's then CEO Peter Wise and JBD President Justice Stephen Rothman AM, who worked closely together throughout the process. While the decision was ultimately made not to proceed with the amalgamation, the discussions led to a strengthened partnership. As a result, the JBD received increased support from the JCA, enabling the JBD to professionalise its operations, attract more skilled staff, and secure greater backing for the Community Security Group (CSG).

By 2004, the JBD had not only weathered the challenges of a modern and ever-changing society - but had embraced the evolution. Once again, through its work in education, advocacy, security, and collaboration, the JBD reaffirmed its role as the moral, cultural and political heartbeat of Jewish life in NSW - anchored in tradition, and firmly facing the future.



**Vandalism of
local park
shocks donor**

THE memorial park at Dover Heights dedicated to the Australians who died in the Israeli bridge collapse has been vandalised for the second time since it was opened in July last year.

Resident and property developer Hymie Meyerson, who donated the park to Waverley Council as a community facility in remembrance of those sportspeople like Warren Zines for whom the park was named, was shocked by the discovery. "It's sickening what has happened there," he told the *Courier*.

The attacks started three weeks ago on a Friday night when a water pipe was smashed. This caused the area to be flooded. The next night, the main sign was vandalised and the rock, which signified the meaning of the monument, was also damaged. Some of the park lights were broken as well.

Over the past weekend, more lights have been targeted, Mr Meyerson said. "This is the equivalent of desecrating a cemetery," he said. "It is just appalling to think there are people out there who would cause this sort of damage to a special memorial.

"We are now looking at putting in a back-to-base alarm system that will notify the police when there are people in the park at night. The police and Waverley Council have been informed of these attacks and the Jewish Board of Deputies have also been notified."

Wentworth Courier April 2000



2005-2014

80
years

PRESIDENTS: David D Knoll 2004-2008; Robin Margo SC 2008-2010;
Yair Miller OAM 2010-2014

A DECADE OF OUTREACH, ADVOCACY AND INCLUSION

The decade from 2005 to 2014 was marked by significant evolution in the role and reach of the JBD. Under the leadership of Presidents David D Knoll AM (2004-2008), Robin Margo SC (2008-2010) and Yair Miller OAM (2010-2014), led by CEO Vic Alhadeff OAM (2005 - 2022), the JBD focused on strengthening Jewish identity, expanding education programs, deepening political and interfaith engagement, adapting to a fast changing digital transformation and ensuring the community's voice was present and respected in wider society.

Education remained central to the JBD's mission. This period saw an expansion of Holocaust education initiatives and formal partnerships with primary and high schools to reach younger generations. The establishment of the Education Secretariat in 2007 created a dedicated framework for advocacy in educational settings, while the launch of the Jewish Teachers' Network brought together over 200 teachers across the state to support and equip them in addressing antisemitism and misinformation in classrooms.

This was a decade in which the JBD sharpened its political strategy and advocacy work. In 2007, a comprehensive three-tiered advocacy program was introduced, targeting adults, high school and university students.

Interfaith and multicultural engagement also gained new visibility during this period. The JBD hosted its first Interfaith Seder in 2007, inviting leaders from 15 religious and cultural communities. Outreach Passover seders were subsequently held with a range of sectors, including trade unionists, academics, young political leaders and educators bringing together Christian, Muslim and Jewish school representatives to issue a unified statement against antisemitism.



Mufti Interfaith Gathering 2014

By 2009, the program had gained significant traction, particularly among younger leaders who were stepping into public and communal roles. In 2011, the JBD played a central role in countering the Marrickville Council's proposed boycott of Israel. The campaign to overturn the resolution drew on a combination of diplomacy, community mobilisation, and strong political relationships, ultimately resulting in a successful reversal and earning the support of both state and federal leadership.

During the same year, the JBD broadened its outreach to include unions, progressive political organisations and grassroots multicultural groups, helping to shift the narrative around Israel and Jewish communal concerns. Cultural and social initiatives flourished, from Jewish-Muslim women's cooking clubs to joint Shabbat dinners and educational exchanges with a range of sectors of civil society.

These initiatives reflected a deliberate and strategic investment in building bridges and nurturing community cohesion.

(continued on page 38)





Israel's 66th Independence Day Cocktail Party



75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht



Vic Alhadeff OAM, Yom HaShoah Commemoration 2014



His Excellency Yuval Rotem at JBD Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration 2013

2005-2014

The political momentum continued and, in 2013, over 65 NSW Parliamentarians, including the Premier and Opposition Leaders, signed the London Declaration on Combating Antisemitism. The following year the JBD re-established the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Israel group which, with over 60 members, became the largest group in the Parliament maintaining bipartisan support for Israel and still remains active today.

A key milestone was achieved in 2013, when the NSW Department of Education announced that Holocaust education would become mandatory for all Year 9 and 10 students from 2014 - the result of years of sustained advocacy.

In the same year, the JBD launched the Jewish Sydney online portal, improving access to information and details of events across the community.

As the digital communication revolution took hold and access and uptake to social media platforms became the norm, the JBD had to re-configure how it engaged with civil society and use these platforms to get its message out.

New partnerships with Indigenous communities were forged through outreach missions to Indigenous communities in Toomelah and Boggabilla in Northern NSW, demonstrating the Jewish community's commitment to reconciliation and inclusion.

The JBD's international outlook remained strong. Training programs to equip young Jewish leaders with the tools to engage in public advocacy for Israel became more effective in response to rising anti-Israel rhetoric in the media and locally on university campuses.

The JBD annually ran high-level journalists' missions to Israel and the territories until the Covid pandemic necessitated a pause.



Barry O'Farrell MP Addressing the NSW JBD 2014

In addition, it organised study missions for NSW parliamentarians, NGO groups and young political leaders, with a number of community benefactors generously making the missions possible, thereby giving key stakeholders first-hand insight into the complexities of the region. During this time, thousands of members of the community participated in the Talking About Israel course, which became a cornerstone of its education and advocacy model.

Relationships with media, government and civic institutions were further strengthened in this decade. The JBD built constructive relationships across the media landscape. Its consistent engagement

As the digital communication revolution took hold and access and uptake to social media platforms became the norm, the JBD had to re-configure how it engaged with civil society and use these platforms to get its message out.

with parliamentarians resulted in tangible outcomes, such as expanded Jewish burial space, with Past President David Knoll AM spearheading the organisation's advocacy of that issue, as well as support for Jewish education, and funding for community security.

The JBD's regular events - including its Parliamentary Chanukah celebration, bridge-building tours across regional NSW, public forums, Yom Hashoah and Kristallnacht commemorations, Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations and support of Jewish cultural festivals - engaged thousands of people each year, reinforcing its role as both a voice for the Jewish community and a bridge to the broader NSW population. In that context, JBD Community Relations Manager Lynda Ben-Menashe established the We Are All Sydney program, comprising outreach to civil society.

Underpinning the organisation's work was the imperative to combat antisemitism - institutionally, in the school system and on behalf of individual members of the community. An example which had far-reaching ramifications, given that TAFE has 500,000 students, was CEO Vic Alhadeff's intervention in the case of a Jewish student who had been racially abused.

The outcome was the implementation of a ten-point protocol governing appropriate conduct.



Yair Miller, Barry O'Farrell MP, His Excellency Yuval Rotem, Richard Balkin, Gabrielle Upton MP, Peter Wertheim AM



Chanukah Celebration, Parliament House 2014

2015-2024



PRESIDENTS: Jeremy Spinak AM 2014-2018; Lesli Berger 2018-2022;
David Ossip 2022-Current

THE DECADE OF RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL

The years from 2015 to 2024 represented a period of profound transformation and renewal for the JBD under the leadership of Presidents Jeremy Spinak AM Z”L (2014-2018), Lesli Berger (2018-2022) and David Ossip (2022-present), with Vic Alhadeff OAM serving 17 years as CEO until 2022. During this time, the JBD reinforced its foundational pillars - strengthening Jewish identity, advocacy, combatting antisemitism, community security, social justice, and interfaith collaboration, while innovating to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world and a community under threat.

From 2015, the JBD spearheaded expanded interfaith dialogues with Muslim, Christian, Hindu and other faith communities, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation in a climate marked by global tensions and local challenges.

This era also witnessed the JBD’s significant engagement with Australia’s multicultural fabric, opening channels with the Nepalese, Maronite, and Hillsong communities, and deepening ties with the Australian Indian community, highlighted by Jeremy Spinak AM Z”L meeting with Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, during his visit to Australia in 2015. These initiatives laid the groundwork for a broader social justice and civic engagement agenda.

The period was punctuated by remarkable moments of political advocacy and influence. In 2017, the JBD participated in the historic visit of Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, the first visit by a sitting Israeli PM to Australia, which galvanised community unity and elevated Israel’s profile within the broader Australian society. An historic event was attended by the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, former Prime Ministers John Howard and Tony Abbott and the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and other members of State Parliament, in the presence of 2,000 members of the Sydney Jewish community.



Prime Minister Netanyahu Visits Australia 2017

This decade also marked unprecedented cooperation with political parties across the spectrum - highlighted by NSW Labor, Liberal, and Young Labor groups attending Shabbat dinners - thereby strengthening Jewish political representation and awareness.

Responding swiftly to rising antisemitism, the JBD launched the “Keep NSW Safe” campaign, uniting over 30 community groups to urge legislative reform protecting marginalised communities from hate speech and incitement. The success of this coalition led to the introduction of new criminal offences introduced to combat incitement to violence on grounds of race, religion or sexual orientation - an enduring legal safeguard to community security. CEO Vic Alhadeff spearheaded a comprehensive advocacy and media campaign which was launched with a press conference at State Parliament House and over the following three years, he represented the JBD at approximately 150 meetings

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**Yeshiva College
Bondi set to close** PAGE 2



**Changing of the
guard at NSW JBD** PAGE 5



**Kharkiv
rebbezin
Ukraine
update** PAGE 6

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NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES MAKE HISTORY

'GAME-CHANGING' BILL BANS NAZI SYMBOLS

CARLY ADNO

THE NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBD) has been commended for its role in the bill to ban the public display of all Nazi symbols without a reasonable excuse across New South Wales.

The bill passed both houses of NSW Parliament last week with unanimous support (including from the Greens) and is a historic moment for NSW.

It's also an Australian-first. While Victorian legislation passed a similar bill in June of this year, the NSW ban will be enacted sooner than the six-month wait time in Victoria.

The bill deliberately takes the approach of not defining the term 'Nazi symbol' to ensure that the offence is broad enough to capture all relevant traditional, well-known symbols associated with the Nazi regime, and not just the Nazi Hakenkreuz.

The bill also encompasses material displayed online and through social media, which is a "game-changer" in tackling online hate.

The new offence will carry a maximum penalty of 12 months' imprisonment or an \$11,000 fine, or both for an individual, or a fine of \$55,000 for a corporation.

It was Walt Secord, deputy chair of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Israel, who introduced a private member's bill to Parliament late last year to ban Nazi symbols, but he paid tribute to the tireless work of the NSW JBD in getting it over the line.



From left: (back row) incoming NSW JBD president David Ossip, Holocaust survivor Eddy Boas, Hindu Council of Australia vice-president Surinder Jain, NSW JBD CEO Darren Bark; (front row) Member for Vaucluse Gabrielle Upton, NSW Attorney-General Mark Speakman, NSW Minister for Multiculturalism Mark Coure, NSW JBD president Lesli Berger, NSW JBD vice-president Nathalie Samia.

Photo: Noel Kessel

He also acknowledged the historic, joint submission from the NSW JBD and the Hindu Council of Australia.

"We would not be debating this bill if not for the work of the NSW JBD and the Hindu Council of Australia," Secord said.

"I particularly single out the NSW JBD CEO Darren Bark and the NSW JBD president Lesli Berger for their tireless efforts and support of this campaign to ban the public display of Nazi symbols.

"They forged a historic agree-

ment with the Hindu, Jain and Buddhist communities. In fact, they prepared a joint submission spelling out their views and a path forward to addressing their mutual concerns, to protect the sacred symbol of the Hindu, Jain and Buddhist faiths, which was appropriated by the Nazis. The joint submission was inspired and breathtaking; it was a bold exercise in public policy on how to convince and persuade legislators.

"People will rush to take credit for this bill, but Mr Bark and Mr

Berger must be recognised."

Bark said it's a historic moment for NSW and "a significant blow to those who promote hate and vilification in our community."

"Nazi symbols are a gateway to violence and are used as a recruitment tool by extremists," he said.

"Banning their display is a long-overdue and much-needed law in our state.

"The legislation is also a game-changer in tackling online hate. It is time our tech companies step up and ensure these illegal symbols are

removed from their platforms, and the offenders banned and prosecuted.

"We acknowledge and thank the NSW government, the Opposition, the Hindu community and all MPs who joined together in taking a stand against hate, wherever it appears."

Hindu Council of Australia national vice-president Surinder Jain said: "For the Hindu community, today is extra special. This legislation will not only protect our community from those who wish to cause harm, it frees our sacred swastika from its indoor prison.

"For too long, the Hindu community has not felt comfortable to display our symbol of peace because it resembled a symbol of evil. This is no longer.

"We were so pleased to work with the Jewish community to make this a reality."

Attorney-General Mark Speakman said it's a significant moment for survivors of the Holocaust and their loved ones.

"The events that occurred under the Nazi regime represent one of the darkest periods of recorded human history," Speakman said.

"The atrocities committed during that period are almost unimaginable, and the intergenerational trauma they have caused continues to be felt by many people today.

"This new offence sends a clear message that the display of Nazi symbols, and the hatred and bigotry they represent will not, and should not, be tolerated."

Australian Jewish News August 2022



2015-2024

in Parliament House and featured in over 50 media interviews to grow the awareness of the Keep NSW Safe campaign.

During this time, the strength of the JBD's relationships with key political leaders proved vital. The support and partnership of then Premier Gladys Berejiklian and then Attorney General Mark Speakman were instrumental in the successful passage of Section 93Z of the NSW Crimes Act. These close ties enabled the JBD to work collaboratively with both leaders to shape the legislation and ensure its groundbreaking passage through Parliament, demonstrating the value of trusted, longstanding relationships.

In June 2018 NSW Attorney-General Mark Speakman took the proposed Bill to Parliament to make it a crime to "publicly threaten or incite violence" on the grounds of race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex or HIV/AIDS status." The Bill passed unopposed through both Houses of Parliament and the new law, Section 93Z of the NSW Crimes Act was established and enforceable. This effort complemented the 2021 establishment of a dedicated community security initiative addressing both physical and online threats and was a monumental success for both the JBD and the community they represent.

The tragic passing of JBD's President Jeremy Spinak in 2018 at the age of just 36 years, leaving a wife and young twins, found the community bound by grief. In his short time as leader, he united a divided executive and guided the community through significant challenges, including the Kashrut commission crisis and public controversies.

Jeremy combined strategic vision with warmth, humour, and deep civic commitment. Jeremy strengthened relationships beyond the Jewish community, building ties with diverse faith and ethnic groups that continue to benefit the community today.

More than a leader, Jeremy was a true mensch - generous, encouraging, and wise, supporting many in both public and personal moments. Though his life was tragically cut short, Jeremy achieved much and inspired those around him. His legacy calls on all to work together with courage and positivity, ensuring his memory remains a blessing and an ongoing inspiration.



Jeremy Spinak Z"L

Throughout this decade, education and cultural legacy remained central to the JBD's mission. Expansion of Holocaust education programs continued, notably through partnerships with schools and the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Events held to celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary in 2018 and the annual Yom Hashoah and Kristallnacht commemorations attracted both members of the Jewish and non-Jewish community in their thousands. The JBD's leadership in Holocaust remembrance helped sustain Jewish identity while educating broader society about the dangers of hatred.

(continued on page 44)





Chanukah at NSW Parliament 2022



Annual Jewish Community Memorial Service for the NSW Police Force, Central Synagogue

2015-2024

The decade also saw a compassionate response to global and local tragedies, such as the 2019 Al Noor mosque shootings, when the JBD swiftly raised funds and fostered solidarity, exemplifying the community's commitment to social justice and interfaith support. CEO Vic Alhadeff flew to Christchurch to convey the Jewish community's respects at the mosques which had been attacked and presented the cheque to the city mayor in the presence of Islamic and Jewish leaders. The establishment of First Nations and LGBTQ+ working parties reflected an inclusive approach, strengthening bonds within and beyond the Jewish community.

With COVID-19 on the rise and two major lockdowns in NSW, the JBD played a key role in coordinating a community-wide response. Working closely with schools, synagogues, and Wolper Jewish Hospital, the JBD helped manage panic and ensure the safety of the Jewish community. While awaiting government directives, it activated the Jewish Emergency Management Plan in conjunction with the CSG - originally developed for physical threats - adapting it swiftly to meet the demands of a health crisis and the uncertainty associated with a pandemic. This proactive approach facilitated vital support, including access to social workers, psychologists, doctors, and the delivery of essential goods. Amid uncertainty, the JBD proved to be a steady and supportive force during an exceptionally challenging time.

The JBD worked with leaders of other ethnic communities to publicly reinforce the importance of following Government health directives. During the second lockdown, which coincided with Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, President Lesli Berger engaged closely with Health Minister Brad Hazzard to secure an exemption, allowing socially distanced outdoor minyanim. With NSW Police support, Jewish communities across the state were able to safely gather and observe the festivals. This achievement reflected the Government's trust in the JBD and was met with public support from the Anglican and Catholic Archbishops and the Grand Mufti of Australia.

In recent years, the JBD has tackled emerging challenges head-on. The successful lobbying for legislation criminalising the public display of Nazi symbols and the establishment of the Harm Prevention Foundation demonstrate adaptability to contemporary threats.

At the time, NSW Parliamentarian Hon. Walt Secord MLC, then a Labor member and later a convert to Judaism, was inspired by JBD President Lesli Berger's speech at a plenum advocating for legislative change. Following his conversion, Secord introduced a private member's bill in October 2021 from the opposition to advance the proposed law. The Premier Dominic Perrottet and the Liberal Party held strong views on free speech, but Secord's bill shifted the political landscape. With sustained lobbying from the JBD, the Government ultimately acted and introduced their own Bill, the Crimes Amendment Prohibition on Display of Nazi Symbols, which was passed on August 2022.

Looking ahead, with a growing Jewish community facing increasingly limited burial options in already overcrowded cemeteries, the JBD played a crucial role in overcoming legislative and regulatory hurdles to enable the development of Macarthur Memorial Park in Varroville, South-West Sydney with past President David Knoll playing a leading role in achieving this outcome.

This new cemetery will secure the burial needs of Sydney's Jewish community until the end of the century.

(continued on page 46)





Chanukah/Diwali Event 2022



Graduates of the JBD "We Are All Sydney" Program, a Three Month Course Now in its Fourth Year



Opposition Leader Chris Minns MP Visits the Sydney Jewish Museum 2022



Consecration of Jewish Cemetery Macarthur Memorial Park 2025



80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht

2015-2024

In the wake of the Hamas massacre in southern Israel on October 7, 2023, the JBD was the community's trusted anchor in a time of profound crisis. The JBD acted swiftly, implementing a comprehensive and powerful response uniting the community as never before. It mobilised immediately to organise a deeply moving, large-scale vigil attended by Government leaders, media, and 10,000 members of the NSW Jewish community - underscoring the JBD's vital role as a unifying and authoritative voice in moments of turmoil.

In the subsequent two years, the JBD maintained its position as a steadfast and influential advocate, championing the safety and well-being of a community increasingly targeted by frequent and vicious antisemitic attacks against synagogues, vehicles, businesses and Jewish individuals.

In 2025, new legislation was introduced criminalising incitement to hate on the basis of race, protecting places of worship and increasing penalties for Nazi symbols at synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

Collaborating closely with NSW Police, the JBD became an indispensable partner, providing critical support and reassurance to a community navigating unprecedented challenges and heightened levels of anxiety. Throughout this period, the JBD continued to lobby NSW government officials with strong support from NSW Premier Chris Minns to put measures in place to counteract the rising levels of antisemitism. President David Ossip and CEO Michele Goldman also featured prominently in the media as authoritative voices representing, defending and advocating for the community.



President David Ossip Addresses a Sydney Vigil, 11th October 2023

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
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October 9th 2023



Commemoration Event October 7th 2024

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OUR FUTURE, TOGETHER

80
years



As we mark 80 years of impact, we stand on the strong foundations built by the generations who protected and sustained our community with vision and courage.

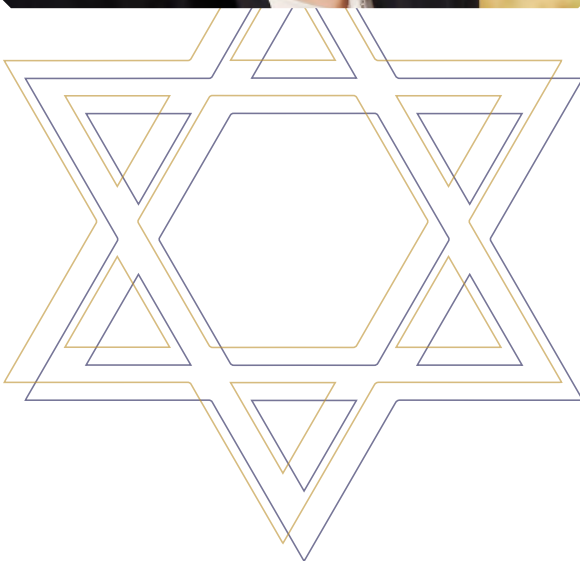
With this legacy and the continued effort and determination of our current leadership, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies is ready to meet the future with purpose and resolve. In the years ahead, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies will be an even stronger advocate for our community and will be here for anyone in our community who seeks support, connection, or representation—through enduring relationships, high-quality education, and relentless commitment to a thriving Jewish community.

As a trusted voice for our community, we will remain the first point of call for media, government, and civil society in NSW, ensuring the Jewish perspective is heard, understood, and respected at every decision-making table.

Our vision is clear: a safe and thriving Jewish community—secure in its identity, protected by fair laws and lasting alliances, and empowered to flourish in an Australia where antisemitism is rejected, diversity is celebrated, and communities stand united.

With hope and determination, we will continue to protect, represent, and inspire the Jewish community—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

Michele Goldman
CEO
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies



STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2026:

Following community consultation and a strategic planning workshop, we are proud to present our strategic pillars and goals for 2025-2026:

A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE NSW FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

To ensure a safe, secure and inclusive NSW for Jewish people now and into the future.

A RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

To foster a collaborative, connected and resilient community that is empowered to thrive.



A TRUSTED VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

To be the recognised, respected and trusted representative voice of the NSW Jewish community.

A HIGH PERFORMING AND ENGAGED TEAM

To maintain and build a high-performing, value-driven executive team and Board of Directors.

BEST PRACTICE SYSTEMS

To implement integrated secure systems and streamlined processes that enable efficient and effective operations.

NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENTS

Since its establishment on July 29 1945, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies has had 20 Presidents.

Periods served as President are as follows:

*Saul Symonds	JUL 29, 1945 - APR 9, 1952
*Horace B Newman	MAY 20, 1952 - MAY 19, 1955
*Gerald De Vahl Davis	MAY 19, 1955 - APR 30, 1957
*Horace B Newman	MAY 21, 1957 - FEB 21, 1967
*Gerald Y Falk OBE	FEB 21, 1967 - FEB 18, 1969
*Harry S Goldstein OBE	FEB 18, 1969 - MAR 20, 1973
*Maurice Allen JP LLB	MAR 29, 1973 - MAR 18, 1975
*Sidney Muller AM	MAR 18, 1975 - MAR 21, 1978
Robert Goot AO SC	MAR 21, 1978 - MAR 16, 1982
*Leslie Caplan AM	MAR 16, 1982 - MAR 19, 1985
*Professor Graham De Vahl Davis AM	MAR 19, 1985 - MAR 21, 1989
*Gerry Levy AM	MAR 21, 1989 - AUG 17, 1992
*Michael Marx AM	AUG 18, 1992 - AUG 20, 1996
Peter Wertheim AM	AUG 20, 1996 - AUG 15, 2000
The Hon. Justice Stephen Rothman AM	AUG 15, 2000 - AUG 17, 2004
David D Knoll AM	AUG 17, 2004 - AUG 19, 2008
Robin Margo SC	AUG 19, 2008 - AUG 17, 2010
Yair Miller OAM	AUG 17, 2010 - AUG 19, 2014
*Jeremy Spinak AM	AUG 19, 2014 - AUG 21, 2018
Lesli Berger	AUG 21, 2018 - AUG 16, 2022
David Ossip	AUG 16, 2022 - CURRENT

*Deceased

CONSTITUENT ORGANISATIONS



- Association of Jewish Engineers
- Australasian Jewish Medical Federation (NSW)
- Australasian Union of Jewish Students
- Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants Inc
- Australian Friends of Magen David Adom (NSW)
- Australian Friends of Tel Aviv University (NSW)
- Australian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.
- BJE - Board of Jewish Education
- B'nai B'rith Council of NSW
- Bondi Mizrahi Synagogue
- Child Survivors Group - Sydney
- COA Sydney Incorporated
- Coogee Synagogue
- Cremorne Synagogue
- Emanuel School
- Emanuel Synagogue
- Fund for Jewish Higher Education
- JEMS - Jewish Education Matters
- Jewish Arts Incorporated
- Jewish Folk Centre / Ha'moadon Ha'Israeli
- Jewish House
- JewishCare (NSW)
- Kehillat Masada Synagogue
- Kesser Torah College
- Maccabi NSW
- Mandelbaum House
- Maroubra Synagogue
- Masada College
- Montefiore (Randwick)
- Moriah College
- Mosaic Living
- Mount Sinai College
- National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW Division
- Newcastle Hebrew Congregation
- Newtown Synagogue Inc.
- North Shore Synagogue
- North Shore Temple Emanuel
- NSW Association of Jewish Service & Ex-Service Men & Women
- NSW Association of Sephardim
- NSW Board of Progressive Jewish Education
- NSW Jewish War Memorial Community Centre
- Or Chadash
- Parramatta and District Synagogue
- Shalom Collective
- Southern Highlands Jewish Community Group
- Southern Sydney Synagogue
- Sydney Jewish Museum
- Technion Australia
- The Central Synagogue
- The Great Synagogue
- WIZO NSW
- Wolper Jewish Hospital
- Zahal Disabled Veterans Organisation Beit Halochem Australia
- Zionist Council of NSW



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