

Maccabi Victoria

2024 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Connecting our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing



CONTENTS

OUR PEOPLE

PAGE 1



MESSAGE FROM DAVID SOUTHWICK MP

PAGE 3



STRATEGY AND GROWTH

PAGE 4



FINANCE

PAGE 13

LEGAL, PROPERTY, AND GOVERNANCE

PAGE 17



RISK AND SAFETY

PAGE 19



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

PAGE 21



SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

PAGE 23

EVENTS AND MARKETING

PAGE 25



CLUB AND SPORT

PAGE 27



Our People

The Maccabi VIC Board

CO-PRESIDENT | Dean Mohr
CO-PRESIDENT | Sharon Roseman
VICE PRESIDENT | Caryn Kave
TREASURER | Jeremy Lustig
CHAIRMAN | Simon Szwarc

BOARD MEMBERS

Belinda Goldman
Ilan Kraus
Sheiny New

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT | Brian Swersky

Maccabi Foundation

CHAIRMAN | Dale Smorgon
IMM PAST CHAIRMAN | Ian Davis OAM

DIRECTORS

Joseph Azoulay
Hannah Hammerschlag
Michael Herskope
Ashley Krongold
Alan Synman OAM
Michael Same (Honorary Treasurer)
Miri Sonnabend

Life Members

Maurice Ashkanasy (dec)
Lisa Borowick
Ben Burstin
Ian Davis OAM
Kurt Defris AM (dec)
Manuel Gelman (dec)
Bernie Gold OAM
Basil Isaacs (dec)
Claire Isaacs
Russell Jaffe
Ernest A Joseph OBE (dec)
Brian Kino
Nita Kino
Mark Klapish
Joe Krampel AM
Hans Licht (dec)
Sam Parasol OAM
Harry Procel OAM
Michael Same
Philip Sheezel
Ben Sternfeld OAM (dec)
Herb Swedosh (dec)
Brian Swersky
Alan Synman OAM
Joe Zivin (dec)



Maccabi Victoria Office Staff

GENERAL MANAGER | Shari Cohen
FINANCE OFFICER | Ruth Clare
PATHWAYS PROGRAM COORDINATOR | Martin Jona
MARKETING OFFICER | Daniella Levin
ADMIN OFFICER | Jenny Schulman
GRANTS OFFICER | Simone Grinberg
ALL ABILITIES PROGRAM OFFICER | Jordan Friede

Honorary Solicitor

TISHER LINER FC LAW | Simon Abraham

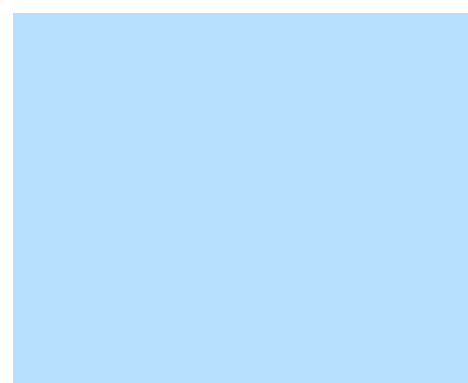
Auditor

POSTAN, MILLER AND ASSOCIATES
Nicky Postan and Hilton Miller

Key Programs, Initiatives & Project Committees

Maccabi Victoria All Abilities
Maccabi Aquatics
Maccabi Archives Project
Club Development Funds
Events Committee
Friends of Maccabi
Governance Committee
Henry Jolson Pathways Program
Junior Carnival
Maccabi LIFE
Maccabi One / Property
Integrity / Member Protection Policy (MPP)
Maccabi Volunteer and Sports Awards
Maccabi Victoria Mega Camp

The invaluable contribution of **Maccabi Victoria volunteers** credits us with one of the strongest sporting networks in Australia. Maccabi Victoria recognises and appreciates the significant contribution of volunteers in all facets of our organisation.



Message from David Southwick MP

I congratulate Maccabi Victoria on a successful 2024 in which we witnessed outstanding sporting achievements for our community, across all age groups and across the diverse range of sports that it embraces.

This has been an extremely difficult year for the Jewish community and Maccabi Victoria has played a vital role in supporting its members and the community with a safe and welcoming space to participate and enjoy sport. Maccabi Victoria, competently led by its co-presidents, Dean Mohr and Sharon Roseman, and the entire leadership across the numerous clubs have exhibited exemplary leadership during challenging times.

Maccabi Victoria is also at the forefront of state initiatives, such as the inclusive All Abilities program, Women in Sport, and the prestigious Henry Jolson Pathways program.

Maccabi not only enhances our community through sport but encourages more people to participate in an active and healthy lifestyle. Lifetime friendships and bonds are forged through affiliation with Maccabi.

Let's hope that sport, and the prescribed values of Maccabi Victoria – "Continuity of Jewish Identity, Fair Play, Teamwork, Participation and Inclusion" – will conquer over incidents of unsolicited anti-Semitism and intolerance.

As a proud supporter of Maccabi Victoria, I look forward to once again gathering with you to support Maccabi teams across Victoria in 2025.

I remain available to assist all those in the broader Maccabi community so please don't hesitate to be in contact with me on 9527 3866 or at david.southwick@parliament.vic.gov.au.



David Southwick MP

Member for Caulfield
Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party



Strategy and Growth

We are committed to ensuring that Maccabi Victoria continues to connect the Jewish community through sport for many years to come. We recognise the importance of our role not only in facilitating sport, but in bringing together people from all corners of our community. Our Board has worked extensively on identifying our key strategic priorities and are focused on implementing them to ensure the ongoing sustainability of Maccabi Victoria.

Reports

- **Maccabi Victoria Co-Presidents' Report**
- **Maccabi Australia President's Report**
- **General Manager's Report**



Co-Presidents' Report

When we sat down to write our report for the 2023 AGM, we were shocked and saddened by the events in Israel. We never imagined what a challenging year 2024 would be for Jews not only in Israel, but around the globe. Our hearts are still with our brethren in Israel, and we hope to hear of peace and the return of the hostages very soon.

In light of the challenges that have been faced, we recognise, perhaps more than ever, the pivotal role that Maccabi plays in connecting the Jewish community.

Earlier this year, we sat down with our Board, assessed our priorities, and looked at how we continue to connect our community through sport not only now but in the future. When we considered the impact of Maccabi and its role, what we heard most often was not about sporting prowess, but rather connection, community, and continuity. In conjunction with the board and office we identified **9 key priorities**, which you'll see reflected throughout this report.



The strategic focus areas of **strategy and growth, clubs and sport, events and marketing, diversity and inclusion, legal, property and governance, finance, schools and community, risk and safety, and membership** now provide a guiding overlay to everything we do. They are explored in more detail throughout this annual report, but it would be remiss of us not to highlight some key activities and achievements for the year.

Our clubs are the lifeblood of Maccabi, and we continue to focus on building our relationships with them, offering support and opportunities to connect wherever possible. This includes providing guidance around governance, legal and integrity matters; regular communication between clubs and Board members; and quarterly Presidents' breakfasts which allow our club leaders to engage with workshops and guest speakers. We continue to share our big-picture vision for Maccabi, whilst also celebrating milestones and achievements at club level.

As always, we continue to ensure that sport is accessible to every Jewish individual wanting to play at Maccabi. Our **All Abilities program** ensures that those living with a disability also have access to sport, our **hardship relief fund** allows people to stay connected with Maccabi despite any financial challenges they are facing, and **Junior Carnival** showed us that there is an appetite for those who don't normally play with Maccabi to nonetheless connect with the Jewish community through sport.

The past year has seen a big focus not only on strengthening our relationships with our clubs, but also on reinforcing and growing partnerships across our community. **CSG** have provided endless support and guidance to us in the wake of rising antisemitism and security concerns following October 7; the Jewish schools continue to welcome us with open arms and embrace new programs and opportunities; we have engaged with community organisations such as **The Social Blueprint** to reach further into the community; and we have been buoyed by the overwhelming continued success of **Maccabi Aquatics**, our social enterprise partnership with Bialik.



2024 MACCABI VICTORIA AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

06

PRESIDENTS' AWARD

For outstanding service as an individual to Maccabi Vic and Jewish sport

Natalie Dodge

LEN BOGATIN AWARD

For outstanding contributions as an administrator to Maccabi Vic

Sean Ickowicz

JACQUIE LERNER NEXT GEN VOLUNTEER AWARD

For dedication and leadership by a young volunteer at Maccabi Vic

Nick Lewis

This year has seen exciting new initiatives, designed to better connect Maccabi Victoria with our clubs, schools, and community. Highlights from the year include surprising club volunteers with Volunteer of the Year awards in meetings, trainings and events; the introduction of the **Maccabi Cup** interschool competition, and the **Maccabi Spirit Award** for the Jewish schools; and bringing the community together at a sold-out **Grand Final breakfast**.

In our role as Co-Presidents, we get so much *naches* from seeing athletes of all ages and at all levels embrace sport, gain skills, find new connections, and push themselves to achieve sporting greatness. From teams winning finals, to young athletes taking to the court for the first time – we see you and we recognise your spirit and commitment. More broadly, we also want to recognise members of the Maccabi family excelling at their sport on national and international levels, including **Harry Sheezel**, **Jemima Montag**, and **Alexandra Kiroi-Bogatyreva**.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to see many of our programs grow and develop, as well as new initiatives on the horizon. We look forward to sharing updates on a Maccabi home, the development of a Maccabi membership offering, and the expansion of our multicultural and interfaith activities. We invite you to celebrate milestones with us including 20 years of our All Abilities program, and **100 years of Maccabi**.

None of this could happen without countless hours and immeasurable support from so many people in the community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our fellow Board members, the Maccabi Foundation, the Maccabi Victoria committees (including Pathways, events, governance and Junior Carnival), our Club committees, volunteers in all areas of the organisation, the office team, our donors and supporters, and our counterparts in Maccabi across Australia. Thank you for your commitment to Maccabi and everything it represents.



Co-Presidents - Maccabi Victoria

Dean Mohr & Sharon Roseman



Maccabi Australia President's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present this report as President of Maccabi Australia. In a time when unity and resilience are more important than ever, **Maccabi stands strong**, celebrating a century of impactful history.

Founded in Europe in the late 19th century amidst rising antisemitism and exclusion, Maccabi provided Jewish individuals with the opportunity to compete in sports, connect with one another, and embrace their Jewish identity. While we have made significant progress, the resurgence of antisemitism highlights the ongoing challenges we face, emphasising the need for unity and pride in our community. Now, more than ever, we must stand tall and celebrate who we are.

Maccabi is proud to be Australia's largest grassroots Jewish organisation, with over **40,000** supporters, **9,000** members and **54** clubs across four States and as we embark on our centenary year, we reaffirm our commitment to being the organisation of choice for the Australian Jewish community.

Across
AUS

40,000 supporters,
9,000 members and
54 clubs across 4
state.



100
Years



Highlights from the Past Year

Through the dedication of our member states, affiliated clubs, countless volunteers, and diverse programs, we provide avenues for our community to connect, participate in sports, improve health outcomes, and strengthen Jewish identity and continuity.

Highlights from the Past Year: Despite the challenges since October 7th, 2023, Maccabi has had a very successful year. Some of the key achievements include:

- The largest Australian delegation to the Pan Am Games in Argentina
- Successful Junior Carnival in Sydney with **400+** participants (**194** Victorians)
- Over **\$100,000** raised towards the Kfar Maccabiah Emergency Appeal for displaced families in Israel
- Strengthened our brand and social media presence
- Delivered new inclusivity programs through All Abilities
- Growth of Maccabi Life, now reaching over **6,500** followers
- Launch of the Maccabi Champions Israel program for Young Adults
- Recognition of excellence through MAI Awards which included Victorian winners: **Jeff Alford, Jeff Sher, Jemima Montag, Harry Sheezel, Layla Bloom, Leora Yates** and **Ori Drabkin**



\$100,000+
raised towards
the Kfar
Maccabiah
Emergency
Appeal



Looking Ahead

Looking Ahead: Our strategic objectives for the coming year include:

- Increasing participation and engagement to foster Jewish connections and lifelong friendships through health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Building a financially stable and well-managed organisation by identifying new funding sources, reducing operational costs through efficiency, enhancing marketing capabilities, and ensuring compliance at all levels.
- Developing a high-performing team and committed volunteers by refining our operating structure and nurturing leadership and volunteer talent.
- Optimising collaboration among clubs, states and MAI, particularly in addressing the rise of antisemitism on our sporting fields and sharing best practices across states and clubs.

*Maccabi Team
Australia is ready for
Maccabiah 2025
July 8th to July 22nd*



I would like to extend my gratitude to Co-Presidents **Sharon Roseman** and **Dean Mohr** for their exceptional leadership, as well as General Manager Shari Cohen and her team for their unwavering support. Their collective expertise ensures that Maccabi remains at the forefront of the Victorian community and underscores the professionalism and reputation our organisation enjoys.

Special thanks to the Victorian executive, committee members, and all volunteers, members, sponsors, and donors who help strengthen our organisation.

Wishing the Victorian committee and team all the best for the year ahead. Your involvement and contribution to Maccabi are invaluable.



Rodney Rosmarin

President
Maccabi Australia



GM Report

It would be easy to reflect on this year and focus on the challenges that have been faced by the Jewish community, both locally and overseas. However, despite it all, it has been an immense year of Maccabi pride in Victoria.

We have seen how keenly our community wants to connect through sport, with astronomical growth in our Junior Carnival team (with **194** heading to Sydney at the start of this year, and over **120** ready to hit Perth in January 2025), burgeoning club numbers, sporting achievement at all levels, and greater engagement with our schools.

We have broadened our reach in the community, developing new multicultural initiatives, supporting the growth of new sport, introducing interschool opportunities, and continued to provide financial support to those in our community in need.

Highlights of this year have included **Maccabi Cup** interschool competitions for year 5/6 students (basketball) and year 8/9 students (soccer), our sold-out **Grand Final breakfast**, the introduction of the **Maccabi Spirit Sport School Award**, and an innovative campaign recognising our Clubs' top volunteers.

We have continued to strengthen our relationship with and support of our clubs in a range of ways including security training, increased centralised services, and wider coverage in our comms and social media. We recognise the growing challenges faced by volunteer-led clubs and are working to ensure that all sports are supported.

Junior Carni 2025

120 + ready to hit Perth



Some Highlights

Maccabi Cup
Grand Final Breakfast
Spirit School Awards



None of this could have been achieved without an amazing team of people. To the Mac Vic office team – **Martin, Ruth, Dani, Jenny, Simone** and **Jordan** – your commitment, passion and enthusiasm is second to none, and Maccabi is lucky to have you all. To our dedicated Board, and especially to our Presidents **Sharon Roseman** and **Dean Mohr**, and Vice President **Caryn Kave**, your unending support, professional and personal guidance, and understanding of the importance of sport in our community is unparalleled. To our strategic and club committees, our volunteers, our donors, our athletes, our supporters, and our whole Maccabi community – thank you for everything you do to ensure the continuity and sustainability of Jewish sport in Victoria.

As we prepare for a milestone year ahead, we not only reflect on the 100 years of Maccabi history, but look ahead. With many developments and exciting plans already underway, we are appreciative of the roles you've played and are keen to have you join us in our journey over the next 100 years.



Shari Cohen

General Manager
Maccabi Victoria



Finance

As an organisation reliant on community and government funding, fiscal responsibility and financial sustainability are imperative. We recognise the importance of considered spending and generating revenue streams to ensure long-term sustainability and success. Access to hardship relief, supporting our clubs, and providing financially accessible community programs are key.

Reports

- [Treasurer's Report](#)
- [Foundation Report](#)

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the treasurer's report for Maccabi Victoria ("Mac Vic") for the period ending **30 June 2024**. As the treasurer, it is my duty to provide a transparent overview of our financial activities and status.

The financial statements reflect an operating surplus of **\$12,908** representing a **\$70,632** improvement compared to the prior year. This improvement was primarily driven by the aquatics income distribution, with FY24 being the first year MacVic received the funds. This is expected to be a sustainable and growing income stream for the club going forward.

The other key operating financial activities for the year included; (i) affiliation fees from our clubs; (ii) the continually increasing centralised services delivered to our clubs (iii) funding received for uniforms for junior carnival in addition to specific donations received for the program; and (iv) new sponsorship revenues.

Additionally, we are incredibly grateful for the funding and support received from the Maccabi Foundation.

The launch of the Grand Final Breakfast was a great success in both bringing our Maccabi community together, and raising additional income for the hardship relief fund, the impact of which will be recorded in the FY25 financial statements.

The closing cash reserves of **\$173,835** at year end ensures we have the necessary funding to meet all our trade payable obligations including committed funds to Club Grants.

The financials for the All-Abilities Program and the Henry Jolson Pathways Program are included in the Maccabi Victoria Financial Statement. All programs are funded primarily through grants from the Maccabi Foundation, private donors and State Government grants. We thank the generous supporters who donate to make these programs possible.

I would like to thank **Hilton Miller** and **Nicky Postan** of the LDB Group for their services in relation to the audit of the financial statements.

I've received outstanding support in my role as Treasurer by a number of people including the Maccabi Vic office team, in particular **Ruth Clare** (Finance Manager) and **Shari Cohen** (General Manager).

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our donors, volunteers, and board members for their unwavering support. It is through your dedication that we can continue making a positive impact in our sporting community.



Jeremy Lustig

Treasurer
Maccabi Victoria

CASH RESERVES

\$173,835 at
year end



OPERATING SURPLUS

of \$12,908 representing a \$70,632 improvement compared to the prior year.



Foundation Chairman's Report

In the past 12 months we have faced unexpected and extraordinary challenges. As I reflect on the year that has been, I am reminded of the critical, and often undervalued, role that Maccabi plays in connecting our community, and providing a safe, positive, open and inclusive environment for Jews to meet, compete, and represent themselves, our clubs and our community.

Against the backdrop of a post-October 7th Jewish world, the role of fundraising for all communal bodies has been challenging. In the months following October 7th, much financial aid and support was immediately directed at Israel, ensuring we stood shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters as they faced the unenviable task of rebuilding much of what had been destroyed.

After directing more than **\$120,000** of local donors funds to support housing and feeding displaced families from Southern Israel, (via Kfar Maccabiah and MWU) the Maccabi Foundation refocused our efforts on ensuring that our local organisation moved into the year in a strong financial position, and was able to provide financial support to Maccabi Australia, and each of its states, programs and clubs as needed. Critical to our community is that our local organisations and institutions remain vibrant, well funded, and competitive.

In April, we hosted a highly successful major donors event featuring former Treasurer **Josh Frydenberg** as our special guest. The event was a highlight of the Foundation's calendar, and the audience was captivated by Josh's analysis of the local and international political landscape for Israel and Jews in the diaspora post-October 7th. I want to express my gratitude to Dean and Kate Mohr for generously hosting the event, which successfully secured renewed commitments from many of our major donors for the next three years.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to our devoted donors and enthusiastic supporters. Your consistent financial contributions to our clubs and programs have played a pivotal role in ensuring that we have the necessary resources to deliver exceptional experiences for all individuals involved with Maccabi. Your support of our vision and dedication to everything we undertake are genuinely valued and appreciated.

**Hardship Relief
for Families in
Need**



**80 Families
have received over \$24,000**

**Allowing families
to partake in**



**Junior Carnival
Basketball
Junior Cricket
Senior Cricket
Netball
Junior Soccer
Tennis**

Throughout 2023/4 the Foundation continued to provide financial support to those clubs, programs and families that required it. Our Victorian Club Development Grants, which is supported generously by the Pratt Foundation, has advanced **\$50,000** to **7 clubs**, and provided funding that enables them to improve the quality of all they deliver, and ultimately improve standards of delivery and coaching, driving membership growth and strength.

The Foundation continues to support its Hardship Relief Fund - ensuring all Jewish athletes have every available opportunity to play their chosen sport, or join their friends at a Maccabi club remains at the heart of what we do. Through the past year **80 families** were supported via this fund. Again, none of this is possible without the generous financial support from our donor base.

Throughout the year we soft-launched our new MaccMitzvah program. This initiative provides a simple and easy way for Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids to direct gifts to Maccabi, and provide financial support for those less fortunate in our community. Special thanks to Foundation Director, Hannah Hammerschlag, together with David Skurnik, for leading this important fundraising initiative.

The Foundation continues to build positive relationships with Corporate and Philanthropic partners and aims to streamline and coordinate fundraising activities to leverage the best possible outcomes for all stakeholders. In this past year we are delighted to welcome **Kogan** as our first Major Corporate Partner. We thank them for their phenomenal support and commitment.

I'd like to finally thank MAI President **Rodney Rosmarin** and his Board, and importantly thank my fellow Directors for their continued passion and tireless work for Maccabi - **Alan Synman OAM, Ashley Krongold, Hannah Hammerschlag, Ian Davis, Michael Herskope, Michael Same, Miri Sonnabend** and **Joe Azoulay**. Kol Ha'kavod to you all.

We look forward to the year ahead, to a return to Israel in July 2025 for the Maccabiah Games, and to continuing to connect our community through sport.



Dale Smorgon

Foundation Chairman
Maccabi Victoria

Victorian Club
Development
Grants

advanced \$50,000
to 7 clubs



Legal, Property, and Governance

We are focused on securing a dedicated home for Maccabi Victoria, and exploring opportunities for additional and improved facilities for our clubs. We recognise the need to support our clubs in legal and governance matters, and appreciate the efforts of Tisher Liner FC Law and the newly-formed Maccabi Victoria governance subcommittee.



Maccabi One

Our purpose is to explore potential opportunities with our aim to find a 'home' for Maccabi Victoria.

Property Report

Maccabi Victoria's Major Projects Committee has made steady progress over the past year. Our purpose is to explore potential opportunities with our aim to find a 'home' for Maccabi Victoria. Whilst we would love to have everyone under the one roof, we acknowledge the difficulties of finding a single home to house our 23 Clubs and their thousands of members, with all the relevant sporting fields. As such, we are focused on the idea of centralising Maccabi's activities to a few key sites located to suit our demographic.

The two main locations we have been focusing on this year are the potential Mount Scopus move to the **Caulfield Hospital site**, and the redevelopment of the **Caulfield Racecourse**.

Our plans previously presented to Mount Scopus for their proposed new site included sporting courts, fields and indoor spaces for health and wellbeing as well as Maccabi offices.

Whilst we have been named as a partner in this project, the process is ongoing for the school and the other major stakeholders, and we await further advice. We know the team at Scopus are working hard to make this dream become a reality and we hope to see it come to life; it would be a terrific outcome for Scopus, Maccabi, and the community.

The second proposed site, the Caulfield Racecourse, has seen more progress over this past year. We originally submitted a proposal to activate, develop and manage the Neerim Hub part of the site (the old stables section which sits outside the Racecourse proper). Our proposal, along with that of McKinnon Basketball Association, were the two accepted by the **Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust (CRRT)**.

We have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CRRT which cements our position on this site, and will shortly be involved with the feasibility study of the Neerim Hub. The study, being undertaken by the CRRT, will ultimately be presented to the State Government for an assessment of the viability of the site for the intended use. We will continue to work with the CRRT to create the best design for the site.

This process has not been without its challenges. Since our initial Neerim Hub proposal was submitted, there have been changes imposed by Heritage Victoria and the CRRT which will require a redesign of our original proposal. Considerations such as significant trees and equipment storage significantly impact the size and scope of the available site.

We will continue not only our work on the above sites, but also the search beyond these options in the hope of securing a home for Maccabi Victoria, and we look forward to updating you in the near future.



Tim Bursztyn

Maccabi One Committee



Risk and Safety

Maccabi aims to create a safe, fair, inclusive and enjoyable environment. We want to ensure that every athlete, member, staff, volunteer, official and coach who participates in Maccabi activities is treated with respect and dignity, and this is reflected in our integrity policies and support offered to our clubs and members. Additionally, we work closely with CSG to ensure the physical security and minimisation of risk for all Maccabi activities. We recognise that we live in unprecedented times, and want to ensure that sport continues to be a safe space for the whole community.

Reports

- [CSG Message](#)
- [Integrity Report](#)

Message from CSG

Over the past year, CSG Victoria has worked with Maccabi to enhance the safety and security of the Maccabi community. This collaboration has included the creation and presentation of security videos, as well as both on-site and online presentations. CSG Victoria has also provided comprehensive training for club presidents and security personnel, ensuring they are well-prepared for any situation.

In addition to training, CSG Victoria has offered security services at sports events and training sessions, provided daily updates and security advice, and fielded numerous calls from Maccabi staff and board members, offering logistical advice on potential threats. A highlight of this collaboration was the JCCM presentation at the Club Presidents' Breakfast on September 11th, where CSG Victoria's Crisis Management department provided training to Maccabi clubs.

Together, CSG Victoria and Maccabi have worked tirelessly to create a safer environment for all members of the community.

Justin Kagan

CEO, CSG Victoria

Integrity Report

Reflecting on what has been a challenging year for Israel and the Jewish community, I am proud to report that Maccabi Victoria remained focused on the values that define our organisation.

Member protection, child safety and integrity are paramount for Maccabi across Australia. We are dedicated to fostering a safe, fair, inclusive and enjoyable environment for everyone involved in Maccabi activities.

The Integrity and Governance Team is dedicated to ensuring a comprehensive understanding and awareness of compliance matters, empowering clubs to achieve these vital standards. The safety strategies include regular reviews and updates to the integrity and membership protection training platform, reinforcing our commitment to leading community sport safety standards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the national Integrity committee, as well as our Victorian Integrity Officer **Leanne Faraday Brash**, and our Victorian-based National Integrity Officer, **Yvonne Fayman** for their unwavering diligence and commitment to maintaining Maccabi's leadership in integrity and safety.

Furthermore, the Maccabi Victoria Board works closely with club leadership by providing levels of support for efficient club operations and to ensure that every member feels valued and appreciated. This collaboration fosters an environment where all voices are heard and encouraged.

As we look with optimism towards an exciting 2025, Maccabi Victoria reaffirms our dedication to promoting the highest safety standards as we 'proudly connect our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing'.

May there be permanent peace and security in Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.

Am Yisroel Chai.

Sheiny New

Board Member
Maccabi Victoria





Diversity and Inclusion

Maccabi recognises that its members come from all backgrounds, abilities and identities. Our goal is to enable all members of the Jewish community to participate in sport and active recreation; to ensure that Maccabi reflects the diversity of the communities in which we live; and to work towards supporting and developing staff, volunteers, board, clubs, programs and offerings which are inclusive of everyone.

Maccabi All Abilities Program

This year has been characterised by transition, growth, and collaboration.

We farewelled **Caren Lubofsky**, and welcomed **Jordan Friede** who joins the Maccabi Victoria team as our new All Abilities program officer. With a long Maccabi history as a player, and volunteer experience with Flying Fox, we are excited to have him on board.

Our regular programs continue to grow, giving members of the Jewish community with a disability the opportunity to participate in club sports including basketball, swimming, tennis, AFL and cricket. This year also saw the launch of the Mighty Bees junior soccer program, hosted by Maccabi FC Caulfield.

We have been lucky to receive funding through Sport and Recreation Victoria, and the City of Glen Eira which will allow us to offer even more opportunities to our members including sailing, taekwondo, and disc golf.

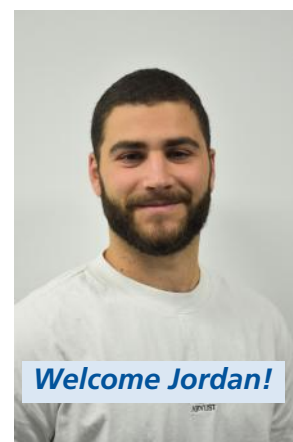
None of this would be possible without the support of our wonderful sponsors **Gandel, Michael & Michelle Aronson, Alan Synman, Mark Gandur**, and our dedicated team of coaches and volunteers. A special shout out to **David Chester**, stalwart superstar of our coaching team, and named the Maccabi All Abilities Volunteer of the Year for his continued support across multiple sports.

Reflections & Looking Ahead

From its humble beginnings as a parent-driven basketball team, to a thriving program that connects with many Maccabi Victoria clubs and community organisations, we are excited to look ahead to 2025 where we will celebrate 20 years of Maccabi Victoria's All Abilities Program. To all of the members, parents, coaches, volunteers, staff, Maccabi Victoria Board members and community organisations and members who have been a part of our journey – thank you for everything you have brought to the program, and we can't wait to see what happens over the next 20 years.




**PARTICIPANT
BREAKDOWN:
78% MALES
22% FEMALES**



Schools and Community

Through the Henry Jolson Pathways Program, we connect with the broader Jewish and wider sporting communities through sport. We continue to build engagement through programs like the Sport in Schools initiative, the Maccabi Cup, and collaborative events with multicultural and First Nations communities.

Reports

- [Pathways: Interfaith Program](#)
- [Pathways: Sport in Schools and the Solomon Family Foundation Maccabi Cup](#)

Henry Jolson Pathways Program

Maccabi Victoria's Henry Jolson Pathways Program comprises of two key initiatives; a **Multicultural Multi-faith Sports Program** and a **Pathways Program for children** in our Jewish schools. Maccabi leverages these programs to:

1. Promote unity, harmony, and interfaith engagement through sport.
2. Help develop critical skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience, creating pathways for children to engage in sports at all levels, from grassroots to elite.



Interfaith and Multicultural

The Maccabi Multicultural Multi-faith Sports Program aims to bring players together from Jewish, Muslim, Indigenous and multicultural backgrounds to build understanding and respect for customs, values, beliefs, and traditions through sport - breaking barriers and stereotypes, and building bridges across society.

We are excited to introduce the **"United in Play"** - Connecting Communities Through the Power of Play - Sports Initiative. Supported by new funding from Sports Recreation Victoria (SRV) this new initiative will build on the success of the Interfaith through Sport Unity Cup Concept, by expanding our focus to include Basketball and Soccer events, alongside AFL activities.

The Program features games, cultural exchange, cuisine, skill clinics, educational sessions, lead-in activities, and unity teams.

Schools

The Henry Jolson School Pathways Program bridges the gap between Maccabi Clubs and Jewish day schools, providing children from prep to year 12 with opportunities to participate in and learn new sports through subsidised specialised coaching.

Since February 2019, Program Coordinator Martin Jona has facilitated Pathways in schools. In 2024, students at **6 Jewish Schools** have had the opportunity to play sports including AFL Football, Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Futsal, Golf, Netball, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball.

In 2024 interschool competitions were also delivered through Pathways. The first **Solomon Family Foundation Maccabi Cup** event invited Grade 5 and 6 students from participating schools to compete in a friendly yet spirited basketball tournament. This was followed by a soccer tournament for year 8-9 students. The events provided a unique opportunity for students to interact and compete with their peers from other schools, fostering not only a sense of unity but also a passion for sportsmanship and healthy competition. Looking ahead we aim to increase Maccabi Cup and interschool offerings to include sports such as netball, tennis and pickleball.

We are also excited to introduce the **Maccabi Spirit Sport Awards** to participating Jewish schools. The Award is presented to a graduating grade 6 student who embodies the Maccabi spirit of teamwork, participation, inclusion, fair play and sporting achievement.



PATHWAYS 2024

6 JEWISH SCHOOLS
474 STUDENTS
558 SESSIONS
11 SPORTS OFFERED

MACCABI CUP

Schools: Bialik College, Mount Scopus Memorial College, The King David School, Leibler Yavneh College, Yeshivah Beth Rivkah College

Events and Marketing

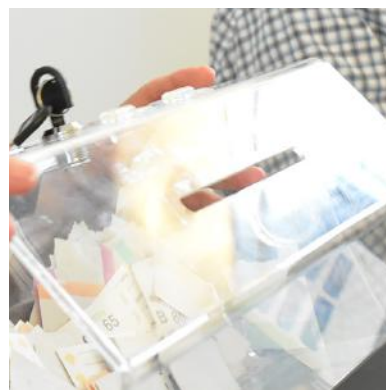
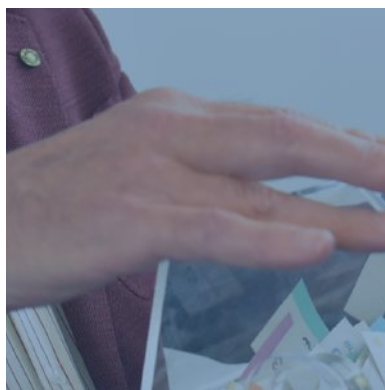
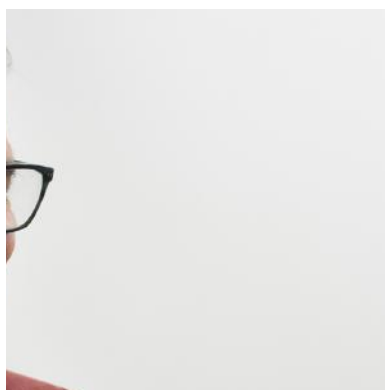
We understand that connecting our community through sport happens not only on the field, but off-field as well. Engaging events and marketing bring together regular athletes, past players, and those who are involved in the broader Maccabi, Jewish, or sporting communities, and allow us to share exciting stories from our clubs and athletes.

Events

Friends of Maccabi

Maccabi alumni came together in March for a sold-out Friends of Maccabi luncheon at the Caulfield Park Pavilion. Guest speaker **Hon. Justice Mordy Bromberg** shared stories from his journey, giving attendees insight into life as an Israeli immigrant and passionate footballer, as well as a respected figure in Australia's legal framework.

The Friends of Maccabi events embody the Maccabi spirit of connecting our Jewish community through sport and preserving the friendships that continue well beyond the playing field. We are incredibly proud to unite Maccabi former (and current) players across the years.



On Wednesday 25 September, Maccabi Victoria hosted its inaugural (and sold-out!) Grand Final Breakfast at the MCG, bringing together over 200 guests in celebration of community, sport, and connection. The event coincided with AFL Grand Final week, building excitement for the Sydney Swans vs. Brisbane Lions premiership game.

Former AFL player **Jonathan Brown** led the panel, keeping the audience entertained with humour and engaging questions. Panellists included AFL CEO **Andrew Dillon**, who hinted at the continued rise of Thursday night footy; AFL Rising Star **Harry Sheezel**, who spoke about his Motor Neurone Disease awareness efforts; AFL legend **Kevin Sheedy**, adding his signature cheeky insights; and Essendon captain **Zach Merrett**, who shared reflections on leadership.

A silent auction raised nearly **\$12,000** for the Maccabi Victoria Hardship Relief Fund, supporting broader community access to Maccabi programs. The morning, set against the iconic MCG, underscored Maccabi's mission to foster community and wellbeing through sport.

- OVER 200 GUESTS
- \$12,000 RAISED FOR THE MACCABI VICTORIA HARDSHIP RELIEF FUND



Grand Final Breakfast Panel

Volunteer recognition

Volunteers are the backbone of our organisation. Over National Volunteer week in May, the Maccabi Vic Team delighted in surprising some exceptional individuals with the 2024 Maccabi Victoria Volunteer of the Year Award.

Our deserving 2024 Maccabi Victoria Volunteer Award Recipients:

- **David Chester** - Maccabi All Abilities Program
- **Ilia Eligulachvili** - Maccabi Athletics Club
- **Joel Fink** - Maccabi Hockey Club
- **Liana Friedman** - Maccabi Ajax Junior Cricket Club
- **Jeff Israel** - Ajax Senior Football Club
- **Chantel Klein** - Maccabi Ajax Netball Club
- **Lothar Prager** - Maccabi Ajax Lawn Bowls Club
- **Joel Rabinov** - Maccabi Tennis Club
- **Mel Raleigh** - Ajax Junior Football Club
- **Mark Sweidan** - Maccabi FC Caulfield

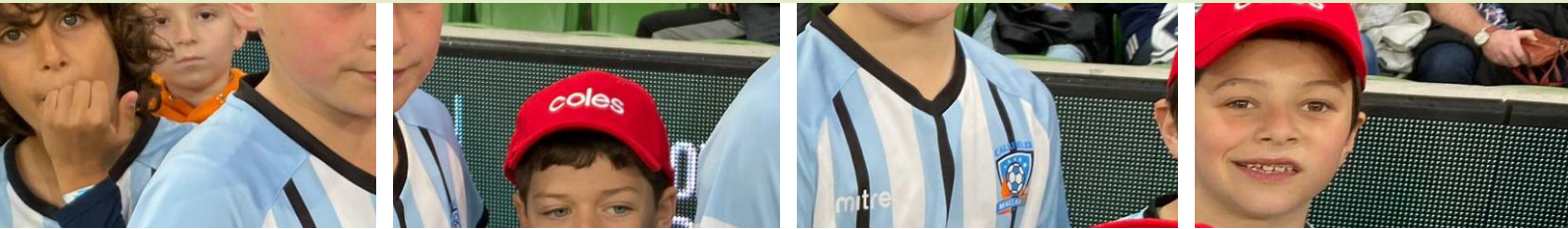
Thank you for everything you do for our Maccabi community!

Clubs & Sport

The backbone of Maccabi Victoria, our clubs engage over 3000 members of our community through a wide range of sports. We recognise and appreciate the countless hours that people dedicate to their club and sport - whether through training, playing, or volunteering - and we constantly work towards supporting, engaging and empowering them to ensure long-term viability, sustainability and success.

Reports

- Maccabi Junior Carnival
- Mega Camp Holiday Program
- Club Reports



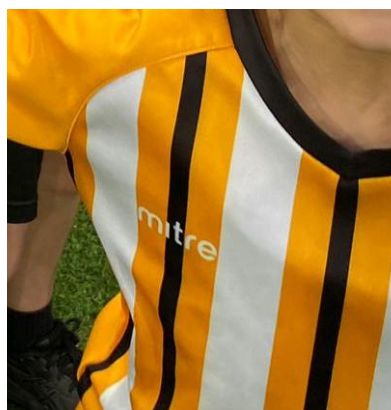
23 Maccabi
Victoria Clubs



From ages
5 - 97



3000+
Maccabi Club
Members



Maccabi Junior Carnival

Over 400 Jewish youth from across Australia participated in Junior Carnival 2024 in Sydney. They enjoyed a week of sport, social activities and opportunities to connect with the community. Carni highlights included nail-biting sport finals, a water park adventure, and a neon disco.

Team Vic involved 194 young athletes, led by incredible Team Managers **Nat Dodge**, **Bec Wolman** and **Tali Friede**, and supported by a crew of dedicated youth leaders and parent volunteers.

Each year the **Nathan Hofbauer Award** is presented to two Victorian team members who show excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and a great attitude during Carnival. The 2024 winners were **Noa Fink** and **Toby Lang**. Mazal tov!



LOOKING AHEAD: PERTH 2025

Over **125** Victorians have already registered for Carnival 2025 in Perth.

Our team will be **more than double** the size of the team that went to the last Perth Carnival in 2020.

Almost **25%** of our team don't attend Jewish schools or Maccabi clubs.

CARNIVAL 2024

194 VICTORIAN ATHLETES



CONNECTION

25% OF VIC PARTICIPANTS AT NON-JEWISH SCHOOLS

45% OF VIC PARTICIPANTS NON-MACCABI MEMBERS

Maccabi Mega Camp

Holiday Programming at Maccabi

In 2024, Maccabi Victoria delivered two successful Mega Camps during the April/May and September/October school holidays. Aimed at children aged **7-12**, Mega Camp balances skill development with enjoyment, helping young athletes improve their abilities while fostering camaraderie through games and teamwork under the guidance of our professional Maccabi coaches.

The first holiday program was dedicated to soccer, run in collaboration with **Maccabi FC Caulfield (MFCC)**, and focused on building essential soccer skills through structured drills and friendly match play. We had **36** participants join us.

The second session expanded to include both soccer and basketball, with support from both MFCC and the **Maccabi Basketball Club**, offering participants a well-rounded, multi-sport experience. We had **48** participants.



MEGA CAMP 2024

**2 X SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS**

**BASKETBALL
SOCCER**



**7-12 YRS
TOTAL IN 2024:
84 PARTICIPANTS**

Maccabi Athletic Club

In 2024, club membership continued to grow, doubling in size with an influx of athletes from various schools and other Maccabi clubs.

Our expanded coaching panel now offers specialised training across a range of track and field events, while the newly established **Youth Leadership Team** has introduced a fresh perspective, enhancing communication and support for our members. We have made significant progress on our MAC 5-Year Strategic Plan, now in its second year, achieving several key goals under our motto: **"Faster, Further, Higher – Together"**.

The club is actively participating in the AVSL (interclub track and field competition), and many members have achieved notable success at State, National, and International championships. On the social front, our new initiative, the **Maccabi Run Club**, has thrived as a fun, community-driven running club.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are preparing to field a strong, cohesive, and high-performing team for the Maccabiah Games.



78 MEMBERS
59 JUNIOR
19 SENIOR (18+)
3 COACHES
6 VOLUNTEERS

Achievements

Jemima Montag, a club life member, won two bronze medals at the Paris Olympics in race walking and set a new Australian and Oceania record. **Shanie Landen** broke the Israeli 800m record at the Oslo Diamond League. **Ori Drabkin** earned silver in the long jump and 100m (T38) at the Commonwealth Youth Games. **Emma de Jong** competed at the World Cross Country Championships, while **Zac Ashkanasy** won the Victorian cross country championship (50+) and led Maccabi's Div 5 premiership team. Other highlights include strong performances from **Jarrod Zuchowski** (distance), **Ben Blecher** (U17 sprints), and Masters athlete **Myer Vorchheimer**.

Maccabi Basketball Club

Juniors

In the past year the Maccabi Basketball Board placed significant focus on improving the financial position of the club to ensure its viability and longevity. In addition to streamlining operations and increasing our program offerings, we are delighted that our existing sponsors, **Gary Peer, Moose Toys, Gallagher** and **Total Health Physio** committed to continuing their support. We have also welcomed a number of significant new partners in **Kogan, Grill'd** and **five squared**.

Winter Season '24 saw over 500 players proudly representing the Jewish community in yellow and blue. 30 teams competed in semi-finals and 16 teams competed in grand finals. There were some close, nail-biting games and we are sure the fabulous support from parents, grandparents and friends did not go unnoticed by our players. 6 Teams finished on top!

Recently we commenced Summer Season 24/25 with over **600 players** registered across **77 teams**. Teams were formed utilising individual player evaluation and extended try outs. We are delighted that a number of past players have returned to the club. We look forward to seeing the continued development of our players across all age groups under the guidance of **Mick Wheeler** and **Drew Solewicz**.



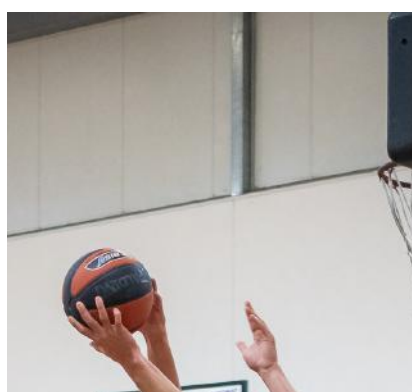
Winter Season '24

**6 TEAMS
FINISHED ON
TOP OF THE
LADDER!**



We have had some big wins this year including the introduction of **30** new parent coaches who volunteer and do an exceptional job for the club. We also launched a **new shooting skills program** (which was oversubscribed), we registered teams in domestic **U20s**, there was significant growth in our **mini skills program** and Thursday night **open sessions**, and we maintained registration fees. Lastly, we have increased our offering beyond junior domestic and senior competitive by registering our **first female adult team** in an open Tuesday night competition and a mixed adult team on Sunday evenings.

Once again, we must acknowledge the efforts of everyone on the Committee and Board and our volunteers who give their time and energy tirelessly. It is a huge task and an amazing effort and the club would not exist without the help of these people.



600+ PLAYERS
596 JUNIORS
61 SENIORS
77 TEAMS



Maccabi Basketball Club

Seniors

2024 saw good numbers in both the Youth League and Men's programs, with vibrant energy at trainings. Although both teams narrowly missed out on the finals, the U23 youth team faced several injuries that opened the door for younger players to step up, accelerating their development—a great outcome for the future.

We are always grateful to the **Big V League** for allowing us to once again host the Holocaust Memorial Big V home game. This year's event held even deeper significance in light of October 7. We are truly thankful to the families and supporters of both teams who made the effort to attend and support this meaningful occasion.

The women's team have cemented their place in the A grade division and are training hard weekly. It's great to see every season juniors graduating into the program!

In the senior program, a successful season isn't measured solely by wins and losses. We are equally committed to developing well-rounded basketball players and fostering strong, community-minded individuals. This was demonstrated by the Youth League's heartfelt tributes to hostages and ongoing acknowledgments of the victims of the October 7 almost weekly throughout the season. Additionally, Warriors and Senior Women's players once again volunteered at the **Flying Fox Corporate Basketball Day**, serving as referees and scorers, helping to create a fantastic community day. It was also great to see our Warriors assisting at the junior skills sessions.

A huge thanks goes to our coaches **Jarred Kieser**, **Bob Mann** and **Patrick Minahan** as well as our generous donors and sponsors, without whom we would not be able to field a team.



*The women's team have cemented their place in the **A grade division***



Maccabi Ajax Junior Cricket Club

Participation in cricket reached record highs during the peak of COVID as an outdoor non-contact sport. While community interest has now stabilised, the Club's numbers remained strong this season, with the Junior Club fielding 15 teams including a girls' team. Our Woolworths Cricket Blast program continues to be a vital pipeline for nurturing young talent.

For the first time, the Club fielded **three Under 15 teams**. Many of these players also played for the Senior Club, maintaining a strong pathway for talented players as they progress through their cricket journey.

Season wrap up

We achieved incredible on-field success this year. Our Under 17 team secured a well-deserved premiership this season, showcasing the true spirit of Maccabi cricket. Two other MAJCC teams also made it to the finals, underlining the depth of talent at the Club. Our Under 15 Titans topped the ladder and were the favourites, but unfortunately they fell short in the Grand Final. Sadly, our Girls' team lost their semi-final due to the heat policy putting an end to the game after seven overs. Premierships are hard to win, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the players and coaches who contributed to these magnificent achievements.

We are extremely proud of how all players represented their club and community with honour.

Looking Ahead

The 2024/25 season is our first as a standalone club. With new branding and a fresh outlook we're excited about the future of Jewish cricket in Melbourne!

Maccabi Proud

- Premiership win for U17 team
- x3 U15 teams
- U15 Titans top the ladder
- Girls made it to semi-finals





Maccabi Ajax Senior Cricket Club

Record # of Maccabi Teams in Recent Years

The Maccabi Ajax Cricket Club is looking towards another successful season in 2024/25. The club has moved 3 teams to the MCC competition, with the First XI and Second XI moving up a grade following a successful campaign last season. The club is also fielding a Development XI in the CSB competition, and two 20/20 teams this year. The **6 teams** mark the highest number Maccabi has fielded in years.

Given the move up in grades, the competition is at a very high level, which will provide a great opportunity for Maccabi to test themselves against good quality batting and bowling. We have already seen this in the first few games of the season.

Once again, **Stef Lindstrom** has been appointed senior coach, supported by a number of assistant coaches, including players who have represented Australia at the test level.

The same captains will be returning for the First 3 XI's, with **Bailey Melzak** (1st XI), **Ben Kupshik** (2nd XI) and **Zak Pollak** (3rd XI) joined by the development captains **Andrew Rotstein** and **David Gelbart**. **Amir Meyerowitz** who last season took out the Ray Saffer award for club BnF, as well as the competition award for leading batsman, will be leading the clubs main 20/20 team with **Charlie Gross** leading the second 20/20 team.

We have already had our first successful event of the year, with the season launch and trivia night going ahead with great success. The next big event on the calendar is the Chanukah Bash, which, for the first time, will showcase a Cricket vs Football match, where we can showcase the best of Jewish Sport mixed with Jewish culture.

The club has had 3 new additions to the committee, as we seek to get more input from playing members, we welcome **Josh Rotstein**, **Amir Meyerowitz** and **Zak Pollak**. We want to acknowledge **Jonathan Zimmitt** who has stepped down from his role as treasurer after many years in the role, performing at an incredibly high level.

The club would also like to commemorate the passing of **Joel Rembach**, who was a sitting member of the committee until his passing. Joel served on the committee for over 30 years, holding every position in the club!



AJAX Junior Football Club

Season wrap up

Season 2024 was a remarkable year for the AJAX Junior Football Club, marked by a record-breaking number of registrations—approximately **900 players**—across both the Junior Football Club and the Auskick program. The Club fielded a record 29 teams, two more than last season. Among these were multiple teams at various age levels: U8, U10, U11, U12, U13, and U15, all fielding three teams each. In addition, the girls' program continued to grow with three teams in the U12, U14, and U16 age groups, bringing the number of female players to around 70.

Inclusivity

A continuing highlight of the year has been our ongoing partnership with **All Things Equal**, who manage our canteen. This collaboration allows individuals with disabilities to make meaningful contributions to the community, and we take immense pride in their integration into our Club. Today, they are not just supporters but a valued part of the AJAX family.

2024 Season Highlights

- Division 1 Representation: Two teams, the U14 Girls and U18 Boys, competed in the top-grade Division 1, with the U18 team going undefeated throughout the season. This marks the first time a top-age Division 1 team in the SMJFL has achieved this milestone.
- Finals Success: An outstanding 15 teams made it to the finals. Six teams, including the U18 Comets, U15 Stars and U11 Rockets reached grand finals, while three—U13 Comets, U13 Rockets, and U16G Comets—won premierships.
- Lightning Premierships: Two of our three U10 teams won Lightning Premierships, a fantastic sign for the future of the Club.
- Preseason and End-of-Season Events: We held a successful preseason launch event for committee members, coaches, and team managers, as well as a celebratory end-of-season dinner.
- Round Robin Competition: Our U7 AJAX team participated in a round-robin competition, showcasing the future stars of the Club.



**900 PLAYERS
29 TEAMS**

**TOO MANY
VOLUNTEERS TO
COUNT!**





AJAX Senior Football Club

Club Highlights

In 2024, AJAX fielded six teams across the Football Club (over 160 players): Senior Men, Reserves, Women, Saturday Thirds, Sunday Thirds (a Shabbat-observant team), and All Stars All Abilities. We are very proud of all six teams and the way they represented our Club and Community.

All four of our men’s teams competed in finals: Saturday Thirds Division 2 South in the elimination final, the Sunday Thirds Division 1 team reaching a Preliminary Final, Seniors playing in finals for the first time since 2019, and the Reserves playing in the Grand Final, losing by 39 points after being minor premiers for the season. Our All Stars team played for the second year in the FIDA League, and this program was undoubtedly one of the highlights for the Club and all involved.

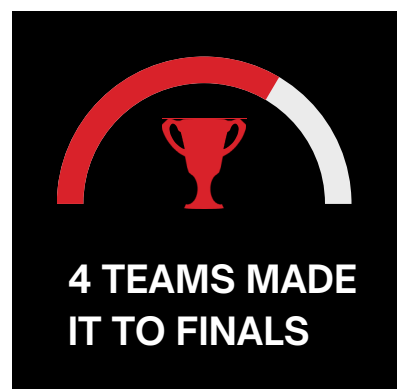
Looking Ahead

In 2025, we plan and aim to succeed with all teams and make as many finals as possible. We will continue to operate and expand the Club, with the goal of growing our senior Women’s team for AJAX.

Best & Fairest

- Senior Men - **Jordan Cohen**
- Reserves - **Ezra Herszberg**
- Women - **Romy Klooger**
- Saturday Thirds Div 2 South - **Tye Marabel-Whitburn**
- Sunday Thirds Div 1 - **Amir Meyerowitz** (also won VAFA Thirds Div 1 highest goal kicker)

Congratulations to **Stephen Pinch** as he became the newest 2024 Life Member of the AJAX Amateur Football Club.





Maccabi Football Club Caulfield

Season wrap up

Season 2024 easily boasted participation of football in Caulfield Park to exceed **650 players**. That covers every aspect of Maccabi FC from the youngest to the oldest, comprising of Little Strikers, Mini Roos, Juniors, Senior Women, Soccer Mums, Walking Football and Mighty Bees - All Abilities.

We saw three teams make it into the finals of their competitions this season. Two of them, although they took out the title in their individual league, just fell at the last hurdle for the state title. The other team, boys U16 Blue went all the way and came home with the title as the state champion in their division.

2 STAR CLUB CHANGER



**650+ PLAYERS
55 COACHES
41 VOLUNTEERS
595 GAMES PLAYED**

MFCC was honoured to have achieved its **2 Star Club Changer status** at Football Victoria this year, for all of the work it does across the football community. Club Changer is Football Australia's program designed to support and improve community football clubs through a structured development framework. It offers resources, training, and guidance to help clubs operate efficiently, build strong governance, and foster inclusive environments.

Looking Ahead

In 2025, we aim to solidify our existing pathways and empower our coaches and team managers to drive the Club's continued betterment and success.



North Caulfield Maccabi Football Club

Club Highlights

North Caulfield Maccabi Football (Soccer) Club finished Season 2024 just two points off fourth place in one of the most evenly contested Men's State League competitions for years.

The final match of Season 2024 was particularly poignant, with almost fifty past players gathering to witness the Club defeat Mooroolbark at Caulfield Park, alongside the unveiling of our club's new Honour Boards. Thank you to Andrew Rajcher and 'The Wolf & Dora Rajcher Memorial Fund' for supporting this important club initiative.

Special Mentions

- **Daniel Sacks** - who with his first Seniors Best & Fairest victory becomes only the sixth player in the past 30-years at our club to have won both the 'Seniors Best & Fairest' Award and the 'Seniors Top Goal Scorer' Award.
- Seniors Best & Fairest Runner-Up **Joshua Hodes** who has overcome two knee reconstructions to show incredible resilience and character.
- **Zhenya Elgart** - who has been involved with our club since 2000. Zhenya has given 25-years of consecutive service as both a player and Committee member and administrator, and is now a deserved Life Member.



Senior Best & Fairest Daniel Sacks

Looking Ahead

The club aims to re-introduce a Thirds side in 2025

Nick Radecki
Head Coach

2 YRS



9 WINS
for the 2024 season

18 YRS



18 consecutive years in the Men's State League 2 (a Football VIC record!)

FINAL MATCH



Past players gathered to witness the Club defeat Mooroolbark

Maccabi Golf Club

The events of October 7 made 2024 a challenging time, yet it also inspired unity within our community, seen clearly in Maccabi Golf and other sporting clubs.

Our core events, the Singles and Pairs Match Play, remained as popular as ever. These competitions continued to draw enthusiastic participation, highlighting their importance in our club's calendar. This year, we proudly hosted a capacity field for the Victorian Jewish Champs, our premier event.

Additionally, we saw notable growth in two newer events:

- **Intergenerational Event:** This initiative allowed family members across generations to play together. It was a heartening sight to see families with up to three generations represented.
- **Teams Event:** Jewish golfers from various clubs across Melbourne competed through a qualifying period, culminating in a grand final held at Cranbourne, offering fantastic prizes.

We are grateful for the generous support of Cranbourne Country Club as a major partner. Their assistance in providing prizes and subsidies has greatly contributed to our club's growth and member engagement.

Our focus on developing the Club's future is evident through the success of our under-50s program, "**Next Gen.**" It has been encouraging to see a steady increase in participation from this group, which represents the future backbone of Maccabi Golf.

The future is bright with the upcoming move to Huntingdale, which will become the new home of Jewish golf. We look forward to huge growth in the years ahead with increasing linkage to the Country Club in expanding our reach to all golfers including juniors and women.

Highlight Events

Next Gen



In the Works...

Upcoming move to Huntingdale:
New home for Jewish golf



Maccabi Hockey Club



2024 was a good season on and off the pitch; our standout team was the Under 14's who finished third on the ladder but unfortunately lost in the semi final.

The 2024 season was more successful for our women's and men's seconds who both finished mid-table, our firsts experienced a difficult season in their first season of Vic League 3 but held their own in a number of games and will benefit from this experience.

Coaching

We welcomed a new coach **Troy Williamson** for the men's teams and this saw an increase in training attendance that was really good throughout the season and the players' development was evident. We also welcomed back past club player **Andrew Mote** who assisted with coaching our women's team on a Thursday night.

We again had record numbers of senior registered players this season and hopefully we can build on this strong position. The home game fixturing was a lot more favourable this season and we enjoyed a number of back-to-back club games and BBQ's at Elwood which were well-supported.

Our past players David Sonnenberg and Norman Same were both selected for their respective age group Victorian state teams.

The club is focused on getting increased participation in our junior and women's teams and we would like to encourage everyone to please assist us by helping spread the word and bringing down siblings, friends, cousins and grandchildren.



Stand out team

U14's finished third on the ladder



Maccabi Victoria Volunteer of the Year Award received by Maccabi Hockey's Joel Fink.



Maccabi Ajax Lawn Bowls Club

Maccabi Ajax Lawn Bowls Club (MALB) has enjoyed an exciting year, celebrating both competitive achievements and community connections that define our Club.

MAI Lawn Bowls Carnival

In August, the 22nd Australian MAI Lawn Bowls Carnival transformed Mermaid Beach Bowls Club into a bustling hub of competition, with bowlers from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia joining the event. Victoria made a strong showing, clinching gold in both pairs and triples. In the pairs final, **Jan Kamien** and **Shelley Beder** narrowly defeated **Gary Lasky** and **Rob Steinhardt** in a gripping 13-12 finish. The triples final brought more excitement, with **David Kinston**'s last bowl securing a thrilling win for his team. Victoria's teams also secured both the men's and women's shields, with the women's team marking their third consecutive shield victory. The carnival concluded with the Warren Zine memorial ceremony, a heartfelt tradition.

Faiman Prager Inter Shule Tournament

October saw the 33rd annual Faiman Prager Inter Shule tournament, an event that has grown from its orthodox roots in 1985 to embrace all shules. Sixty-four players from nine shules competed in three seven-end games, with Blake Street Shule emerging victorious, thanks to the efforts of **Roy Wittert**, **Michael Sher**, **Barry Rimer**, and **Rolf Levy**.

Volunteer Recognition

The Club proudly acknowledged **Lothar Prager** for his three-decade tenure as treasurer. His unwavering dedication and financial expertise have been invaluable to MALB's stability and growth.



Lothar Prager

VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION:
THREE-DECADE
TENURE AS
TREASURER



Maccabi Ajax Netball Club

2024 saw another year of significant growth in participants especially in the juniors for the Maccabi Ajax Netball Club.

7 U11 teams play at Kingston & District Netball Association (KDNA) in a non-finals based competition. The club couldn't be prouder of **Charlie Blackstone, Tali Golvan, Maddy Jacobs, Jasmin Lipsitz** and **Jazzy Leigh** for being selected for the KDNA rep program. A special thanks to our committee member **Sam Blackstone**, for her role as KDNA coordinator.



Sam Blackstone

Over at Caulfield & District Netball Association (CDNA), 17 teams played across the U13, U15 and U18 age group with 5 teams qualifying for the Autumn season finals. The U13 Eagles progressed to the Grand final but unfortunately didn't get the win. **Summer Klinger, Rachel Naphtali, Gisele Berman** and **Lara Dodge** were all selected for the CDNA rep program and **India Steiner** for Stonnington Netball Association.

The senior club, run by **Carrie Kausman** is still rebuilding after the participant levels dropped following the Covid years. In the Autumn season, 7 teams played across Waverley Night Netball Association and Stonnington Netball Association. Congratulations to the Diamonds, Gems and Rubies for all making finals. Carrie has also worked tirelessly to improve the transition of players from the junior club into the senior club with more players participating in both divisions of the club.

Highlights

The junior club ran its first ever **Father's Day training**. It was wonderful to see so many dads come down and proudly wear the netball bib. The players especially loved seeing their dads exhausted at the end!

MANC entered its first ever senior mixed netball team. Although the boys were initially out of their depth, they quickly adapted to the netball rules and showed great skill and determination throughout the season. They also managed a few laughs!

Sponsors

A huge thanks to our sponsors:

- Slomoi Immerman Partners (Chartered Accountants & Advisors)
- The Joint Physiotherapy
- PaperKrane
- Bluegum
- P2P Planned 2 Perfection Events

Volunteer Recognition

Maccabi Volunteer of the Year award went to **Chantel Klein**. Chantel has always offered her services as a coach to both the junior and senior club and her dedication to the MANC over the years made her a worthy recipient of the award.



220 JUNIORS
60 SENIORS
31 TEAMS

25 COACHES
6 ASSISTANTS



VOLUNTEERS:

- COMMITTEE OF 9
- 4 PARENT COACH VOLUNTEERS
- 2 PARENT MENTOR COACHES
- 24 TEAM MANAGERS

Father's Day Training



AJAX Ski Club

Early Closure

The 2024 ski season was marred by poor snow cover. Despite the early start and the extremely cold weather in July, Mt Buller ski management was not able to access water to make snow. This impacted the rest of the season with limited snow fall in August and September.

Despite the challenging conditions, the club held two fantastic events.

The Australian Maccabi Jewish Snowsports Championship on 29 July at Mt Buller. We had the biggest field in many years with 101 skiers and boarders competing. There were some very close races. Two perpetual trophies were awarded for the most outstanding performance by a female and male racer. The Debbie Grace Memorial Award to the most outstanding female skier across the competition was awarded to Tali Small who improved her time between runs by almost ten seconds. The Ajax Ski Club Founders' Award was won by Finn Rogers, who had the biggest winning margin in his division in the competition.

Events

We held the **club weekend and club championship** the following weekend. It was a brilliant event, with 50 club members racing. Sam Rath was crowned the open female champion and Ben Rogers the open male champion. The lodge was at capacity with members enjoying great food and company.

Unfortunately, we had to end the season at the end of August as the lack of snow forced the lift company to close the mountain a month early.

Onwards and Upwards

Since 2023, 26 new members joining the club. This has led to a dramatic generational change with many young families and young adults replacing older members.



Tali Small

DEBBIE GRACE MEMORIAL AWARD

**AUSTRALIAN
MACCABI JEWISH
SNOWSPORTS
CHAMPIONSHIP**

101 
SKIERS

Early closure of Mt Buller in August due to lack of snow.



Maccabi Snooker Club

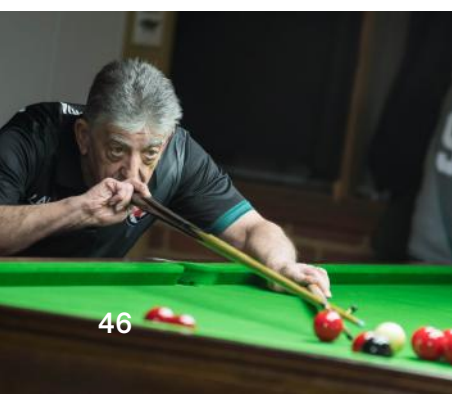
Snooker is more than just a game; it brings people together and builds a strong community. The 2024 snooker season at Hampton RSL has shown how teamwork, dedication, and community support can lead to great achievements.

2023 marked the grand reopening of the Maccabi Billiard and Snooker Rooms at Hampton RSL. Since then, Hampton RSL has invested in maintaining and upgrading the four full-size snooker tables which is a key factor in our success. Having access to high-quality tables allows players to practice and improve their skills regularly. This investment shows that the club values Maccabi Snooker Club and is committed to providing the best possible environment for us.

For the first time in our club's history, we entered a team into the RSL Billiards & Snooker Association season. The strong performance of the team highlights the hard work and talent present within the group.

Competing in the RSL Billiards and Snooker Association, the team started the season with a clear goal in mind. Finishing fourth in the regular season was no small feat, especially considering the fierce competition. The team was made up of **Lenny Winestone** (Capt) and **Adam Beitner**, supported by **Adam Lewis, Barry Rabin, Victor Hochberg, Maurice Chilton** and **Mark Parker**. Their determination and focus set a high standard for the rest of the players and inspired everyone involved. The team then went on to win the grand final in the Bayside division.

At the conclusion of our 33rd year, we look forward to more individual and team success in years to come.



Rina Beitner
Rina is 1 of 4
women in the
club



Maccabi Squash Club

The Big Move

Maccabi Squash is thrilled to announce that we officially have a new home at **Moorabbin Squash (Squash Melbourne)**. This move marks a significant milestone for the Club as we transition from our previous temporary base at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) to a dedicated squash venue closer to home. This new location offers our members access to world-class squash facilities, perfect for both matches and training.

The journey to find a permanent home for Maccabi Squash has been long and challenging. After losing our courts on Hawthorn Rd many years ago, we found ourselves ‘wandering the desert’ in search of a new base. In 2021, MSAC graciously provided us with a temporary home, and we are deeply thankful for their support during this period. However, nothing compares to the advantages of a dedicated squash venue. Moorabbin Squash offers top-tier facilities that will significantly benefit our members, providing the ideal environment for the sport.

Training & Season

We’ve fine-tuned our training schedule and found that Monday nights work best for our members. Starting this season, Maccabi will have exclusive access to 3 or 4 courts every Monday night from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Moorabbin Squash. Whether you’re interested in social games or serious training for competitions, our dedicated coaches **John Gould** and **Anthony Hain** will be there to guide you.



Highlights from Last Season

Last season was a positive one for Maccabi Squash. Both teams performed admirably, with the C reserve team showing significant improvement, even though they didn’t make it to the finals. Our C team finished at the top of the ladder but fell just one game short of the Grand Final. Despite the near miss, the team’s performance was commendable, and we look forward to building on this success in the upcoming season.

Introducing Our New Racquetball Team

In addition to our new home, Maccabi Squash is excited to announce the addition of a world-class racquetball team. This idea was initially suggested by **Anthony Hain**, and what started as an interesting concept has now grown into a team competing in the top division.

For those unfamiliar with racquetball, the sport is similar to squash but with a few key differences. Players use a larger ball and racquets with shorter handles, and the rules allow the ball to bounce off the ceiling as well as the walls. This fast-paced game is engaging and accessible, making it a great addition to our club.

Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club

The Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club has had another active year of operations with Maccabi Aquatics as its provider of swimming programs. The expanded swimming opportunities have been well received.

Under the leadership of Head Coach **Adrian Hepfer** and her coaching team, around 25 Club swimmers engaged in a range of Regional and State swimming meets throughout the season, with a number of swimmers achieving State qualifying times.

Juniors & Master

The Junior training arm boasted around **90 active participants**, classified across **5 specialised squads** ranging from Junior to State level. Our Junior swimming group saw a decline in swimmers in the past year owing to a cohort at end of their school studies withdrawing but squad numbers and the performance of swimmers at the younger end of our squad program are extremely promising with a number achieving State qualifying times.

At Masters level, the Club had an expanded offering this past season of squad training in the Gringlas Sports Centre pool at Bialik College. On a less formal basis there is also a small group of open water swimmers who meet at various locations to swim year-round in the bay.

Feedback & Looking Ahead

With encouragement from our Masters' group we undertook a detailed survey to understand how we can continue to enhance our offering to Members. We intend to undertake surveys annually to track progress.

Together with Maccabi Aquatics we are looking at ways to continue strengthening our squad program and the number of swimmers who actively compete for the Club.



**90 CLUB
SWIMMERS
COMPETING
ACROSS 5
CATEGORIES**

Maccabi Table Tennis Club

Coaching & Games

Maccabi offers professional coaching sessions with 4-5 coaches on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm-7pm, followed by social and teams competitions from 7pm-9pm for all levels and ages including juniors. The venue is Phoenix Park, 22-26 Rob Roy Road, Malvern East. Maccabi teams play competition every Wednesday evening from 7pm at MSAC with teams competing at all levels.

Looking Forward

The plan for the upcoming year involves Maccabi Table Tennis working towards establishing a dedicated home for their activities, expanding their membership base, and reviving their junior program.

They aim to participate in various team competitions across multiple Table Tennis venues.

Season Report

The Maccabi Division 1 team of **David Segal** and **Brian Tesler** were undefeated all season and entered the Grand Final as hot favourites. Brian lost the first rubber, David won his match and then Maccabi lost the doubles. Maccabi were down 2-1 with David Segal the leading player for the Division playing against his arch rival. David was down 2 championship points but somehow managed to pull off an incredible victory 13-11 in the last set. It was now 2-2 in matches with Brian Tesler playing a higher rated player to win the whole Division. Brian played the best match of his career to win the match and the whole Division for Maccabi.

The Maccabi Division 3 team of **Dean Frankel**, **Mark Levin** and **Darren Breitenfeld** somehow managed to pull off the impossible and make the Division 3 Grand Final. The team was bottom of the ladder with 5 rounds remaining and won every match to make the Semi-Finals. In the Semi Final, all 3 players played exceptionally well and won against a higher ranked opponent 5-0. In the Grand Final, Maccabi played the top ranked team all season and the task was too much with Maccabi losing 5-1. Overall an outstanding effort to reach the Grand Final and come runners up.

ESTABLISHED 1980
30 MEMBERS
5 COACHES
5 VOLUNTEERS





Maccabi Tennis Club

2024 has been a standout year for Maccabi Tennis Club. All five senior teams qualified for finals in the Bayside Summer 2023/24 competition. It was also a highly successful season for our junior teams, six of eight Saturday teams qualified for finals and two of three Sunday teams qualified for finals. Four of eleven Maccabi teams made it through to the Grand Final and three of these teams won their Grand Finals. Kol Hakavod!

On 17 March, almost **300 people** were in attendance to celebrate 100 years of community tennis for Maccabi Tennis Club - the oldest continuous Jewish sports club in the Maccabi Australia organisation. A warm and sunny day greeted all attendees, befitting for the occasion. An exhibition match was played between six-time Club Champion and former Federal Treasurer, **Josh Frydenberg**, and 2023 Club Champion, James Oklander. The tennis courts were a hive of activity and pop-up pickleball courts also created a buzz. There was a carnival atmosphere as past players reconnected and reminisced, while families revelled in the festivities. A centenary plaque was generously presented by Tennis Victoria to mark this milestone. The event was originally supposed to be held in October 2023 but had to be postponed at short notice due to the October 7 tragedy.

Lastly the cherry on top - In August, the club earned the prestigious title of **Tennis Victoria Affiliate Club of the Month**.

Looking Ahead

In 2025, we look forward to renewing our lease with Glen Eira Council, which will provide us with the security of tenure to invest in our facility by resurfacing courts and increasing the number of courts with lights.

147 MEMBERS
72 JUNIOR
95 SENIOR (18+)
3 COACHES
6 VOLUNTEERS



CENTENARY
CELEBRATION

300
ATTENDEES



Maccabi Toastmasters Club

Celebrations

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organisation that builds confidence and teaches public speaking skills through a worldwide network of clubs.

In December 2023, Maccabi Toastmasters marked its **20th anniversary** by inviting along past members to a special event, including some original members from when the club was founded. The event included some entertaining short speeches on the theme of '20 years'.



4 CLUB CONTESTS

- INTERNATIONAL
- TABLE TOPICS
- EVALUATION
- HUMOROUS

2024 also marks a special anniversary for Toastmasters International, celebrating 100 years since the foundation of Toastmasters. In October 1924 Dr. Ralph C. Smedley hosted the very first Toastmasters meeting in Santa Ana, California. Since then Toastmasters became a worldwide phenomenon, with an annual World championship speaking competition and over 200,000 members worldwide.

Events

Recently, our club successfully held four annual club contests: International, Table Topics, Evaluation and Humorous. The 1st and 2nd placegetters of each contest will continue on to the Area contests held early 2025.

Our club continues to meet regularly; every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. It has been a pleasure to see new members join, share their stories, and grow in confidence at public speaking.

Maccabi Ajax Water Polo Club

In 2024, the Maccabi Ajax Water Polo Club continued its regular routine, dedicating **38 weeks** of the year to training and playing approximately **30 matches**.

As a small club, they have a tight-knit community but are always open to welcoming new members. They're keen on introducing more people to the sport, and to that end, they offer anyone the chance to try out water polo without any fees.

Regular training takes place every Monday at Bialik College. Then, the action shifts to game mode on Thursdays with the club competing in the Victorian Water Polo Inc – State Championships.



ESTABLISHED 1986
11 MEMBERS
1 COACH
6 VOLUNTEERS
30 GAMES PLAYED

Clubs on Pause

Please note the Maccabi Victoria **Cycling** and **Tenpin Bowling** Clubs are currently on hold. Keep an eye out for future activities and reach out if you would like to get involved.



Thank You

GOVERNMENT

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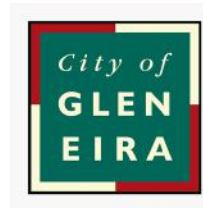
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**23 MACCABI SPORTS CLUBS
3000+ MEMBERS**



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 +61 3 9563 5885

 enquiries.vic@maccabi.com.au

 <https://www.maccabi.com.au/vic>

 1/115 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield, Victoria, 3161