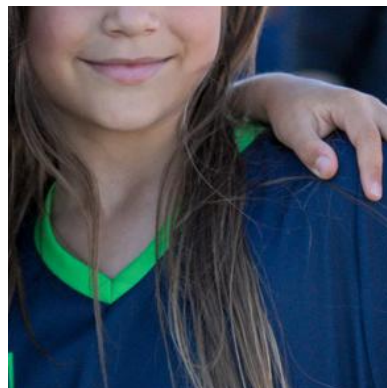
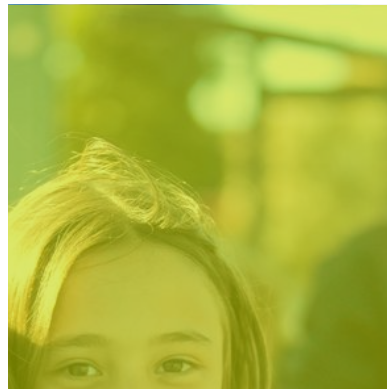
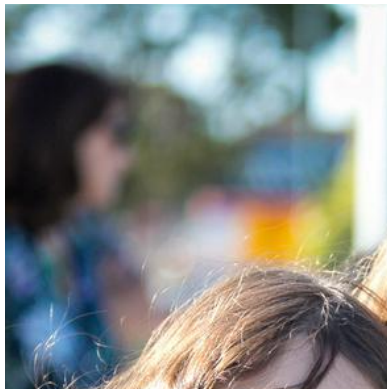




# Maccabi Victoria

# 2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

*Connecting our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing*



Explore More



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# Our People

## The Maccabi VIC Board

CO-PRESIDENT | Dean Mohr  
CO-PRESIDENT | Sharon Roseman  
VICE PRESIDENT | Caryn Kave  
SECRETARY | Karen Fink  
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 Court  
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  
Leon Haskin  
Basil Isaacs (dec)  
Claire Isaacs  
Russell Jaffe  
Ernest A Joseph OBE (dec)  
Brian Kino  
Nita Kino  
Mark Klapish  
Joe Krampel AM  
Marcia Krampel  
Hans Licht (dec)  
Sam Parasol OAM  
Harry Procel OAM  
Michael Same  
Philip Sheezel  
Ben Sternfeld OAM  
Herb Swedosh (dec)  
Brian Swersky  
Alan Synman OAM  
Joe Zivin (dec)

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.





## Maccabi Victoria Office Staff

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

## Honorary Solicitor

TISHER LINER FC LAW | Simon Abraham

## Auditor

POSTAN, MILLER AND ASSOCIATES | Nicky Postan and Hilton Miller

## Key Programs, Initiatives & Projects

Maccabi Victoria All Abilities  
Maccabi Proud Annual Giving Day  
Maccabi Aquatics  
Maccabi Archives Project  
Club Development Funds  
Friends of Maccabi  
Maccabi Victoria Hall of Fame  
Henry Jolson Pathways Program  
Junior Carnival  
Maccabi LIFE  
Integrity / Member Protection Policy (MPP)  
Maccabi Volunteer and Sports Awards  
Maccabi Victoria Mega Camp



# Message from David Southwick MP

Maccabi not only enhances our community through sport but connects our community for life. No matter what school you attend, what shule you frequent or what age you join, lifetime friendships and bonds are formed through involvement with Maccabi.

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

Being part of setting up the community’s “Social Inclusion Leadership Committee” some 9 years ago, it is rewarding and exciting to see Maccabi All Abilities going from strength to strength with already 40 events of regular programming, social opportunities, and new sports.

Social inclusion within our community of all people of all abilities and gender, is a principal to be embraced by our community, and Maccabi Victoria is leading the way.

I look forward to continuing my close working relationship with the Co-Presidents and Board of Maccabi Victoria on issues that are important to Maccabi and the community, such as more open space for sporting grounds in the electorate, and facilities for women’s sports.

As a proud supporter of Maccabi Victoria, I look forward to once again gathering with you to support Maccabi teams across Victoria in 2024.

Mazal Tov on a successful 2023 and wishing you a happy, healthy and action-packed 2024.

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](mailto:david.southwick@parliament.vic.gov.au).



**David Southwick MP**

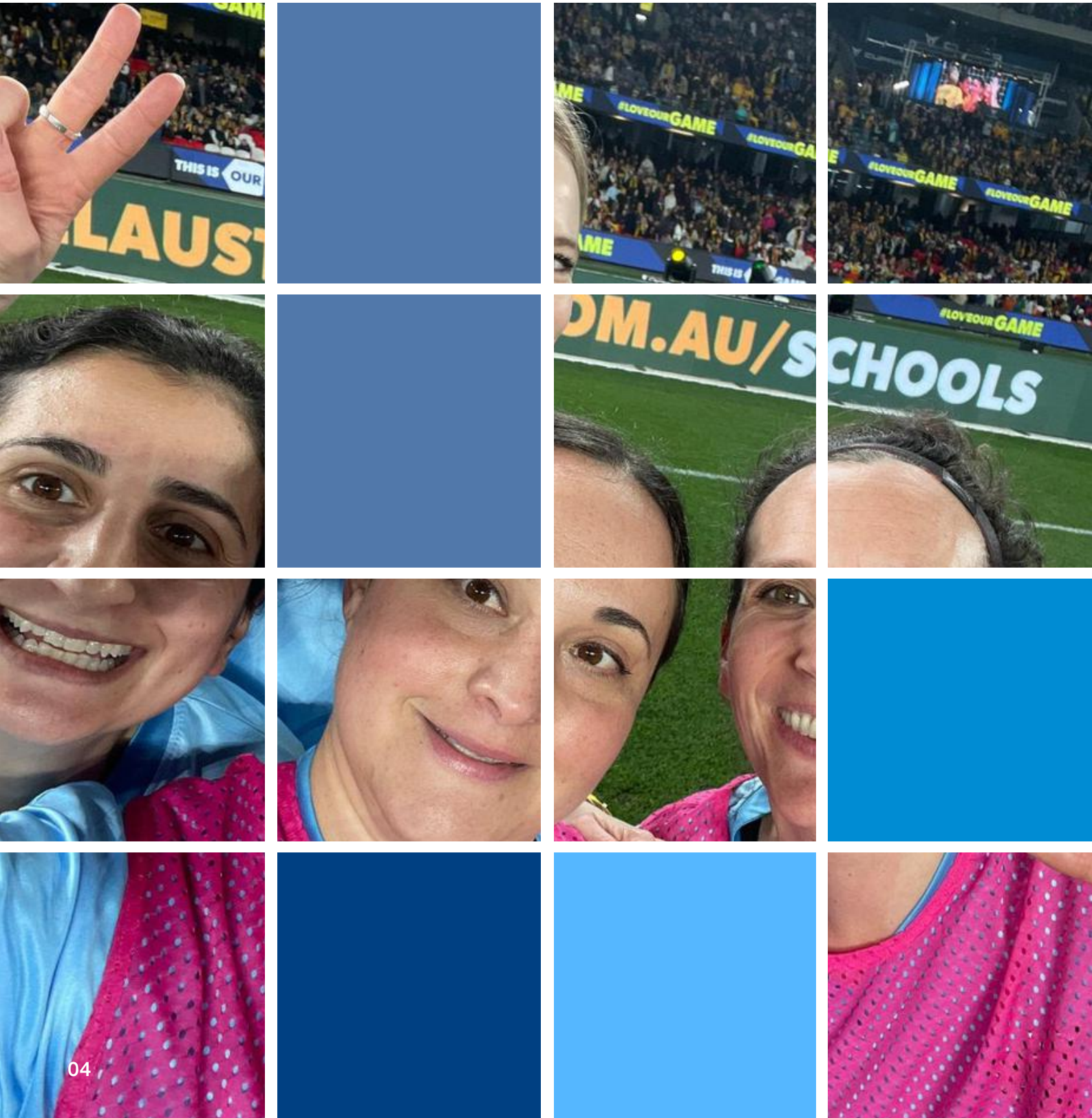
Member for Caulfield  
Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party





# Executives' Reports

Leading with purpose our Executives' Reports underscore our vision, commitment and strides made this year.





# Co-Presidents' Report

A year into our Presidency and there has been so much to celebrate at Maccabi Victoria. As we compile this report, our thoughts are with the State of Israel; our brothers and sisters abroad who have suffered and continue to feel pain whilst Israel defends its right for existence.

We understand our responsibilities and Maccabi is as committed as ever to connect our Jewish Athletes through sport and wellbeing and strengthen our community. We know that in doing so, it creates lifelong friendships, builds resilience in our children, and creates leaders in our community. In 2023, club participation levels are at record numbers, programs are thriving, and we have Jewish athletes succeeding on both the national and international stage, and inspiring the generations to come.

At the inner sanctum of Maccabi Victoria, we live and breathe the pivotal role this organisation plays and feel immense pride in supporting every club, volunteer and athlete across the state. To do this, our staff, Board, and committees are focused on both short-term initiatives that have immediate impact, and long term goals to ensure that Maccabi continues to play its pivotal role in our community. We see ourselves as the engine; not the glitz and glamour of winning premierships or titles, but the critical component that ensures our 23 clubs unite, can function, and can continue to provide important connections within the community. Today, more than ever, we are united as one with a strong focus on safety and wellbeing for our athletes and ensuring our sporting community can continue to participate and thrive in these challenging times.



*"Our goal is that, for decades to come, people will continue to share their stories of what playing for Maccabi meant to them."*

Our goal is that, for decades to come, people will continue to share their stories of what playing for Maccabi meant to them. Maccabi is truly at the centre of our Jewish community and we don't underestimate our responsibilities nor take for granted what a pivotal role we play.





There are many things we are proud of in our first year as Co-Presidents. We have made changes to how we operate and communicate, and have returned to a stronger grassroots focus for our clubs and athletes. These changes were possible, thanks to a reenergised Board that is engaged and strategically aligned.

**Refreshing changes to the Board**

As newly appointed Co-Presidents, we are strong believers that there are many people in the community who can provide a valuable contribution to Maccabi Victoria and as such, the Maccabi Victoria Board has a new look and feel. At our 2022 AGM, we welcomed **Karen Fink**, **Belle Goldman** and **Ilan Kraus** to the Board, and in 2023, **Jeremy Lustig** and **Simon Swarcz** stepped into their roles as Treasurer and Chairman respectively. We are also grateful for the continued commitment of **Caryn Kave** and **Sheiny New**. This year, **Jonah Wise** has stepped down from the Board, and we would like to express our gratitude for his dedication and service during the past few years.

Together with our Board members, we are focused on strengthening our club relationships and providing the integral support our club volunteers need.

**Maccabi Office**

We are confident in saying that Maccabi’s operational staff have never felt better connected to our clubs, and as united in their approach to supporting our community. With Shari Cohen as our GM, the office culture is one that fosters openness, positivity and a can-do attitude toward every task. We celebrated many moments this year including R U OK Day where we emphasised the importance of providing a psychologically safe work environment for our team to thrive within. This year we also welcomed Jenny Schulman to the team.

Thank you, **Shari Cohen**, **Jenny Schulman**, **Martin Jona**, **Kate Lustig**, **Ruth Clare** and **Simone Grinberg** and our marketing guru **Daniella Levin**, for your ongoing contribution and the daily support you are providing to our community.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

*In 2023, Jeremy Lustig and Simon Swarcz stepped into their roles as Treasurer and Chairman respectively*







### Carnival 2023 and 2024

After a hugely successful Maccabiah Games in 2022, it left Maccabi Victoria at a disadvantage in its campaign to support Maccabi Australia's delivery of Carnival in January 2023. We encountered various challenges, including families experiencing their first uninterrupted summer since the COVID pandemic (taking the opportunity to go on vacation). Consequently, there was a decrease in the number of available participants and youth leaders. This had a nationwide impact, with a substantial reduction in numbers from other states.

Despite this, with the commitment of thousands of hours of work from the office, Carnival manager **Tali Friede**, a handful of dedicated youth leaders, and numerous parent volunteers, we successfully pulled it off and the Carnival brand lived up to its reputation of connecting children from around the country for a week of sport, fun, and friendship. Our sincere thanks to Bialik for their genuine help and support. Our ongoing cooperation to maximise the use of community facilities is a precedent for other community organisations.

Furthermore, thank you to Carnival Patron **Cr. Sam Parasol OAM** for his support and dedication to Maccabi.

### CARNIVAL IS BACK AND IT'S GOING TO BE HUGE – Sydney 2024

2024 is shaping up to be the best Carnival in decades. With only a few months to go, there are record numbers of registrations – both from Victoria and nationally – and we are all preparing for an event to be remembered.



### Maccabi Hardship Relief Fund

In these tough economic times, Maccabi Victoria, the Maccabi Foundation, and our major donors are extremely proud to be able to support our families in need. Our goal is to ensure that every Jewish athlete that wants to play sport amongst their peers will have the opportunity, and we can see a growing need in the community for this support. On a weekly basis, our committee receive requests and in 2023, Maccabi Victoria gave over \$17,478 of support to 58 families to participate in 6 Maccabi Victoria Clubs and Junior Carnival. This financial year to date we have provided \$3,317 in support to 15 families.

### Giving Day:

Our planned annual giving day was on track to occur in late October until the atrocities in Israel unfolded. Whilst it is pivotal to this organisation, as we rely on the generosity of our community, there was an immediate move to reschedule it, and instead direct our loyal donors to supporting Kfar Maccabiah, which is housing displaced Israeli families.



### **Maccabi Aquatics:**

Last year **Brian Swersky**, our outgoing President, spoke of the success of launching the Maccabi Aquatics initiative and of future profits to Maccabi Victoria. What a success it has been! We are proud to share that Maccabi Aquatics made a profit of \$288,948 in FY '23 and the Maccabi Foundation received a distribution of \$100,000. Operationally, our programs are growing and participation numbers across 'Learn to Swim' and squad levels have exceeded 860 individual swimmers. Added to this, we provided 6 schools (approx. 1800 students) with a range of curriculum programs during the year.

It is anticipated that this year numbers will continue to grow and the partnership between Maccabi and Bialik will remain strong.

Thank you to **Michelle Whytcross** (Head of Aquatics), **Barry Carp** (Chairman) and the Maccabi Aquatics Board, Bialik College, and to all the sponsors whose commitment to Maccabi Aquatics has also facilitated the rebirth of the Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club.

### **Maccabi One Property Committee:**

The purpose of the Maccabi One Property Committee is to remain focused on finding homes for all Maccabi Victoria clubs and to focus on the future needs of our organisation. **Tim Bursztyn** leads the committee and over the past year, there have been ongoing discussions with Bialik College, Mount Scopus College, and the Caulfield Racecourse Trust.

- Bialik College – Maccabi Victoria's relationship with Bialik is moving from strength to strength, and together they are discussing ways to expand on the Maccabi Aquatics venture and create new opportunities for other clubs. Discussions are underway around additional spaces in the Sports Centre which could potentially house other Maccabi clubs such as Table Tennis.
- Mount Scopus – We remain committed and connected to the Mount Scopus opportunity in Caulfield, and the Committee and the Maccabi Foundation continue to remain in touch with the College Foundation.
- Caulfield Racecourse Trust – This opportunity is fast developing, and we have been shortlisted to be involved in the redevelopment of the land. In recent times, we have been requested to submit our requirements and we believe further discussions are imminent.

The next decade looks promising, and our intention is to create long term future homes for our clubs to continue to thrive.

### **Archive Project:**

**Yvonne Fayman, Russell Jaffe**, and a dedicated team of volunteers this year continued to work to archive Maccabi's history. At this point, the project is on hold due to the current facility being too small to cater for the volume of materials. Maccabi Victoria are seeking a larger pro bono space for the records to be stored and displayed.

### **Henry Jolson Pathways Program:**

The school engagement aspect of this program continues to evolve under the guidance of **Martin Jona**. We now provide sporting programs and skills coaching to almost all the Jewish schools, including several orthodox schools.



In 2022-2023, over 490 hours of programs were run at 6 schools, introducing over 566 young people to Maccabi clubs and coaches in sports including AFL, athletics, basketball, cricket, futsal, golf, hockey, lawn bowls, netball, soccer and volleyball.

In September this year, Maccabi Victoria was awarded a government grant for \$58,000. This grant is going to allow the expansion of the Interfaith and Multicultural program, and in 2024, the plan is for Maccabi and Indigenous teams to compete in several other sports.

Due to the War in Israel, there are not currently any discussions occurring regarding the Jolson Houli Cup. Maccabi are committed to running interfaith and multicultural programs, and we hope there is a future where Muslim and Jews can stand together, hand in hand, to celebrate peace through sport in this country.

We thank the **Jolson Family** for their ongoing support and believe that the late **Henry Jolson QC OAM** would be very proud of the work being done.

### All Abilities

Maccabi All Abilities has had a busy year with regular programming, competitive sports, and social opportunities. Programs of basketball, cricket and swimming continued with enthusiasm. A notable highlight was the formation of an All-Abilities Football team, which joined the FIDA league. Despite a slow start, the team improved and just narrowly missed the finals. The team celebrated each match with a BBQ and were supported by the Ajax club members, fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging.

Furthermore, It has been incredible to see inclusion become such a popular theme among many of our clubs, with Maccabi Aquatics and Maccabi FC Caulfield introducing All Abilities programs of their own. We would like to thank **Kate Lustig**, our All Abilities Program Officer, for her ongoing support and care in delivering this outstanding program to our community.

### Centralised Services

We have long recognised the incredible burden on Club committees and volunteers in managing their clubs. As the clubs grow, the need for additional support is becoming essential. Maccabi has developed a centralised service model where the clubs can lean on the Mac Vic office for support across a variety of services.

These include, but are not limited to, registrations, enquiries, finance, coach admin, and more. In 2023, Maccabi Victoria subsidised over 1,900 hours for clubs, including basketball, soccer, and golf. In the coming months and years, this service will expand and continue to ease the burden on club volunteers.

### Maccabi Victoria Awards and Recognition

Presidents' Award: **Paul Fleiszig** – Leading Maccabi Ajax Ski Club and Maccabi Ajax Water Polo Club.

Lenny Bogatin Award for Outstanding Service: **Darren Krawitz** – Elevating the Hockey Club.

Jacque Lerner Maccabi Next Gen Volunteer Award: **Justin Fulop** – Reviving the Maccabi Squash Club.

We also honour **Brian Swersky**, our immediate past president, with life membership at our 2023 AGM, recognising his unwavering commitment to Maccabi Victoria and our values.



### Maccabi Foundation

Chaired by **Dale Smorgon**, the Foundation Board continues to support Maccabi Victoria financially. We are privileged to have the ongoing support and guidance provided by Dale and his Board and we value this relationship tremendously. A special mention to **Michael Same** and **Alan Synman** who provide additional support to our finance team and Maccabi One Committee.

### Maccabi Australia

Maccabi Victoria continues to hold a seat at the board table of Maccabi Australia and is very proud of the work being done at a national level. Maccabi Australia led the way with Carnival amongst many other programs and under the leadership of President **Jeff Sher**, no stone is left unturned and our presence on the global Maccabi scene is strong and well-respected.

We want to thank Jeff for his commitment to the Maccabi brand and time and attention he paid to the organisation in his role as President for the past 6 years. Jeff’s impact will be felt for a long time and Maccabi will forever be grateful.

### Our Sporting Heroes

Maccabi Victoria acknowledges and congratulates the following athletes on their national and international sporting success:

- **Jemima Montag**
- **Harry Sheezel**
- **Josh Levy**
- **Alexandra Kiroi-Bogatyreva**

To the Foundation, the Maccabi Victoria and the MAI Board, all the clubs, and volunteers: THANK YOU! Nothing happens without each of us playing our part.



We would like to express our deep appreciation once again to our valued supporters and donors. Your generosity has enabled us to thrive. **Lowe Lippmann, Gandel Philanthropy, Bensons, JR Group, Central Equity, Gurner, Gary Peer, Bendigo Bank**, and many others — your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, we’d like to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to affiliated and other community organisations including **JCCV, Zionism Victoria, Jewish Care, Hatzolah, Access Inc., NCJWA, AJFN, Flying Fox, CSG**, and **Bialik College**.



## Dean Mohr & Sharon Roseman

Co-Presidents - Maccabi Victoria

# Treasurer's Report

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's report for Maccabi Victoria ("Mac Vic") for the period **ending 30 June 2023**. As the Treasurer, it is my duty to provide a transparent overview of our financial activities and status.

The financial statements reflect an operating deficit of **\$57,724**. This is a **\$5,609** improvement compared to the prior year. The key operating financial activity for the year included; (i) after a 3 year relief period the affiliation fees from our clubs were reinstated; (ii) Maccabi Victoria increased the centralised services delivered to our clubs, a program which we intend to continue to grow in the future; (iii) funding was received from Maccabi Australia for the assistance provided for the large administrative role taken by Mac Vic in organising Junior Carnival; and (iv) the launching of the holiday program which continues to generate additional revenues.

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

Our financial health remains strong, with cash reserves of **\$52,091** in our accounts. This balance ensures that we have the necessary resources to maintain our programs.

The financials for the All Abilities, Henry Jolson Pathways and Women in Sport programs are included in the Maccabi Victoria Financial Statement.

All programs are funded primarily through grants from the Maccabi Foundation, private donors and grants including those from the State Government of Victoria. We thank the generous supporters who donate to make these programs possible.

I've received outstanding support in my role as treasurer by a number of people including the Mac Vic office team, in particular **Ruth Clare** (Finance Manager) and **Shari Cohen** (General Manager). Additionally, I want to acknowledge the support of the Maccabi Foundation, especially treasurer **Michael Same** who has been a great mentor to me.

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

Lastly, 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



# Maccabi Australia President's Report

The last 12 months were marked by the extraordinary value that our volunteers bring to Maccabi across Australia.

Due to the amazing resolve, resilience and determination of the hundreds of volunteers who make Maccabi Proud, Maccabi Australia has had a successful year, however one measures it. We could not be more grateful for their tireless efforts (under challenging circumstances) to get us moving again. In tandem with our dedicated staff, they have helped guide Maccabi sport and wellbeing through a challenging period and enabled the organisation to achieve so much this year.

Maccabi Australia, together with our member states and affiliated clubs, exists to promote Jewish identity and continuity – connecting our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing.

We are the largest Jewish grassroots organisation in Australia, with a history that spans 99 years, we have an unenviable reach into the community with over 34% of the Jewish population having had some involvement with the organisation over their lifetime.

Over **34%** of the Jewish population have had some involvement with the organisation over their lifetime.



Years  
**99**



We have evolved a clear and bold vision for sport, this includes active participation and wellbeing in the community and through our club structure as well as the Maccabi LIFE program, we provide more reasons and options for the broader community to engage in a healthy lifestyle.

We continue to be the organisation of first choice for the Australian Jewish Community for sport and wellbeing activities and our future will be created by:

- Using sport to promote social inclusion and cohesion.
- Promoting exercise and regular activity as a positive benefit to both physical and mental wellbeing.
- Creating and supporting programs that will inspire the next generation.
- Advocating and leading the way on relevant health and wellbeing matters.

*“Sport... has shown us the power of community, volunteerism, teamwork and respect - values that have guided us through a return to normality.”*



# 2023 Achievements

This year has been instructional in so many ways. It has taught us how important sport and wellbeing is in our daily lives, especially in a post covid period. It has shown us the need to be nimble, responsive and cohesive in the face of an ever-changing and challenging landscape.

Most importantly, it has shown us the power of community, volunteerism, teamwork and respect - values that have guided us through a return to normality.

**Sports Development** - Since returning from the highly successful Maccabiah Games in July 2022, we have conducted an in-depth review of our operations and have already starting planning for the next Games to be held in 2025. Our senior leadership team has been appointed – **Sam Gamsu** and **Giselle Berlinski** will lead a team of around 160 to the Pan Am Games to be held in Argentina in December 2023 and then a contingent of around 500 to Maccabiah 2025.

Maccabiah 2025  
**+ - 500**

Pan Am Games  
**+ - 160**



At the Maccabi World Union Congress in May 2023 the new logo for Maccabiah 2025 was launched and with it, the announcement of new sports including beach tennis, catchball, mountain bike cycling, motocross, ninja and pickleball – all intended to grow participation and keep the Games fresh and relevant.

Our 42nd Junior carnival will be held in Sydney in January 2024 and at the time of writing this report over 300 kids have registered for what will be a fun-filled program, connecting Jewish youth from around the country.

**Over 300  
registered  
for 2024  
Junior  
Carnival**

**Brand Development** – During the year our brand presence and reach continued to grow through not only social channels but also as a result of direct communication with over 24,000 people on our database. The engagement has been instrumental in promoting all aspects of our vast array of programs which have resonated across a wide demographic. Over 1,600 pieces of communication were sent out and we proudly launched our Maccazine – a lifestyle publication which covers sport, wellbeing and community topics.

**Wellbeing** – The Maccabi LIFE program continues to expand by pioneering health and wellbeing solutions curated to enrich the physical and mental health literacy of the Jewish community. It is unique in that it is the only program that combines Jewish culture and wellbeing.

It offers hundreds of recipes, articles of interest, online exercise programs, wellbeing tools and nutrition advice and it's completely free for the community. It has been rolled out into New Zealand and will play a role in other Jewish communities in Asia.

**Confederation Development** – In agreement with Maccabi World Union we set a new objective this year and that is to expand the Australian Maccabi territory to an Australasian confederation. Whilst the work in this area is only beginning, we have early success in New Zealand – and will be hosting some of their community at our next Carnival. Fruitful conversations are also afoot in India, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan. This will be an exciting phase for us on the world stage.

**Leadership** – Our youth development program is in full swing and there are a passionate group of leaders who have been instrumental in managing Junior Carnival and will continue to play a role in the forthcoming 2024 Carnival. Their involvement at Carnival is a pathway to our Future Leaders program and we are fortunate to have been able to include some outstanding candidates in the Future Leader Forum held in Israel. In addition, a select group will be appointed to be mentored and take their place in the Maccabiah leadership team.



**Maccabi World Union** – A new President was elected at the last Congress – we welcome **Michael Siegal** to the role. He was the Chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors from 2017 to 2022 and received the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honour. After 9 years in the role, **Tom Goldman’s** term as Vice President concluded and he was replaced by **Lisa Borowick**. I want to acknowledge the outstanding contribution Tom Goldman has made as the MWU VP - his guidance and mentorship in Australia has been nothing short of significant. In addition, several Australians were elected to various positions on Maccabi World Union committees including **Sam Gamsu** and **Lauren Ehrlich** – International Sport Committee, **Susannah Swiatlo** – Leadership / education committee, **Sam Strunin** – Marketing and Digital Communication Committee, **Jason Rhine** - Maccabiah IT/ Innovation Committee and **David Michaelson** – Safety and Security Committee. **Jeff Sher** continues in his role as Vice Chairman of MWU. This is testimony to the capability and commitment of our Australian leaders who have been recognised in this way.

**The year ahead** - The year ahead promises significant changes in our sporting landscape. Sportification and gamification are gaining momentum, leading to the emergence of new sports and the gradual decline of some traditional ones. Individual and unstructured activities are on the rise, overshadowing team sports. Technology continues to disrupt, integrating e-games into the broader sporting landscape.

The growth of female sports is evident, with Australian teams excelling in netball, basketball, soccer, and cricket. Sustainability is becoming a focal point as influencers, consumers, and regulators drive change.

At Maccabi Australia, we are constantly looking ahead to remain relevant and meaningful in this evolving landscape. We are confident that we are well-prepared to embrace these changes.

History has shown that by remaining responsive and values-focused, we can confidently pursue our goal of connecting the community through sport and wellbeing. Our efforts will lead to a healthier, happier, and more engaged community



**Jeff Sher**

Maccabi Australia President

*“There is no doubt that our universe will change shape in the forthcoming years as sportification and gamification gather momentum.”*





# Foundation Chairman's Report



It is with immense pride and gratitude that I reflect on the continued development and progress the Maccabi Foundation has made over the past year.

Maccabi's mission has always been to 'connect our community through sport and wellbeing', and I am thrilled to report that we continue to lift the bar in our efforts to deliver the best possible experience for our members and the community at large. As we review the past year's achievements and challenges, we can take great pride in what the entire organisation has accomplished.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our committed donors and passionate supporters. Your unwavering financial support for our clubs and programs has been instrumental in ensuring we have the resources in place to deliver high quality outcomes for all those that participate under the Maccabi banner. Thank you for sharing our vision and for supporting us in all that we do.

As a community organisation that relies substantially on the generous financial support from a broad number of foundations, families and individuals we are cognisant of the importance of developing alternate revenue streams that can lead Maccabi towards financial independence and self-sustainability.

The first example of such an enterprise is 'Maccabi Aquatics'. This innovative joint venture between Bialik College, the Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club, and Maccabi Victoria has become a highly successful model showcasing what true vision and innovation looks like in our community.



Through the hard work of **Clive Aarons**, **Mark Roseman** and their team, Maccabi Aquatics at Bialik have grown their swimming school participant numbers to almost 900 members, and have moved from a start-up business to a thriving, profitable enterprise. In less than 2 years, Maccabi Aquatics has demonstrated the power of true community based partnership, co-operation and social enterprise. The Maccabi Foundation is proud of the role it played in seed funding Maccabi Aquatics, and is actively seeking similar opportunities that can derive future financial benefit to our organisation and wider community.

Throughout 2022/3 the Foundation continued to provide financial support to those clubs, programs and families that required it. Throughout the past 12 months we have provided \$55,985 of financial assistance to clubs via our Victorian Club Development Grants, as well as \$17,478 to 58 families, via our 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. Again, none of this is possible without the generous financial support from our donor base.

In recent months the Foundation also provided funding commitments towards the continued development of our Member Protection and Compliance program. Newly renamed “Integrity and Governance”, and now led by **Jacquie Seemann** (Board Member, MAI), the updated policy framework and resourcing is aimed at ensuring the continued protection and safety of all our members, coaches, staff and volunteers. There is no more critical responsibility that the leadership of our organisation has than to ensure the safety and protection of all those within our Maccabi family.

Looking ahead, we have exciting plans and ambitions for the future. We will continue to support and invest in our national clubs, our vital programs, and provide opportunities for inclusion and participation via our unique and thriving All Abilities Program. The Foundation also continues to work closely with Maccabi Victoria to identify sporting facilities that can further strengthen our place within the Melbourne community; with the ambition of creating a much needed ‘hub’ of sport and wellbeing in Melbourne.

58

Families received financial assistance





**\$55,985**

of financial assistance received by clubs



*“Thanks and deepest gratitude also go to outgoing MAI President, Jeff Sher for his enormous contribution and boundless energy.”*

The tragic events in Israel on October 7th led to the postponement of our Annual Giving Day, and the Foundation’s immediate focus switched to providing financial assistance to those most in need in Israel. Maccabi World Union headquarters, Kfar Maccabiah, was transformed into a refuge for displaced families, and continues to provide up to 1,000 beds, food, clothing and a place of respite for those without homes. Through the efforts of our local community we raised \$110,000 in 72 hours to support this relief effort. Thank you to all those that contributed.

Lastly, I’d like to thank my fellow Directors for their tireless work and commitment to Maccabi. In particular, **Michael Same** in his role as Treasurer, together with outgoing MAI Treasurer, **David Birnbaum** have done a power of work in managing the complexities of our financial and organisational structure. Thanks and deepest gratitude also go to outgoing MAI President, **Jeff Sher** for his enormous contribution and boundless energy. Jeff has invested a phenomenal amount of his personal time in ensuring ‘Maccabi across Australia’ continues to flourish and grow.

The Maccabi Foundation looks forward to another year of success, growth, and to ‘connecting our community through sport and wellbeing’.

Sincerely

**Dale Smorgon**

Foundation Chairman  
Maccabi Victoria



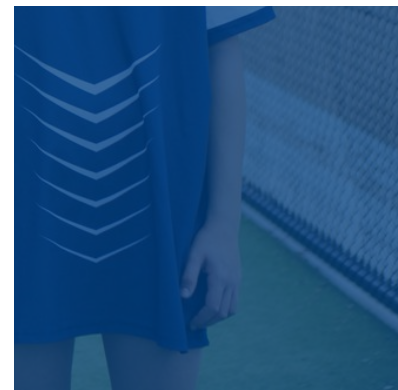


# General Manager's Report

Maccabi Victoria's sporting success comes in many forms. It comes from the *naches* in celebrating the achievements of alumni such as **Jemima Montag** and **Harry Sheezel**; it can be found on the fields and courts with teams claiming hard-earned premierships; and it can be seen in the less-celebrated but no less-important everyday moments of people trying new sports, making new friends, and pushing themselves that little bit further to be better than they were the day before. With that in mind, I can confidently say that 2023 has been a year of success stories of all shapes and sizes.



**3000+**  
Athletes



## We united through sport

2023 saw over 3000 athletes playing sport for Maccabi. Each week the Maccabi Victoria clubs bring together thousands of members of the Jewish community – athletes, family members, supporters, volunteers, coaches, team managers and officials – for their common love of sport. I want to congratulate everyone who has taken to the grounds this year and represented us – whether it was your first season of Auskick or Netball Pups, whether you’ve grown up in Athletics, or whether you’re a soccer stalwart – we’re so proud of you and everything you’ve achieved.

Our All Abilities Program, a staple part of Maccabi Victoria, reached new heights with the Maccabi Ajax All Abilities All Stars competing in the FIDA Football (AFL) League. This was the first time that many of our members had the opportunity to participate in a regular sporting season, the first time Maccabi had a team in the FIDA League, and for some families, the first time they have been able to go and watch their children and friends play competitive sport – something that so many of us take for granted.



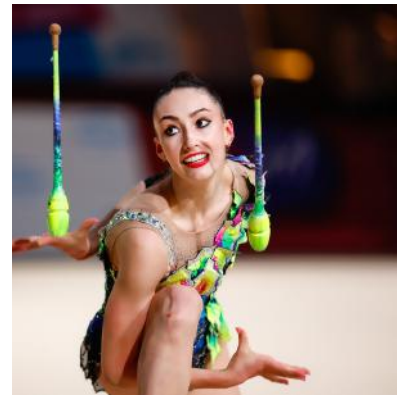
Also taking on a life of its own this year was the Soccer Mums Program run by MFCC. What started as a small group of women kicking a ball around grew into a multi-faceted program with both social and competitive options. Alongside programs such as Catchball and Walking Football, it shows the growing need for social sport opportunities in our community.

Many of our clubs have marked milestones this year and we have been honoured to share in their achievements – from our Tennis Club reaching 100 years to the opening of the new Ajax club rooms – there’s been no shortage of reasons to celebrate.

## We connected beyond the clubs

Whilst the clubs are our lifeblood, we also focus on programs and opportunities beyond them. This year, Victoria was proud to host the first national Junior Carnival since Covid, with over 200 young athletes from 4 different states coming together in January to play sport, socialise, and create lifelong memories.

A huge thank you to Carnival Manager **Tali Friede**, and to the whole team who put together such a wonderful week. We are now looking ahead to Carnival 2024 in Sydney and have a team of over 150 Victorians ready to take part under the guidance of Team Managers **Nat Dodge** and **Bec Wolman**.



This year marked the relaunch of Maccabi Victoria Mega Camp holiday programs, offering children the opportunity to experience a variety of sports, including basketball, soccer, netball, volleyball, badminton, and more. We're excited to continue offering these programs in 2024.

During term time we have been running programs through the Jewish schools as part of the Henry Jolson Pathways Program. This initiative enables us to connect with hundreds of students by offering sport coaching before, during and after school.



We also are so proud to be a part of the Maccabi Aquatics journey. A social enterprise, Maccabi Aquatics offers high-end swimming lessons and squad training to the Jewish and broader community. It is growing from strength to strength, and I want to thank the committee for their tireless efforts.

### **We supported our families**

Our Hardship Relief Fund continues to offer support to ensure that no one in the Jewish community misses out on playing sport due to financial constraints. We recognise both the importance of sport in people's lives and the financial challenges faced with the rising cost of living, and in 2023 we supported over 58 families to ensure they could participate in Junior Carnival and in regular club sport.

### **We took part in the community**

This year we ran a highly successful lunch for our Friends of Maccabi. Featuring a panel of esteemed Maccabi stalwarts, the event was well attended and provided a wonderful opportunity for people to connect and reconnect with the Maccabi community.

We also partnered with various community organisations to offer sporting activities as part of their events, with Maccabi Victoria making appearances at In One Voice, Yom Ha'atzmaut, various UJEB events, and even a Caulfield Shul family day!

As is now tradition, Maccabi Victoria clubs also partnered with the Holocaust Museum to mark Yom HaShoah, with online campaigns, messages read at games, and some very special visits from survivors and descendants.



It's important for us to never forget how lucky we are to be able to come together, as Jews, and play sport under the Maccabi banner.

**We helped our clubs**

We recognise the incredible work that committees and volunteers undertake to ensure that our clubs keep running week after week and year after year. We continue to focus on supporting our clubs and providing support as required – whether creating marketing assets, subsidising admin assistance, providing club development grants, or just being on the other end of the phone to talk through any challenges.

**We're looking ahead**

Plans are already underway for 2024 and we can't wait to share what's in store. We are very excited to have received some funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation (Victoria) to support continuing and expanding our interfaith and multicultural activities as part of the Henry Jolson Pathways

**Thank You**

Whilst it is amazing to look back and reflect on the year that was, it is also important to acknowledge all of the people who helped make the Maccabi magic. To the Maccabi Victoria office – **Ruth, Martin, Dani, Jenny, Kate, Simone** – thank you for embodying what it means to be a team player. Each one of you is an integral part of Maccabi Victoria.

To our Board – and especially to our Presidents **Dean** and **Sharon** – thank you for your guidance, support and energy. We couldn't do what we do without you.

To our donors, sponsors, and those who have shared their simchas with us – thank you for your generosity, commitment and for the value you place on Maccabi's role in the community.

To our club committees, to the countless people who manage our project and event committees, to the community organisations and schools who partner with us, and to all the Maccabi volunteers across Victoria – thank you for giving your time, effort and knowledge to connect our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing.

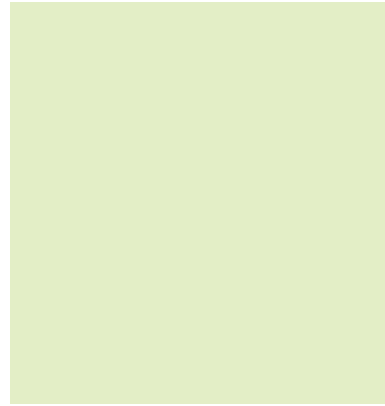
**Shari Cohen**

General Manager  
Maccabi Victoria





# Property Report



As many of you would be aware, Maccabi Victoria established its Major Projects Committee in 2020. The purpose of this Committee is to explore opportunities as we seek to find a ‘home’ for Maccabi Victoria. Knowing the difficulties of accommodating Maccabi Victoria’s 23 Clubs and Members under the one roof, including all outdoor sporting fields etc, the Committee is certainly open to centralising Maccabi’s activities to a few key sites located to suit our demographic. The Maccabi One Committee, as it is known, recently welcomed **Ilan Kraus**. Ilan is a solicitor at Maddocks law firm and is a welcome addition with his extensive property law expertise.

The two main potential sites we are currently exploring are the proposed redevelopment of the Caulfield Racecourse and the proposed move by Mount Scopus College to the Caulfield Hospital site.

With regards to Mount Scopus, we have previously presented a plan for this new site to accommodate sporting courts, fields and indoor spaces for health and well-being and Maccabi offices. Whilst Maccabi Victoria has 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 are certainly in contact with those involved in the project from Mount Scopus, but at this stage there is nothing further to do but wait for any developments.

The Caulfield Racecourse redevelopment has progressed somewhat over the past year. Our submission to activate, develop and manage the Neerim Hub part of the site (which is the old Stables section of the site and sits outside the race course proper), was very well received by the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust (CRRT). We are currently in the process of signing an MOU with the CRRT.

Only two other parties of all those who originally presented submissions for the Neerim Hub are at this stage.





Once the MOU is signed, we will be involved in the next stage of proceedings, which includes the preparation of a feasibility study of the Neerim Hub. This is being prepared for the CRRT, with our involvement, and which will ultimately be presented to the State Government for them to then do their own assessments as to the viability of the site for the intended use.

Finally, as an update, Maccabi Aquatics is now very much up and running. Based at Bialik College, this new full-service swim school has been established as part of a long term partnership between Maccabi Victoria and Bialik as a social enterprise model. The utilisation of a prime asset to the benefit of both beneficiaries and the community has surpassed initial forecasts and on the back of this success will continue to grow its offerings as a swim school to the Jewish and wider communities.

So whilst we appreciate that any major development takes time, we feel comfortable that we have two excellent propositions sitting in the wings that would go a long way to help Maccabi Victoria achieve its goals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim B." with a stylized flourish.

## Tim Bursztyn

Maccabi One Property Committee  
Maccabi Victoria



# Integrity Report (Member Protection)

Following a tumultuous few years, it is Maccabi's dedication to 'connecting our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing' that has seen the enthusiastic return of our athletes to their field of sport.

Member protection, child safety and integrity continue to be a top priority for Maccabi across Australia as we aim to provide a safe, fair, inclusive and enjoyable environment for all who participate in Maccabi activities.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of the Integrity Team Coordinators, **Emma Furman** and **Christine Mravlek-Bonello** whose focus is to ensure that all Clubs are consistently MPP compliant.

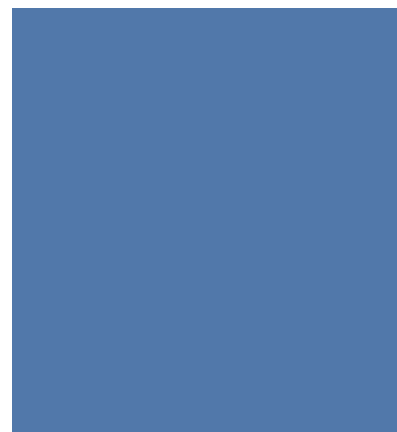
Their responsibilities include working directly with club leadership to promote full knowledge and awareness of all aspects of compliance and to support clubs to achieve this goal.

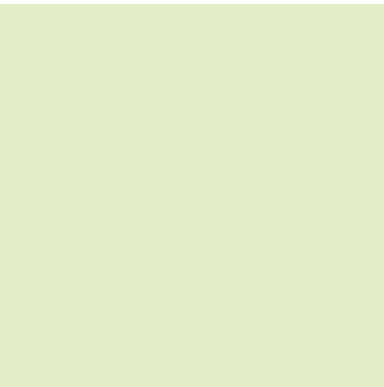
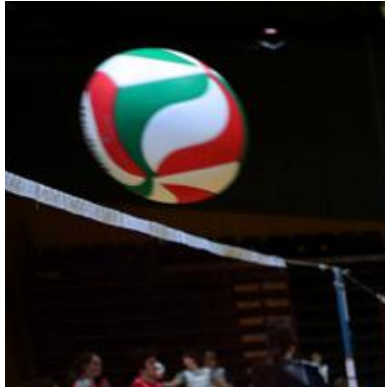
Safety strategies also include regular review and updating of the integrity/MPP training platform to maintain our commitment to leading the way in community safety standards.

I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank the national MPP committee, as well our Victorian Integrity Officer, **Leanne Faraday Brash** and our Victorian Based National Integrity Officer, **Yvonne Fayman** for their diligence, passion and commitment to ensuring that Maccabi remains at the forefront of integrity and safety.

## Sheiny New

Board Member  
Maccabi Victoria





# Programs & Initiatives Reports

Maccabi Victoria has a number of special programs and initiatives such as the All Abilities Program, the Henry Jolson Pathways Program, and community engagement initiatives.

# Maccabi All Abilities Program

Maccabi All Abilities has had a busy year, with over **40 events** encompassing regular programming, competitive sports, and social opportunities. Their weekly basketball program consistently saw around 15 dedicated players, all under the guidance of coaches **Barb Bejer** and **David Chester**. Throughout the year, the members diligently honed their skills in dribbling, passing, and teamwork. Everyone is looking forward to their end-of-year team dinner.

In the annual cricket program, members not only had the chance to showcase their cricket skills but also enjoyed interacting with the senior cricket team. A memorable highlight was the Shabbat dinner held at Caulfield Shule in collaboration with the cricket club, which fostered a strong sense of community among the players. Guest speaker **Mark Fine's** presence added extra excitement to the event. They look forward to their upcoming cricket sessions in November.

Their swimming squad continues to thrive, meeting every Sunday morning. Under the watchful guidance of experienced coaches, members have enjoyed a mix of individualised instruction and group activities, fostering both personal growth and team camaraderie.

Moreover, it's gratifying to see other clubs implementing their own inclusive programs such as the Autism Sensory Swim Program (Maccabi Swimming/ Maccabi Aquatics) and the Mighty Bees Soccer Program (Maccabi Football Caulfield Club).

## Volunteer Shout Out

**David Chester** deserves special mention. Dave is involved with all things All Abilities and provides a great amount of expertise and care to our members. He's an all-round legend who is always willing to put his hand up.

## Milestone Moment

The club's entry of their first-ever team into the FIDA (Football Integration Development Association) league marked a significant achievement. The FIDA league is a dedicated competition designed to provide individuals with intellectual disabilities an inclusive platform to compete in Australian rules football. Participating in the FIDA league not only offers players the chance to showcase their athletic skills but also promotes social inclusion, self-esteem, and camaraderie. For Maccabi All Abilities, being a part of this league signifies their commitment to expanding opportunities and ensuring that all members, regardless of their abilities, can experience the thrill of competitive sports.

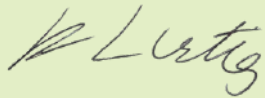


**Athlete Recognition:**

Maccabi All Abilities would like to recognise **Mattie Michael**. Mattie consistently attends all their programs with a smile. He works hard at basketball and there was a notable improvement in his footy skills this year.

**Looking Ahead**

Maccabi All Abilities program has a vision for the future that embraces both competition and camaraderie. Their plans encompass the introduction of additional competitive sports to further engage their participants, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their skill level, finds a place to shine. Concurrently, the program is gearing up to expand its array of social events, fostering more moments for members to connect and share experiences. Through these efforts, they continue their commitment to creating an inclusive environment, one where every participant feels valued and celebrated.



**Kate Lustig**

All Abilities Program Officer  
Maccabi Victoria



**The Numbers**

*Year Established: 2015*  
*Total members: 74*  
*Male members: 48*  
*Female members: 26*  
*Coaches: 6*  
*Volunteers: 8*



**Matti Michael & David Chester**





# Maccabi Henry Jolson Pathways Program

For the first time since its inception, the Pathways Program is delivering sport activities before school, during school and after school.

Catering to students ranging from prep to Year 12, the program boasts an extensive array of sport activities. These are led by skilled coaches sourced from various Maccabi clubs. This dual approach benefits both students and the clubs: students at Jewish schools receive top-notch coaching while exploring sports they love or discovering new ones. Simultaneously, those in the Pathways activities often transition into Maccabi clubs, participate in Junior Carnival, and attend holiday programs. It's a beneficial synergy for all involved!

A special acknowledgment goes to coaches **Michael Kan, Kate Lustig, and Sarah Favaloro** for their unwavering commitment and exceptional work. Their dedication has been instrumental in the program's success. Additionally, a heartfelt thank you to the **Maccabi Victoria Golf Club** for their invaluable assistance in coordinating the golf activities and generously covering all associated costs. Their support has been pivotal in enhancing the program's offerings.

**6 SCHOOLS**  
**566 STUDENTS**  
**422 SESSIONS**  
**12 SPORTS OFFERED**

## *Milestone Moments*

In a stirring comeback from their 2022 defeat, the King David senior soccer team bested Luther College twice in 2023, first with a 10-4 victory and later a decisive 7-3 win in the EISM tournament final. Their resilience showcased the program's success and spirit.



**IN 2019 THE PROGRAM STARTED WITH 245 PARTICIPANTS. IN 2023, THE PROGRAM HAS GROWN TO 566 PARTICIPANTS!**

# Community Initiatives

## *COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS*

Maccabi Victoria partnered with In One Voice, Zionism Victoria and the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, celebrating our community at In One Voice and Yom Ha'atzmaut as well as honouring the memory of Holocaust victims during Yom Hashoah. We also had fun partnering with synagogues throughout the year to offer sporting activities at their family days.



## *KIDS & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS*

In January, Maccabi Junior Carnival made a triumphant comeback post-Covid, with Maccabi Victoria hosting the first national event in three years! This fun, sporty and social gathering united over 200 enthusiastic Carni Athletes from 4 states, bringing our Jewish youth together through their passion for sports, while creating unforgettable memories and lifelong friendships. Maccabi Victoria also had the pleasure of visiting UJEB camp in the school holidays as well as running a few of our own Mega Camp School Holiday Programs which were a great success! Mega Camp kids enjoyed basketball, netball, futsal and other fun sporting activities.



## *FRIENDS OF MACCABI*

On Monday 15 May at Caulfield Park Sports Club, the Friends of Maccabi community gathered, filling the space with familiar and new faces, laughter, and the vibrant Maccabi spirit. Esteemed panelists **Lenny Bogatin OAM, Judy Kohn, Lenny Gross OAM, Narene Ignace, Michael Klinger, and Alida Lipton** shared their captivating Maccabi stories. Highlights included a show-and-tell of Maccabiah medals and nostalgic photos. Our heartfelt thanks to sponsors including **Fella Hamilton, Chemist Warehouse, Lindt**, and others. It was a joyous reunion, celebrating our community's rich history and strengthening bonds.







# Club Reports

Every year, our Maccabi fields, courts, and swimming pools are more than just venues for competition; they are places where people of all ages come to explore their abilities and potential.


In this section of the annual report, you'll find highlights and achievements that showcase Maccabi Victoria as more than a collection of clubs, but a community bound by shared experiences, dreams and aspirations.



23 Maccabi Victoria Clubs




From ages  
5 - 97

3000+  
Maccabi Club  
Members





# Maccabi Athletic Club



In 2023, the Maccabi Athletic Club experienced a landmark year, showcasing an impressive blend of performance, inclusivity, and future planning. The Club's activities are divided into winter and summer seasons, with the former focusing on cross country—mainly attracting senior competitors—and the latter emphasising track and field, which is generally more popular among juniors. Training sessions are held three times a week, year round and are technique-oriented, social, and inclusive, thereby fostering an environment that encourages individual growth and community-building.



50 MEMBERS  
 30 JUNIOR  
 20 SENIOR (18+)  
 3 COACHES  
 6 VOLUNTEERS

## Achievements

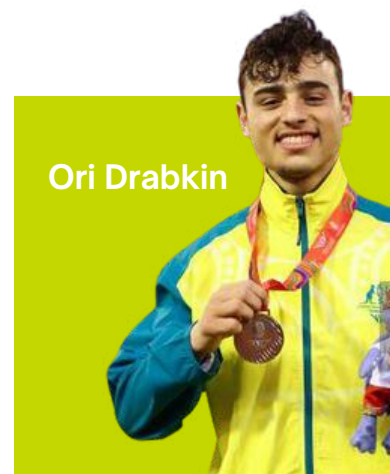
In terms of athletic achievements, the year was a success. The Club earned a promotion to a higher division after finishing an impressive second out of 12 clubs in the 2022-2023 summer season. **Jemima Montag** (a Maccabi Alumnus) won silver at the World Champs 20K race walk in Budapest. Similarly, club member **Ori Drabkin** secured silver in the long jump and 100m (T38) at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago. These firsts are not just milestones for the athletes but also for the Club, marking the first time club athletes have earned medals at such prestigious global events. **Emma de Jong** and **Zac Ashkanasy** also brought home national and state medals, elevating the Club's status.

On the organisational side, two young coaches, **David Blecher** and **Jarrold Zuchowski**, have been added to the coaching team, bringing youthful energy and novel perspectives. Alongside them, a Youth Leadership team has been formed to work under the guidance of club Secretary **Zac Ashkanasy**. The Club has also introduced its first interstate committee member, **Bronwyn Elbourne** from Sydney.



Strategically, the Maccabi Athletic Club is in the process of rolling out its 5-year plan for 2023-2027, having engaged with "Club Builder 2032" for insights. The vision is "Faster, Further, Higher - together," and the mission aims to engage the Australian Jewish Community in athletic pursuits. Core values like inclusivity, community, and respect guide this mission. As part of its future outlook, the Club is developing alliances with other Maccabi clubs and Jewish Schools, aiming to create a synergistic ecosystem that encourages physical activity and wellness for all age groups and skill levels.

*"The vision is "Faster, Further, Higher - together," and the mission aims to engage the Australian Jewish Community in athletic pursuits."*



Ori Drabkin

## Spotlight on Ori

18 year old **Ori Drabkin** - who has been with the Club for over 5 years - has trained hard and consistently over that period of time - and was rewarded with selection in the Australian team for the Commonwealth Youth Games held in Trinidad and Tobago in August 2023.

Ori won silver medals in both the 100m and long jump (T38) - recording significant personal bests in both disciplines.

He is now in a position to try to qualify for selection in the para open national team for international competition of the highest standard.

A wonderful example of what can be achieved through hard work, training, physical and mental persistence and unwavering family and club support.

### Awards

AVSL (summer competition champions); **Keira Donner** and **Ben Blecher**

Most Improved Athlete: **Skye Edelstein**

Coaches Awards: **Sam Decent** and **Eliora Segal**

Outstanding Achievements Awards: **Jemima Montag, Ori Drabkin, Myer Vorchheimer (Masters), Emma de Jong**

Club Volunteer - Coaching and Commitment: **Ilia Eligulachvili**

Services To The Club: Coach **David Brock** - as he steps down from the senior coaching role after 5 wonderful years.

# Maccabi Basketball Club

The winter season of 2023 saw Maccabi Basketball Club in full swing with 79 teams in action. At Waverley, 26 of the Club's teams advanced to the semi-finals, and 11 went on to contest in the Grand Finals. Impressively, 7 of those teams emerged champions. At McKinnon, the success continued with 8 teams reaching the semi-finals and 5 making it to the Grand Finals, out of which 2 were crowned winners.

691 JUNIORS IN SUMMER 2023/24  
30 PARENT COACHES  
25 PROFESSIONAL COACHES



The U16 and U18 Boys' squads experienced the thrill of competing in three major basketball tournaments. These events, which attracted teams from both interstate and overseas, provided an excellent platform for the Club's young talent to challenge themselves against top-notch competition.

As the Summer 2023/24 season approached, the Club boasted 86 teams, indicating a rising trend in engagement. An enthusiastic call to parents for coaching in the U8-U10 categories yielded a response from 30 parents, a notable increase from the previous season's 19. Moreover, the club took a progressive step by organising teams based on age, ensuring a balanced competitive experience for all. **Hayley Blieden** and **Jenna Lewski's** initiative in introducing a Coach Handbook streamlined the coaching process.

On the digital front, **Emily Nadelman** rejuvenated the Club's social media presence, capturing its spirit vividly on Instagram and showcasing the signature Maccabi Basketball colours.

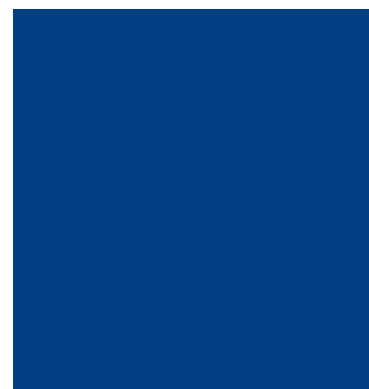
Change was a significant theme as **Julian Dunne** and **Nathan Sable** assumed the roles of Co-Presidents. They brought fresh energy and filled newly created management positions, helping redefine the Club's future direction. A nod of appreciation goes to Maccabi Victoria for their consistent support during this period of transition, especially in the Club's restructuring efforts. **Ruth Clare's** role in overseeing the financial operations was also crucial in ensuring stability.



In terms of membership, the Club proudly hosts around 750 members. The junior segment showed a healthy growth from 665 members in Winter 2023 to 691 by Summer 2023/24.

The senior programs of the Club remained a magnet for budding Jewish basketball enthusiasts. This season witnessed the Youth League making it to the finals. Notably, the Senior Men's team included 9 players who had graduated from the Youth League, reflecting the Club's emphasis on nurturing talent.

The Club wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by its outgoing Co-Presidents **Kane Siegel** and **Justin Tempelhof**, and outgoing Vice President **Kim Scher**, who together put in an enormous effort over the last few years to keep the club running while dealing with the challenges of COVID and a growing club. In particular, Kim Scher was responsible for the day to day operations of the club and without Kim's tireless work the Club would not be in the position it is today.



# Maccabi Ajax Junior Cricket Club

## Training and season:

The Maccabi Ajax Junior Cricket Club has organised its training sessions for the upcoming season. Girls' teams will train on Sundays, while the boys' teams have slots on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Being one of the larger junior clubs in the South East, they've allocated two separate venues for training to ensure all players have adequate access to nets and fields.

Their playing season will kick off in mid-October and conclude in early March. The Club is planning a Chanukah Bash around the holiday season and has scheduled a team photo session for February.

## Maccabi Ajax Junior Cricket Club Milestones:

The Club proudly reintroduced its Under 17 Boys team, marking a significant and exciting return.

Furthermore, in the 2022/23 season, they achieved another significant milestone by appointing their first female head coach for the Girls program, Donna Gouldthorp, showcasing a progressive step for both the Club and the community.

## Plans and Goals for the Upcoming Year:

**Girls' Team:** The Club has successfully merged with Oakleigh. The aim is to solidify interest there while also boosting participation in the Blaster program.

**Under 11:** The objective is to witness a distinct improvement in skills and game knowledge among all players. This includes foundational skills such as bowling straight and the correct techniques for running between wickets. Players should also demonstrate an understanding of the game's strategies.

**Under 13:** The club boasts two young teams in the learning phase. The goal is to instill a consistent approach to their gameplay. The U13 Chargers, although young and talented, have the potential to vie for the championship, with a stronger positioning expected by the 2024/25 season.

**Under 15:** With three teams in this category for the first time in many seasons, the Titans are especially poised to contest for the championship.

**Under 17:** With the newly reintroduced team, the primary goal for the upcoming year is to advance in the league and hopefully walk away with the championship.

**Coaches:** The aim is to retain at least 80% of the coaching staff for the subsequent season.





### Testimonials

**Jason Kree - U13 Dad:** "To have my son connecting with other Jewish kids from various schools is very special, we are very grateful to be able to be part of this club."

**Darren Sacks - President** "I've been at this club since my son was was a Blaster player, I've coordinated teams, been a team manager, committee member and now president. My son is now U15, he is coaching U11s and we continue to love this club and all it represents."

**Greg Hurvitz, Head of Performance:** "I'm a Dad of a player but I am also the Head of Coaching and so I am always looking at ways to offer all the players a really great experience. I also have 20 coaches that we want to inspire and motivate to make the experience for our kids awesome - I've been involved in many teams, I've led many sports systems and led the Maccabi Senior club to the only A Grade premiership in the modern era of merged clubs, nothing matches the Junior club."



## Awards

- Julien Wiener Award for Most Outstanding Junior: **Gilad Lowinger**
- Norm Rubenstein Memorial Award for Most Promising Junior: **Asher Kave**
- Traub/Kommell Award for Most Promising Junior Girls Cricketer: **Gigi Goldman**
- Peter Fisher Award for Most Improved Junior: **Joshua Vogel and Callan Matthews**
- Michael Catts Trophy for player of the finals: **Dean Waters**
- Michael Klinger Award for Outstanding Performance at Rep Level: **Gigi Goldman**
- Special Recognition Award 2023: **Ari Fell**
- Machlin Coaches Award for Outstanding Coaching: **Donna Gouldthorp**

### THE NUMBERS

- Merged clubs 1996
- # total members 165
- # male members 158
- # female members 7
- # coaches 20
- # volunteers 30
- # games/matches played in the season 12



# Maccabi Ajax Senior Cricket Club

**League Award Winners (Season 22/23):** The club took a moment to celebrate the success of its members who made significant marks in the previous season. Four players received League awards, showcasing the club's strong performance: **Benji Jones** for BnF - A Grade, **Bailey Melzak** for Bowling award - A grade, **Nadav Lowinger** for Bowling award - B Grade, and **Zac Onas** for Bowling award - C Grade.

**League Participation for the Upcoming Season:** In exciting news, the First XI and Second XI are transitioning up to the MCC league from the MCA. This move means the teams will enjoy matches on some of Victoria's most elite grounds in a selective league. Meanwhile, the 3rd XI and the Development team will continue their commitment to the MCA, a testament to the long-standing relationship with the association. The club also adopted a 40-overs per side game format for all teams.

**New Coaching Leadership:** Stef Lindstrom was appointed as the head coach for the upcoming season. Stef, who has been closely associated with the club for two years, has a rich cricketing background. With experience as a high-level player in District cricket and numerous coaching stints at various clubs.

**Captains for the New Season:** Stepping onto the field with renewed energy and vision, the club proudly announced its captains:

- **Bailey Melzak** will helm the 1st XI.
- **Ben Kupshik** takes charge of the 2nd XI.
- **Zak Pollak** makes a return to captain the 3rd XI.
- **Simeon Goldberg** will lead the Development team with the support of his teammates.

**Poker Fundraiser Update:** The club had planned a poker fundraiser event for November. However, in light of the situation in Israel, the decision was made to postpone it.

**Acknowledgement and Gratitude:** Special recognition is given to Mike Gersun for his incredible contributions to the club as he steps down from the committee. Mike's efforts in launching the All Abilities initiative and ensuring its ongoing success have been invaluable. Furthermore, his role in organising the annual Friday night cricket club dinner was deeply appreciated. Even as he stepped away from a formal committee role, Mike confirmed his continued involvement with the club's activities.





# AJAX Junior Football Club

The 2023 season was a significant year for AJAX Junior Football Club. The club set a record with over 900 registrations across the Junior Football Club and the Auskick program. They expanded their presence, fielding an impressive 27 teams, three more than the previous year. The U9s through to U14s all had three teams representing. Additionally, the Club saw the inclusion of three girls' teams spread across Under 12, Under 14, and Under 16 age groups, bringing about 70 young girls onto the field.

The strength and operation of these 27 teams are credited to AJAX's skilled coaches and committed team managers. Many of these coaches are either former or current AJAX senior players, combined with reliable parent coaches.

Looking forward, AJAX Junior Football Club is geared up and excited for another thriving season in 2024. Go Jackas!

## *Inclusivity*

A major highlight of the season was AJAX Junior Football Club's collaboration with 'All Things Equal' to manage their canteen, a partnership in which AJAX takes great pride. It was inspiring to see how individuals with disabilities can make meaningful contributions to the community. They are not just avid supporters of the club; they are an integral part of it.

## *Sandringham Dragons Selections*

This year, AJAX Junior Football Club marked a significant achievement with seven of its players, including **Georgia Zuchowski, Tali Feiglin, Jethro Gunn, Ethan Lakman, Eiden Pitt, Jake Mehl, and Phoenix Janover**, being selected for the esteemed Sandringham Dragons in Melbourne's NAB League. This accomplishment not only showcases the club's dedication to nurturing top-tier talent, but also cements its rising prominence in the junior football landscape.



## Highlights and Achievements

Several highlights punctuated the season:

- A notable pre-season event at Princes Park allowed practice matches for most teams.
- Eleven teams reached the finals, with the Under 15 Jets and Under 14 Rockets proceeding to the grand final. Notably, the U14 Rockets took home the premiership title.
- AJAX initiated a pre-season launch event for committee members, coaches, and team managers featuring St. Kilda champion, **Lenny Hays**.
- The inaugural U7 Ajax team participated in a round robin competition.

Individual accolades were many:

- Club Champion awards went to **Jesse Wrobel** and **Phoenix Janover**.
- **Tahlia Herman** was named Female Club Champion.
- A total of seven players were selected to play in the Sandringham Dragons squads.
- Six players finished in the top 3 in the SMJFL awards, including **Phoenix Janover** who clinched the Winner U16 Div 1.
- This year AJAX welcomed two new Life members - **Rod Nirens** and **Jason Wrobel**.



**900  
REGISTRATIONS  
57 COACHES  
TOO MANY  
VOLUNTEERS TO  
COUNT**

**Jeff Alford** was honoured with a league recognition administration award for his unwavering contribution to AJFC. He works tirelessly for the club, handling everything from the protection of children to conflict resolution. Nothing happens at AJAX without Alford's thoughtful decision-making. He is thoroughly informed about every aspect of each team, both on the playing and administration front. Serving on the executive committee, he acts as the club's advocate. Often, he is summoned to the field late in the day to address issues. No matter where he is or what he's engaged in, Alford is always the first to respond. He has adeptly managed conflicts between clubs and advocated for players with the SMJFL. He is the kind of volunteer every organisation hopes for. Notably, AJAX isn't Alford's only volunteer commitment; he's also actively involved in two other community organisations, presiding as the president in one, all while fulfilling his duties at AJAX. Thank you Jeff Alford!



# AJAX Senior Football Club

In a thrilling year, the Men’s Senior and Reserves teams both competed vigorously in their respective VAFA football leagues, finishing the season in 9th position. The Jackettes, marking their first flag since the conception of the team nine years ago, achieved a monumental Grand Final win in Women’s Div 3 against Power House. The Saturday Thirds Division 4 followed suit, clinching a Grand Final victory against Old Scotch, and the Sunday Thirds Division 2 reached the Preliminary final, succumbing to Beaumaris.

In addition to the Jackettes and Saturday Thirds Grand Final win, the club marked several firsts, including fielding the Maccabi AJAX All Stars All Abilities team in the FIDA league and the unveiling of the modernised Daryl Cohen Rooms, enhancing the home environment for players and staff.



Adam Micmacher



Joe Nankin

## Looking Ahead

The Club’s aspirations for the coming year focus on enhancing supporter engagement both home and away, and bolstering player numbers. The Club aims to maintain a competitive edge across all teams and elevate social events and sponsor engagements, reinforcing the Club as a pivotal community entity emphasising integrity, respect, and acceptance.

## Coach Moment

**Adam Micmacher**, Vice President/Head of Football Operations and Coach of Saturday Thirds, showcased immense dedication and love for the team, stepping up to coach during a pivotal moment in the season, and leading the team to a Grand Final win.

**Joe Nankin**, the devoted coach of the Jackettes for five years, has continually strengthened the team with his unwavering commitment and investment, ensuring robust team presence at every outing.



**100 GAMES**  
**6 TEAMS**  
**60+ NEW PLAYERS**



## Athlete Spotlight

This season, we celebrate **Caitlin Boylan**, who earned the prestigious Division 3 VAFA Best & Fairest Award in her debut Australian Rules Football season, showcasing her remarkable athleticism and determination. She also clinched the Best on Ground in the Div 3 Women’s Grand Final, exemplifying her natural prowess in the sport.

Meanwhile, **Lindi Nankin**, has been awarded the Div 3 Women’s Leading Goal Kicking Award. Returning after a year’s hiatus, her achievement is a testament to her dedication and resilience.

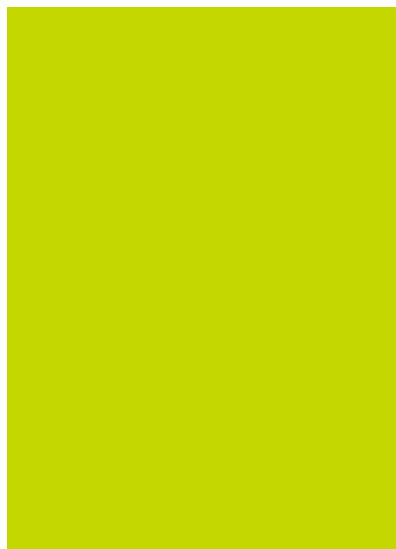
These achievements highlight the remarkable talents and dedication of our club’s members.



## All Stars

Undoubtedly, the Maccabi AJAX All Stars All Abilities team’s participation throughout the ten rounds of their season has been a pivotal highlight. Competing for the first time in the FIDA league (Football Integration Development Association) division C was an incredible experience and the team did exceptionally well, only missing out on the Grand Finals by 4 points.

The end-of-season invitational match versus Williamstown was especially memorable. A bus was hired, allowing the whole team to journey out to Williamstown together - a fantastic team-building experience - and AJAX triumphantly secured a win. **Jeff Israel’s** unwavering dedication and substantial contribution to this team have been crucial, demonstrating immense commitment and work. Also, thanks are due to **Lenny Gross** for his assistance and recruiting prowess, and to **David Chester** for his invaluable support, both of which have significantly enriched the team’s experience this season.



# Maccabi Football Club Caulfield



## Club Overview

Maccabi FC Caulfield (MFCC), rooted deeply in the heart of Melbourne's Jewish community, stands as a beacon of inclusivity and passion for the beautiful game. This club takes immense pride in serving a wide demographic, catering to everyone from bubbling 4-year-olds to spirited bubbas and zaidas at 74 years and beyond. In fact, very few football clubs in the country can match the expansive age range and diverse offerings that MFCC proudly presents to the community.



556 MEMBERS  
53 COACHES  
41 VOLUNTEERS  
527 GAMES PLAYED

## Team Highlights

MFCC welcomed 31 teams this year, with both girls and boys lighting up Caulfield Park every Sunday. **The Little Strikers**, with 120 young enthusiasts aged between 4-7, showcased the future of football in its purest form. The club also proudly introduced **Soccer Mums** this year, resulting in the formation of the Mummy Bees social group and the more competitive Mummy Beetles. Beyond this, the **Mighty Bees All Abilities** group saw notable growth, reflecting MFCC's commitment to inclusive football. And lastly, the club celebrated the **Walking Footballers**, a testament to the belief that passion for football knows no age!

Soccer Mums

**Milestone Moments**

The year 2023 was marked by the phenomenal success of the **Soccer Mums** initiative, launched in January. Their journey's pinnacle was an unforgettable moment: playing during half-time at the Matildas v France match in Marvel Stadium. It was a heartwarming reversal of roles, with dads and kids jubilantly cheering from the sidelines, celebrating the achievements of the mothers on the field.



*Special Recognition*

**Athlete of the Year:** MFCC wishes to spotlight **Ben Sayag** for his unwavering dedication. Apart from showcasing his skills in the U17 Colts A team, he generously offers his time and expertise to the Little Strikers and various holiday programs, proving his dedication to the club.

**Volunteer of the Year:** **Art Feinman**, the unwavering Team Manager for the U13 Orange team, merits special appreciation. Faced with numerous challenges, Art's determination in maintaining team morale and cohesion was truly commendable.

**Looking Ahead**

As the club sets its sights on 2024, MFCC plans to fortify its teams across all age groups and introduce a professional Club Coach Coordinator. There's also a keen focus on revamping the "bunker", ensuring it stands as a beacon of warmth and utility for the 400+ children who use it. The club firmly believes in laying a robust foundation for its budding players, hence significant emphasis will be on nurturing the Little Strikers.



# Maccabi Golf Club

Maccabi Golf Club has celebrated a year marked by resounding success and a notable increase in participation. The club has warmly welcomed participants with an exceptional 91-year age gap between the youngest, aged six, and the eldest at ninety-seven.

The future is shining bright with young prodigies like the Lewis siblings (Daphne, 6 and Benjamin, 10), demonstrating immense potential. Benji Lewis has recently clinched a victory in a state schools division event, and Zac Wolfe (aged 7), who often pops into the club, proudly holds the title of back-to-back world champion. Furthermore, the golf program for juniors in schools is progressing well, sowing seeds for future involvement in Maccabi Golf.

In terms of events, the Club has had a busy year starting off with the Kleid Gordon event, followed by other regular competitions, including the men's and women's singles match play, which has now reached final stages.

This year's Jewish Championship welcomed a broad array of participants, culminating in a day marked by enjoyment and friendly competition. **Tony Beaconsfield** stood out with an exceptional score of 80 off the stick, with a handicap of 7.

The Club also introduced some new tournaments like the Moonah Links competition, carrying potential for future growth as well as the Inter-Club Teams Event which has garnered substantial interest, drawing nearly 200 enrolments. The Inter-Club Teams Event invited Jewish golfers from various clubs around Melbourne, such as Metropolitan, Huntingdale, Yarra Yarra, Kingston Heath, Spring Valley, Southern, The National, and Cranbourne, to compete for a spot in the grand final (which took place on October 29). The overwhelming response led some clubs to present multiple teams. A Huge congratulations to Metropolitan Team 1 who took home the trophy.

The Jewish Champs and the Teams Event have welcomed all Jewish golfers, fostering hope that many will join Maccabi Golf for its array of exciting events, which span one, two, and three days, both locally and in country Victoria.

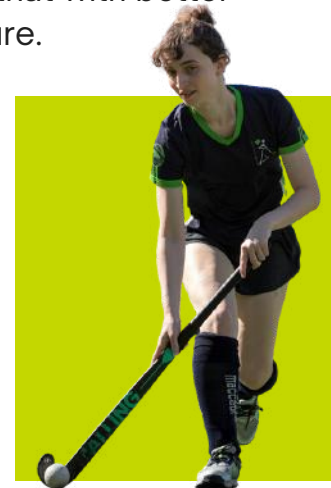


With prospects like the Lewis siblings, Benjamin and Daphne, and Zac Wolfe, the future of Maccabi Golf Club is bright and promising, bridging generations and nurturing future champions. The club continues to enrich its diverse range of events and extend its welcoming hand to golf enthusiasts of all ages, cementing its role as a pivotal figure in the community.

# Maccabi Hockey Club

In 2023, the season for the Maccabi Hockey Club was decidedly mixed. On the upside, after significant efforts from **David Sonenberg** and **Robbie Gore**, they launched an over 60s team. It was heartening to see former players return to the field. The hope is to continue this momentum and bolster the numbers for this team in the future. On the downside, success on the scoreboard eluded the Club, resulting in no teams competing in the finals. Nonetheless, training attendance remained robust throughout the season. A positive note was the record number of registered players, suggesting a strong foundation to potentially reverse the results in 2024. The Club also organised a social BBQ at Elwood, which garnered impressive support. They are hopeful that with better fixture alignment, there will be more such gatherings in the future.

ESTABLISHED 1961  
 105 MEMBERS  
 5 COACHES  
 15 VOLUNTEERS  
 126 GAMES PLAYED



Driven by **David Sonenberg**, **Mike Aronson**, and **Robbie Gore**, Maccabi entered their first-ever team in the over 60s B grade competition. While pre-season indications were promising regarding squad numbers, they started the season short of a full team but remained very competitive. Unavoidable absences due to work or travel resulted in a few walkovers to their opposition. However, when they had full numbers, they won several games against the top sides. In fact, an opposition player expressed his belief that with their best team consistently on the field, they could have clinched the flag! **Steve Lewis's** goalkeeping demonstrated enduring skill, while **Gav Sekler** and **Ben Davis** were stalwarts in defence alongside **Russell Meerkin** until his season-ending knee injury. **Leon Rothman** and **Yaron Flicker** proved versatile and dependable, accompanied by **David Sonenberg**, who took on multiple positions with his typical combative approach. **Danny Westheimer** and **Gary Beville** made notable appearances, and, combined with **Robbie Gore** in midfield and **Peter Rubinstein** up front, the team displayed commendable hockey. **David Mileikowski** also participated in a few games, showcasing his proficiency both in goal and on the field. **Leon Rubinstein** delivered some memorable striker's goals, with his fervor and dedication on the field both inspiring (and occasionally misplaced or hazardous). A nod to **Alan Leary** and **Alan Ballard**, who offered their support occasionally. Overall, the season was enjoyable, with hopes for enhanced participation next year.

## Milestone Moment

Over 60s - Captain: Robbie Gore



# Maccabi Ajax Lawn Bowls Club



## Anecdotal Highlight:

In the wake of two challenging years due to COVID-19, Maccabi Ajax Lawn Bowls Club cherished a momentous occasion as they celebrated their 50th anniversary. This significant event brought together many life members, some of whom hadn't seen each other in decades.

This year, Maccabi Ajax Lawn Bowls (MALB) faced challenges but managed to pivot with resilience and grace. While traditionally the club hosts an inter-shule event, an all-abilities day, and a set-play championship, unforeseen circumstances led to the postponement of the inter-shule event twice. However, MALB remains committed to the passion and spirit of the game and has scheduled these events for the upcoming 2024 season.

A highlight of the year was in August, when MALB showcased its tenacity and skill at the Queensland Carnival held at Mermaid Beach Bowling Club. Notably, this was the Club's largest turnout in recent memory, with a formidable team of 23 players. The women's team, true to their prowess, earned the Women's Shield, underscoring MALB's dominant presence in the sport.

## Special Shoutout:

**Gary Lasky** - The club would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Gary Lasky for his exemplary contribution to coaching. Gary's dedication and passion for lawn bowls have not gone unnoticed. He was the deserving recipient of the VicSports Coaching Award in 2021 for his unparalleled services to lawn bowls. His immense contribution to the sport extends beyond just the Club; he has trained over 250 new coaches across Victoria. Moreover, his voluntary efforts with the Sandbelt Region Board and collaboration with Bowls Australia in introducing primary children to lawn bowls highlights his dedication to the growth and sustainability of the sport.

## Volunteer Recognition:

**Lothar Prager** - Serving as the club's treasurer for 30 years, Lothar's unwavering commitment and meticulous management have been pivotal to the Club's financial stability.

**Marilyn Faiman** - Marilyn, the club's steadfast secretary for over 25 years, has been instrumental in maintaining effective communication and smooth operations.



# Maccabi Ajax Netball Club

## Junior Club Achievements

2023 marked a significant year for the Maccabi Ajax Netball Club, witnessing record participation in the U13 age group and the Pups Development Program.



### Members:

187 juniors and 48 seniors  
26 teams

### Coaches:

18 and 4 assistants

### Volunteers:

Committee of 8  
5 volunteer parent coaches  
18 team managers

Six U11 teams showcased their talent at the Kingston & District Netball Association (KDNA). Although they didn't progress to the finals, the commitment and growth displayed was noteworthy. **Kate Lustig**, as the head coach, played a pivotal role in nurturing this growth, and the Club is beaming with pride over **Evie Israelsohn** and **Abigail Terry's** selection for the KDNA representative program.

At the Caulfield & District Netball Association (CDNA), 13 teams competed, with 5 making it to the finals. Both U15 Gladiators and U18 Rockets reached the Grand Finals. **Summer Klinger, Rachel Naphtali, Gisele Berman, Zadie Bock, and Lexi Herszfeld** earned selections for the CDNA representative program, while **India Steiner** stood out for the Stonington Netball Association.

## Senior Club Successes

In the senior spectrum, the Jets locked in a victory in their Grand Final at the Stonington Netball Association and the Emeralds showcased commendable skill and determination at Waverley, reaching the finals against stiff competition.

## *Farewell Tali*

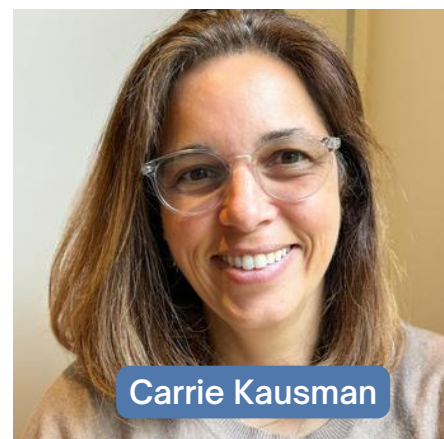
The close of the Autumn season was poignant as the club bade farewell to head coach, **Tali Friede**. Her dedicated service for over five years, infusing her passion and expertise, has been invaluable to the club's growth.

## Milestones & Highlights

A standout moment was the revival of the Mother's Day training session in May. Despite the rain, the Maccabi Ajax Netball community donned shades of pink and turned up in full spirit. This vibrant event raised over \$1000 for Breast Cancer Australia. Special mention goes to **Keren Green** who volunteered her time and enlivened the session with a Zumba warm-up. This gesture, along with the year's accomplishments, encapsulates the spirit of the Maccabi Ajax Netball Club - unity, determination, and community involvement.



Mia Waislitz



Carrie Kausman

### Athlete of the Year: Mia Waislitz

A Year 11 student, Mia Waislitz stands out not only for her prowess on the netball court but also for her commendable team spirit. Playing a vital role for both the junior and senior club, her commitment shines through. Mia took on the responsibility of being the team coordinator for the U18 Blaze and selflessly offers herself as a fill-in player for any other senior teams, embodying the true spirit of a team player.



### Volunteer Spotlight: Carrie Kausman

Stepping in as the senior coordinator late last year, Carrie Kausman has made an undeniable impact. She adeptly manages all senior teams spanning two different associations. Ensuring every team is fully staffed, especially during challenging periods like university holidays, speaks volumes about her dedication. Beyond team management, Carrie has been instrumental in reinforcing the Club's commitment to safety, playing a pivotal role in updating and implementing first aid measures. Her tireless efforts and passion for the Club's well-being deserve applause.

# Ajax Ski Club

## Club Overview

The Ajax Ski Club Lodge opened its doors for the 2023 season from 23 June to 17 September. The Club was thrilled to introduce **Jenny Brennan** as the new lodge manager for the season. With her experience on the mountain since 1991, Jenny, alongside her husband **Mark**, brought invaluable experience and a fresh touch to the Club's lodge operations. The lodge kitchen also saw the addition of **Joel Wackett**, an experienced chef who created fantastic meals throughout the season.



The club was fortunate to have a dedicated staff with **Enzo** returning for another year, supported by newcomers **Amy, Beth, and Pablo. Midge** stayed on in a support role, primarily assisting **Maria**, the new booking officer and bookkeeper. Their combined efforts in managing bookings, especially during the transition to a new system, were instrumental in ensuring a smooth operation.

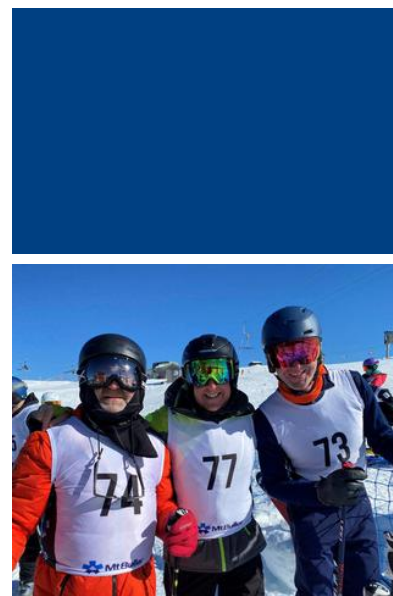
A note of appreciation goes to **Aaron Cooper**, the Club's Vice President, for his sterling work on the new booking system and website launch. The Club also undertook significant maintenance during the off-season, from essential repairs to upgrades like the Starlink internet connection.

## Ajax Club Championships

Held on 22 July, the Club Championship witnessed 35 competitors racing down the Skyline track. Participants showcased their skills over two runs, with the winners being determined by the lowest combined time. Congratulations go out to **Ellie Tisher, Natasha Mandie, Tori Kausman, Adam Weisz, Danny Weisz, and Brett Tait** for their exemplary performances in their respective categories. In the Open Men Snowboard division, **Aaron Cooper** shone, while **Jacob Mandie** stood out in the All Abilities category.

## Australian Maccabi Snow Sports Championships

Held on 30 July at Mt Buller, the championships saw some venue changes due to snow conditions but still had an impressive turnout of 74 participants. The schools' support was commendable, with athletes from various institutions taking part. Standout performances were by siblings **Sarah and Henry Orner**. The event culminated with the special Debbie Grace Memorial Award given to **Georgie Jolson**.



# Maccabi Snooker Club

## The Victorian Jewish Open

The Maccabi Snooker Club marked another exciting year in 2023, with key events drawing significant attention. The Victorian Jewish Open saw a thrilling showdown between last year's finalists, **Marc Fridman** and **Brendon Lang**, at the Club's brand-new base at Hampton RSL Club on August 9.

In a turn of familial rivalry, both Fridman and Lang bested their respective fathers, **Tony Fridman** and **Michael Lang**, in the semifinals. Marc Fridman once again showcased his skills, defending his title with a clean 4-0 victory in the final. Though he won with a clear margin, the individual frames told a tale of closely contested competition. Notably, Brendon Lang, a multiple-time champion of the tournament, took a commanding lead in the second frame with a 52-point break. However, the resilient Fridman managed to clinch both the second and the third frames 58-57.

The tournament, which spanned several weeks and consisted of a group stage leading up to the finals series, witnessed a robust participation of 24 players. Club president **Adam Beitner** expressed his satisfaction with the turnout and the competitive spirit displayed by all the participants.

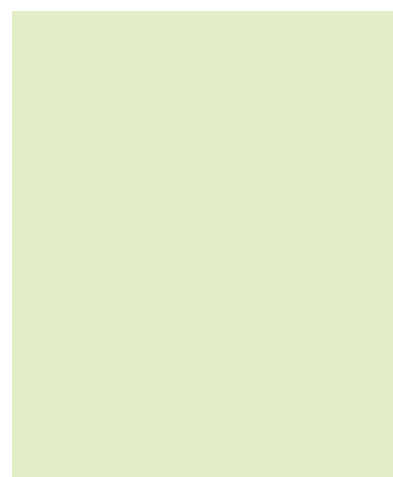
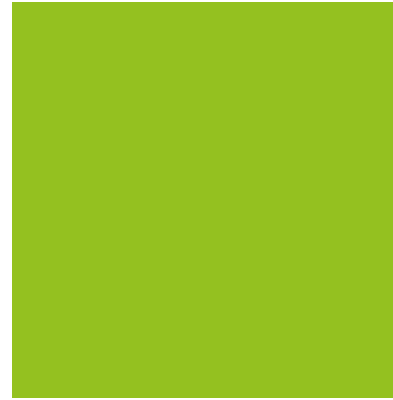
## Grand Reopening of the Maccabi Billiard and Snooker Rooms

Adding to the club's year of accomplishments, 2023 also marked the grand reopening of the Maccabi Billiard and Snooker Rooms at Hampton RSL.

This momentous event symbolises the club's commitment to its members and the sport, ensuring a top-notch facility for enthusiasts to practice, compete, and enjoy.

## Closing Remarks

From thrilling tournaments to significant milestones like the grand reopening, 2023 stands as a testament to the club's growing reputation and its unwavering dedication to the sport.



# North Caulfield Maccabi Soccer Club

## Season Overview:

2023 was a remarkable year for North Caulfield Maccabi Soccer Club. The Club successfully fielded three formidable teams: Seniors, Reserves, and Thirds. The season saw a tangible uplift in morale, which was evident in the aggressive, attack-focused brand of football that all Maccabi teams showcased on the field.

## Coaching Staff:

Under the strategic direction of **Nick Radecki**, the Senior Head Coach, ably assisted by **Alon Blumgart** and overseen by **Andrew Freund**, the Director of Football, the team achieved commendable results. Their relentless dedication and commitment set the pace for a fantastic season.

## Sponsorship and Support:

The club extends its heartfelt gratitude to its major sponsor, **Jonathan Munz**, whose continued and generous support played a pivotal role in this season's successes.

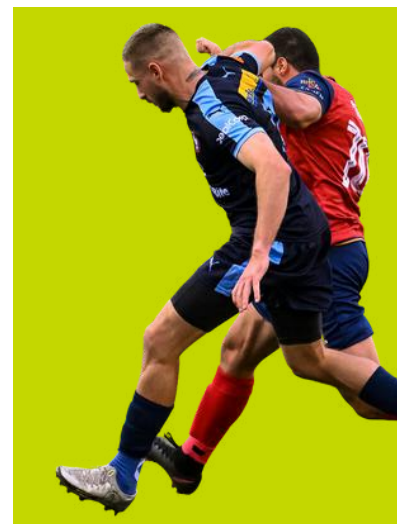
## Administrative Acknowledgments:

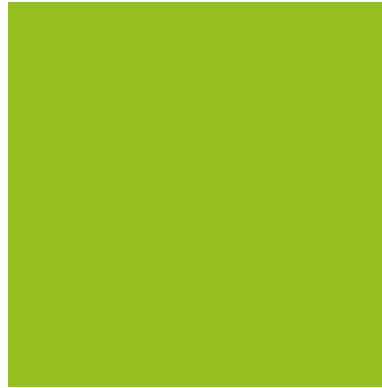
The Club owes a huge debt of gratitude to **Samantha Phillips** and **Zhenya Elgart**. Their meticulous and continuous efforts with player registrations and liaising with Football Victoria ensured smooth club operations.

## Awards

- **Thirds Team Awards:**
  - Top Goal Scorer: **Jarred Swire**
  - Best & Fairest: **Rafael Better & Jonathan Distiller**
- **Reserves Team Awards:**
  - Top Goal Scorer: **Eial Donnenfeld**
  - Best & Fairest: **Adam Lerner**
- **Club Awards:**
  - Most Improved: **Michail Schneider**
  - Most Courageous & Determined: **Benjamin Schneider**
  - Michael Lowinger Best Club Person: **Ben Israelsohn**
- **Senior Team Awards:**
  - Top Goal Scorer: **Michail Schneider**
  - Coach's Awards: **Jude Jankelowitz & Daniel Spungin**
  - Runner Up Best & Fairest: **Daniel Sacks**
  - Best & Fairest: **Joel Kelsall**

**Honouring Past Leadership:** A special mention is reserved for past President **Morris Ritz**. His unwavering dedication and commitment to the club over the years have set a benchmark and have greatly contributed to the club's ethos and success.





### *Maccabi Firsts*

It's the first time the Club has had three teams competing in pennant squash.

-----  
 The team playing in the C division have won two premierships this year!

-----  
 The A team earned a respectable runners-up position in a hard fought contest.

# Maccabi Squash Club



In 2023, Maccabi Squash Club demonstrated notable success and growth. The notion of the club securing two premierships and attaining a runner-up position in a single year was once unthinkable, yet this year the dream became a reality!

The club has witnessed substantial expansion, now featuring three thriving teams competing in A grade, B Reserve, and C Reserve. This broad structure has opened doors for players of all abilities, fuelling an increase in sign-ups and interest. This inclusive approach forecasts a sustained rise in membership.

With the spring season underway, excitement is building for the summer league, anticipating further growth in membership. The Club's immediate goal is to retain its three teams, ensuring stability and laying a foundation for potential expansion in the upcoming year. The Club's trajectory is promising, and there is a palpable sense of anticipation for continued success in future seasons.

## *Volunteer Recognition*

**John Gould** deserves notable recognition for his unwavering commitment to the Club from its inception. Balancing his role as the president of another Maccabi Club, he has continually striven to propel the Squash Club forwards. John's forward-thinking approach focuses on enhancing player skills, refining the courts, and acquiring essential gear, solidifying his status as a respected and valued figure within the Maccabi Squash Club!

**John Gould**



# Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club

In 2023, the Maccabi Swimming Club made significant strides in re-establishing itself as a competitive force, especially at the junior level, following years of inactivity. This resurgence can be largely credited to the formation of Maccabi Aquatics, as well as the comprehensive training program tailored to swimmers of all skill levels. Under the leadership of Head Coach **Guy Eylon** and his coaching squad, around 60 club swimmers engaged in every regional and state swimming meet throughout the season. The junior training arm boasted 120 active participants, classified across 7 specialised squads ranging from National to District level. 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.

## *Volunteer Recognition*

The Club recognises the extensive contribution made by **Mark Roseman** and **Clive Aaron**, the two Club committee members who conceived of, and brought Maccabi Aquatics to fruition. The 2022-23 season was the first full season of junior squad swimming, and the results have been remarkable. The Club looks forward to building on the performance in years to come.

**60 CLUB SWIMMERS COMPETING ACROSS 7 CATEGORIES**

## *Looking Ahead*

As for the upcoming year, the club looks forward to further growth and development under new Head Coach **Adrian Hepfer**. Plans are in place to include parents of junior swimmers in various portfolio teams, aimed at boosting the club's services and communications. The 2022-23 season has firmly set the stage for an optimistic future for the Maccabi Swimming Club.





In 2023 the **Honorary Life Membership** was conferred upon 4 members. The last time this honour was awarded was 8 years ago!



Barry Carp, Michael Carp, Mark Roseman, Max Michael and Roloef Vogel

*"This memorable evening was marked by the recognition of outstanding performances and deep reverence for legends of the past." - Maccabi Swimming Club Awards Night 2023*



## **Awards Night**

The Maccabi Swimming Club, in collaboration with Maccabi Aquatics, celebrated its inaugural Awards Night on 27 August. This memorable evening was marked by the recognition of outstanding performances and deep reverence for legends of the past.

The night held a poignant moment as attendees paid homage to the late **Nachum Buch**, a figure of significance in the club's history. Having coached at Mount Scopus College and the Alma Road pool, Nachum's influence remains enduring. Two of his former swimmers, **Barry Carp** and **Michael Carp**, shared stirring anecdotes of their experiences under his guidance, moving the audience deeply. As a highlight of the evening, Nachum's family members—**Edna, Jenny, Ron, and Simon**—proudly presented the newly instituted 'Nachum Buch Trophy for Best Performance of the Year' to the deserving **Peri Afranco**.

The evening also witnessed a rare and special tradition, as Honorary Life Memberships were conferred upon four stalwarts of the club: **Barry Carp, Michael Carp, Mark Roseman, and Max Michael**. Recognising their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions in varied capacities, this prestigious accolade, last granted eight years prior, spotlights their profound impact on the Maccabi Swimming Club's legacy.



# Maccabi Table Tennis Club



## Plans & Goals:

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.

In 2023, Maccabi demonstrated its prowess in the Table Tennis Victoria Pennant competition with multiple teams flying the club's flag high. Their standout achievement was a grand victory in Season 1 Division 3, thanks to the exceptional team of **Rohan Woolf, Mark Levin, Marc Listmangof, and Andrew Shostak**. Not resting on their laurels, the club clinched the runners-up position in Season 1 Division 2, with stellar performances from **David Cyngler, Jack Cyngler, Mark Freedman, and Dean Frenkel**. The momentum continued as they also secured the runners-up spot in Season 2 Division 4, underpinned by the efforts of **Marc Listmangof, Samuel Bloom, and Stephen Golding**. Clearly, 2023 was a year of remarkable achievements for Maccabi in the realm of table tennis.

**ESTABLISHED 1980**  
**30 MEMBERS**  
**4 COACHES**  
**5 VOLUNTEERS**

## Athlete Recognition:

Affiliated with the Maccabi Table Tennis Club, **Brian Tesler** is Australia's top Jewish Junior Table Tennis Player. At just 11, Brian has showcased incredible prowess since he began playing in 2019. He ranks as Australia's number 2 in the Under 11 category and number 8 for Under 13s. Competing in Division 2 for Maccabi Table Tennis Victoria Pennant, he often faces highly skilled opponents.

In 2023, Brian earned the Under 11 Geelong Tournament Champion title and secured runner-up spots in esteemed competitions such as Croydon, Ballarat, Vic Open, and Bendigo. His commitment is evident in his rigorous 25-hour weekly training schedule and monthly tournament participation.

With dreams of representing Australia at the Maccabiah Games in 2025 and 2029, he's also aiming for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and Brisbane's 2032 Games. Determined and ambitious, Brian's journey epitomises dedication and talent, as he works towards global recognition in table tennis.





# Maccabi Tennis Club



The club's commitment to sustainability and quality is evident in its recent upgrade to LED lighting. These brighter, energy-efficient lights enhance the playing experience and reinforces the club's dedication to eco-friendly initiatives.

In 2023, the Maccabi Tennis Club takes immense pride in celebrating its centennial year of community tennis, marking its presence as the oldest continuous Jewish sports club within the Maccabi Australia organisation. In October the club made the decision to postpone it's centenary celebrations due to the situation in Israel, but looks forward to celebrating at a more appropriate time in 2024. This event promises to be a grand gathering of the Maccabi Tennis community, reflecting on the club's illustrious past and envisioning a future replete with accomplishments.

## *Tennis Champs*

As part of its annual tradition, the Maccabi Tennis Club and Victorian Jewish Tennis Championships were held in September and October 2023. These events showcased top-tier talent and maintained the club's long-standing reputation for fostering excellence in tennis.

**100 MEMBERS**  
**14 VOLUNTEERS**  
**5 COACHES**

### **Standout Performances: Doubles Team Excellence**

The year was also notable for exceptional performances on the doubles court. The Maccabi mixed doubles team, under the adept leadership of **Natalee Nahoom**, showcased a stellar performance throughout the season, culminating in their grand victory. Their triumph in the Grand Final earned them the coveted title of Premiers, a testament to their dedication and prowess.

In a parallel vein of excellence, the Grade 10 Pennant team, steered by the tenacious **Joel Rabinov**, delivered an impressive season. Their final match was a nail-biter, where they showcased true grit and determination. Despite their commendable efforts, they were narrowly outperformed, losing by a margin of just seven games at three rubbers all. Their gallant spirit in the face of defeat was an embodiment of sportsmanship and remains a highlight of the season.

## Volunteer Superstars

**Natalee Nahoom:** Natalee joined the Committee in 2023 and brought with her a surge of enthusiasm and fresh perspectives. Her contributions have been invaluable, especially in securing three corporate sponsorships, providing an additional revenue stream for the Maccabi Tennis Club. This was an area that had not seen much focus in previous years due to resource constraints. Beyond her off-court contributions, Natalee showcased her talent on the court, leading a mixed doubles team, mainly comprised of players new to competition, to a Premiership victory. She has been actively advocating for and promoting women's tennis at the club.

**Moshik Grushka:** As the outgoing Junior Coordinator, Moshik made significant strides in enhancing the club's junior programme. His dedication extended to organising various improvements around the Club. Noteworthy among these were the introduction of scoreboards, presentation of pennant flags, and setting up a system for tennis ball recycling.



# 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'd like to get involved.



# Maccabi Toastmasters Club

*We welcome visitors to our meetings to join our club's common purpose... to become better speakers, socialise and have fun.*

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



This year, the club marked two major milestones: receiving the **Outstanding Distinguished Club Award** from Toastmasters International and marking their **20th anniversary** (plans are underway for a grand celebration to commemorate this special anniversary). Looking ahead the club is focused on progressing their members through the pathways program and encouraging members to participate on a competitive level.

## Speaker Highlight

The club would like to acknowledge **Carin Danon** who has secured a place in all four speaking competitions at the club level and advanced to the Area Contests. Additionally, she achieved level 5 in her pathway in a record time. As a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker, the club wishes her success in the upcoming area and division competitions.

## Volunteer Superstar

Maccabi Toastmasters boasts some incredibly dedicated volunteers, but none stand out as much as **Helen Gorelik**. She has served as the club's linchpin for the past 15 years. Helen has assumed every role within the club and has been a stalwart member of the executive for at least a decade. She is fantastic with membership recruitment and has put in many late nights organising meetings. Helen has also been a huge help guiding members through the Pathway Journeys. This entails regular navigation of the Toastmasters' website and assisting members in initiating their speeches. Always ready with a smile, Helen is ever eager to volunteer and support the Maccabi group in any way she can.

# Maccabi Ajax Water Polo Club



## Club Overview

In 2023, the Maccabi Ajax Water Polo Club continued its regular routine, dedicating 38 weeks of the year to training and playing around 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**  
**14 MEMBERS**  
**1 COACH**  
**6 VOLUNTEERS**  
**30+- GAMES PLAYED**



**Paul Fleiszig**



**Athlete and volunteer recognition: Paul Fleiszig** - For nearly two decades, Paul has dedicatedly served as the club president of the Maccabi Ajax Water Polo Club. His unwavering commitment has seen him don multiple roles, always placing the club's interests at the forefront. As he recently stepped down from his presidential role, it's high time to acknowledge and celebrate his longstanding and invaluable contribution to the club!



# Thank You

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

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ALAN SYNMAN FAMILY  
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# Thank You

Thank you for being a part of our journey  
We're excited to see what 2024 brings!

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