



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President: The Elders - past, present and emerging

Ruth Figdor (Past President of B'nai B'rith District 21) often asks me what is our District doing now? I always find this a somewhat awkward question, because I know that it is doing less than it did when she was leading our roof body in Australia-New Zealand. They used to run leadership courses, hold large prestigious fundraising events (eg the Gold Dinners) and support the smaller Jewish communities in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane. But that was then (twenty years ago). The District's role as our roof body has diminished and its role has become less well known to our members. Its title also changed to Board of Governors of BBANZ. These changes are not a criticism of current President David Samuels in Sydney or of his predecessor Morris Tobias, but a recognition of changing trends in the Jewish community. Other organisations have similar issues.

The committee of BBANZ has grappled with its changing role. Jim Altman OAM in Sydney (now one of the International Vice-Presidents of B'nai B'rith) suggests we should focus more on our international links with BB in the USA, Europe and Israel and we should be stronger advocates on Human Rights like we were in the past. Our research found that BB in the USA indeed does wonderful work on combatting antisemitism, strongly advocating for Israel at the UN and with government and running retirement houses for the elderly. However, they run their organisation differently – with a core group of professionals in Washington and fewer volunteer and community based programs. This may not be the best model for us in Australia.

You will get a chance to discuss these issues and meet the new International President of B'nai B'rith when he comes to Melbourne in September 2022 to participate in our Triennial Convention and to install the next BBANZ President. We will also celebrate at that time the current work of BBANZ including the popular Click and Connect project, the Israel Commission's projects and our re-entry into advocacy activities.

Many of you participated in our Walking Together and Pillar of Lights festivities at Federation Square on the last night of Chanukah. It was a deeply meaningful event. This involvement with the First Nations people helped us to better appreciate aboriginal culture and their everlasting strong links to the land we all share. The walk also gave us a chance to show support for reconciliation and the Uluru Statement of the Heart which BBVic has endorsed.

Another indigenous custom that I like is the way they respect their elders and acknowledge them at each ceremony and welcome to country. I think our current and past BBANZ leaders such as Ruth Figdor, Adrienne Perch, Morris Tobias and David Samuels are our Elders and perhaps should receive more recognition as such.

We look forward to 2022 with hope. Our own BB house is in better order now than it has been in the past. We are ready to roar and play our part in helping strengthen the community. I will be finishing my four and a half year term as BBVic President soon. I wish Peter Schattner, who will be taking over from me in March the best of luck and my support.

President Dr Benny Monheit

Message from the BBANZ President



Welcome to the year 2022. Let's hope it's a good one for all of us.

At the time of writing this report, it is still 2021. Thankfully it is my last report for this year. By the time you read this, Sue and I will have visited our only daughter who lives in Singapore and whom we haven't seen in over two years. Our family in Melbourne, our son, daughter in law and two grandchildren all caught Covid recently but thankfully have recovered. Our 9 year old granddaughter in London also caught Covid very recently but, at the time of writing this report, her condition is improving. We hope to visit our family in London this coming March; it's been almost 3 years since we've seen them.

I am told that the "Walking Together" event held in Federation Square recently went very well with multiple organisations involved, including B'nai B'rith. The Menorah was lit by both Indigenous and Jewish People. Thanks go to all of you who became involved.

Special thanks go to Dr. Benny Monheit for attending the "Jewish Change Makers Awards" run by both the JNF and B'nai B'rith and congratulations again go to all involved.

Recently, through the help and assistance of a number of people from B'nai B'rith in both Victoria and New South Wales, a very well written submission on Human Rights and B'nai B'rith's involvement was sent to the Human Rights Commission. It is available to be read on our B'nai B'rith website bnaibrith.org.au under Projects – Advocacy.

By the time you read this report, B'nai B'rith International will have a new President, Seth Riklin. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Charles (Chuck) Kaufman, for his support and interest in B'nai B'rith Australia/ New Zealand. Chuck not only attended the last Triennial Conference held in Melbourne in 2019 but has also attended by way of Zoom a number of events held by B'nai B'rith during the pandemic. These were often late at night or early in the morning for him. On behalf of all of B'nai B'rith in this part of the world, we wish Chuck and his wife Vonnie all the very best for the future.

David Samuels
President BBANZ

MAJOR BBVIC EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

December:

Office Closes for 2021: Thursday 23rd December

January:

Office Re-open for 2022: Monday 10th January

Sunday 30th at 2:30pm - **2022 Kick-Off Function** REGISTRATION is ESSENTIAL [here](#)

RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

Co-Presidents: Simone Markus / Jacqui Dinor-Corry

Secretary: Adrienne Perch

Preview: Jacqui Dinor-Corry

PLEASE NOTE: double vaccinations and proof are mandatory for all face-to-face get togethers.

What's happening in January:

Sunday 16

11:00am - Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration at the St Kilda Town Hall with guest speaker Mr Jan Anger who will be showing two historical videos relating to Raoul Wallenberg. The City of Port Phillip is hosting this annual event and invites you to attend. Morning tea will be served. Please observe COVID-19 regulations. Bookings essential via [this link](#). Enquiries: Simone Markus.

Coming up in February:

Tuesday 1

2pm - (please note this new time) **Regular Meeting with Memorial Service.** Beth Weizmann. For our recently departed Sister P/P Eva Urbach with Eva's children, also Zoom Memorial for Minnie Kahan with the Kahan Family. This will be followed by a talk by our own member guest speaker P/P Michele Huppert being interviewed by P/P Harry Better OAM on Michele's recently published book "MALOU" - the story of her mother during the time of the French Resistance during WW2.

Wednesday 9

2:30pm - **Executive Meeting** at the home of Jacqui Dinor-Corry.

Wednesday 23

2pm - **Coco Chanel Fashion Exhibition** at the National Gallery of Victoria International (180 St Kilda Rd). Entrance \$28 concession. Meet at the inside entrance of the gallery. For reservations call or email Leah Black.

Coming up in March:

Tuesday 1

2pm - **Israel and the Jewish World** - Memorial Service for P/P Phil Symons OAM. Venue Beth Weizmann. Speaker to be announced.

Wednesday 9

2:30pm - **Executive Meeting** at the home of Wendy Waller.

Tues-Thurs 22-24

Bus Trip to Sale. All information included in attached 2 page insert (itinerary, cost etc).

Special thanks to Leah Black for hosting our "Wallenberg end of the year Chanukah party" with a very exciting music quiz, very tasty afternoon tea and great camaraderie.

And for 2022-we wish you everything you could possibly wish for yourselves and a little extra as well.

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir & Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Tom & Karin Zafir

- Every Sunday** 11:00am - **Sunday morning "get-together"** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85211082214?pwd=QU5HNmwySjhvRzltc1cvMVgwWS9RUT09> If you use the link you will not need to enter the passcode, however if you start Zoom and enter the meeting ID, you will be prompted to enter the passcode. Zoom Meeting ID: 852 1108 2214 **NOTE: NEW LINK**
- Every Thursday** 11:00am - **Exercise Classes** - Exercises adapted for all levels of fitness. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89874540497?pwd=UEUyWWNSRDl0dHJLY2FDVEliel6Zz09> Meeting ID into Zoom: 898 7454 0497, Passcode 053217

What's on in January:

- Sunday 2** 12:00pm - **Not Quite New Year's Day Picnic** – Hedgeley Dene Gardens, Malvern
- Sunday 30** **Popcorn and Pizza Movie Night at the Flitmans'** – Movie: My Name is Khan. Bookings essential. Contact Evelyn Flitman.

Coming up in February:

- Sunday 6** 8:00am - 4:00pm - **Sausage Sizzle** at Bunnings Moorabbin (Warrigal Rd cnr Fairchild Street). Helpers needed for 2 hour shifts. Contact Evelyn Flitman.
- Monday 7** Group visit to 'The Lume', a digital art exhibition of Van Gogh's life and works at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Book NOW so you don't miss out – contact Eleanor. Book early to avoid missing out!
- Saturday 12** **Dinner at a restaurant** - location to be confirmed

Coming up in March:

- Friday 11 to Monday 14** **Weekend away** to Bendigo in conjunction with Unit Akiba. For more information see flyer or Contact Henry Winfield.

UNIT AKIBA

President: Helen Fisher
Secretary: Annette Gladwin
Preview: Henry Gladwin

What's on in January:

- Sunday 2** *From 12:30pm - Picnic lunch* in the Elms Picnic Area at Jells Park, Wheelers Hill. Bring chairs, rugs, picnic baskets and folding tables for a relaxing afternoon of catching up and shmoozing. Enquiries: Henry and Sue Winfield.
- Sunday 16** *10:30am - Mid-morning beach walk* in Hampton, meeting at the corner of Small and Hampton Streets. Lunch to follow at noon at Sebastian's, 301/303 Hampton Street. Please make lunch bookings with Denise Le Bransky.
- Thursday 20** *8:00pm - 9:30pm - The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club* will meet and review the book "East West Street: On the Origins of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity" by Philippe Sands. Presenter: Mark Haskin. Contact person and enquiries re participation: Peter Schattner.

Coming up in February:

- Wednesday 16** *7:30pm - Executive Committee* meeting on Zoom.
- Sunday 20** *7:00pm TBC - Akiba's 40th birthday celebrations* and dinner at Nogga in Carlisle Street. Cost \$60 per person. Further details to follow. Enquiries: Suzanne Goldin.

Coming up in March:

- Friday 11 to Monday 14** *Akiba / Gesher-Rabin Units weekend away* to Bendigo. Enquiries: Henry Winfield.
- Wednesday 16** *7:30pm - Executive Committee* meeting on Zoom.
- Thursday 17** *8:00pm - 9:30pm - The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club.* Further details to follow. Enquiries: Peter Schattner.
- Sunday 20** *7:30pm - Regular meeting*, followed by a "Night at the Opera" with Andrew Kolb. Further details to follow.

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Claude Fromm

Vice-President: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's happening in January:

Wednesday 26 12:30pm - **Welcome back in 2022-** Lunch at Leo Baeck Centre, Harp Rd. East Kew. BYO everything. Please contact Claude if you are coming. Once again proof of double vaccination is a must.

2021 - The Year in Review

BB Hatikvah Unit meets at Leo Baeck Centre on the last Sunday of the month. Unfortunately, Covid 19 is still with us and as a result a great many of our face to face meetings were cancelled. Nevertheless, we had many interesting speakers. We welcomed 2021 with a self-catered picnic in the park hoping we could remain face to face for the rest of the year. Unfortunately that was not to be. In March, we managed to be at LBC for our regular meeting. In April, we had a walk and self-catered lunch. Sandra Hacker spoke to us via Zoom in May. In June, we had face to face with Pierre Harcourt. August saw a successful fund-raising event and afternoon of fun and games on Zoom. In September, we watched the film Babi Yar on Zoom. In October, we had Dr. David Mushin on Zoom. In November, Anne Catchpole from Cottage by the Sea was face to face at last. In December, we had a collection of non-perishable food as well as books and toys for the Salvation Army. And we had a farewell to 2021 at the Fromms'. A big thank you to the Activities committee for their help in these trying times. A special thank you to Gerry Hamer for continuing to organize the makings for calico dolls so that some of us have been able to fill and sew up in our home. As a result, we have increased the number of dolls made in previous years. Thank you also to Ruth and Michael Taft for keeping us all connected via Zoom.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Tania Tobias

Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

What's on in January:

Sunday 9 Morning - Harvey will lead a **medium walk** in Sorrento.

Wednesday 19 Morning - **Easy midweek walk** in Beaumaris, led by Irena.

Sunday 23 or 30 Morning - A **hard walk** in the Blackwood-Lerderderg area, to Razorback and Ak Kow Spur.

What's on in February:

Sunday 6 Morning - Saul is investigating **summer walk** options to find a pleasant medium walk.

Wednesday 16 Morning - **Midweek walk** from Collingwood to Royal park via Yarra/Merri Creek/ Inner Circle.

Friday 25 to Monday 28 We are thinking of a backpack weekend hike in Wilsons Prom.

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

President: Janet Machliss Kohn

Vice President: Dorothy New

Preview: John Kohn

Coming up in February:

- Monday 7** Programming meeting....all welcome
- Wednesday 9** Executive Meeting
- Wednesday 16** 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting Speaker:** David Mushin "My Father and ASIO"
- Wednesday 23** 8:00pm - **Mamaloshen** at the home of Dorothy & Charles New. Please RSVP for catering purposes.
- Sunday 27** 2:00pm - "Would I lie to you" at Armadale Bowls Club. 41 Sussex Road, Caulfield South

Please save the dates:

Sunday 27th March - First Nations Cultural Session and BBQ in Rye at Kohns'

Monday 2 to Thursday 5 May - Weekend Away at RACV Inverloch

Sunday 22 May - Theatrical performance "Blessed Thorn"

MML BookClub dates and homes: All meetings on a Monday at 7.30pm

28/2 Anita Librach - Book: our choice

28/3 D and J Lewis

25/4 Janice Huppert

23/5 Pearl

27/6 Gilah Leder

25/7 Boymals' R&D

22/8 Danielle Schilling

19/9 (PLEASE NOTE: 26th September is Rosh Hashana) - Diane Orner

24/10 Adele Schachter

28/11 Doris Klein

19/12 (PLEASE NOTE: 26/12 is Boxing Day) - Doreen Hermann

Devorah Zmood has requested members send her details about their birthdays.

*If you know someone who has a special birthday, is unwell or has a welfare update please let us know

*Please Note: Double Covid vaccination for all our face-to-face get togethers.

For Literai: If you would like to discuss books on military, classic, or potboiler titles please contact Russell Stern.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy 2022

2022 BBVic Calendar Link:

Click [HERE](#) to see the BBVic calendar which includes all BBVic and Unit Events and Jewish Holidays

- Keep this link safe as this is where all events, activities or other BBVic related information will be placed.
- We recommend either placing this link on a sticky note on your desktop or making it a favourite in your web browser by clicking this on your web browser:



- You won't be able to edit the calendar, but you will be able to view it. It will update automatically if events change or are added throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy using this calendar.

The BBVic Office



Registration is essential:

<https://forms.office.com/r/89qd1NH7mk>



Yvette Coppersmith's Archibald Winning Entry

This Archibald entry from Yvette Coppersmith was featured as part of the "Archies" 100 year Archibald celebration held at the Geelong Art Gallery.

A very successful day trip in November was arranged by P/P Morris Tobias (Mitzvah Unit) with nearly 70 B'nai B'rith members attending. Most travelled by train.

Interesting to note that in 1997, a young lady aged 17 entered the B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition when she received the Morrie Gold Art Award with a portrait of her Bubba.

This young lady was Yvette Coppersmith and in 2018 she won the Archibald with this portrait of herself. Are we in B.B. ever proud?



BBVic - B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA CURRENT AFFAIRS WITH RON JAMES

SERIES ONE SESSIONS 2022
FORTNIGHTLY COMMENCING IN FEBRUARY.
DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM AVAILABLE SOON

Join an interactive discussion series tackling pressing global, political and local issues with fellow community members.

2021 B'nai B'rith Victoria Recap

Gesher-Rabin Unit:



GRU/Akiba cup day picnic



GRU/Akiba Weekend in Ballarat.
March 2021

Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge:



Some of the zoom snaps of a very successful Mitzvah Day doll making



Raoul Wallenberg Unit:



End of year Chanukah party for Raoul Wallenberg Unit this month. Hosted by P/P Leah Black, everyone enjoyed the great food, great challenging musical quiz and great camaraderie..... which is what we are all about.

Unit Akiba:



Akiba's collection of non-perishable
items for Mitzvah Day



The Akiba contingent at the
Gesher-Rabin Trivia Night,
November 14th



Supper after Akiba's movie night,
December 11th

Stamp Collection - Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge



For many years, Norman Super, a member of Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge, has been collecting stamps from B'nai B'rith, ADC, Courage to Care, family and friends, and passing them onto the Women of the University Fund Inc. Norman recently received a letter thanking him for his ongoing support and gave him some insight into the process involved. Once stamps arrive, volunteers begin by sorting stamps into categories, on paper, off paper, Australian and overseas, while at the same time discarding damaged or heavily marked stamps. Australian stamps are graded into mint, unfranked, unusual or unique, high value, Christmas Island, and the Antarctic. Bulk stamps are then sorted into 5 kilograms sacks marked over 60 and 60 and under. Special stamps are soaked and assembled in sets and bundles of 105 after being carefully examined for imperfections. Mint and other interesting stamps are displayed in albums. When the stamps are ready, they are sold to dealers. The proceeds are then donated to charities which support children. While extremely rewarding, the process is slow due to the diminishing supply of stamps.

If you would like to help collect stamps, the B'nai B'rith office will gladly pass these onto Norman Super for you.



Pictures from the BBVic's First Nations Reconciliation Project - Walking Together In Step with First Nations and Pillars of Light Candle Lighting



January:		
2nd	GRU	Not Quite New Year's Day Picnic
	Akiba	Picnic Lunch
9th	Ramblers	Medium Walk
16th	Akiba	Mid-Morning Beach Walk
16th	RWU	Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration
19th	Ramblers	Easy MidWeek Walk
20th	Akiba	The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club
26th	Hatikvah	Welcome Back
30th	GRU	Popcorn and Pizza Movie Night
	BBVic	Kick-Off Function
February:		
1st	RWU	Regular Meeting & Memorial Service
6th	GRU	Sausage Sizzle
	Ramblers	Summer Walk
7th	GRU	The Lume
	MML	Programming meeting
9th	RWU	Executive Meeting
	MMI	Executive Meeting
12th	GRU	Dinner at a restaurant
16th	Akiba	Executive Committee Meeting
	Ramblers	Midweek Walk
	MML	Regular Meeting
20th	Akiba	Akiba's 40th Birthday Celebration
23rd	RWU	Coco Chanel Fashion Exhibition
	MML	Mamaloshen
25th-28	Ramblers	Backpack Weekend
27th	MML	Would I Lie to You

Compiled and edited by Teegan Slomoi on behalf of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc.
 Proofread by Henry Gladwin and Printed by Blackfeather, Box Hill.

Official Publication of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc. Tel: 9523 0888 Email: admin@bbvic.org.au Website: www.bbvic.org.au
 Vol. 61 No. 1 Jan/Feb 2022. Price 40 cents. Approved by Australia Post P/P No. 100000993
 Members and friends of B'nai B'rith Victoria acknowledge the Boonerwung group of the Kulin Nation
 who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.