



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President... on B'nai B'rith's Educational Program

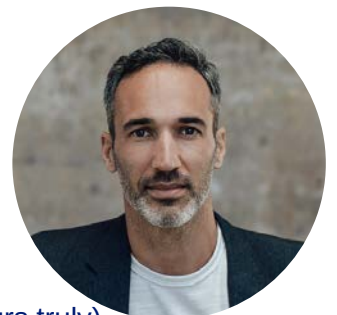


B'nai B'rith is involved in a wide range of activities that appeal to many people in the Jewish community and certainly attracts many in the 'second half' of their adult lives. One important category is the field of education through the provision of lectures and small group discussions. This is a list of some of these:

1) Armchair Society – a series of current affairs presentations by well-known speakers. This fortnightly presentation is chaired by Ron James and attracts on average 250 people. **Click [here](#) to book.**

2) Human Rights Oration – this is an annual event and this year, on 6 April at 3pm, Alex Ryvchin, the co-CEO of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, will speak on antisemitism, anti-Zionism and the battle for Jewish human rights.

I urge you to attend this oration, especially on this occasion. Alex Ryvchin is a tireless advocate for the Jewish community, and we should show our support for his campaign in the fight against antisemitism by showing up. **Click [here](#) to book.**



3) B'nai B'rith – Lamm Library lectures - both the President of B'nai B'rith Victoria (yours truly) and the Vice President (Professor Andrew Markus AO) are lecturing at the Lamm Library. Andrew has previously spoken about academia in Germany in the 1930s and will talk on March 18 about campus antisemitism - results from the 5A Survey. **Click [here](#) to book.**

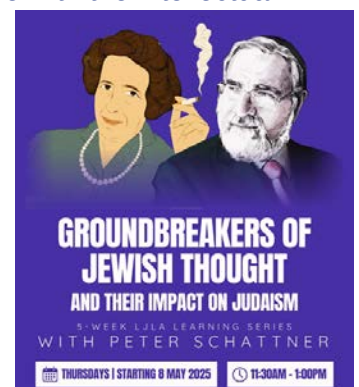
To complement Andrew's lecture, B'nai B'rith is also hosting a student perspective of campus antisemitism, featuring AUJS Victoria President Sara Lupton on March 21. **Click [here](#) to book.**

I shall commence a five-part series in May covering over a dozen important Jewish thinkers who have contributed to Judaism in the modern era. My underlying premise is that it is good for us to know who we are – not as victims of history, but as a group of people who have continued to wrestle with the intellectual challenges of life. **Click [here](#) to book.**

4) Unit presentations – the number of talks given at the unit level is too large to mention here, but details can be found in Preview and our **[website](#)**.

There is much on. B'nai B'rith is committed to adult education as it plays such an important role in promoting our culture. And if you have a thirst for knowledge, you have much to choose from.

Peter Schattner, President



Battling Antisemitism - B'nai B'rith's Changing Role



B'nai B'rith Victoria CEO Ellana Aarons has captured our members' mood well in the weekly email updates, on the complex and heart rendering situation in Israel's ongoing war against its many enemies and the spin off from all this in Australia.

ASIO's Director-General Mike Burgess has now revealed that some of the antisemitic activities in Australia are likely to be sponsored by 'a small number of authoritarian regimes'. Iran is one country that comes to mind that may be using local small-time criminals to spread hate and discord. It is hard to know how community agencies such as ours can counter that dangerous development.

Where does B'nai B'rith stand on all this? I sometimes feel under pressure that B'nai B'rith should be doing more than it is. I am proud that some of our members have participated in street rallies in support of Israel while many others have donated money to Israel's charities. We helped the Adass Synagogue after it was firebombed and have written to newspapers and talked to friends and work colleagues regarding the real issues in this war. We have put in a submission to the Senate Inquiry on antisemitism at university campuses and we have attended many lectures and webinars on the rise of antisemitism in Australia and overseas.

In Victoria we have seen multiple Jewish organisations putting on activities, seeming almost to be competing with each other rather than presenting a united front against antisemitism. This past week for example there were activities by the JCCV, the ECAJ, Zionist Victoria and the Lamm Library. B'nai B'rith is affiliated with all of these organisations, so we try to collaborate whenever possible with all of them, rather than putting on our own activities.

It was somewhat different in Victoria 49 years ago. B'nai B'rith members decided at their 1976 National Convention to set up a Commission to fight against rising antisemitism and racism at that time. Stephen Minz became the Chairman of this new organisation which started operating in 1979 and was called the B'nai B'rith Anti Defamation Commission (ADC). It was run by volunteers, had little money and no office space. But it grew in size and stature, ran fundraisers and annual Orations in Melbourne and Sydney and became the frontrunner in dealing with issues of antisemitism in Australia. Paul Gardner AM took over and became a successful chairperson in 1982 for six years and again later in 2002. Tony Levy led the ADC for three years from 2006 and he was replaced by Arnold Bloch. The philanthropist John Gandel provided significant financial support to the ADC from 2002 onwards. When Dvir Abramovich from the University of Melbourne became head of the ADC in 2012 Gandel increased his funding. Abramovich replaced the ADC Board with his own team and dropped the name B'nai B'rith from the title of his organisation at the AGM of 2014. Since then, the ADC has operated independently to B'nai B'rith.

This background helps to explain some of the difficulties we had in reestablishing a role for B'nai B'rith in Australia in this newly competitive space. Our view is that its more appropriate for us with our current demographic profile to work in collaboration with other Jewish and non-Jewish organisations to help overcome the plague of antisemitism.

Benny Monheit
President, BBANZ



*Photo from Bibas & Lifshitz
Memorial Wall gathering on
23/2/2025*

UPCOMING EVENTS

B'NAI B'RITH ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

In partnership with the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia
Hosted by Ron James

REMAINING SESSIONS FOR SERIES 1

March 4 - Josh Burns

March 11 - Stephen Conroy

March 25 - Matthew Sheahan

April 8 - Adir Shiffman

Venue advised upon booking
\$10 PER SESSION

TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS25



Please note that in presenting guest speakers, neither B'nai B'rith nor the Lamm Library is endorsing those individuals or their views. This series has been established to bring speakers to an audience who has the opportunity to form their own opinion, ask questions and challenge the speaker respectfully.



(03) 9523 0888 / www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria

Please note the newly added session on March 4 with Josh Burns

SCRABBLE GET TOGETHER

Hosted by B'nai B'rith Melbourne Lodge,
please join us for our first session.

**Come along and have fun, meet new people
in a friendly atmosphere!**

THURSDAY 13 MARCH

Time: 2:30pm
Venue: TBA

Contact Janet 0409 334 579

Please bring a scrabble board and tiles if you still have them!



9523 0888 | www.bnaibrith.org.au



Everyone invited!

UPCOMING EVENTS

B'NAI B'RITH FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

Featuring
World Class Vocalist and Entertainer
Rachael Grace

Venue:

Glen Eira McKinnon Bowling Club
Tyrone St, Ormond

Time:

2:30pm

Cost:

\$10 entry includes afternoon tea & a raffle ticket



MONDAY 17 MARCH

BOOKINGS: Brian 0408 142 531



Proudly supported by



B'nai
B'rith

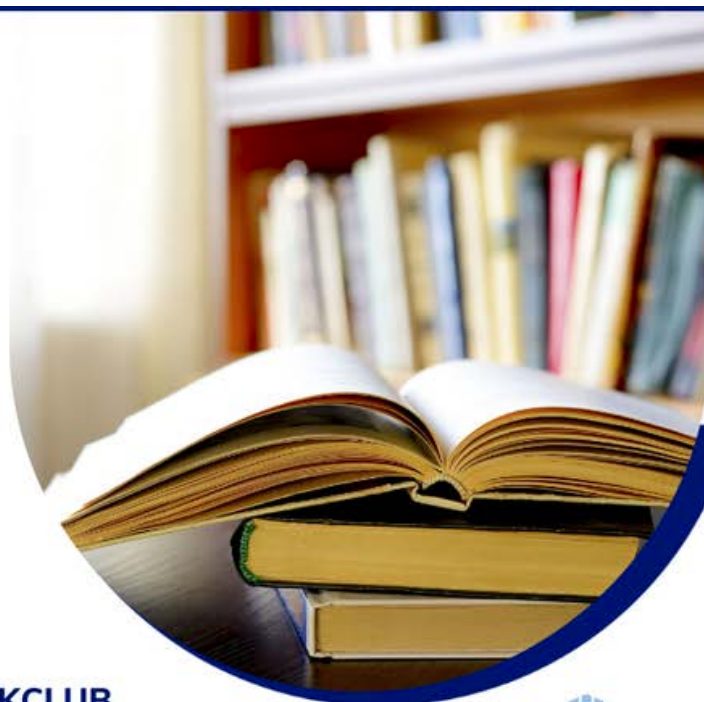
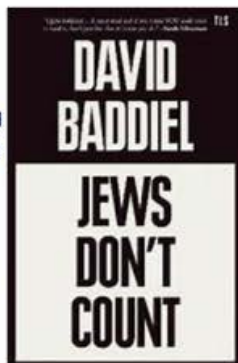
9523 0888 | www.bnaibrith.org.au

B'NAI B'RITH JEWISH NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

Featuring "Jews Don't Count" by David Baddiel

The discussion will be led by Annette Gladwin.

A Sunday Times bestseller, the subtitle to "Jews Don't Count" is: "How Identity Politics Failed One Particular Identity". Baddiel contends that antisemitism is often ignored or downplayed. He argues that Jews don't count as a real minority and why they should. Written several years prior to October 7th 2023, this book is even more relevant today and many have spoken to its importance, including Stephen Fry – "A Masterpiece", Simon Schama – "Brilliant", Nick Hillman – "If the sign of a good book is that it makes you think, then this is a very good book".



THURSDAY 20 MARCH, 8:00 - 9:30pm

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/2025JEWISHBOOKCLUB

For more information on the book club and for the venue, please contact Evelyn at non-fiction@bbvic.org.au.



B'nai
B'rith

UPCOMING EVENTS

Two wonderful events, providing you an opportunity to understand more about the situation facing staff and students on Australia's University Campuses - don't miss out!

ANTISEMITISM ON AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES: THE 5A SURVEY

LJLA LEARNING LECTURE IN COLLABORATION
WITH B'NAI BRITH VIC
WITH PROF. ANDREW MARKUS



TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025



6:30PM



B'NAI B'RITH PRESENTS

ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS: A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

with

**AUJS VICTORIA PRESIDENT
SARA LUPTON**

Moderated by Prof. Andrew Markus AO
Q & A session will follow the presentation

Venue advised on booking

FRIDAY 21 MARCH 10:00AM - 12:00PM

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/CAMPUS



9523 0888
www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN!

B'NAI B'RITH 30TH JEWISH YOUTH ART COMPETITION

REGISTRATIONS OPEN!



Painting credit:
Milena Hain

OPEN TO JEWISH STUDENTS YEARS 6 -12

- * PAINTING
- * DRAWING
- * PHOTOGRAPHY
- * PORTRAITURE / CARICATURE
- * MIXED MEDIA
- * SCULPTURE

ARTWORKS DISPLAYED IN GLEN EIRA
TOWN HALL GALLERY FROM 27 JUNE -
20 JULY

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 10 JUNE



9523 0888 | artcomp@bbvic.org.au |
www.bnaibrith.org.au



B'NAI B'RITH BERNARD J. LUSTIG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- TRAVEL GRANTS for outstanding university students with demonstrated leadership capabilities
- RESEARCH GRANTS for students pursuing a thesis at masters or doctoral level

Guidelines & Application Form

\$3000 SCHOLARSHIP!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
9 MAY 2025



9523 0888 | www.bnaibrith.org.au
lustigscholarship@bbvic.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE CORRESPONDENT

**We are excited to invite you to the second installment
of the B'NAI B'RITH MOVIE CLUB!
Featuring "The Correspondent"**

The Correspondent is a compelling true story about an Australian journalist, Peter Greste, who reports on the Arab Spring uprising is arrested and accused of terrorism. He has become a pawn in a deadly game of corrupt officials and ancient rivalries. Imprisoned for seven years despite his innocence, he survives on wits alone before his release in 2015.

Following the movie, a discussion will be facilitated by movie podcasters Rob Harris and Rohan Woolf ([Aussie and the Scotsmans Podcast](#)).

Movie will begin at 4pm. Please be punctual as there are no trailers or ads. If you are late, your ticket will be at the box office.

SUNDAY 4 MAY 2025 | 3:45PM

\$25 PP | EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/BBMOVIE2

CLASSIC CINEMA, ELSTERNWICK



ENQUIRIES: (03) 9523 0888 | admin@bbvic.org.au | www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



**B'nai
B'rith**



HUMAN RIGHTS ORATION



WITH

ALEX RYVCHIN

Co-Chief Executive Officer
of the Executive Council of
Australian Jewry

Recipient of the 2025 Human Rights Award

**ANTISEMITISM,
ANTI-ZIONISM AND THE BATTLE
FOR JEWISH HUMAN RIGHTS**

SUNDAY 6 APRIL 2025, 3:00PM

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/ORATION25

VENUE ADVISED UPON BOOKING



GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Karin Zafir

Every Sunday 11:00 am - Sunday morning "get-together"

What's on in March:

- Sunday 16** 11:00am - **Post Purim Party** at a venue in Bently East. Bookings essential! Bring a plate of milchig, parve or vegetarian food to share.
Bookings: <https://tinyurl.com/Post-Purim>
Venue will be advised on booking. (Please note, not at Umbrella Lounge)
- Tuesday 18** 11:00am - **MCG Guided Tour**, led by our very own member Margot Sims Cohen who is an experienced MCG guide. \$25 (regular price is \$35) Limited spaces available.
Bookings please by 11 March: <https://tinyurl.com/GRUMCG>
- Thursday 27** 11:00am - **Yayoi Kusama Exhibition @ NGV**
\$35 (seniors). Limited spaces available.
Bookings please by 18 March: <https://tinyurl.com/GRUKusama>

Coming up in April:

- Sunday 6** 3:00pm - **Human Rights Oration with Alex Ryvchin.**
Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/oration25>
- Sunday 13** **Second Seder** at a venue in Ormond. Booking details to be advised.
- Sunday 27** 10:00am - 4:00pm - **Graffiti Art Tour** [Wet weather– slide show]
Bookings: tinyurl.com/GRUgraffiti
Free for B'nai B'rith members; \$10 non-members

Mazal Tov to the following members who celebrate their birthday in March:

Sue Bendel (3rd), Nora Bernhardt (6th), Helen Schneider (20th), Mary Lipp (23rd), John Gould (27th)

Condolences to Eva Pragier on the passing of her mother, Halina.

Refuah Shleima to Leon Mattatia, Helen Heimann, Eleanor Aghion, Marvin Bude.

UNIT AKIBA

President: Henry Winfield

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Annette Harriott

What's on in March:

Sunday 16

7:00pm - **Regular Meeting.** For more info contact Suzanne.

Professor Andrew Markus AO will share and discuss 'The B'nai B'rith survey of its members.

In addition, Anita Bass and Jack Bar-Ness will discuss the history of the B'nai B'rith Click and Connect program, the benefits to both the students and the volunteers, as well as the exciting plans (and challenges!) to expand the program in Israel. We'll also invite members of this unit to share their experiences with Click and Connect. Please bring a folding chair and a small plate to share for supper.

Thursday 20

8:00-9:30pm - **Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club**

Featuring "Jews Don't Count" by David Baddiel

The discussion will be led by Annette Gladwin.

[Bookings: https://events.humanitix.com/bbmovie1](https://events.humanitix.com/bbmovie1)

Coming up in April:

Wednesday 2

10:30pm - **Visit to Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens**, Ballarto Road and Botanic Drive

Another wonderful Midweek Matters outing. Meet at visitor centre at 10.30am.

Admission is free unless you want to use electric bus - details below.

This beautiful bush land has over 450 plant species and 10 kms of walking tracks. It celebrates the diversity of Australian landscapes and has won awards. There are shelters to rest and a cafe on site where we can have a bite and coffee. There is an open air electric bus with live commentary available for those who wish to do this. A private booking will be made for those who want to avail themselves of this.

Price \$12 concession. Duration 30mins.

Please adhere to RSVP dates otherwise it makes bookings impossible.

RSVP to Miriam by 24/3.

Happy Birthday to the following members celebrating their birthdays in March:

Andrew Kolb (5th), Robina Jay (6th), Howard Rabinowitz (17th), Rosa Dias Santilhano (22nd), Annette Harriott (24th), Lois Cyngler (30th).

Mazel tov to Ruth Figdor on the birth of a great granddaughter in Israel, to parents Moshe & Yocheved Simon, grandparents Chana & Rabbi Chaim Weissman and Ita & Rabbi Dovid Simon and great grandparents Naomi Simon, in Israel.

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Claude Fromm

Vice-President: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's on in March:

Sunday 30

8:00pm - **Regular Meeting** at Leo Baeck Centre.

Please bring a small plate to share for supper.

Wishing the following members a happy birthday in March:

Issi Barit (11th), Ron Friedman (10th), Jenny Harvey (14th), Renee Shapiro (18th), Anne Josefsberg (20th)

We wish them all a happy and healthy year filled with good times, friendship and laughter.

Best wishes and a speedy recovery to any members who have been unwell recently.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Eitan Froumine

Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder



9527 6002



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

What's on in March:

Sunday 2

Morning - A medium walk in the South Frankston area will be led by Vardit and Ron Sacks-Davis.

Wednesday 19

Morning - Edna will lead an easy midweek walk from Darebin Parkland along Darebin Creek.

Sunday 30

Morning - SOHW walk from Olinda and back via Mt Dandenong will be led by Malcolm.

MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

President: Danielle Schilling

Vice-President: Jules Gaddie

Preview: Dr John Kohn

What's on in March:

Monday 3 7:30pm - *Programming meeting*

Thursday 6 3:00pm - *Executive meeting*

Wednesday 12 7:30pm - **Regular meeting** - Guest speaker: Judge Mordy Bromberg.
Topic: "From Bench to Bench"

Past Events:

B'nai B'rith Movie Club had its inaugural event screening - the Bob Dylan biopic "A Complete Unknown". Many of our members attended and greatly enjoyed the film and discussion. The next movie club will be held on Sunday 4 May, featuring the movie "The Correspondent". Bookings [HERE](#).

12/2/25 Regular Meeting

Our Guest Speaker was Ron Zmood who gave a very interesting talk on "Water". He explained that water is a precious limited resource. We will most likely see a substantial decrease in the quality and availability of water in many parts of the world. We need to better manage water resources and protect against waste and pollution.

Future activities

Danielle highlighted several important events that will be coming up during the year:

1. A 3-day midweek break in early May staying again at the RACV club in Torquay. *Details on Page 13*
2. We are going to hold an Intergenerational Debate between our members and a group of young adults
3. We are starting a monthly Thursday social games afternoon. We will begin with Scrabble to be held in a private home. *See flyer on page 3*
4. Several new members will be welcomed at the next Regular meeting.

March Birthday Greetings to:

David Lewis (3rd), Lesley Gaspar (13th), Jennifer Harvey (14th), Peter Schiff OAM (15th), Susie Taft (18th), Noam White (20th), Ann Offenberger (20th), Joe Kaufman (27th), Carol Bloustein (28th), Simone Markus (28th), Maurice Freeman (28th), Janice Huppert (30th).

UPCOMING EVENTS

GROUNDBREAKERS OF JEWISH THOUGHT AND THEIR IMPACT ON JUDAISM

5-WEEK LJLA LEARNING SERIES
WITH PETER SCHATNER



THURSDAYS | STARTING 8 MAY 2025



11:30AM - 1:00PM



B'nai
B'rith



B'NAI B'RITH MELBOURNE LODGE

invites you to a

3 DAY HOLIDAY BREAK AT TORQUAY

Please join us for a fun and relaxing time away!

Bookings to be made directly with RACV Torquay (03 5261 1633)

Book early as there is limited availability!

You need to provide the following:

- * Tell them you want the special offer called "Autumn Adventure"
- * Preferred dates of stay (2 or 3 night stay is available)
- * Full name of booking
- * Credit card for deposit
- * RACV Membership number

A range of room prices are on offer, between \$284 - \$340 including full buffet breakfast. This is a special offer called "Autumn Adventure" where RACV Members receive \$100 dining credit, a bottle of wine and free in-house movies. RACV non-members receive \$50 dining credit.

Transport is by own car or sharing.



TUESDAY 6 MAY - FRIDAY 9 MAY

CONTACT JOHN: JOHNKOHN@HOTMAIL.COM

9523 0888

www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



B'nai
B'rith

RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY

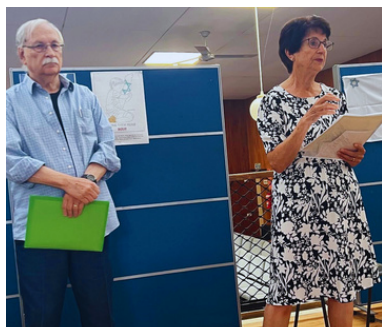


CHANUKAH PILLARS OF LIGHT EVENT



With thanks to Danielle Schilling for the photos

OUT AND ABOUT WITH GESHER-RABIN



Debbie Holmes (Avalon Centre) happily accepting Gesher-Rabin's cheque from last year's sausage sizzle at Bunnings



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE B'NAI B'RITH STALL AT THE IN ONE VOICE FESTIVAL

16 MARCH, 11AM - 5PM

PLEASE EMAIL ADMIN@BBVIC.ORG.AU IF YOU CAN HELP AT THE B'NAI B'RITH STALL



CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY'S ACHIEVERS

For more than 40 years,
the B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards
have celebrated our community's greatest
contributors.

If you know a volunteer who has had an
impact on either the organisation or the
community over a long period, please
nominate them for a
2025 B'nai B'rith Menorah Award.



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN
CLOSE 16 AUGUST



COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE

Happy New Year!

We are off to a very busy start to 2025 with school incursions and booking at record levels already.



UPSTANDER LANGUAGE

It is heartening to see, even in these anxious times Upstander language being used. Just recently Alex Ryvchin co-CEO of ECAJ stated: 'To my fellow Australians I want to say, don't be silent, find your voice, speak up. We are not a nation of bystanders. What defines our national ethos is that we stand up for each other, we speak up for each other: we are upstanders, not bystanders.'

COMMEMORATING A TRUE UPSTANDER RAOUL WALLENBERG

Earlier this month Mike attended multiple events honouring Swedish Upstander Raoul Wallenberg. This January marked the 80th anniversary of the arrest of Wallenberg.

Mike was invited by Eva De Jong to speak at the Duldig Studio commemoration event (Mike pictured below with sculpture). Mike also spoke at the B'nai B'rith oration event hosted by the City of Port Phillip and is pictured with Mayor Louise Crawford, keynote speaker Mike Kelly AM Former Minister for Defence Industry & Capability and our wonderful volunteer Simone Markus.



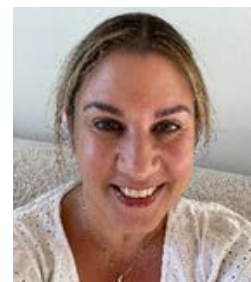
OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS KAREN AND DONNA

We are pleased to welcome our new team members to our growing staff. Reaching more students means we need more help both volunteer and staff. We are lucky to have such a wonderful team!



Our new Education Manager Karen Maclean is passionate about lifelong learning and enjoys learning new skills that put her a little out of her comfort zone. Along with her husband and teenage kids, Karen loves to be out on the water in their boat to fish, swim or just explore the bay and coastline. Karen loves being in nature as well as outdoor activities and looks forward to walking her two dogs each day.

Our new Schools Program Coordinator Donna Bryfman learnt very early on how important education is. Donna's grandmother used to say: "Education is power - no one can take that away from you." Donna is the product of a family of educators and enjoy travelling experiencing different cultures, going to the beach, catching up with family and friends.



Wishing everyone a wonderful year.

CEO Mike Zervos OAM

