

MAKING AN IMPACT IN VICTORIA SINCE 1945



**B'nai
B'rith**

Information for new and prospective members

B'NAI B'RITH

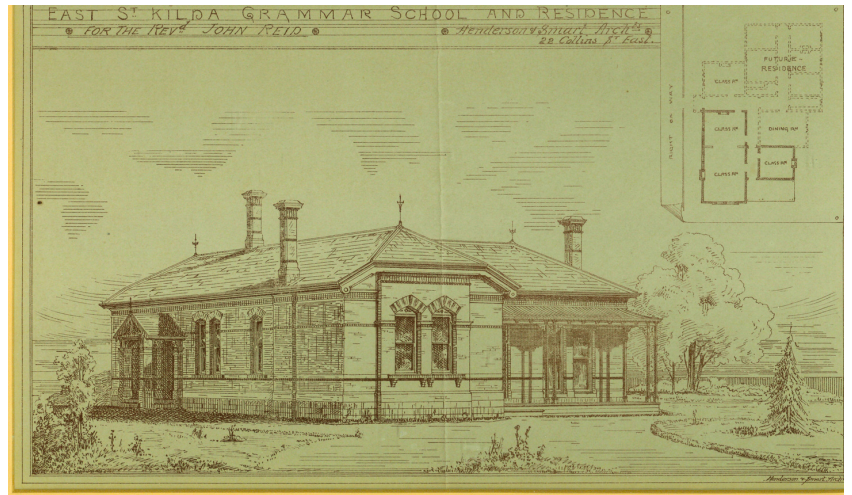
Connect | Engage | Empower

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B'nai B'rith Victoria



THE STORY

B'nai B'rith Victoria is part of a worldwide organisation, steeped in a history of action, advocacy, human rights campaigning and so much more. Having started in Victoria on the back of immigration by Holocaust survivors post WWII, B'nai B'rith has become the seeding ground for some of the most impactful, successful organisations in the community including the Anti Defamation Commission (ADC) and Courage to Care.

WHAT DOES B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA DO?

B'nai B'rith provides opportunities for connection, learning and projects to support the Jewish community, ensuring that individuals, especially those in their pre-retirement and retirement years, are empowered to be socially active, intellectually stimulated and valued.

Activities and programs are in place that seek to strengthen social ties and reduce isolation through connection, engagement, and empowerment, with the view to promote lifelong learning, the Jewish arts sector, other community and charitable organisations and Israel.

Being part of B'nai B'rith provides opportunities for:

1. SOCIAL CONNECTION
2. INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WITH IMPACT
3. DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS THAT MEET THE NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF THE COMMUNITY

Why join B'nai B'rith

"I found a family in B'nai B'rith and I believe in its values"

As a member of B'nai B'rith you can either simply enjoy the social connections you have the chance to make, or you may wish to get more involved, volunteer, run an event or a project. You can create your own B'nai B'rith experience.

The success of every aspect of B'nai B'rith is through the true collaboration of professional staff and members.

Members are empowered and supported in delivering programs and projects that have genuine impact, as described in the subsequent pages of this brochure

B'nai B'rith members are passionate and compassionate contributors to the community, and find that B'nai B'rith provides a wonderful social connection, along with opportunities to learn and give back to the community.

There are a number of ways in which you can become involved:

1. Join one of our existing groups / units.
2. Become a volunteer for one of the existing projects
3. Develop a new project - if you and your friends / colleagues have a passion project, B'nai B'rith may be able to provide the support to make your project a reality. If it aligns with our mission and values we would relish the opportunity to have a discussion with you. Our staff and office stand ready to support you in making an impact.

B'nai B'rith aims to provide opportunities for connection, engagement, benevolence and lifelong learning. To this end, B'nai B'rith's core business is to support people like you to 'give back' to the Jewish community by working together via projects, programs, events and partnerships. We create opportunities for you to do this in a way that also satisfies your desire for a more meaningful Jewish identity. B'nai B'rith caters for those of you who appreciate Jewish social cohesion and wish to engage in activities that support it. By doing so, you strengthen your own Jewish life and also that of your friends and colleagues.

Feel Connected and Empowered

Membership

Members and Units are the heart and soul of B'nai B'rith.

Not only do members feel a social connectedness through their affiliation, but they become a valued contributor to delivering projects that Strengthen Jewish Life through volunteering and/or fund raising.

You can become a member of B'nai B'rith as either a member at large, join one of the four existing units, or start a unit with a group of your friends or colleagues.

The four existing units have members ranging from 65 years young with a variety of passion projects and social activities as set out below and all very welcoming and friendly.

All units raise funds for the B'nai B'rith Israel Commission as well as various other organisations and projects.

MELBOURNE LODGE 1547

incorporating the Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge and Raoul Wallenberg Unit

Very friendly group who go on many social outings such as dinners & day trips with a high level of involvement in many B'nai B'rith projects.

Main projects for members to be involved in:

- Making a Difference
- Raoul Wallenberg Study Grants

Social activities:

- Monthly regular meetings with guest speakers
- Monthly programming meetings
- Day trips and weekends away
- Excursions, visits to art galleries
- Unit-hosted luncheons and film nights
- BBQs, Dinners
- Film nights
- Panel shows and theatrical performances
- Picnics including an annual bagel brunch



Creating Community

Membership



UNIT AKIBA

A friendly, informal group with average age 65 – 75, enjoying a combination of purely social activities and some more serious ones such as lectures. Committed to raising money for charities in Melbourne (mainly but not exclusively Jewish) and charities in Israel.

Main project for members to be involved in

- Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club
- Jewish Cultural Enrichment Program (JCEP)

Social activities:

- Guest artist performances
- Social functions inc theatre or art shows
- Trivia quiz nights
- Annual weekends away



GESHER RABIN UNIT

The Geshher Rabin Unit combines social and cultural activities whose primary interest is promoting social inclusion as well as identifying community issues that may require attention.

Main project for members to be involved in:

- Working with JEKO for Mitzvah Day - collecting goods for less fortunate

Social activities:

- Debate night
- Film nights
- Picnics
- Annual trivia fundraiser
- Bush walking for beginners



*B'nai B'rith Members -
the heart and soul*

Membership



HATIKVAH UNIT

Members of the Hatikvah Unit tend to live in and around Kew East, Balwyn and North Balwyn, Doncaster, and Doncaster East, offering a connection for those in the area.

Main project for members to be involved in:

- Calico Dolls - for the Royal Children's Hospital

Social activities:

- Welcome back dinner
- Chanukah in July
- ANZAC Day and Melbourne Day walks
- End of year celebration
- Interesting speakers and games afternoons
- Annual Fundraiser
- Annual collections for RSPCA and Salvation Army

MEMBERS AT LARGE

If you would simply like to:

- support the work being undertaken by B'nai B'rith,
- attend Member only events, or
- join a project committee

rather than join one of the Units, you can become a Member at Large.



FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

1

Social Activities

While many events and social activities are organised by Units, all members are welcome to all that it is on offer. These includes quiz nights, dinners, lunches, fundraisers, movie nights, day trips, weekends away and more.



2

Fostering education and understanding

B'nai B'rith remains focused on running functions and events that foster education and understanding in all areas of human rights. Join the committee or attend events.



3

A Current Affairs / Armchair Society

Ron James, in his own inimitable style brings to the table a series of interesting topics for discussion. With an open forum, Ron encourages you to share your views and feelings about current issues and news items facing us. Held fortnightly throughout the year, these sessions are a great way to keep abreast of what's going on in our world and the opportunity to take part in lively, healthy discussions.



4

B'nai B'rith Ramblers

B'nai B'rith Ramblers is the largest Jewish bush walking group in Victoria and is affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria. Ramblers works to provide on average two monthly day walks to members, friends and visitors who enjoy the environment and the physical exercise.

Easy, medium and hard walks are offered as well as weekend or longer trips intra & interstate.

Contact: enquiries@bbramblers.org.au



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1

Youth Art Competition

A fabulous initiative of B'nai B'rith, with a rich 28-year history, the Youth Art Competition is open to those in Years 6-12. The Competition seeks to engage with young Jewish Artists, giving them the opportunity to show their works publicly amongst their peers, and be eligible for prize money, and is always looking for new committee members



2

Fellowship Group

Monthly concerts for the community's elderly
Give back to ageing community members who enjoy these concerts so much.



3

B'nai B'rith Parents Home

An independent living facility, the Parents Home was established in 1967 and is governed by a volunteer committee.

4

Click & Connect

A unique program where volunteers are connected with schools in Israel and help disadvantaged Israeli students with their English.



5

Courage to Care

Courage to Care, an initiative and now partner of B'nai B'rith has become a pre-eminent educational Upstander Program inspiring people to make a real difference in their community by standing up and taking action, creating real change. C2C is always looking for volunteers for the office or to deliver its programs to students, educators and agencies.



6

Mitzvah Day

Since 2023, Mitzvah Day has been powered by B'nai B'rith. There are countless ways to volunteer for Mitzvah Day, either with B'nai B'rith or another organisation

Celebrating Community Achievements

Scholarships & Bursaries

Bernard J Lustig Memorial Scholarship

For outstanding university students and leaders.

The scholarship is offered in two categories: as a research grant to Masters and doctoral thesis candidates, and as a travel grant to outstanding student leaders at university level, to fund overseas travel to participate in leadership development programs.



Yad Vashem Teacher Study Grants

For secondary teachers attending Holocaust Seminars at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem

A Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators is a long-term professional-development program aimed at training a cadre of expert Holocaust educators who are active throughout Australia. Run in partnership with the Gandel Foundation.



Making a Difference Bursaries

Providing bursaries for financially disadvantaged Jewish VCE students, Making a Difference has been in operation since 1996. Our purpose is to support financially disadvantaged Jewish students in our community, in State or Jewish schools. We support students going into Year 11 and Year 12, as it was felt that it is these two years which are critical for students to achieve success.

OVER \$220,000 has been DONATED TO 280 STUDENTS SINCE 1996!



Celebrating Community Achievements

Awards



Menorah Awards

The B'nai B'rith Victoria Menorah Awards were established in 1978. They are presented annually to worthy recipients who have performed voluntary work of benefit to the community, usually over a long period.

Arts



Jewish Youth Art Competition

The B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition was established in 1993. The Competition is open to Jewish students in Years 6-12. Categories include painting and drawing, sculpture, mixed media, portraiture and caricature and photography.

Supporting Israel

ISRAEL COMMISSION



The Israel Commission is an initiative of B'nai B'rith AUS/NZ with regions working together to support its purpose of:

- Raising money for charities and organisations in Israel that require financial assistance
- Raising awareness of needs in Israel amongst our members and increase their involvement and responsibilities.

The B'nai B'rith Israel Commission supports the following projects:

In Beer Sheva - Be'er Sova, "a restaurant for the needy", where up to 100 people a day receive a nourishing hot meal for only one shekel.

In Karmiel - a Children's Village (Kfar Hayeladim) supported by B'nai B'rith Lodge Kalanit where approximately 120 children, toddlers to teenagers, are fostered by 15 families living in small cottages in the Village.

In Sderot - The Israel Commission has furnished and equipped a Communal Centre in Sderot, where psychological help is provided and young people can meet and socialise.

In Jaffo - the Jaffa Institute for Higher Education runs a large food distribution centre, after-school tuition and care to hundreds of local children, provides shelter and education to children at risk, integrated drug prevention program, integration programs for Sudanese and Somali migrants as well as Summer camps and Scholarships for higher education.

In Bet Oved - the Israeli Guide Dog Institute, where guide dogs are raised and trained and matched with a blind person, enabling them to become self-sufficient and to live a regular life.

More recently B'nai B'rith Israel Commission has partnered with Save a Child's Heart in Israel, an organisation providing life-saving treatment to critically ill children suffering from heart disease, from countries where access to paediatric heart care is limited or non-existent.

The Israel Commission relies entirely on generous donations from B'nai B'rith members.

Community Partnerships

Working together to build community



B'nai B'rith has a history of creating solutions to community challenges, instigating programs that support those in need. Some of these programs have been short-lived as an immediate crisis dissipates, others have become fully fledged, independent organisations, like the Anti Defamation Commission and Courage to Care, whilst others have been taken on and grown by Government or philanthropic agencies.

Over its history in Australia and New Zealand, B'nai B'rith has played an instrumental role in developing, supporting or sustaining more than 160 separate projects and programs that have improved people's lives, changed education systems, enhanced community understanding and action in human rights and anti-discrimination and so much more.

B'nai B'rith's investment in Jewish community capacity building seeks to continue this legacy for instigating change and creative solutions to the community's ever-evolving needs.

Members and non-members alike who have ideas that will enhance the community and strengthen Jewish life can bring those ideas to B'nai B'rith for exploration.

Innovation

B'nai B'rith Australia/ New Zealand & International



Global voice of the Jewish Community

B'nai B'rith International is a staunch defender of the State of Israel, advocates for global Jewry and champions the cause of human rights. B'nai B'rith is recognized as a vital voice in combatting anti-Semitism, promoting Jewish unity and continuity, a leader in disaster relief and assisting communities in crisis, a provider of safe and affordable housing for low-income older adults and a tireless advocate on behalf of seniors.

Since our founding in 1843, B'nai B'rith has focused on making the world a safer and more tolerant place. With a presence in countries around the world, B'nai B'rith is the global voice of the Jewish Community. No other Jewish organization can point to a longer, more all-encompassing history of service to Jews and all people around the world.

B'nai B'rith Australia / New Zealand works as a District within the framework of the international organisation, with the regions of Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand the entities which together form this District. The regions, whilst working independently to meet the needs of their local communities come together primarily for major fundraising appeals



B'nai B'rith International Immediate Past President Seth Riklin with Anna Marks and Janine Zimbler from B'nai B'rith NSW

Unit Leadership

Melbourne Lodge No. 1547 (incorporating Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge and Raoul Wallenberg Unit)	President: Danielle Schilling Vice President: Jules Gaddie
Akiba Unit	President: Henry Winfield Vice President: Denise LeBransky
Hatikvah Unit	President: Claude Fromm
Gesher Rabin Unit	Co Presidents: Karin Zafir Leon Nissen



B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA

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