



B'nai
B'rith

PREVIEW

JULY 2026

Message from the President... Securing our vital community role and service

Hello members, and welcome to my first column since taking over the Presidency of B'nai B'rith Victoria from Associate Professor Peter Schattner. It is an honour to lead during this significant period in our history.

As you know, we have welcomed Robbie Franco, our dynamic new CEO, and many of you have met with him at unit meetings.

A major development for us is the purchase of office premises close to our current location, made possible by a very generous bequest. We will provide details later in the year once all legal requirements are met, but owning our own space will put us in control of our destiny. This purchase will ensure the long-term viability of the organisation, securing our vital community role and service to members.

Antisemitism

The most pressing issue of concern to us all remains the rise of antisemitism in Australia, currently being investigated by the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion. The appointment of the Hon. Virginia Bell AC SC to lead the Commission has been positively received by communal leaders. We eagerly await its findings, following the first recommendations in its Interim Report on 30 April.

The Jewish community was strongly encouraged to contribute, and when the deadline closed on 14 June more than 16,000 submissions had been received.

- An early count showed that 47% of submissions were from New South Wales, 30% from Victoria, and 23% from other states. The high volume from NSW reflects the local impact of the December 2025 Bondi Beach terrorist attack.
- Most submissions detailed personal accounts of antisemitism, alongside detailed legal briefs from peak bodies, including the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), the Australian Academic Alliance Against Antisemitism (5A) and non-Jewish bodies, one of which was the Australian National Imams Council.
- The submissions dealt with schools and universities, workplaces, public transport, and social media.

I was personally involved in this process, providing a commissioned report on Australian public opinion and presenting findings as an expert witness under cross-examination.

Looking Ahead

Over the next six months, the Royal Commission's monumental task of analysing these submissions will continue. The final report is due by 14 December. We will await the government response to the Commission's recommendations with great interest.

Thank you for your continued dedication to B'nai B'rith as we navigate these historic times together.

Andrew Markus
President,
B'nai B'rith Victoria



From the CEO's Desk

For more than 81 years, B'nai B'rith Victoria has been dedicated to strengthening our community, enriching lives, and creating opportunities for people of all ages. Every week, our focus is on what we can do for others, both here in Victoria and in Israel.

Through our diverse range of programs, events, volunteer initiatives, and philanthropic activities, we reach people across generations. From young leaders taking their first steps towards making a difference, to retirees enjoying friendship, learning, and connection, B'nai B'rith Victoria continues to play a vital role in fostering a vibrant and caring Jewish community.

With your support, we can continue delivering programs, scholarships, cultural initiatives, and community activities that enrich lives and strengthen our Jewish community. If you believe in the value of this work, please consider donating and helping us continue our legacy of service and impact.

Donate before 30 June and be part of the difference.

Our activities span an extraordinary range of interests and causes.

We support youth through BBYO, provide educational lectures, movie and book clubs, music events, hiking groups, day trips and extended tours,

volunteer programs benefiting local and Israeli organisations, scholarships, and a wide variety of social events that bring people together through friendship, laughter and shared experiences.

As we approach the end of the financial year, we invite you to help ensure that this important work continues. Your tax-deductible donation to our Cultural and Scholarship Funds will directly support programs that have a profound impact on individuals and families throughout our community.

The B'nai B'rith Victoria Scholarship Fund supports Jewish students and emerging leaders through initiatives such as the Making a Difference Scholarship and the Bernard J. Lustig Memorial Scholarship. These programs empower young people to pursue their aspirations, develop leadership skills, and contribute meaningfully to Jewish and broader society.

The B'nai B'rith Cultural Fund helps sustain the local Jewish arts sector, lifelong learning opportunities, and community heritage programs. Your support will also help secure the future of the B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition in 2027 and beyond, encouraging creativity and cultural expression among the next generation.

On behalf of everyone at B'nai B'rith Victoria, we sincerely thank those who have already donated to B'nai B'rith Victoria and our wonderful projects.

Robbie Franco
CEO,
B'nai B'rith Victoria



B'NAI B'RITH ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAMM JEWISH LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA
HOSTED BY RON JAMES

- FORTNIGHTLY SERIES - GUEST SPEAKERS & LIVELY DISCUSSION -

SERIES 3, 2026 | TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

14 JULY	THE HON. JUSTICE MARK WEINBERG KC
28 JULY	EVAN THORNLEY
11 AUG	MENACHEM VORCHHEIMER
25 AUG	EMERITUS PROFESSOR JEFFREY ROSENFELD AC OBE KSTJ
8 SEPT	MICHAEL BURD & ALAN FREEDMAN, TAMIR ALONI & SHANE SAMUEL



EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS26 \$15 PER SESSION
VENUE ADVISED UPON BOOKING 9523 0888 | admin@bbvic.org.au



Music Recital

Featuring
WARREN WILLS
with Special Guest Violinist
ROMY GEERMANS

SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026 | 2:30pm - 5:00pm

BOOKINGS:

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/MUSIC-RECITAL-26

Delicious Afternoon Tea

Cost: \$50 (BB member) & \$55 (Non-member)

Venue: Beth Weizmann Auditorium

Queries: Jacqui Dinor-Corry

ddinor@yahoo.com | 0412 440 501



Warren Wills is a multi-award-winning, internationally acclaimed pianist, composer, and musical director.

Over a career spanning more than 40 years, he has worked throughout the Middle East, Eurasia, Hong Kong, and New York, and was based in London's West End for 35 years.

In recent years, he has devoted much of his time to promoting peace through music, building bridges between cultures, religions and ethnic communities. His concerts feature music from around the world and often include a strong Judaic influence.

Special guest is virtuoso Czech violinist Romy Geermans, who has collaborated extensively with Warren over the past 10 years.

All proceeds go towards Making a Difference, a B'nai B'rith charity supporting financially disadvantaged Jewish students.

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

THURSDAY 16 JULY | 8:00 - 9:30PM

Featuring "Gershom Scholem: Master of the Kabbalah" by David Biale

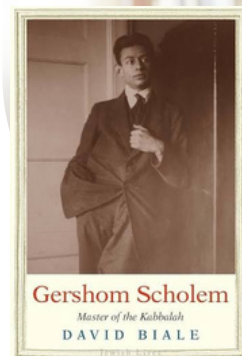
A new biography of the seminal twentieth-century historian and thinker who pioneered the study of Jewish mysticism and profoundly influenced the Zionist movement.

Gershom Scholem (1897–1982) was perhaps the foremost Jewish intellectual of the twentieth century. Pioneering the study of Jewish mysticism as a legitimate academic discipline, he overturned the rationalist bias of his predecessors and revealed an extraordinary world of myth and messianism. In his youth, he rebelled against the assimilationist culture of his parents and embraced Zionism as the vehicle for the renewal of Judaism in a secular age.

He moved to Palestine in 1923 and participated in the creation of the Hebrew University, where he was a towering figure for nearly seventy years.

David Biale traces Scholem's tumultuous life of political activism and cultural criticism, including his falling-out with Hannah Arendt over the Eichmann trial.

Mining a rich trove of diaries, letters, and other writings, Biale shows that his subject's inner life illuminates his most important writings. Scholem emerges as a passionately engaged man of his times—a period that encompassed two world wars, the rise of Nazism, and the Holocaust.



B'nai
B'rith

Book here: EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/2026jewishbookclub

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

B'NAI B'RITH FELLOWSHIP CONCERT FEATURING THE FABULOUS

Brendan Scott

Brendan Scott is an accomplished and experienced singer and multi-instrumentalist. Join us for a wonderful afternoon of entertainment.

Cost: \$15 includes afternoon tea and a raffle ticket.

Venue: Glen Eira McKinnon Bowling Club
Tyrone St, Ormond



MONDAY 27 JULY 2026
2:30PM

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

CONTACT: Deidre 0408 121 213



B'nai
B'rith

The successful B'nai B'rith/Lamm Library Armchair Society events, hosted by Ron James, had an amazing calibre of speakers again this June.

These included Zara Cooper with Jenny Lee, Mike Kelly AM and Joshua Dabelstein.



Armchair Society events - June 2026

Hatikvah Unit Fundraiser featuring The Mpaphi Trio - 14 June 2026



Gesher Rabin Unit (GRU) held their AGM/ Installation recently.

Right: Co-Presidents Karin Zafir and Eleanor Aghion.

Far right: Tom Zafir interviewing the guest speaker, Professor John Zeleznikow, who was both informative and very engaging.



Gesher Rabin Unit Installation - 21 June 2026



Right: Installation Officer Denise Le Bransky, Co-President of Akiba Unit, informing the audience about the in-coming Committee members.

Gesher Rabin Unit (GRU) visited Government House in May and then in June they were able to tour Parliament House. Local member David Southwick kindly agreed to meet the group prior to their interesting and enjoyable tour for a lively discussion.



MACCABI TOASTMASTERS VS GESHER-RABIN UNIT

"AI HAS IMPROVED OUR LIVES"

ANNUAL COMEDY DEBATE

MEMBERS \$20; NON-MEMBERS \$30

Venue to be announced on booking.
Refreshments provided after the debate.

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST
7.15PM FOR 7:30PM START

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
0430 107 372 / suem1818@gmail.com

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/COMEDY-DEBATE-2026

9523 0888 / www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



(Incorporating Raoul Wallenberg Unit and Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge)

President: Danielle Schilling
 Vice-President: Maxine Klarnet
 Preview: Dr John Kohn

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

JULY 7
7.30 pm

PROGRAMMING

At the home of Alex and Janet Starr

JULY 8
7.30 pm

REGULAR MEETING

Beth Weizmann Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Noah Bajayo (grandson of Robyn Goldman)

"Trends and Themes in Antisemitic incidents in Victoria and the impact on the Jewish Community"

JULY 15
6.30 pm

DINNER

Mediterranean Greek Tavern , 511 Glen Huntly Rd, Elsternwick

The Culture Club invites you to a Greek evening of music & beautiful food

\$40 per person

JULY 20
7.30pm

BOOKCLUB

At Sandra and Misha Nathani's place

"The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans

JULY 26
2.30pm

MUSICAL CONCERT

Beth Weizmann Auditorium

We will enjoy the music provided by award-winning pianist Warren Wills, accompanied by violinist Romy Geermans. A delicious kosher afternoon tea provided.

Fundraiser for "Making A Difference" - tickets \$50 members (\$55 non-members)

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 11

INSTALLATION

OCTOBER 19-21

EXCURSION TO SHEPPARTON

By coach (2 nights and 3 days)

Includes coach, hotel, cooked breakfast and 2 dinners plus entry to galleries.

Cost \$900 single, \$1400 twin share.

This includes coach, hotel, cooked breakfast and 2 dinners plus entry to galleries.

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Alan Suss (1) Rabbi Steven Link (1) Charles New (3) Alex Starr (5) Bev Sutton (7)
 Robert Goldsmith (10) Tony Weldon (11) Jack Librach (12) Peter Gaspar (14)
 Mel Barnett (25) Ben Hirsh (25) Editta Matessi (31)

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Eleanor Aghion
 Treasurer: Stephen Moskowitz
 Secretary & Preview: Sue Moskowitz

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

EVERY SUNDAY
 11.00 am

SUNDAY MORNING CATCH UP

Informal chat with who ever can make it - [Join here](#)
 Zoom Meeting ID: 852 1108 2214, Passcode 923143

JULY 5
 8.00 am - 4.00 pm

MOORABBIN BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Come and buy a sausage to support the great work of the Avalon Centre.
 Please contact Evelyn Flitman if you can help: evelyn@flitman.net.au

JULY 19
 11.00 am

MONTHLY MEETING

At Etz Chayim

Speaker: Aram Cargill

Aram Cargill is a psychotherapist and family counsellor. He is dedicated to non-medication-based solutions, unlocking human potential through the powerful connection between body and brain.

Catch up, nush and shmooze. Please bring a plate to share for lunch.

For more information, contact Eleanor on ezaprudsky@gmail.com

[Book here now!](#)

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 29
 7.15 for 7.30pm start

THE GREAT COMEDY DEBATE

Glen Eira McKinnon Bowls Club, Tyrone St. Ormond

For the past 10 years we have been debating the Maccabi Toastmasters.

This year's topic is "AI has improved our lives."

We are on the negative. We have a dynamic team!!! Evelyn Flitman, Kathy Kaplan and Bronwen Lichtenstein. Stephen Moskowitz will be the MC.

\$20 members (\$30 non-members)

[Book here now!](#)

For more information, contact Sue Moskowitz

REFUAH SHLEIMA

We wish a Refuah Shleima to Irene Kirschner and any members of Gesher Rabin who may be unwell at the present time. We hope you are feeling better and hope to see you soon.

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Selwyn Lever (18)

CONTACT US

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact our publicity officers Leon and Irene Nissen (kirschnerissen@hotmail.com) so that we can offer support.

If you know of anyone who is celebrating a Simcha or birth of a grandchild, please contact Karin Zafir (karin@zafirfamily.com)

Co-Presidents: Henry Winfield / Denise Le Bransky
 Secretary: Annette Gladwin
 Preview: Kath Kolb

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

SUN JULY 5
12.30 pm

MOTHER/AN EXHIBITION ON MOTHERHOOD.

National Gallery, Ian Potter Centre Level 3, Federation Square
 No need to book. Meet in lobby. There may be a guide available on the day.
 The exhibition explores motherhood across the globe-from love to loss, mythology and religion. This exhibition features more than 200 historical and contemporary works. Coffee /lunch after TBA
 RSVP 1/7 Miriam

SUN JULY 19
7.30 pm

AGM

In a private home. Address to be advised when you book. After the AGM, Serge and Miriam Sztrajt will speak about their recent holiday to Patagonia.

Book here! Please do NOT bring food.

If you have trouble booking, please contact Henry Gladwin

MON JULY 20
1100 am

MORNING MELODIES

Concert Hall (11.00am session), followed by lunch. Book your own tickets.
 We will not be sitting together unless you arrange to buy your tickets together.
 A group of 4 is a little cheaper.
 RSVP to Miriam by 16/7.

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN AUGUST 2
2.00 pm

PLANNING MEETING - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

At a private home . We will be planning our activities for the rest of the year.
 Come along with ideas of functions, speakers, activities of interest.
Book here! If you have trouble booking, contact Henry Gladwin

SUN AUG 16
12.00 pm

AKIBA INSTALLATION OF NEW EXECUTIVE

Installation, lunch and entertainment.
 Venue: McKinnon Bowls Club. Book here!
 If you have trouble booking, contact Henry Gladwin

MON AUG 17
11.00 am

ROME EXHIBITION - EMPIRE, POWER, PEOPLE

Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton
 Closest train station - Parliament City Loop station (10/15 min walk from station)
 Car park also available. Please make your own booking on 131102.
What to expect: statues, mosaics, frescoes, jewellery and everyday objects, exploring Rome's political, social and cultural life. Showcases the luxury, splendour and power of Imperial Rome
 Tickets - \$35 adult; \$30 senior; \$30 concession; \$24 member concession
 Lunch: Brunetti has a pop up cafe at the museum.
 RSVP by 7/8 Miriam

JULY BDAY GREETINGS

Brian Luber (1) Liz James (8) Edna Samuel (11) Henry Shmerling (11) Henry Galdwin (13) Henry Akerstein (15) Richard Neumann (19) Michael Samuel (24) Stephen Joshua (26) Pola Blicblau(31)

REFUAH SHLEIMA

We wish a Refuah Shleima to any members of Unit Akiba who may be unwell at the present time. We hope to see you joining us again very soon!

Chair: Paula Messer
Treasurer: Orly Dar
Preview: Judith Steinberg

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

SUN JULY 12
2.30 - 5.30 pm

CHANUKAH IN JULY AT THE FROMMS

Contact Claude for address
Please bring a plate to share for a scrumptious lunch (no meat or nuts).

SUN JULY 19
9.30 - 11.30 am

CALICO DOLLS AT HAMERS

Please let Gerry know if you will be attending.

SUN JULY 26
8:00 pm

REGULAR MEETING

LBC, East Kew.
Guest Speaker: Dina Burgess Topic: "The Length and Breadth of Israel"
Please bring a small plate to share for supper.

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Ros Huze (1) Betty Alexander (7) Jeanette Hain (11) Edna Samuel (11) Evelyn Moszkowicz (20) Michael Samuel (24)
Our best wishes for a heathy, happy and peaceful year.

REFUAH SHLEIMA

To all those members who are feeling under the weather, our best wishes for a speedy return to health.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

PREVIEW

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis
Secretary: Eltan Froumine
Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff
Treasurer: Irena Blonder



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

WHAT'S ON IN JULY + AUGUST

WED JULY 15
MORNING

EASY WALK

Irena will lead an easy walk from Collingwood to Richmond along the Yarra.
Contact Irena at irena.blonder@gmail.com

SUN JULY 19
MORNING

MEDIUM WALK

Evelyn will lead a medium walk in the Dandenongs along the Matthias track and in the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens.
Contact Evelyn at evelyn@flitman.net.au

SUN JULY 26
MORNING

EASY WALK

Josh will lead a hard walk to Mt Ritchie hoping there will be snow.
Contact Josh at yhenzel@outlook.com

SUN AUGUST 2
MORNING

MEDIUM WALK

Sydney will lead a medium walk from Lilydale along the Warburton Rail Trail.
Contact Sydney at sydneyp55@gmail.com



**B'nai B'rith Ramblers Medium walk
in Sherbrooke Forest - 7 June**

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

EASY, MEDIUM, HARD WALKS

Join the largest Jewish bushwalking group in Victoria. Enjoy the environment, physical exercise and companionship.

Each month experienced leaders lead up to four walks at different levels. These are generally within an hour to 90 minutes drive from Melbourne.

You can pay a Visitors fee for your first walk and an annual fee for subsequent walks, which will cover walkers insurance.



For more information about upcoming walks, see Page 11.

CONTACT:
(03) 9527 6002 enquiries@bbramblers.org.au



**B'nai
B'rith**

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



B'nai
B'rith

\$3000 SCHOLARSHIP!

**APPLICATIONS NOW
OPEN FOR 2026!**

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

B'NAI B'RITH MENORAH AWARDS

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY'S QUIET 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 2026 B'nai B'rith Menorah Award.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 16 AUGUST 2026



bit.ly/menorahawards



Courage to Care Volunteer speaks at Heritage College Holocaust Memorial

For the second year, Heritage College Officer hosted a Holocaust Memorial, with Courage to Care honoured to attend. The event was by teacher Sarah Perry, a participant in the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program. The memorial was delivered by students, whose leadership brought authenticity and deep meaning to the service.

A highlight was the testimony of Holocaust survivor Peter Gaspar OAM, who spoke powerfully about antisemitism in contemporary Australia and the responsibility of young people to challenge stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination.

Attendees included David Southwick MP and Nicole Brittain from the Gandel Foundation. A Bialik College student also shared her great-grandfather's story as a Holocaust survivor from Poland, adding a deeply personal dimension. Principal Sonny Aiono challenged students to recognise how small, everyday actions can create meaningful change and build a more just community.

A particularly moving element was a student-led project inspired by the Jewish tradition of placing a stone in remembrance. Students selected and decorated a stone from the campus, which was later taken to Auschwitz in late 2025 and placed at the Death Wall, symbolising their commitment to remembrance and standing against injustice.

This Holocaust Memorial not only honoured the past but also reinforced a clear message: remembrance carries responsibility, and even the smallest actions can help shape a better future. Courage to Care is proud to be involved with Heritage College and to support its commitment to developing students as Upstanders.

Three of our volunteers were honoured as part of the Glen Eira Council Volunteer Recognition Program. Ancsi Berkovits was honoured for 20 years of service, Evelyn Flitman for 10 years of service and Jack Borowski for 1,000 hours of service. A big congratulations to Ancsi, Evelyn & Jack! We are so proud of all our volunteers who bring our mission and purpose to life.

Mike Zervos OAM
CEO,
Courage to Care

**Our volunteers with
Mayor Simone Zmood**



courage to care vic
An initiative of B'nai B'rith
**CREATING A GENERATION OF
UPSTANDERS**



B'NAI B'RITH

A GRANT OF UP TO \$6,000 IS NOW AVAILABLE

COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM GRANT

The logo features the words "Stop Antisemitism" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A small blue star is positioned above the letter 'i' in "Antisemitism". The text is set against a white background that is part of a larger graphic element.

Through the generosity of bequests to B'nai B'rith Victoria, a grant of up to \$6,000 is available to anyone residing in Victoria who is undertaking work to combat antisemitism and/or misinformation about Israel and the Jewish people.

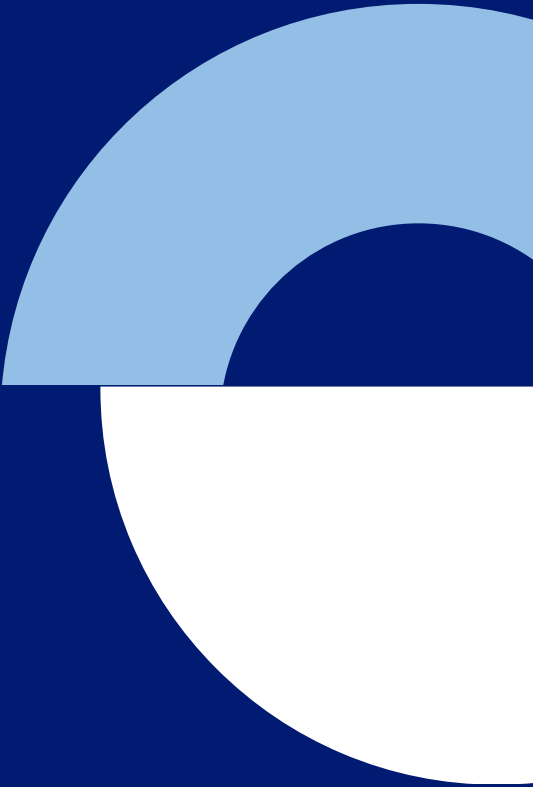
ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS INCLUDE:

- Travel – to present at a conference, workshop or similar
- Education – cost of actively participating in a conference, workshop or similar
- Costs associated with delivering educational content
- Technology development such as the creation of a website or an app

**APPLY NOW!**

Closing date - 30 July 2026

bnaibrith.org.au/victoria/combating-anti-semitism-grant/



Compiled and edited by B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc.
Official Publication of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc. Vol. 80, July 2026.
Approved by Australia Post P/P No. 100000993

(03) 9523 0888 admin@bbvic.org.au bnaibrith.org.au/victoria