



Message from the President...

To Fight Darkness with Light

It is a challenge to determine how best to respond to the current climate of antisemitism. Clearly, a large part of the response needs to be defensive – focusing on physical security, monitoring of social media, and reporting of incidents.

However, this leaves us with a problem – focus only on threats may heighten tension within our community, and have a negative impact on the way we are seen in Australian society. If the only time we are recognised and talked about is when something bad happens – or is feared to happen – the community is framed solely as victims.

There are no simple, one size fits all approaches, but combating threats needs to be supplemented with celebration of Jewish life. We need also to celebrate the positives: culture, history, food, holidays, joy – to fight darkness with light.

An interesting development, evident in many countries, is that the rise of antisemitism has sparked cultural resilience. For some, there is proud affirmation of identity, for example by choosing to wear the Star of David. Some communities are emphasising the diverse tapestry of Jewish life, celebrating Mizrahi, Sephardic, and Ashkenazi traditions, rejecting the narrow definitions of Judaism that are imposed upon us.

On our much-troubled university campuses, internationally Jewish student unions are supplementing defence with the hosting of

joyful, highly visible celebrations of Jewish life. They are refusing to disappear.

The Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS)—the peak representative body for Australian Jewish university students – is guided by four core pillars: Judaism, Activism, Zionism, and Pluralism.

Visit the AUJS website and you are greeted by a photograph of fifteen students, wearing AUJS T-shirts, smiling confidently at the camera – a powerful image of solidarity and belonging. The key message is encapsulated in the phrase "Jewish Joy on Campus". The mission is to "provide meaningful experiences to Jewish students, to develop and strengthen their sense of Jewish identity and Jewish leadership".

AUJS gathers evidence of antisemitism on campus, with a prominent link on its website for the reporting of incidents. Yet it refuses to allow the campus environment to be defined by hostility, protest or fear. Instead, it works to create a positive experience.

Activities vary between universities, but include free lunches that bring students together to socialise, celebrations of major Jewish festivals, Shabbat dinners, trivia nights, and holiday events. Through these initiatives, AUJS seeks not only to support students facing antisemitism, but also to ensure that Jewish culture and identity remain a visible part of campus life.

Andrew Markus
President,
B'nai B'rith Victoria



From the CEO's Desk

As we reach the end of the first month of the new financial year, it is natural to reflect on what FY2026–27 may hold. There is certainly no shortage of events, both here at home and around the world, which will shape the months ahead.

Australia's sporting prowess at the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow has been assured in the first few days of competition, with our overwhelming dominance in the swimming events. Track and field and other sports events still await, and it is looking good for the contingent. Congratulations to all the athletes and their coaches, for bouncing back so strongly after the bitter disappointment of the cancelled games here in Victoria.

Someone in Victorian Government could not do the maths – they estimated AU\$6-\$7 billion dollars to host these games, compared to an original budget of AU\$2.6billion. Meanwhile, Glasgow, Scotland is hosting a stripped-back version budgeted at AU\$290million, and Victoria paid a settlement fine/compensation of AU\$380 million, funded by Victorian/Australian taxpayers. Could anything be more absurd?

On the Middle East front – what can one say? Zigzag, Ping Pong, Hide and Seek - all seem like appropriate words to describe Donald J Trump and his Iranian counterparts, secretive oil deals, Saudi Arabia and Nuclear Reactors, expanding the Abraham Accords... a surrealistic thriller, with no end in sight.

Meanwhile settlers are running rampage through West Bank villages, causing havoc and destruction. And the police, army and internal security forces do not identify them, arrest them, and charge them. "Cry, the Beloved Country" would seem to be an apt phrase to use for this evolving situation. It is the title of Alan Paton's famous 1948 novel, set in South Africa. It serves as a powerful reflection on the human condition, urging readers to confront the scars of the past whilst envisioning a path towards healing and understanding. A recommended read, and a timeless novel that continues to offer valuable perspective in times of division and conflict.

The Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion continues its important work. Block Six hearings focus on guidance, training, and policy models for responding to antisemitism across Australian society. Two of Victoria's finest have just provided testimony at the commission: Mike Zervos, *Courage to Care*, and Nina Szenadze, from the Goldstone Gallery.

Members and supporters who wish to follow these important hearings can do so via the [Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion website](#).

As always, thank you for your continued support of B'nai B'rith Victoria and for the role each of you plays in strengthening our community.

Until next month.

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

11 AUG MENACHEM VORCHHEIMER

25 AUG EMERITUS PROFESSOR JEFFREY ROSENFELD AC OBE KSTJ

8 SEPT MICHAEL BURD & ALAN FREEDMAN, TAMIR ALONI & SHANE SAMUEL

RODNEY MORLEY



Sessions recorded by J-AIR



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

Co-Presidents Denise Le Bransky & Henry Winfield
have much pleasure in inviting B'nai B'rith members to attend

THE INSTALLATION OF UNIT AKIBA'S 2026/2027 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sunday 16 August 2026

Please arrive at 12:00 noon; formalities will commence at 12:30pm sharp

The Glen Eira McKinnon Bowls Club
23 Tyrone Street, Ormond

Installing Officer - Dr Benny Monheit, Past President
of B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand

The Installation will be followed with musical entertainment
provided by highly accomplished pianist, Nonna Berter.
The function will include a two-course hot/cold kosher luncheon.



DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL (TIES AND KIPPOT OPTIONAL FOR MEN)

Bookings close at 12:30pm on Sunday 9 August 2026. Book early as places are limited!

\$50 PER PERSON

SCAN QR CODE ABOVE OR BOOK HERE: [TRYBOOKING.COM/DNDYP](https://trybooking.com/DNDYP)

Enquiries: Denise Le Bransky 0423 828 346 | Rita Phillips 0411 462 905

Please see booking page for cancellation policy.



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



COME & VISIT

GOULBURN VALLEY AND DISCOVER OUR HERITAGE

We will go via coach, and explore:

- Heritage Centre in Maroopna
- Visit of Tatura Internment and POW Wartime Museum
- Kialla Chocolate Apple Factory
- The "Moooving Art Cows Exhibition"
- View of the "Archibald Art Exhibition" at the Shepparton Art Museum
- View of the paintings & sculptures by artist "Tank" at the Visitor Information Centre **Plus many more surprises!**

MON 19 - WED 21 OCTOBER 2026

MEMBERS: \$1000 SINGLE / \$1,500 TWIN SHARE

NON-MEMBERS: \$1050 SINGLE / \$1,600 TWIN SHARE

Cost includes:

2 nights + 3 days

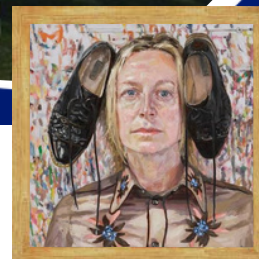
Cooked breakfasts + 2 dinners

Entrance to galleries and exhibitions

Guided tour of Shepparton

TO BOOK: CONTACT Jacqui Dinor | 0412 440 501 | ddinor@yahoo.com

PAYMENTS: B'nai B'rith Melbourne Lodge | BSB 633 000 | Account No. 213 821 259
Please add your name as reference.



Amanda Davies "Marta"
Archibald Prize 2026



**Armchair Society Series 2
The Hon. Justice Mark Weinberg KC - 14 July 2026**



The successful B'nai B'rith/Lamm Library Armchair Society events, hosted by Ron James, was treated to a unique presentation by The Hon. Justice Mark Weinberg KC in July.



**Melbourne Lodge Meeting
Guest Speaker Noah Bajayo - 14 June 2026**



**Gesh-Rabin Fundraiser - Bunnings
Moorabin Sausage Sizzle - 14 June 2026**



Melbourne Lodge - The Culture Club - 15 July 2026

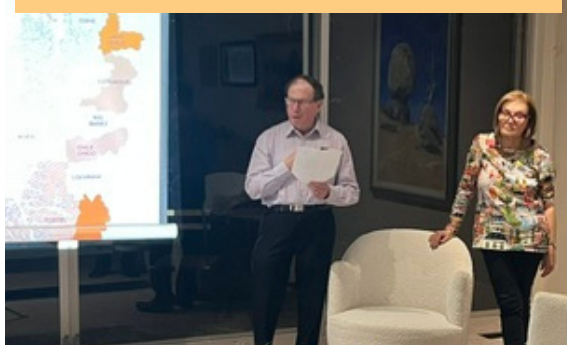


**Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club
members at a recent meeting**

50 people enjoyed a lovely dinner in a warm friendly atmosphere at Mediterranean Greek Tavern, owned by Perry, one of the few restauranteurs who publicly supported the local Jewish community post October 7.

From l-r: Mark Feldschuh, Sydney Pilcer (presenter), Evelyn Chizik (co-chair), Peter Schattner, Myer Bloom.

Unit Akiba Meeting - 19 July 2026



Unit Akiba held their AGM recently. There was a great turn out, and guests enjoyed hearing about Serge and Miriam Sztrajt's road trip in Patagonia.

Rosa Shattner welcoming new members Faye and John Glass

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

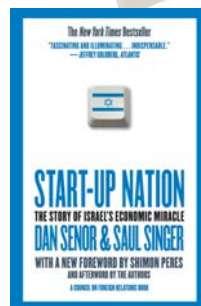
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER | 8:00 - 9:30PM

Featuring "Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle" by Dan Senor and Saul Singer

This foundational book investigates Israel's tech and innovation prowess. Translated into 30 languages, it became a bestseller in multiple global markets and put Israel on the map as the 'start-up nation'.

Dan Senor, of the podcast "Call Me Back" fame and Saul Singer, with a background in government and journalism, have written a highly readable book full of people, companies and their stories as they explain just how Israel, a tiny country of only 7 million (at the time of writing), achieved that distinction.

Jock Orkin and Jack Bar-Ness will lead the discussion of this book.



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.

THE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION OF SAPIRO V. FORD: THE JEW WHO SUED HENRY FORD



The riveting true story of a young Jewish lawyer who dared to take on one of America's most powerful men—and most notorious antisemites. In the 1920s, as Henry Ford's publications incited hatred nationwide, Aaron Sapiro filed an unprecedented libel lawsuit, fighting hate speech long before the laws existed.

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

SUNDAY 25 OCT 2026 | 2.45PM

CLASSIC CINEMA, ELSTERNWICK



\$23 MEMBERS*; \$25 NON-MEMBERS*

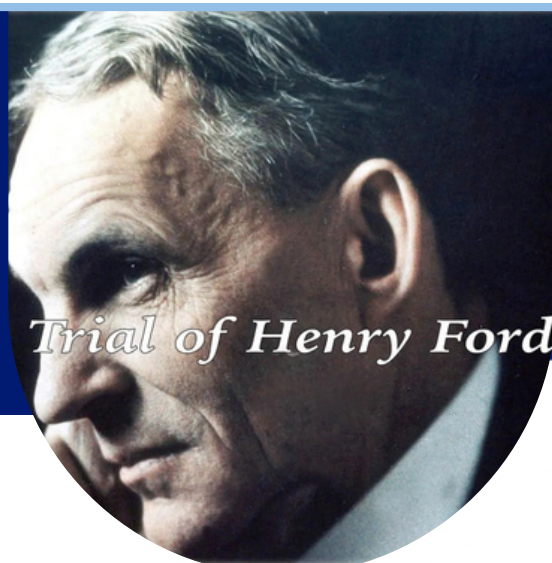
EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/BNAIBRITH-MOVIE-CLUB-THE-JEW-WHO-SUED

*Includes a drink and chocolate

Seats are allocated upon booking - secure your spot early for priority seating!

Movie will begin at 3pm. Please be punctual as there are no trailers or ads. If you are late, your ticket will be at the box office.

ENQUIRIES: (03) 9523 0888 | admin@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



B'NAI B'RITH UNIT GESHER-RABIN

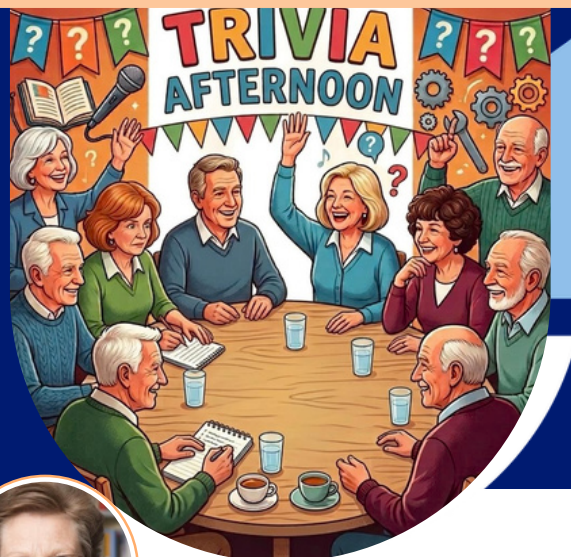
Our very popular Annual event

TRIVIA AFTERNOON

HAVE FUN AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE
B'NAI B'RITH ISRAEL PROJECTS

Includes prizes, silent auction, nibbles and a delicious
afternoon tea; bring your keep cup for extra points!

Quizmasters Evelyn Flitman and Bronwen Lichtenstein,
Researcher Annette Gladwin OAM



SUNDAY 8 NOV 2026 | 2.00PM

Glen Eira Mckinnon Bowls Club
23 Tyrone St, Ormond

MEMBERS: \$35 / NON-MEMBERS: \$45

Make a table of 8 with your friends or let us place you on a table



TO BOOK: [TINYURL.COM/GRUTRIVIA2026](https://tinyurl.com/GRUTRIVIA2026)

CONTACT US: Karin | 0400 402 032 | kzafir@zafirfamily

Eleanor Aghion | 0423 808 660 | ezaprudsky@gmail.com



(Incorporating Raoul Wallenberg Unit and Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge)

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

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

MON AUG 3
7.30 pm

PROGRAMMING

At the home of Cera Newhouse

THURS AUG 6
3.00 pm

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Beth Weizmann

WED AUG 12
2.00 - 4.30 pm

REGULAR MEETING

BETH WEIZMANN AUDITORIUM

Rabbi Dr Danny Schiff - "Profound Transformation of the Jewish People"

PLEASE NOTE - Meeting is starting earlier than usual, to allow more people to attend during the winter months.

MON AUG 17
7.30 pm

BOOKCLUB

At the home of Gilah Leder

"The things we never say" by Elizabeth Strout

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN OCT 11

INSTALLATION

MON - WED
19 - 21 OCT

EXCURSION TO SHEPPARTON

By coach (2 nights and 3 days)

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

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

Members: \$1000 Single / \$1,500 Twin share

Non-members: \$1050 Single / \$1,600 Twin share

Preferential bookings for Melb Lodge members closes August 31

SUN NOV 22

BAGEL BRUNCH

AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Howard Elton (4) Esther Gross (10) Peter Pulver (12) Ron Zmood (15)

Ruth Goldman (15) Eva Lustig (17) Lorraine Freeman (18)

Barbara Wolfson (21) George Schimmel (25)

WELFARE OF MEMBERS

We wish Hilary Friedland well as she undergoes a hip operation.

We welcome Simone Markus back after her surgery.

Arie Kluger's daughter got engaged.

We welcome and congratulate the new B'nai B'rith President

Prof Andrew Markus, who is replacing Dr Peter Schattner

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

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

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

AUG 8

7.30 pm

CLASSIC FILM NIGHT

"What's up Doc?" - 1972 screwball comedy starring Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal. Location to be confirmed upon booking (private home in Carnegie).

Free for members; \$15 non-members - Plus \$10 per person for pizza - please bring cash on the night.

[Book here now!](#)

AUG 16

11.00 am

MONTHLY MEETING

At Etz Chayim

Speaker: Tamara Taylor, Manager, Community Club at C Care

Community Club is C Care volunteer friendship program, matching older people with friendly volunteers for regular one-on-one visits that bring companionship, conversation and connection. It is an important service to our community.

[Book here now!](#)

AUG 20

MALVERN THEATRE COMPANY

"When the rain stops falling"

Charity night for Compassionate Friends Victoria, an organisation that supports bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents.

Tickets: \$20, contact Robyn Arya 0417 131 200 to book.

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 0430 107 372

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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Colin Schneider (25) Halina Leitch (31)

CONTACT US

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact our publicity officers Leon and Irene Nissen on 0418 563 091 (kirschnernissen@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 Eleanor 0423 808 660 (ezaprudsky@gmail.com)

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

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

SUN AUG 2
2.00 pm

PLANNING MEETING

In 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

WED AUG 5
10.30 am

COFFEE AND CHAT

Catch up at Malvern Central. Call Miriam if you need a lift

THURS AUG 6
11.30 am

ART EXHIBITION

Malvern Artist Society, 1297 Hight St, Malvern.

Exhibition of works by visually-impaired artists, including Madeline Popper who spoke at our last meeting. No need to book, just turn up. We'll go to lunch after.

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

THURS AUG 27
12.15 pm

CHAT AND CHEW

At The Glasshouse, Station St, Caulfield North.

Call Miriam if you need a lift 0413 383 113.

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS

WED SEP 2
10.30 am

COFFEE AND CHAT

Catch up at Malvern Central. Call Miriam if you need a lift

THURS SEP 24
11.30 am

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECE 2026: CARTIER

National Gallery Victoria; Tickets \$43; some discounts available

Book your own tickets online or phone (03) 8620 2222

RSVP Miriam 20/9, 0413 383 113

AUGUST BDAY GREETINGS

Karen Neumann (1) Debra Star (1) Fred Pollak (2) Andrew Freadman (12) Sue Newman (18) David Rooseboom (18) Leah Shmerling (18) Beatrice Mense (26) Miriam Sztrajt (26)

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 AUGUST

SUN AUG 30

REGULAR MEETING

Leo Baeck Centre, East Kew
Katia Ariel, author of "The Ferryman", the life and death work of Ephraim Finch, who worked for the Chevra Kadisha for 30 years.
Books may available for purchase (\$35)

AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Alec Huze (14) Irene Port (16) Peter Arnheim (21)
Tessa Berger (21)
Our best wishes for a healthy, 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 AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

SUN AUG 2
MORNING

MEDIUM WALK

Sydney will lead a medium walk from Warburton along the Warburton Rail Trail.
Contact Sydney: sydney55@gmail.com

WED AUG 19
MORNING

EASY WALK

Rodney will lead an easy midweek walk from Essendon to Avondale Heights.
Contact Rodney: r.eisfelder@gmail.com

SUN AUG 30
MORNING

HARD WALK

Boris will lead a hard walk, venue not yet confirmed.
Contact Boris: pogosb@bigpond.com

SUN SEP 6
MORNING

MEDIUM WALK

Evelyn will lead a medium walk in the Mt Macedon area.
Contact Evelyn: evelyn@flitman.net.au

SUN SEP 6
MORNING

HARD WALK

Malcolm will lead a hard walk in the Mt Macedon area.
Contact Malcolm: malcolm@flitman.net.au

Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Jewish Schools Forum

Currently around 20% of our activity is in independent schools and we work with ISV leadership looking at ways to reach more of their schools.

ISV convened a second forum bringing together both Jewish and non-Jewish schools to continue these important conversations.

Hosted by the Jewish Museum of Australia, the program encouraged the sharing of experiences, challenges and practical approaches, while strengthening connections and collaboration across school communities.

Listening to leaders of schools including Bialik, Mount Scopus and Caulfield Grammar share their approach to combatting antisemitism and all forms of racism and the willingness to share ideas was truly heartening. We stand ready to support these schools in any way we can.

Courage to Care CEO Attends Premier's Christian Communities Dinner

Recently our CEO, Mike Zervos OAM, attended the Premier's Christian Communities Dinner. Mike joined 200 faith and community leaders as well as key Victorian politicians at this event, including Premier Jacinta Allen, Minister for Multiculturalism Ingrid Stitt, Minister for Volunteering Luba Grigorovitch. Naomi Levin CEO of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria also attended.



Premier Jacinta Allen with Mike Zervos OAM at the Christian Communities Dinner.



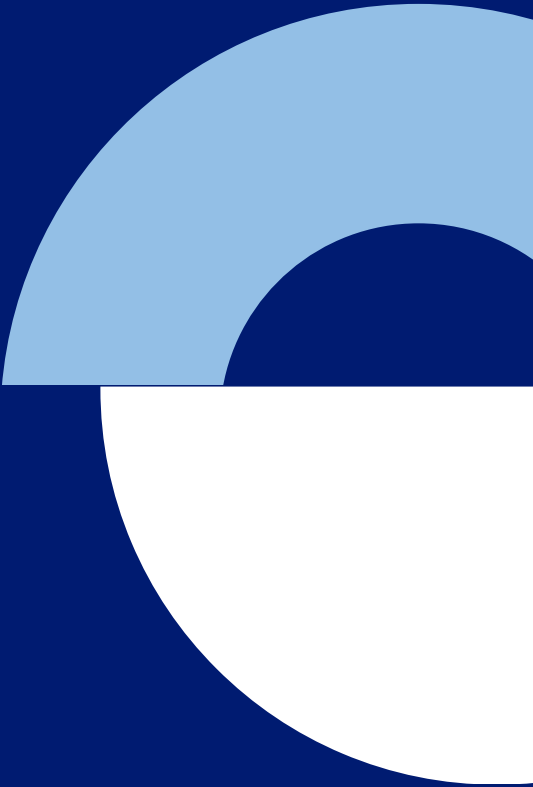
Mike Zervos OAM receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from VMC leaders.

Certificate of Appreciation - Victorian Multicultural Commission

CEO Mike Zervos OAM attended the final meeting of the Southern Metro Regional Advisory Council of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC).

We have been able to give feedback on community issues and create some great networking contacts. Following a review, the Victorian Multicultural Commission will become Multicultural Victoria and we will continue to see how we can help shape a more socially cohesive society.

Mike received a Certificate of Appreciation from VMC leaders.



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

Click [HERE](#) to see the B'nai B'rith calendar, including all BBVic and Unit events.