ACT JEWISH COMMUNITY INC

Inauguration Ceremony

25 NOVEMBER 2014
3 KISLEV 5775
Judy, Bill and Christine Cole

60 Nettlefold Street Belconnen ACT 2617
Ph: 6253 3655 | www.williamcolefunerals.com.au

Excellence in funeral service
ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Community members arrive – refreshments are served
2. Honoured Guests and Dignitaries arrive
3. Welcome by Ms Yael Cass, Vice President of the ACT Jewish Community
4. Invocation by Rabbi Ralph Genende, Rabbi of the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation, Melbourne Vic
5. Address by Mr Robert Cussel, President of the ACT Jewish Community Inc
6. Address by Mr Peter Wertheim, Executive Director of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry
7. Address by Dr Danny Lamm, President of the Zionist Federation of Australia
8. Address by Mr Michael Sukkar MP, Federal Member for Deakin, officially representing the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia
9. Introduction of Chief Rabbi, and Address by Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant, President of the Organisation of Rabbis of Australia
10. Address and Inauguration Prayer by Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
11. Presentation to Rabbi Meltzer and Rebbetzin Meltzer
12. Address to the community Rabbi Alon Meltzer
13. Close of proceedings and singing of Australian National Anthem and Hatikvah
14. Ground Breaking Ceremony with Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant, President of the Organisation of Rabbis of Australia
15. Toast by Mr Len Dixon, Past President of the ACT Jewish Community Inc, and Ms Deborah Shroot
16. Refreshments served
17. Event Over
MESSAGEs

Message from Robert Cussel, President of the ACT Jewish Community Inc

The inauguration of Rabbi Alon Meltzer represents a very significant milestone in the life of this young man and his family. Today is the culmination of a long period of preparation and study undertaken by Rabbi Meltzer, in order to fulfill a lifelong dream of pursuing a career as a spiritual and communal leader.

It also represents one giant step in the life of the ACT Jewish Community Inc as we confidently step forward into the future with our first full-time rabbinical leader, who will also fill the role of program coordinator, educator, and pastoral carer.

Rabbi Meltzer has demonstrated that he is a man of many talents across a wide range of abilities and interests. He has the inner fire to serve and lead a Jewish community in a complex and changing world. In the short time that he has been with us, he has demonstrated that he possesses the energy, the passion and the commitment to serve community and the inevitable challenges that such a role will throw up.

Rabbi Meltzer sets an example to us all in that he is very proud of his Jewish faith, heritage and culture. By his everyday actions and communications, he demonstrates the need to make a firm commitment to promoting Jewish continuity in all its forms. He has also demonstrated a commitment to a modern and inclusive approach to Judaism, which is particularly appropriate for a community such as ours in Canberra.

We wish Rabbi Meltzer every success in his future career.

Message from H.E. Shmuel Ben Shmuel, Ambassador of Israel to Australia

It gives me great pleasure to officially welcome my friend Rabbi Alon Meltzer to Australia and to the vibrant Jewish community here in the ACT.

Rabbi Meltzer’s strong sense of purpose is an asset to our faith and our heritage. I have no doubt that his presence in Canberra will be felt by many- not just people of Jewish heritage but non-Jews alike.

I had the pleasure recently of joining Rabbi Meltzer and his family in their home for Shabbat dinner. Rabbi Meltzer and his family were warm and gracious and I truly felt welcome. I hope that we too, can welcome them to the ACT by supporting him in his goals and efforts for the community and its strong relations with the Embassy of Israel, Canberra and with the State of Israel.

I welcome him and his family. It is my hope that Rabbi Meltzer has success with all he strives to achieve in this great land in which we live.

I wish all the best to Rabbi Meltzer and his family and the community as a whole.

Message from Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

“I am delighted to have the pleasure of inducting Rabbi Alon Meltzer into office. The occasion will provide a welcome opportunity for Valerie and me to meet the wonderful Canberra Jewish community and to celebrate this significant moment with them. I extend every best wish to Rabbi Alon and Linsay for blessing and success in all their future endeavours for the community.”

Message from Katy Gallagher, Chief Minister of the ACT

“I am writing to extend my sincere congratulations on your appointment as the Rabbi of the ACT Jewish Community Inc.

Canberra is a culturally diverse city and we appreciate and embrace the rich contribution made to our community by the many cultures and faith that choose to make Canberra their home. The ACT Jewish Community Inc is a small, but active group who has contributed to the Canberra community for over 60 years. I do hope you enjoy your time living in the nation’s capital.

I extend my best wishes to the Jewish community of the ACT and wish you every success for the years ahead.”
Message from Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant, Organisation of Rabbis of Australia

On behalf of the Organisation of Rabbis of Australia it gives me great pleasure to bring greetings and blessings to the inauguration of Rabbi Alon Meltzer as Rabbi of ACT Jewish Community Inc.

I offer prayers that the Almighty bring His peace and blessing to the occasion and that this appointment bring credit, honour and acclaim to the Jewish Community within the ACT and to the entire Klal Yisrael.

As stated in the Shabbat liturgy - 'and those who busy themselves with the needs of the community, the Almighty will Himself bring their reward'.

Indeed may we all merit the Almighty's ultimate reward with the imminent arrival of Mashiach.

Mazal Tov, Bevirchat HaTorah

Message from Robert Goot, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry is delighted to welcome Rabbi Meltzer and his family to Australia and we congratulate Rabbi Meltzer on his Inauguration as Rabbi to the ACT Jewish Community Inc. The ECAJ also congratulates the ACT Jewish Community Inc on making this significant appointment.

The ACT Jewish Community Inc is an integral part of Jewish life in Australia. We have every confidence that under the leadership of the ACTJC and the spiritual guidance of Rabbi Alon Meltzer, the ACT community will go from strength to strength as a vibrant, active and cohesive community.

We wish Rabbi Meltzer every such in this important position.

Message from Stephen Freeman, President of the Union for Progressive Judaism

On behalf of the Union for Progressive Judaism, which represents congregations across the region of Australia, New Zealand and Asia, and the Moetzah (the Council of Progressive Rabbis) I offer greetings and congratulations to Rabbi Alon Meltzer on his appointment to the ACT Jewish Community. Rabbi Meltzer's first appointment is a very significant one.

This is a very important step for this unique and special community and affirms confidence and resolve for the future of Jewish life in Canberra area.

Message from Dr Danny Lamm, President of the Zionist Federation of Australia

On behalf of the Zionist Federation of Australia, I am delighted to extend our congratulations and welcome to Rabbi Alon Meltzer to this very important role in the ACT community.

The synagogue is central in Jewish life. It provides a focus for people to engage not only spiritually but also provides the community with a place to connect with each other. The ACT is a unique community, and I applaud this significant decision to appoint a full time Rabbi for the first time.

The rabbi is, of course, pivotal to the synagogue and makes a tremendous contribution to the community. I wish Rabbi Meltzer and his family every success and happiness in their new role. We at the ZFA look forward to engaging with the synagogue, Rabbi Meltzer and increasingly with the ACT community on issues relating to Israel in which we share interest, concern and passion.

Message from Romy Liebler, President of the Council of Orthodox Synagogues of Australia

On behalf of the Council of Orthodox Synagogues of Australia (COSA), in would like to extend our best wishes to Rabbi Alon Meltzer upon his appointment as Rabbi of the ACT Jewish Community Inc. The ACT Jewish Community Inc has operated for a long time without the services of a Rabbi and has managed to meander along. Now with the appointment of Rabbi Meltzer, there is an opportunity for the community to embark upon a major trajectory of growth and to make its mark upon the Australian Jewish landscape.

COSA looks forward to assisting Rabbi Meltzer in the journey ahead and will provide whatever support he requires.

The ACT Jewish Community Inc is to be congratulated in making the appointment and we trust that it will reap the rewards in the years to come.
The President, Executive and Team at JCA congratulates Rabbi Alon Meltzer on his inauguration as Rabbi of the ACT Jewish Community.

We look forward to seeing continued growth, strength and continuity in your community and are proud to count you amongst our member organisations.

www.jca.org.au
tel: 9360 2344  📌 JCA NSW
To The Inaugural Committee at the ACT Jewish Community

It is a distinct honor to write these brief words of tribute to your Rav, Rabbi Alon Meltzer. I count him as a student, colleague and friend. In the two years in which he, along with his wonderful wife Lindsay, served our kehillah in White Plains, NY, as youth rabbi, he dramatically impacted the lives of countless families.

Your community in Canberra is indeed privileged to have Rabbi Meltzer serving as your spiritual leader. He is a man with endless creativity and love for the Jewish people and the Jewish Faith.

I offer you a blessing and prayer to the Almighty:

Under the guidance of your esteemed rabbi, Harav Alon Isaac Meltzer,

May your community experience growth and vitality

May you each, as involved and exploring Jewish individuals and families, experience that same growth and spiritual development

May you go מחיל אל חיל, from strength to strength.

Rabbi Chaim Marder

Rabbi, Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Message from Rabbi Alon Meltzer

The ACT Jewish Community Inc has become our home. Since joining the community in July; Linsay, Daliah, Ella and I have felt a warm embrace from all those who are a part of the community and the leaders of Australian Jewry.

It has always been my dream to be a community Rabbi, things have not changed since I was a young child when I first expressed that desire, the feelings have only grown and the past four years at Yeshiva University’s Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, have ensured that I can take my place in a 2000 year old mesorah, or tradition.

Being a Rabbi holds much responsibility, and not a day goes by without my realising the magnitude of the role; representing the history of our people, our Torah, our laws and our statutes, being a Kiddush Hashem, a sanctification of God’s name, and finally representing our community – it is a weight on my shoulders that I am only too happy to carry.

I would like to express my sincere hakarat ha’tov, gratitude, to Hashem for giving me the privilege to represent him, his Torah and his people. I would like to thank my parents, especially my mother, Sue Meltzer, who encouraged me to succeed in all my aspirations and goals. I would like to thank the Auckland Hebrew Congregation, her Rabbis and Shlichim, that gave me numerous opportunities to grow in my leadership and yiddishkeit, and many of the congregants, friends and family, who supported my decision to follow this path.

Yeshiva University is the centre of the Modern Orthodox world, and RIETS, its theological seminary, has ensured that Rabbis around the world can appropriately balance our holy Torah with the real world. I thank the Yeshiva, and especially my Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Jeremy Wieder who was my Rebbe and my mentor, and still remains so.

I would like to acknowledge my professional mentor, Rabbi Chaim Marder of the Hebrew Institute of White Plains who provided me with skills and opportunities that have led to my taking this position with the ACT Jewish Community Inc.

Finally I would like to thank and congratulate the Board and the President, Robert Cussel, for the leadership that they took to ensure that this shidduch, this match, was appropriately made.

We look forward to continued growth and success of this community, for the benefit of all Jews in our nation’s capital, and all Jews of Australia.
Mazel tov!

On your appointment
Rabbi Alon Melzer.

We wish you and the ACT Jewish Community all the best for the coming years.

Regards Richard Luton,
Robert Westropp-Evans
and team Luton.

Robert Westropp-Evans
0418 198 891 or 6260 8999
**Australian Jewish Historical Society, Canberra**

The Australian Jewish Historical Society ACT congratulates Rabbi Alon Meltzer on his inauguration as the first Rabbi appointed by the ACT Jewish Community Inc, and welcomes Rebbetzin Linsay, Daliah And Ella to the community.

This is an important step in the history of the ACTJC and an important event in the history of Jews in the national capital.

**Chabad of the ACT**

On behalf of all of us at the Northern Canberra Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre and Chabad ACT, I extend a hearty mazal tov to Rabbi Meltzer on his appointment.

I wish Rabbi Meltzer much blessing and success, together with Linsay and their children, in the holy work of strengthening Judaism in Canberra for many years to come.

**Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn**

The Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn ask God's blessing on the inauguration of Rabbi Meltzer at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, Forrest, ACT... We look forward to encouraging Rabbi Meltzer and his community and hope the bonds of dialogue and friendship will continue to develop between our communities in the years ahead. We also congratulate the ACT Jewish Community Inc as they symbolically begin the extension to the present building. May God's blessing come upon all in the community – Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

**National Council of Jewish Women of Australia CANBERRA SECTION**

On behalf of its members and friends extends a hearty Mazal Tov on the inauguration of Rabbi Alon Meltzer and welcomes Rabbi Meltzer, Rebbetzin Linsay Meltzer and their children to the ACT Jewish Community Inc.

To the President of the ACT Jewish Community Inc, the Board and all members we wish a future of continued communal unity and growth.
LOOKING BACK

Official party led by Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie at laying of foundation stone, NJMC 1962

Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, David Smith and PM R.G. Menzies at laying of foundation stone, ceremony, NJMC 1962

The President of the Board of Founders, Mr. Louis Klein, together with The President and Members of the A.C.T. Jewish Community request the pleasure of the company of Dr. and Mrs. D.M. Rosalky at the Opening of the National Jewish Memorial Centre

Corner of National Circuit and Canberra Avenue, Forrest, Australian Capital Territory by the Rt. Hon. William McMahon M.P. Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and at the naming of the Fanny Rosalky Auditorium by Mrs. McMahon on Sunday, 12 December, 1971 at 2 p.m.

R.S.V.P.
1 December, 1971

Invitation to opening of NJMC 1971

Dr Mervyn Doobov, President ACTJC

Channukah 2008

Blinkz stall, ACTJC Annual Food Fair
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ACT JEWISH COMMUNITY INC

There had been Jews in the region surrounding the future site of Canberra since the 19th century—Queanbeyan, Goulburn, Yass, Cooma and the South Coast—but the first Jews began to settle in Canberra in the 1930s. By the late 1940s a small nucleus of Jews, brought up in the large cities of Australia began to organise into a congregation with the encouragement of interstate Jews plus their own impetus. The inaugural meeting of the Community was celebrated in May 1951, the first Barmitzvah was celebrated in 1953, and the first communal Seder (Passover) was held in 1954.

Initially all services and functions were held in hired halls or private homes. In 1959 a lease was signed with the Government for the present site of the National Jewish Memorial Centre, and the foundation stone was laid on 26 February 1962 in the presence of the Chief Rabbi of the Commonwealth, Rabbi (later Sir) Israel Brodie and the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. (later Sir) Robert Menzies. The construction of the Centre was commenced in 1971 with the major financial assistance coming from the Klein and Krongold families. The building was opened in December of that year by the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. William McMahon. As well as accommodating the Community’s religious, cultural and social needs, it has served as a memorial to Australia’s fallen Jewish servicemen and women.

Because Canberra was specially designed to be a national capital it has attracted a distinctive population. The Jewish population reflects this, with many of its members concentrated in a small number of occupations—few are businessmen, most are public servants, academics or students, as well as those employed in the growing IT industry in recent years. It is not a wealthy community and is somewhat transient, although over the years a core population has settled.

The Centre is unique in Australia for its inclusiveness, encompassing Orthodox and Progressive communities, which until the engagement this year of Rabbi Alon Meltzer, have been lay led, and have in the past benefitted from the services of Rabbi Dr George Schlesinger and Rabbi Uri Themal who were in Canberra temporarily to pursue professional occupations. Lay leaders over the years have been many, but prominent in recent years have been Dr Mervyn Doobov, Dr Alan Shroot, Dr David Rosalky and members of the Lehrer family.

From its inception the Community has nurtured Jewish affiliate groups such as the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia and the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

November 2014
LOOKING FORWARD

Aerial view of sukkah / pergola and central courtyard

Sukkah / Pergola and central courtyard
Foyer and Corridor 3

Aerial view of new entry and landscaping to driveway
In memory of the Founding Families of the ACT Jewish Community Inc whose impact is still being felt today

Dr Alan & Dr Anita Shroot
Ms Sally & Mr Eric McDonald
Mrs Janet & Mr Thomas Frommer
Mr Alan & Mrs Shirley White
Dr David & Mrs Adele Rosalky
Dr Brian & Mrs Judith Wimborne
Mrs Judith Eisner
Ms Jennie Collins
Sir David Smith
Dr Uyen Loewald
Mr Peter Wise
Mr Kevin Judah White

Mr Robert Cussel
Mr Peter Taft
Mr Anton Schneider
Dr David and Mrs Anna Reiner
Ms Daryl Karp and Mr Brendan Higgens
Rubenstein-Sturgess Family
Mr Avi Solomon
Ms Glenda Jeffery
Mr Leonard Dixon
Ms Ruby Dixon
Ms Jo Dixon and Mr Kevin Caruana

Congratulations to the President and the Board of the ACT Jewish Community Inc on this historic appointment

Dr David & Mrs Adele Rosalky
Dr Alan & Mrs Anita Shroot
Ms Sally & Mr Eric McDonald
Mrs Janet & Mr Thomas Frommer
Mr Alan & Mrs Shirley White
Mr Adrian & Mr Ian Goudie
Mr Thomas & Mrs Edith Blumenthal
Mrs Judith Eisner
Ms Jennie Collins
Mr Donald Chambers
Sir David Smith
Dr Uyen Loewald
Mr Kantilal Jinna
Mr Peter Wise
The Weisman Family

Dr Merrilyn Sernack
Dr Vernon Kronenberg
Mr Fred & Mrs Margaret Schaeffer
Mr Joseph & Mrs Clair Solomon
Mr Murray and Mrs Esther Meltzer
Mr Avi Solomon
Dr David and Mrs Anna Reiner
Professor Sydney Hamberger
Ms Daryl Karp and Mr Brendan Higgens
Rubenstein-Sturgess Family
Mr Kris Boyapati
Mrs Peggy Gould
Ms Naomi Robertson
Ms Glenda Jeffery
Congratulations to Rabbi and Rebbetzin Meltzer on the appointment as Rabbi of the ACT Jewish Community Inc

Mrs Sue Meltzer
Mr Gary & Mrs Sheila Esterman
Mrs Fiona & Mr Dennis Sweet Formiatti
Mrs Janet & Mr Thomas Frommer
Mr Sharon Polishuk & Ms Bernadette Kelly
Mr Jonathon & Mrs Naomi Lee
Rabbi Jeremy Wieder & Dr Chaviva Levin
Mr Ilya & Mrs Veronica Leydman
Mr Greg & Mrs Anne Marks
Ms Sally & Mr Eric McDonald
Dr David & Mrs Adele Rosalky
Dr Alan & Dr Anita Shroot
Mr Aaron & Adina Steinberg
Ms Yael Cass & Mr Mark Warburton
Mr Alan & Mrs Shirley White
Dr Brian & Mrs Judith Wimborne
Mr Dane Mair
The Worenklein Family
Mrs Judith Eisner
Mr Michael Vitek & Mrs Deborah Shroot
Mr Kevin Judah White
Ms Rochelle Getzler
Dr & Mrs Mark & Debra Hurwitz
Ms Jennie Collins

Mr Robert Cussel
Mr Donald Chambers
Mr David Smith
Mrs Helene Stead
Dr Uyen Loewald
Mr Henry Gittleman
Ms Tamar Munch
Mr Simon Maybaum
Mr Kantilal Jinna
Mr Peter Wise
Ms Yvette Goode
Mr Murray and Mrs Esther Meltzer
Dr Jess and Mrs Kara Olson
Mr Avi Solomon
Dr David and Mrs Anna Reiner
Ms Daryl Karp and Mr Brendan Higgens
Rubenstein-Sturgess Family
Ms Glenda Jeffery
Ms Naomi Robertson
Mrs Peggy Gould
Rabbi Eliezer and Mrs Ilana Bercuson
Mr Dov Netanel Bercuson
Mr Harry Opperman

Hatzlacha Rabbah, much success to the entire ACT Jewish Community Inc in the future

Dr David & Mrs Adele Rosalky
Dr Alan & Mrs Anita Shroot
Ms Sally & Mr Eric McDonald
Mrs Janet & Mr Thomas Frommer
Mr Alan & Mrs Shirley White
Mr Adrian & Mr Ian Goudie
Mr Thomas & Mrs Edith Blumenthal
Mrs Judith Eisner
Ms Jennie Collins
Mr Robert Cussel
Mr David Chambers
Sir David Smith
Dr Uyen Loewald
Mr Kantilal Jinna
Mr Peter Wise

The Weisman Family
Dr Mernily Sernack
Dr Vernon Kronenberg
Mr Fred & Mrs Margaret Schaeffer
Mr Joseph & Mrs Joseph Solomon
Mr Murray and Mrs Esther Meltzer
Mr Avi Solomon
Mrs Ruth Landau
Ms Daryl Karp and Mr Brendan Higgens
Rubenstein-Sturgess Family
Dr David and Mrs Anna Reiner
Ms Glenda Jeffery
Ms Naomi Robertson
Mr Harry Opperman
Thank you to all the volunteers, past and present, who have ensured that the ACT Jewish Community Inc is the strong and vibrant community it is today.

Dr Alan & Dr Anita Shroot
Ms Sally & Mr Eric McDonald
Mrs Janet & Mr Thomas Frommer
Mrs Fiona & Mr Dennis Formiatti
Mr Adrian & Mr Ian Goudie
Mr Alan & Mrs Shirley White
Mr Ilya & Mrs Veronica Leydman
Mrs Judith Eisner
Ms Jennie Collins
Sir David Smith
Dr Uyen Loewald
Mr Peter Wise
Mr Kevin Judah White
Mr Robert Cussel
Mr Donald Chambers
Ms Deborah Shroot
Mrs Helene Stead
Mr Peter Taft
Dr David and Mrs Anna Reiner
Ms Daryl Karp and Mr Brendan Higgins
Rubenstein-Sturgess Family
Mr Murray and Mrs Esther Meltzer
Mr Avi Solomon
Mrs Ruth Landau
Mr David and Mrs Ruth Goren
Mrs Peggy Gould
Ms Glenda Jeffery
Mrs Christine Sullivan
Dr David & Mrs Adele Rosalky

Mazal tov
and
Best Wishes
from
Leibler Yavneh College
OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Family Medical Practice including Childhood Immunisation
- Work cover Services, Corporate and executive health.
- Minor Surgical Procedures including skin checks
- Antenatal Care, Baby checks, Women’s & Men’s Health

WE ALSO SPECIALISE IN TRAVEL MEDICINE PROVIDING:

- Expert pre- and post-travel advice tailored specifically to your trip
- Every traveller receives a free copy of our Traveller’s Pocket Medical Guide. This 52 page passport sized booklet contains vital Health information, including the International Certificate of Vaccination
- Vaccinations and medications are stocked and dispensed on site, saving time and money

Unit 5, Dickson Park Professional Centre
Corner Cowper & Antill Sts Dickson ACT 2602
PH 02 6257 3853, Fax 02 6247 1022

For all general practice and travel medicine needs contact us on 02 6257 3853.

Fully Accredited General Practice operating in Dickson for over 25 years

We’re turning 120
and you’re all invited to the party
Stay tuned for upcoming events throughout 2015

Log on to jewishnews.net.au
to check out our subscription offers
or call 1800 010 171

Find us on Facebook  Follow us on Twitter
The ACT Jewish Community Inc is the oldest community in Canberra, and represents the interests of Jews from all of Canberra and the surrounding areas.

We host religious, social, cultural and educational programs and services, with the aim to engage, inspire and inform all those who we come in contact with.

Please consider joining us for any of our programs, and sign up to be a member to reap the rewards of this growing and active community.

For more information please contact our office;

   National Jewish Memorial Centre  
   Crn National Circuit & Canberra Ave  
   Forrest A.C.T. 2603  
   Ph: (02) 6295 1052  
   Postal Address: PO Box 3105 Manuka, ACT 2603  
   E-mail: actadmin@canberrajewishcommunity.org  
   Website: www.actjc.org.au