



NATIONAL JEWISH MEMORIAL CENTRE



Annual Report

2014-15

5775



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The ACT Jewish Community is a member of the JCA family of Organisations

Annual Report

Financial Year 2014 - 2015 | 5775

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The Menorah in the ACTJC Synagogue donated in Memory of Isaac and Basha Farber.

Life Cycle Events in the ACTJC Community during 2014-15 Financial Year

Births

Merrilyn Sernack's Granddaughter: *Olivia Lee*
 Graciela Stifelberg-McNamara's Granddaughter:
Harriette Graciela
 Nicole & Pete Lisle's daughter: *Alice Renee*
 Anita & Alan Shroot's Grandson in Jerusalem
 Karen Tatz and Robert Westropp-Evan's Grandson:
Rafael

Bat Mitzvah

Naomi Leydman

Bar Mitzvah

Ethan Grace-Platow
 Ilya Weissman
 Joshua Gittleman

Marriages

Ronnie & Barbara Butow's daughter:
Ella married Kyle Robertson

60th Wedding Anniversary

Sir David Smith

Significant Birthdays

Richard Webb (70 years)
 George Rothman (70 years)

Deaths

Carl Samson
 Sylvie Stern
 David Weisser
 John Ashkenazy
 Ruth Doobov

ACT JC Board of Management Office-Holders and Members 2013/2014

Executive

President: Robert Cussel
Vice President: Yael Cass
Immediate Past President: Kim Rubenstein
Treasurer: David Rosalky
Secretary: Karen Tatz
A/Treasurer/Secretary: Chiquita Bonan

Board Members

Bill Arnold (*co-opted*)
 Angela Glance (*co-opted*)
 Yvette Goode
 (*also acted as Assistant Secretary*)
 Athol Morris (*co-opted*)
 David Reiner
 Sibella Stern
 Peter D Wise

Report from the Rabbi

Rabbi Alon Meltzer



2014 and 2015 have been an exciting period for the entire community; we have seen a transformation right before our eyes, there has been a buzz, and we are creating something beautiful together.

The ACT Jewish Community has a strong and rich history. Reading through archive material, or personal documents, or hearing stories from our long time members, it is clear that the success of the community has been about and due to people. Our current transformation has also been about and due to people.

While many of you were holidaying the past summer, I spent many days sitting in my office. What was I doing in there, while the sun was beckoning me outside?

The first few months of my contract saw me talking and observing, sure we made some changes, but most of my time spent was getting the pulse of the community, learning about people and history. Over the summer I was able to analyse and process the data collected, in order to bring about some of the transformation we have seen.

During those long warm days, we created a complete change to our cheder system, put together a comprehensive adult education program, and mapped out the various events the community would hold. It was during these days that we strengthened the connections between ourselves and other institutions and organisations within Australian Jewry, including the ZFA, Limmud OZ, the Shalom Institute (which houses PJ Library, Hillel and other organisations), and the ECAJ.

During 2014-15 we have seen:

- The visit of Chief Rabbi Ephraim of the United Synagogues of the Commonwealth, and Rebbetzin Mirvis for the Inauguration with over 200 guests present;
- The Anne Frank exhibition was hosted at the NJMC for two months (February, March), which involved a major commitment by volunteer members to act as guides, over 2500 visitors to the Centre and an opening ceremony with over 220 guests;
- Channukah events including a family Shabbat dinner (100 guests), Family Carnival (100 guests), Adult Cocktail evening (60 guests);
- The revamp of our Cheder, which has seen 32 kids in attendance;
- Purim events including Megillah readings in the evening, morning and afternoon which attracted around 170 people, a young adult cocktail evening with 35 guests, and a Purim meal and show of 120 guests. On Purim we also delivered 30 mishloach manot, gift baskets, to the elderly.
- Our annual seder had 125 guests in attendance;
- Our Yom Hashoah ceremony was attended by 120 guests

including dignitaries and local and federal politicians.

- Israel celebrations and commemorations included a Yom Hazikaron ceremony at the Embassy which was planned together, an evening with Ron Alter the Jewish Agency Shaliach. We had 100 people for a Yom HaAtzmaut BBQ and a special Shabbat for Yom Yerushalayim.
- On ANZAC Day we had 80 in attendance for an ANZAC Day Ceremony which included Mr David Dewar the First Secretary of the NZ High Commission, Dr Danny Lamm of the Zionist Federation of Australia and Israeli Ambassador Shmuel ben Shmuel.
- The ACTJC hosted the inaugural Limmud Shavuot, with over 150 registrations, interstate guests and speakers, including an extensive children and youth program. It included a teen leadership program which was in part funded by the Michael J Faktor Foundation, and generous donations by a number of the Youth Movements. Daniel Coppel (Hineni) organized madrichim from Melbourne and Sydney to join us and run the teen and children's programs.
- Succot Events including a dinner (70 guests), whisky night (20 guests).
- A Succot Mini Camp expertly organised by Hineni Madrich Daniel Coppel, which saw 25 kids from the community sleep over at the Centre for a night, and participate in amazing programs and activities.
- We have had several Scholars in Residence, visiting lecturers, and programs running within the centre.
- We have two regular classes running - Jewish University and Exploring Tanach which attracts around 40 people each week.
- We have created a Gemach/Welfare fund, which aids people within the community who may be struggling, and also coordinates the delivery of food packages in conjunction with local charities.

When I look at this list, I see growth and activity that rivals even some of our biggest communities around the country. I see innovation and transformation, but most of all I see people. Each of our events and programs runs because of people behind the scenes; volunteers and valuable staff members, but more importantly they are successful because people come and participate - truly, I have learnt more from the people coming to our classes and educational programs than I have been able to share.

On Kol Nidrei this year I spoke about the need to turn up - and while our numbers have been strong, both in services, classes and events, we are still missing out on seeing half the community. Shabbat and Festival meals provides us with the opportunity to see and get to know people properly, I would love to see more people at our events and educational offerings, so I can learn from you, and share the magic and spark of Judaism with you.

I must take this opportunity to congratulate this past year's board for their excellent hard work, and especially to our President, Robert Cussel, who has shown foresight and wisdom that has put the ACTJC both on the map, and built a solid foundation for the future.

I also want to take a moment to thank Rebbetzin Lindsay, and the girls, who have done an excellent job in supporting me, and also running and organising activities in her own right. The girls love both the people, and the building, and they truly feel at home - there is nothing more to ask for!

I wish the new board much success, and hope that we continue growing together in this bright and exciting future.

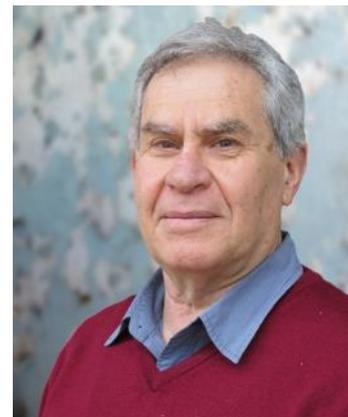
B'Hatzlacha



Jewish Education is an important part of the ACT Jewish Community. *Image source: Robert Nicholas*

Report from the President

Robert Cussel



The 2014/2015 Board of Management has had the essential focus of continuing to build for the future, developing policies and practices that will ensure good governance and inclusive practices.

The major initiative for the year has been the appointment of Rabbi Alon Meltzer as program coordinator, educator, pastoral carer, Rabbi to the ACT Jewish Community and congregational rabbi to the Orthodox Congregation. Rabbi Meltzer commenced duties on July 28, 2014. He has very much impressed the Board with his range of abilities, motivation and insights. This is the first time that the ACT Jewish Community has the services of a full-time, salaried professional leader in such a role and represents a very important step by the Board in securing Jewish continuity in all its forms in Canberra, with a strong emphasis on education and engaging children, youth and young adults for the whole Community.

A feature of this appointment has been the successful local fund-raising program to support the appointment, which has ensured the viability of this initiative. I wish to acknowledge the advice, expertise and facilitation services of the JCA in the implementation of the fund raising program.

Significant Events

A number of significant events have characterised the past year, including:

- The Inauguration of Rabbi Meltzer by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis with over 200 guests present;
- The Anne Frank exhibition in February and March with over 2500 visitors, essentially facilitated and organised by volunteers;
- Yom Hashoah with over 120 guests;
- The annual Seder with over 120 guests;
- ANZAC Day with over 80 in attendance;
- Channukah with over 260 guests over the period of the festival;
- Purim with over over 300 guests over the festival;
- The inaugural Limmud Shavuot with over 150 registrations;
- Succot with over 90 guests during the festival;
- Regular adult education programs with visiting teachers and scholars; and most important of all,
- Regular children and youth group programs and education offerings.

Achievements

After identifying a number of areas for concentrated attention over the last three years, the Board has:

- continued to streamline and improve our financial management and reporting systems;

- ensured succession planning is in place, involving the inclusion of younger members of the ACT Jewish Community on the Board and involving the inclusion of younger members of the ACT Jewish Community on the Board and on Committees;
- supported a range of religious, educational, commemorative and social events, including all the festivals and Yom Hashoah;
- developed a new and revised Hamerkaz, under the very able editorship of Yvette Goode and desktop publisher Vicki Coleman;
- developed a new look Grapevine, ensuring that we communicate effectively with as wide a community as possible;
- developed the ShulCloud application for the ACT Jewish Community, facilitating accurate records, communication, booking and paying for events, thanks to the hard work of Rabbi Alon Meltzer;
- continued to overhaul our policy register, continuing the work of the last Board, thanks to the dedicated and systematic work of Dr Merrilyn Sernack;
- significantly increased financial membership over the last three years;
- supported our successful and vibrant Cheder program under the very able direction of Rabbi Alon Meltzer and Veronica Leydman;
- continued to support, focus on and improve our external relations with the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the Zionist Council of Australia and the Jewish Communal Appeal;
- sought feedback from members relating to our proposed building plans;
- submitted a very detailed application for funds to the JCA for these works and also submitted an application for the 2016 JCA Capital Appeal position;
- submitted a very detailed application for funds from the JCA for the 2016 allocation;
- worked closely with staff to ensure the needs of the community and Board are being met;
- continued to improve the link with Jewish Care Sydney to provide professional support and development of a community support program, which includes home, hospital and prison visits;
- overhauled, updated and improved our computer system (ongoing), thanks to Ilya Leydman;
- installed new cinema-like projection facilities, thanks to Ilya Leydman;

- enhanced and improved security features of the building, thanks to Ilya Leydman;
- implemented an extensive program of maintenance, repairs and upgrading, including the installation of a floor to ceiling office partition wall and doors in the office/library to form two functional work spaces from the one.

Strategic Goals

We have identified a number of strategic goals this year and these will remain key goals for the coming year:

- Improving governance and continuing the documenting of our policies;
- Maintaining prudent and careful financial management;
- Continuing to focus on and supporting our education and youth services;
- Supporting the practices and work of our two congregations;
- Continuing our building extension project;
- Continuing our maintenance and repairs program;
- Building our membership base, particularly with younger generations;
- Planning a vibrant and inclusive events based program that caters for a wide range of interests;
- Establishing staff management on a professional basis;
- Continuing to upgrade our IT infrastructure;
- Implementing the new ShulCloud management package, including website and database functions;
- Enhancing and promoting our links with the JCA;
- Enhancing and promoting our links with the ECAJ;
- Developing our links with Jewish Care Sydney so that a fully professional service can be offered to the Canberra region;
- Upgrading security at the Centre, ensuring that security considerations are integral to the new building project and enhancing links to the Communal Security Group Sydney;
- Funding and building the proposed perimeter security barrier;
- Developing functions associated with the National Jewish Memorial Centre, including the nationally significant and ECAJ supported Centenary of ANZAC Jewish Program;
- The possible establishment of an Israeli Club or Merkaz Yisraeli to further provide support for Israeli expatriates and workers on assignments in Canberra.

The Board

I do want to make special mention of your hard working and very conscientious Board. Each member has made a unique and valuable contribution. We are very fortunate indeed to have such a Board and we are the richer for their service. I want to express my deepest appreciation for their work.

In the past three years, the Board has introduced a new set of meeting procedure rules, which have governed how we conduct our business. The essence is to improve and streamline the decision making process, so that only properly

worked proposals are presented to the Board. In special circumstances, there must of course be exceptions to this from time to time. This means in practice, that initiatives are first thoroughly canvassed with the Finance Committee and other relevant stakeholders. I would like to emphasise that this process is building on the practices of previous years and is one of gradual evolution and continual improvement.

One positive outcome has been the reduction in the length of Board meetings to more manageable proportions on most occasions. It is essential to the future of the Community, that these meetings are efficient and productive. If we want to attract talented, capable, professional and busy volunteers to nominate in future for the Board, we must ensure a respectful and productive meeting culture.

Staffing

I also want to acknowledge and thank our staff for their extensive contributions to our Community. A cohesive and efficient staff team provides essential support for the implementation of Board decisions and is critical to the achievement of identified goals.

Finances/Administration

Our Finance Committee, consisting of David Rosalky, Chiquita Bonan and Robert Cussel, continued to review our policies and procedures. I would like to acknowledge the important work of the Finance Committee, in particular David and Chiquita for offering such expert and informed advice. The parking arrangement with the Department of Finance ended on December 1, 2014. David designed and implemented a new arrangement for hiring out carparking to the general public, assuring continued financial stability for our community. I would like to acknowledge and thank David for his tireless efforts to ensure we continue to benefit from this income. We also continued the contra agreement we established with Forrest Inn, whereby we provide them with advertising for complimentary nights at their hotel for visiting guests.

Building Project

The Board has completed the process of designing new community centre extensions, suitable for the whole community and augmenting what we have already. We now have Development Approval. Dr David Rosalky, our Treasurer has led this once in a generation project and will be reporting at our Annual General Meeting. In view of certain budget limitations, we have decided to focus first on our extension plans and implement our renovation plans in the future as funds permit. This has the advantage of allowing the existing building to be used while we build the additions and also minimises the financial risk to the ACT Jewish Community.

A security consultancy firm, as recommended by CSG Sydney, has been engaged to work closely with our architects to produce a design, which meets the required standards.

The Board has been mindful of previous resolutions passed at the 2012 AGM, sought submissions/ideas and has been careful to ensure the community is informed through regular reports in Hamerkaz and Community meetings. The aim is to schedule an SGM when we are ready to let tenders and commence construction, as determined by the 2012 AGM. The plans are available for members.

Extensive discussions, preparations and design work have also been ongoing with the NSW Council for Jewish Communal Security and CSG Sydney concerning the proposed perimeter security barrier around approximately half the present site of more than 5000 square metres. A firm of landscape architects was engaged that has worked closely with the security consultancy firm to produce a design that will meet the required standards. The perimeter security barrier now has Development Approval. The plans are available for members.

A range of fundraising strategies are being implemented to supplement available financial reserves and pledges made from our major funding organisations. The Board has made extensive representations in writing and in person to secure these pledges, including the 2016 JCA Capital Appeal position. The Board is actively considering the process

involved in this Capital Appeal and planning a fund-raising campaign for the coming year to enable us to commence building work on the new developments.

Jewish Care

In 2013, we announced the commencement of a process to formally link our ACT Jewish Community and Jewish Care Sydney to provide substantial benefits to all our members and other Jewish people in the Canberra region. The new Jewish Care Coordinating Committee actively guides our relationship with Jewish Care Sydney. A Procedures Manual was drafted and approved to support operations. Certainly there are challenges of distance to overcome, but we can indeed minimise this through thoughtful planning and provision of suitable procedures and back up local services. Jewish Care



The National Jewish Memorial Centre in mid September.

Sydney will provide a very extensive range of additional services to our members.

Last year, Arava Klein was appointed as the Community Worker, reporting directly to Jewish Care Sydney. This staff function is essential in an ageing community such as ours, but there are limitations on what we can offer. Jewish Care Sydney points the way through its emphasis on supplementing, not duplicating, already existing government or community services and resources.

Three professional staff from Jewish Care Sydney visited Canberra August 31 - September 1 to visit clients and run information sessions, which were well attended. The visit also provided our visitors with the opportunity to meet members of our Jewish Care Coordinating Committee to discuss implementation strategies, kindly facilitated by Anita and Alan Shroot.

It should be noted that the services of Jewish Care Sydney have been available to all Jews in Sydney for many years, but this is the first time that the Canberra Jewish population has the benefit of these services on an organised and facilitated basis. The local Community Worker is working closely with the staff of Jewish Care Sydney.

I wish to acknowledge the very important professional, financial and administrative support of all the Board and staff of Jewish Care Sydney, in helping us to implement a professional program of support for our community.

ShulCloud

Last year, we purchased an up to date, highly recommended and complete software package called "ShulCloud". Members are welcome to peruse the features of this package at www.shulcloud.com. The calendar feature has proved particularly helpful. Grapevine weekly communication newsletters utilize the ShulCloud platform. Most of our email messages are sent out utilizing the ShulCloud platform or MailChimp services. Most financial transactions relating to booking for events are now facilitated via ShulCloud, greatly easing pressures on the office and staff.

This new software includes the means to redesign our on-line face to the outside world and to our own community, manage all financial transactions (integrating with our present MYOB software) on line and allow us to build a database of members. More details are contained in the Features section of the website. It will take time to implement this program.

For several years now, the Board has had as one of its most important priorities the creation of an accurate and useful database. For the first time, this goal is being realised. This information will help us to develop and deliver ACTJC programs and services, which better meet the interests and needs of members.

Please note that ShulCloud does not store credit card information. ShulCloud also has the potential to protect other sensitive areas of the ACTJC's website. The ACTJC has in place a policy and procedure for the protection of the data. This policy is available on request. We only share specific required data with the JCA (such as

names of members and postal address), which in turn allocates each year very significant operational funding to support delivery of our community programs.

Religious Services

Both the Orthodox and Progressive congregations have had a busy year with regular services and a range of events. Separate reports from the two Congregations are available. I want to thank all the volunteers for providing regular kiddushim after Shabbat services. Thank you to Rabbi Meltzer for coordinating and facilitating the celebration of the festivals and other major Chagim throughout the year, including the very important social events for the whole Community. I also wish to thank everybody who volunteered, coordinated and assisted during these special events.

Interfaith/Outreach

The ACTJC participates in a wide range of Inter Faith activities. Thank you to all volunteers who assisted in this area.

Thank You

Thank you to Adele and David Rosalky for their very generous donation to upgrade the Orthodox Shul and dedicate it as the Hoffman Memorial Synagogue, in honour of Adele's parents.

Thank you to Avi and David Solomon for their very kind donation of the marvelous new siddurim and machzorim in honour of their parents, Esther and Charles Solomon.

Thank you to Gina Cass-Gottlieb and family for their very generous donation of The New Australian Haggadoth that we used for the first time at our Communal Seder for the whole community. This beautiful publication will enhance our Seders for many years to come.

Thank you to all who were able to make financial contributions throughout the past year. We are indeed blessed with such generosity.

Thank you to all our volunteers who were able to contribute their time throughout the past year, including security volunteers. We greatly appreciate your engagement and commitment in supporting this community.

Finally

Finally, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve this wonderful ACT Jewish Community as President for the past three years. According to our Constitution, I must now step down, but will continue to serve the Community in whatever way I can. I encourage others to step forward who may seek to volunteer and lead in whatever form they choose. Community is the most precious resource we have in these troubled times. It is essential that Canberra has a thriving Jewish community that seeks to strengthen and promote Jewish continuity, values, religion and heritage. All have the opportunity to participate.

Report from the Secretary

Karen Tatz



A Decision Register of all Board Decisions taken during the year is available from the Office Manager, along with a full set of agendas, minutes and related papers for the Board of Management meetings.

At the 2014 AGM, the Board welcomed a number of new members: Chiquita Bonan (Assistant Treasurer), Sibella Stern, David Reiner, Yvette Goode and Peter Wise (who has previously served on the Board). We said farewell to Merrilyn Sernack (Secretary) and Gilon Smith (assistant Treasurer/Secretary). Athol Morris and Bill Arnold were coopted to the Board at the 26 October 2014 meeting. Angie Glance was coopted to the Board at the 28 January 2015 meeting.

After the dedicated work of the former Secretary, Merrilyn Sernack, particularly in relation to the ACTJC Policies, this year has been a quiet one for me as Secretary.

The ACTJC sadly farewellled Miri Barhen after many years as Office Manager. We welcomed Vicki Coleman as Office Manager and Alice Hekimian as her administrative support.

The appointment of Rabbi Meltzer has meant that he now works with the office staff on a day-to-day basis and takes on a lot of responsibility previously taken by the Secretary.

The decision to employ a full-time educator and Rabbi has had an impact on the work of the Board; there has been a noticeable reduction in the administrative work, with the Rabbi taking responsibility for many matters previously undertaken by Board members. Of course, the Rabbi has also implemented many new programs, activities and events, which requires \ the Board's involvement.

Attendance at Board meetings for the last 12 months:

Member	Oct	Nov	Dec 5	Dec 17	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Oct	Total
Robert Cussel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13
Yael Cass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	12
David Rosalky	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	12
Karen Tatz	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	10
Chiquita Bonan		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	10
Athol Morris		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Sibella Stern	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	10
Bill Arnold		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		11
Peter Wise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	12
David Reiner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	11
Yvette Goode	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	12
Angie Glance	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	8
Rabbi Meltzer (ex officio)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	11

Report from the Treasurer

David Rosalky



A YEAR OF GROWTH: 2014-15

Discussion of Audited Accounts

The financial accounts for 2014-15 are presented in the Audited Statements available to you.

They show a net loss of \$86,707. These figures need much interpretation. They have been adjusted in part for the exclusion of capital transactions and income accrued to 2015-16. The capital transactions cover capital income to the CJEBF from the JCA, bequests and internal donations amounting to \$244,000. These are included in the accounts under the heading "Other comprehensive income". They also cover expenditure amounting to \$99,000 on architects and other fees to prepare for the building extension. These are considered by the auditor to be components of the new building asset and are classified on the balance sheet as "Leasehold improvements". Depreciation of the building and other assets, however, have been included in the Profit & Loss accounts. They amount to approximately \$60,000 and, in my perspective, are also capital transactions.

The parking income received as cash income has been reduced by approximately \$68,000 (recorded in Note 13 under "Other liabilities") because it is for parking provision in the 2015-16 year (cardholders pay in advance) and an amount of \$5,500 of deposits which are held effectively in trust for cardholders. These elements of the parking revenue are a "first year" effect as they should roll-over in subsequent years.

I prefer to report on the recurrent budget estimated in accrual terms. The formation of the accrued recurrent budget involves the above adjustments to the aggregate accounts as well as the removal of the depreciation entry.

Figures presented in this form are attached to this report. They show an **estimated loss of \$29,000 in 2014-15 compared with a small budgeted loss of \$14,000.**

Activities in the Past Year

The major transactions for the year included revenue from the car-parking and the Rabbi's Education Fund donations operated through the JCA and the Board of Progressive Jewish Education. On the expenditure side, new expenses reflect an active education program consisting of the revamped and expanded cheder program and multiple streams of adult education through the Rabbi's series of shiurim, select sessions around the times of chagim, scholars-in-residence and the Limmud Shavuot program. They also include significant functions around all the major chagim.

On the congregational side, new haggadoth for the communal seders and siddurim and machzorim for the Orthodox congregation have been acquired. All have been fully paid for through generous donations from members and their families.

THE OUTLOOK FOR 2015-16

Recurrent Budget

The year we are in continues to acquire the income streams from which our recurrent expenditure has been sourced in the past year.

The parking income is established and is expected to provide higher income in 2015-16, partly because of an increase in the annual rates, but also because it is the first full year of our own operation which is drawing more revenue than the previous contract with the Finance Department.

The Rabbi's Education Fund has again provided us with some \$75,000 from generous tax deductible donations from members.

The programs that were initiated in 2014-15 through the Rabbi's vision and efforts have addressed very directly, and with considerable success, the priorities identified in the Community meetings held in 2013. Many of these programs will continue to enrich our Jewish lives in the coming year; some will be evaluated and further developed; and some new elements will be trialled and introduced.

These programs have become a rich stream of activity for all members of the Community and have changed the face of the Community in a way that has drawn favourable comment amongst our members and amongst our stakeholders and supporters in Sydney. These programs cost money but that should not daunt us to pursue them. We have reserves of recurrent funds as well as capital funds accumulated over more quiescent years; we have new sources of revenue; and we are planning to discuss changes in the way that we receive allocations from the JCA (see below).

The budget guidance presented in the table attached to this report extends and increases the spending flow for the programs in a way that almost certainly overstates the likely spending. The budget is deliberately conservative in that sense so that "surprises" are likely to be positive.

The budget foreshadows a recurrent deficit of \$33,000.

Capital Budget

The capital budget will be dominated by movement on the new building works. It is anticipated that the security fence and the extension to the Orthodox synagogue space will be carried out during the present year. That will incur expenditure of more than \$600,000. Sources of finances will include the Community's reserves (well in excess of \$1m), pledges from the CJCS of \$250,000 for the security fence and likely internal and external donations.

RELATIONS WITH THE JCA

The ACT Jewish Community has received allocations from the JCA of \$109,000 for each of the past three years. These funds have not been used for recurrent purposes but have contributed to our capacity to finance the building extension. We have held many discussions with the JCA over the past year and made several submissions relating to the allocation and the foreshadowed capital appeal.

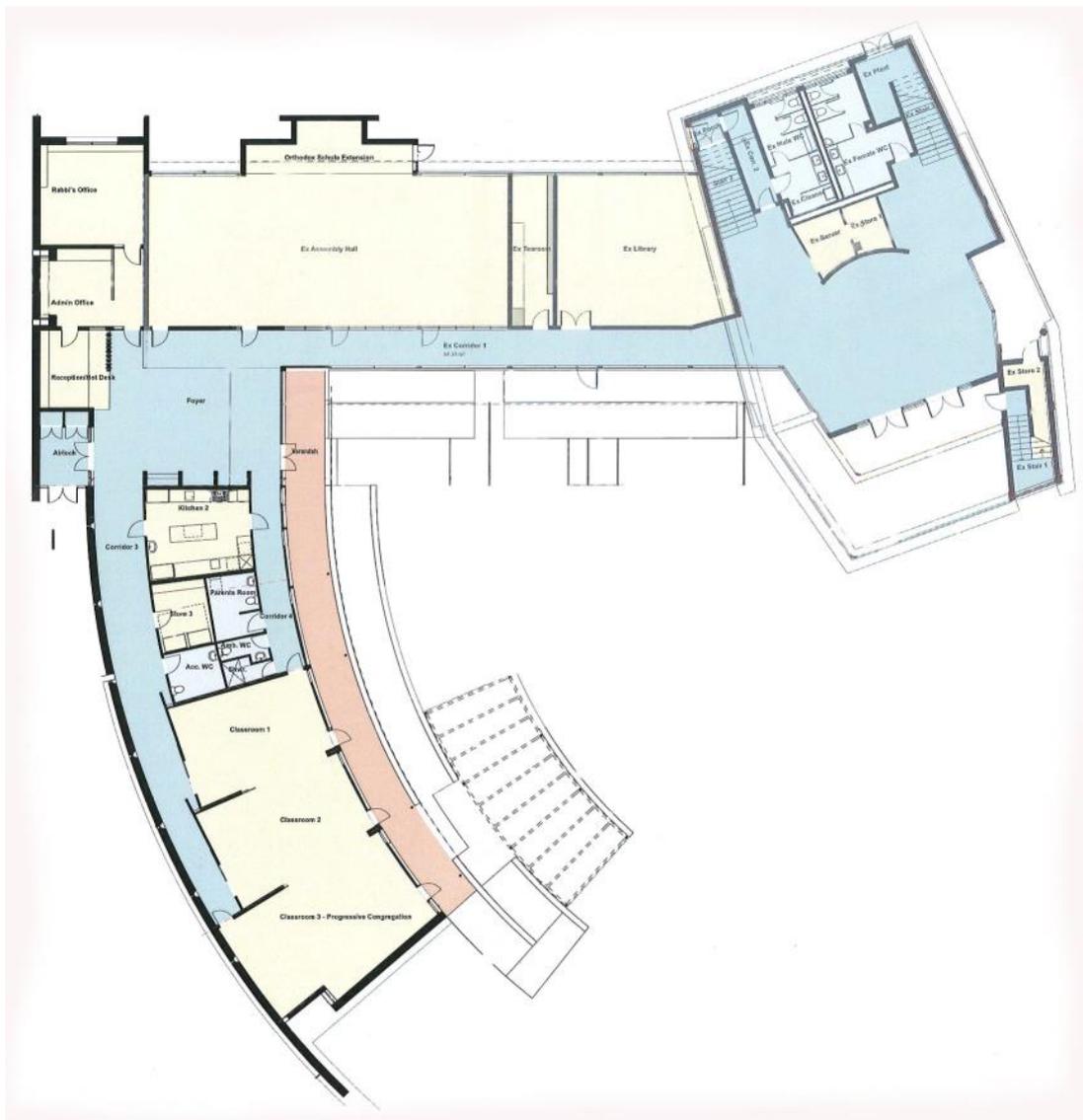
We do not yet know the allocation we will receive for 2015-16. That is usually announced to us early in the calendar year (2016). But we do know that the JCA is under pressure from constituents' claims and have queried us on our position with respect to our reserves. We have put strong arguments why our allocation should not be reduced but we will see what the outcome is in coming months.

The JCA is interested in the initiative we have taken vis-à-vis the Rabbi's Education Fund and the quanta we have received through it. Even though we cannot reasonably assume such a quantum will continue, these funds are a source of recurrent funding provided through the JCA's tax deductible schemes. Taken together with the annual allocation, it represents a mixed flow of funding through their schemes. That opens the option to us and to them of rebalancing the two flows between capital and recurrent revenue. That is we can opt judiciously to add to the flow of our own donations through the Education Fund by dividing our annual allocation to be partly through that fund and the rest to the CJEBF as has been the case in past years. We need to hold talks with the JCA and the BPJE to obtain their agreement. If that path is pursued, it will affect our finances in the 2016-17 and subsequent years.

	2014-15 (Recurrent) \$K	2014-15 (Total) \$K	2015-16 (Recurrent) \$K	2015-16 (Total) \$K
INCOME				
JCA	0	0		
Membership	66	66	60	60
Donations and Offerings	27	27	20	45
Education/Rabbis Fund	74	74	75	75
Bequests	9	9	20	20
Parking	115	115	136	136
Interest	5	11	5	10
Functions	17	17	5	5
Education fees + camp + holiday care	3	3	10	10
Grants	44	44	20	20
Other income	13	13	0	0
TOTAL - INCOME	373	379	351	381

EXPENDITURE				
Accounting, Audit Fees, Bank	1	1	4	4
Building works and plans	0	0		
Camp / Holiday programme	2	2	4	4
Cleaning, Gardening and rubbish disposal	23	23	10	10
Community	5	5	5	5
Congregation expenses	1	1	5	5
Conference and seminar fees	1	1		
Depreciation	0	64	0	70
Education	16	16	30	30
Electricity	0	0		
Functions	25	25	20	20

Grants and gifts	3	3		
Insurance	15	15	15	15
Youth	1	1	5	5
Office expenses & consumables				
Postage				
Printing	10	10	10	10
Parking	5	5	2	2
Rabbi expenses	49	49	20	20
Rent	38	38	38	38
Repairs and maintenance	6	6	5	5
Superannuation	16	16	15	15
Telephone	5	5	5	5
Wages & remuneration	148	148	160	160
Welfare	3	3		
IT equipment & other assets	8	8	10	10
Other expenses	21	21	20	20
TOTAL - EXPENSES	402	466	376	446
PROFIT (LOSS)	(29)	(87)	(33)	(71)



ACTJC Building Project Plan

Building Project

David Rosalky

In the past year, the work on the building project has involved principally the development of plans to a stage where we can commence work. Different sets of architects have developed and submitted an application for Development Approval with the National Capital Authority. The DA application was deliberately structured to permit progress to be pursued separately in respect of three identified components: the extension wing, the security perimeter fence and the Orthodox synagogue reconstruction.

The application was granted at the end of June allowing us to move towards initiating works. To do that has involved much more detailed planning specifications sufficient for the market providers to respond to requests for tender. Detailed planning has progressed to date particularly for the security perimeter fence. Initial overtures to the market for a possible contract management approach revealed a cost and incentive structure that was deemed to be disadvantageous to the Community. We are now, therefore, having documents prepared to go to tender for that component.

We have also commenced examining preliminary designs for the Orthodox synagogue reconstruction. These designs need to be circulated within the Community for comment and discussed by those who attend Orthodox services. The aim is to settle the details sufficiently to cost the development and to go to tender on that component of the project. A private donation was made specifically for the purpose of this development.

Costs and Financing

The project costs as estimated at the final sketch plan stage are:

- Extension wing - \$2600k
- Synagogue restructure (external walls only) - \$68k
- Security perimeter fence - \$554k
- TOTAL - \$3222k

Added to these new developments will be a continuing program of upgrades to the existing building in addition to the range of maintenance and upgrade elements that have been carried out over recent years.

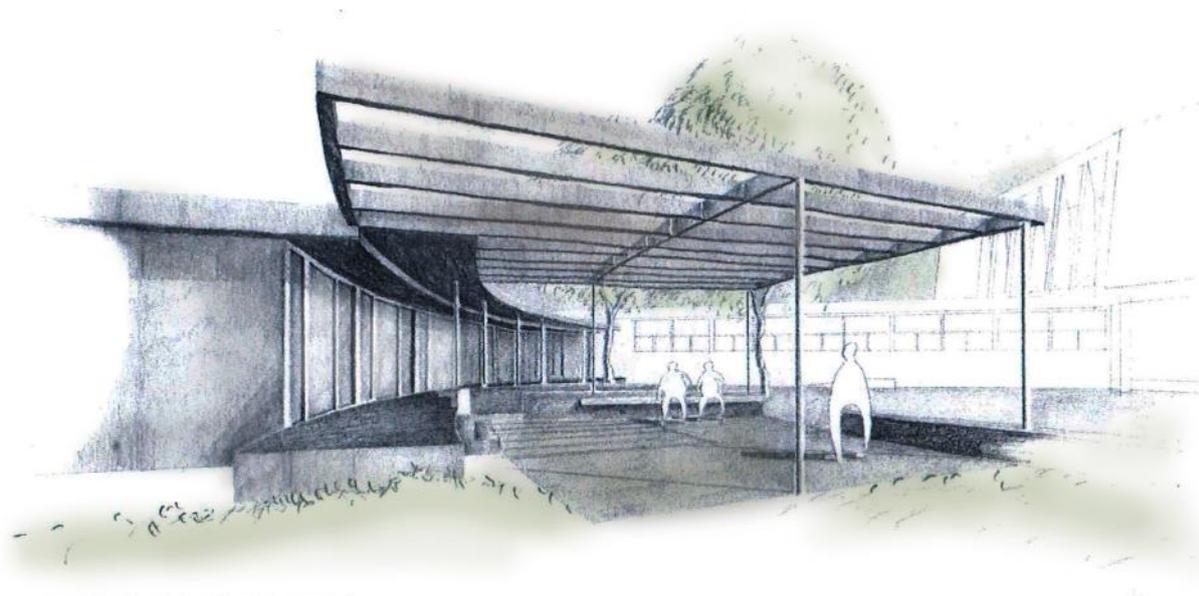
Although it is a flexible number, an amount of capital is required additionally to that already available to us of at least \$2m plus extra to carry out external works (such as a children's play area) and the upgrades to the existing building. Costs are not available for those elements at this stage but could easily exceed \$1m if we are to install a lift, upgrade all glass to double glazing, modernise the bathrooms etc.

Those funds are being sought through an application to the JCA to be the nominated constituent organisation for the 2016 JCA Capital Appeal. Applications have been made; discussions held; interviews suffered; encouraging words received. But to date, no decision. We anticipate that we are likely to get the go-ahead with some tight conditions. One condition will certainly be to conduct a serious fund-raising campaign amongst Melbourne donors.

The Board has been listening to professional advice and considering the method of conducting the capital appeal should we get the opportunity. It is likely to be quite expensive and to involve very significant effort from suitably skilled and motivated members of the Community.

Approvals

When tender responses have been received, we will have a good handle on the likely final costs and be ready to start the works. At that time, it is proposed to hold a meeting of the Community to obtain authority to expend the funds to do the works. This will occur in stages necessarily as we will not be in a position to commence the extension wing until the fund-raising campaign has concluded.



Artist's impression of the new Succah / Pergola, Verandah and Central Courtyard

Orthodox Congregation

Yvette Goode

Since the last AGM there has been a heightened sense of activity within the Orthodox Congregation. We started the year with the inauguration of Rabbi Alon Meltzer by Chief Rabbi Mirvis, which was an occasion extremely well attended by the entire community, plus additional guests from a wide variety of institutions in Canberra. At this inspiring event Rabbi Alon made history for our community, being the first full time Rabbi appointed by the ACT Jewish Community and since then, he has not only provided religious services to the Orthodox congregation, but also a very wide range of services and support for the entire community.

Since Rabbi Alon and Rebbetzin Lindsay Meltzer have been employed the congregation has generally benefitted from the enthusiasm of this dynamic duo. Rabbi Alon has brought inspiration, ideas, knowledge, energy and a level of spirituality not known previously within our Community. He and Rebbetzin Lindsay also continue to dazzle us with their culinary and other organisational skills, for which the congregation is most grateful. The input of a full time Rabbi and Rebbetzin has been amazing. They have both worked very hard to bring change to the Jewish experience and we now need to keep on expanding on what has been achieved. The wider community need to see that we have a new vibrancy that all are welcome to share.

It is certainly true to say that the very successful Limmud Shavuot event, for the entire community, would probably not have occurred without Rabbi Alon and Rebbetzin Lindsay. We owe them and all the community volunteers a huge vote of thanks. The Anzac Day program was well thought out and very well received. Likewise the very successful Cheder program and adult education program, as well as the improved pastoral care, are indicators of the energy and vision of Rabbi Alon. There have been several innovations, including scholars in residence, invitations extended to Members of Parliament, special focus days and the unbelievable hospitality extended by the Meltzer family to the congregation and to the wider community. The Members of Parliament have been both local and federal and include Michael Danby, Mark Dreyfus, Andrew Leigh and Gai Brodtmann. These are just a few examples of Rabbi Alon's involvement in and commitment to the whole community, not just the Orthodox congregation.

Rabbi Alon has also reached out to various youth groups to visit Canberra. It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors, both from interstate and overseas. These extra male visitors help swell the minyan numbers, which is very gratifying, while the female visitors add volume to the ladies section. Together, these wonderful madrichim provide our younger members with positive interactions. While we usually have enough attendees for a minyan, there have been a few occasions during the year when this unfortunately did not occur, so we are grateful for the extra assistance we receive through our visitors.

Rabbi Meltzer organised a program of services and learning on Tish'a b'Av, which took place on Saturday night and

Sunday 25/26 July. On Sunday the congregation was augmented numerically, spiritually and educationally by contributions from three learned rabbonim: Rabbi Selwyn Franklin, Rabbi Shmuel Feldman, and Rabbi Meltzer. The solemn commemoration of tragic acts befalling Jews throughout the centuries was contained in prayers, elegies (kinnot) and in the rabbis' addresses.

One example of a scholar in residence was over the Shabbat of 14 - 15 August. The scholar in residence was Dr Gavriel Ansara and his partner, Dr Israel Berger, accompanied him. We extended our warmest greetings to both men for making a special trip to Canberra to be with us for Shabbat. We first met these people over the Limmud Shavuot event. Gavi gave freely of his time to speak to the community, on Friday night and again after the Kiddush on Shabbat, which was really appreciated. His topics were for Friday and Saturday, "Poverty, Structural Violence and Economic Justice: What Does the Torah Say?" and "What Can We Do About Violence in the Name of G-d?" respectively.

The high point in August was surely the Bat Mitzvah celebration for Naomi Leydman, which was extremely well attended. Veronica and her family have set a very high standard for such future events! Naomi gave an excellent D'Var Torah and then later leyned at a women's Mincha tefillah service, led by interstate visitors. The Kiddush was lavish, as was the luncheon after the services, with catering by Sasha Weisman and decorations for the tables by friends of Veronica.

Rabbi Alon has been publishing in Grapevine the topic upon which he will be giving his drasha on the following Shabbat. This is successful in attracting some additional worshippers who are interested in that particular subject. Some drashot lately have incorporated current issues in society, such as gay marriage. It is very interesting to hear a modern Orthodox point of view on these sometimes controversial current issues.

The Orthodox congregation were very grateful for the donation of Machzorim for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as well as siddurim for use throughout the year. This kind and generous gift was from Avi and David Solomon, to honour their parents having reached their diamond jubilee. The congregation have really appreciated this wonderful donation, which now enables us all to be on the same page, literally!

The Orthodox congregation are to substantially benefit from the extremely generous donation of the Rosalky family, which will enable a redesign of the Orthodox shul to become the Hoffman Memorial Synagogue. Women will be able to sit side by side with the men, rather than at the back of the shul. In time not only will the ark and the mechtizah be moved to improve facilities for worshippers, but new furniture will be installed, making the experience of coming to shul even more enjoyable. At the same time the space will be enhanced to provide better classroom facilities for Cheder

and other small group meetings. The redesign of the Orthodox shul will be very exciting and we look forward to services being held in the new prayer space.

Rabbi Alon was very busy organising for the Chagim, with services and festivities being publicised for all of the ACT Jewish Community. To see Rabbi Alon in action over Simchat Torah was quite an experience in itself. As part of the religious programme, a special presentation of a Children's Siddur was made to students from school years 2 to 5. The social activities were greatly appreciated, with the communal dinner in the sukkah and the whisky in the sukkah being highlights. The young adults also benefitted from dinners over the Chagim. There was something provided for everyone.

As had been previously discussed within Orthodox circles, Rabbi Alon asked various people from the congregation to participate in services over the Chagim. The Orthodox congregation likes its own congregants to participate in tefillah. This has been a real strength in our community and permits all of those wishing to be involved in the full range of religious duties to do so in a way not possible in a larger shul or community. The notion of explanations for various parts of services/tefillah throughout the year but especially for the Yomim Noraim was thought excellent. The comment was made as to how it enriched services and involved a wide range of congregants.

While the men could participate in the davening and leyning, the women could deliver short explanations of parts of the services. The ladies also liked the Torah to be taken around the ladies section as it permitted the less mobile to have direct contact. Some visitors noted that they had not seen this done before but that they thought it was an excellent idea. The ladies also had their own tefillah service on Simchat Torah, where all women were called up to the

Torah. A great deal of thanks is due to those who leyned, some for the first time.

We also need to note that as women are more involved in services, the attendance of women has increased significantly during the year. This is a very satisfying feature for the Orthodox Congregation, especially when the younger mothers bring their children. It's just wonderful to hear the happy sound of young children around the Shul on Shabbat or to witness the Rabbi leading a service with child in arms. As we review our progress as a congregation throughout the year there have been some wonderful experiences, but there are still some challenges, which are noted below.

- We would particularly like to see more young families attend, at least occasionally, and we know we need to focus on improving programs and facilities for them. Activities for children on Shabbat and Chagim are important. Learner's services do occur but could occur more frequently with enough volunteers.
- There are approx. 4,000 worshippers in the Orthodox shul over the year. While numbers are generally up the challenge is to maintain and then increase attendance.
- Our aging community needs rejuvenation as several long term members have sadly passed away or have moved to be closer to children.
- Many people connect to the Jewish culture and traditions rather than to religious aspects. We have large numbers attending special events, especially where there is food being served. This connection needs to become emotional so that people want to be more involved. We have a great product but we need to market it and say what we do.



Memorabilia housed in the ACTJC Library.

Progressive Congregation

Peter Wise

The Progressive Congregation runs services on Friday nights and the High Holydays. Saturday morning services are now only held in conjunction with *simchas* and visits by Rabbis and cantors. Unfortunately, except for High Holydays and life events, we do not always achieve a *minyán*.

During the year, it was decided that the Progressive Working Group would revert to the name “Progressive Committee” and function as a formal Committee of the Board. The members of the Committee are Robert Cussel, Peter Wise, Rebecca Lehrer, Athol Morris, Bill Arnold and Dan Rosauer. Karen Tatz had also joined the Committee, but resigned during the year.

We recently welcomed Frank Selch, who has moved to Canberra from the Gold Coast, as a new member. He has already become a regular attendee at services.

Although we have managed to run all scheduled services, there is still a need to increase both the number and skill level of service leaders. Rebecca Lehrer, Raffi Lehrer, Solomon Elijah, Dan Rosauer, Peter Wise and Lisa Gelbart continued to lead services during the year. Frank Selch will be a welcome addition to the ranks of service leaders.

Peter Wise has coordinated the Friday evening services. Jerzy Jagiello has stepped down from his role of coordinating and leading the Saturday morning services. His continuing commitment to this role over a number of years is much appreciated.

Rebecca Lehrer, with the assistance of members of the Congregation (and visiting siblings Jacob and Joey), once again expertly co-ordinated the High Holyday services. Drashot were given by Robert Cussel, Peter Wise and Raffi Lehrer. A special mention should be made of Frank Selch’s superb rendition of the *Kol Nidrei*.

On the weekend of 27 Feb-1 Mar, Netzer leaders, together with some high school students from Sydney, visited the Community and ran a family and communal Erev Shabbat and a musical Havdallah, and led a session at Cheder.

Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Interim Rabbi at the Emanuel Synagogue in Sydney, visited the Community for Shavuot to participate in the “mini Limmud” that was held and lead services. He was warmly received by the entire Community.

Cantor Michel Laloum, from Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne, visited the Community from 31 July to 2 August. He led the Progressive service on Friday night and Saturday morning, conducted two excellent presentations (“Jewish Music from the Bimah to Broadway” and “Music and Kabbalah”), visited Cheder and gave a “crash course” in Torah cantillation. This visit is the first “fruit” from the linkage which has been established between the Progressive Congregation and Temple Beth Israel, and will hopefully be the first of many. Particular thanks go to Dan Rosauer for his initiative and work to establish this link.

Unfortunately, we were not able to attract a sufficient number of participants to run Rabbi Fred Morgan’s Shatz (*shaliach tzibbur*) course in Canberra. Plans to fund interested people to attend the course in Sydney were also shelved when the course was cancelled. We hope that interested people in the Congregation will be able to attend the course in the coming year.

In November, Dan Rosauer, Peter Wise and Eric McDonald attended the UPJ Biennial Conference in Adelaide. This provided an opportunity to network and gain useful information regarding the UPJ and the wider Progressive movement.

In April, Ethan Grace-Platow celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, and did a great job with his Torah reading. A hearty mazel tov to Ethan and his family. A special thank you to Kim Gotlieb, who prepared Ethan via Skype from Sydney.

Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins continues to provide assistance in his role of Consulting Rabbi for the purpose of providing assistance regarding halachah.



THE NEW AUSTRALIAN
HAGGADAH

One the new Haggadoth donated by Gina Cass-Gottlieb and family, first used in 5775 at our Communal Seder for the whole community.

ACTJC Cheder Report

Veronica Leydman
Administrative Principal

Enrolment

As at 31 May 2015, there were 31 children enrolled in Cheder. This level of enrolment has been constant over the course of the year.

New Structure for Cheder

As many of you know, teaching / class time has increased from 2 to 3 hours in total to ensure children receive the maximum amount of time in formal education. Cheder runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Sundays throughout the school term.

Hebrew

The key difference between the past cheder model and the current one is with regards to Hebrew education. The present model involves a co-curriculum program whereby students spend individual time with their respective Hebrew teacher for 15 minutes each week (sometimes more if other children are absent). There are several advantages in having this 'one on one' learning model for Hebrew. For instance: students work at their own pace to ensure a grasp of the Hebrew alphabet and comprehension of reading and writing; and the ability to catch students who have missed attendance without a full class having to wait for a teacher to engage with a student.

There are 3 native Hebrew teachers employed to teach Hebrew at Cheder*.

Jewish Studies

The past model of Cheder saw only 1 hour (ie. 1 lesson) of Jewish studies per week. The present model comprises of 3 lessons x 45 minutes each.

There are 4 Jewish studies classes ranging from youngest to oldest as follows:

- Kafir class - 7 students
- Lavi class - 10 students
- Ari class - 9 students
- Ariel class - 5 students

Until the end of Term 2 there were 4 Jewish Studies teachers employed. However, Liana Levin who was teaching the Ariel class resigned and since the beginning of term 3, we have had some teacher movement to accommodate for this change. Rabbi Alon or myself have taught the Ariel class with either relief or current teachers taking on an extra class.

* All Cheder teachers have a completed a Working With Vulnerable People check.

Tefillah - Morning Prayers

Cheder commences with a tefillah session during the first 20 minutes of each Sunday. The tefillah class brings together all the cheder students and parents if they wish to participate in basic prayer services as well as a Havdalah service to signify the end of Shabbat. This session led by Rabbi Alon aims to

provide navigation skills of the siddur and similarly provide familiarity to the service. The tefillah session also aims to provide children with essential skills in which to lead certain areas of the services. They are basic, child-orientated tefillah, common for both Progressive and Orthodox.

Finance and Administration

Given the new structure of the cheder offers a modern, professional program, we have had to re-examine our funding structure. The cost of providing Cheder at the ACTJC works out to more than \$1000 per child per year, including text books and stationery.

As such, cheder fees that were set for 2015 are as follows:

ANNUAL RATES			
MEMBERS			
	TUITION FEE	BOOK FEE	TOTAL
First child	\$300	\$100	\$400
Second child	\$250	\$100	\$350
Third child	\$200	\$100	\$300
NON-MEMBERS			
First child	\$500	\$100	\$600
Second child	\$500	\$100	\$600
Third child	\$500	\$100	\$600

The ACTJC has worked with several partners to ensure that these costs can be greatly reduced so as to ensure the highest level of participation for our membership.

To date, we have received:

- a grant of \$4,323 from the ACT government;
- \$10,000 ongoing deficit funding from the JCA Board of Progressive Jewish Education (BPJE);

There is also an implicit subsidy from our own Community.

Special events

Thanks to Rabbi Alon, there have been several cheder related activities throughout the year including:

- several visits from the various youth groups from around Australia (Netzer, Hineni and Bnei Akiva);
- a fabulous Purim festivity program with the kids making and distributing mishloach manot to their friends and family;
- a fun-filled mock chocolate seder;
- a special Shavuot celebration by the Cheder kids who presented beautifully decorated baskets filled with fruit to distribute to those in need;
- organised activities for children during the High Holy Days; and
- an amazing Simchat Torah celebration with a dedicated siddur presentation for the cheder children who signed up to this event.

Jewish Care

Arava Klein
Jewish Care Community Worker

This is the second year of our relationship with Jewish Care in Sydney. Arava Klein liaises between community members and the organisation in Sydney. Jewish Care Sydney is offering to share resources and manpower to our community. The organisation has a variety of departments, provided to help people in every aspect and situation. Some of the departments are: Children and family, Mental Health, Disability, Aged Care; including the support for holocaust survivors. Arava works closely with Jewish Care and asks for their advice when the needs arise.

Community members are welcome to come forward to advise Arava and the office discretely when they know about members who need help.

This year a team from Jewish Care arrived to visit our community. The team consisted of Renata Lermias (senior manager Family Support Services), Zimra Segall (Manager Aged Care Services), and Sandy Brandt (social worker/caseworker Family Support Services). They also met with a few members of our community. Zimra Segall, Manager Aged Care Services, gave a talk and led a discussion about navigating the aged care system in Australia. We are hoping to strengthen our relationship with Jewish Care Sydney.



ACTJC has a valuable partnership with OzHarvest (Canberra). Volunteers Tammy and Lisa provide food to the Centre for our Jewish Care program. Photo: Courtesy of Yass Tribune.

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Canberra)

Janet Frommer
Yvette Goode
Fiona Sweet Formiatti

Steering Committee

At the NCJWA Canberra Section AGM, generously hosted by Yael Cass on Sunday 9 August 2015, the following members were (re)appointed to the steering committee: Barbara Butow; Yael Cass; Sarit Cohen; Jo Dixon (webmaster); Judith Eisner; Janet Frommer; Yvette Goode; Anita Shroot; Fiona Sweet Formiatti; Karen Tatz and Fleur Wimborne.

At the conclusion of the annual general meeting four young Canberra Jewish professional women spoke about their backgrounds, working lives and aspirations for the future. The panellists were: Angie Glance, Samantha Goston, Shifra Joseph and Tamsin Sanderson. The audience was unanimous in its praise and admiration of these young women.

Membership

We currently have 41 financial members.

Projects

NCJWA's Israel projects, to which we contribute, include the ILAN foundation, day care facilities for young adults with profound disabilities, the Haifa Rape Crisis Centre and financial assistance for Ethiopian female students at the University of Haifa. Local recipients of our fundraising included Breast Cancer Network Australia, Toora House women's refuge in Canberra and the ACT Jewish Community.

Affiliations

NCJWA at national level represents Jewish women in various fora, including to government and other women's organisations, and speaks out on issues affecting women and children. We are affiliated to the National Council of Women ACT.

We have a close working relationship with the ACT Jewish Community Inc. We advertise our functions through the community and use the Centre for many of our functions, contribute to the community's calendar of events, attracting both members and non-members, and hold functions that are sometimes open to the whole community.

Supper / Movie Nights

In November 2014 we invited members and friends to 'The Ballad of the Weeping Spring 2012', a favourite of steering committee Jo Dixon and now of many others. The haunting music made this film one of our most successful. In July 2015 we presented 'The Matchmaker', which was well received ensured another successful movie/supper night.

Founders' Day - Gender Violence & Jewish Ethics

In December 2014 we commemorated the annual Founders'

Day with a meeting at the Centre which was open to all. Ellyse Borghi who was working at the Attorney-General's Department spoke about violence against women in Judaism focusing on traditional texts and historical practice. She also highlighted recent initiatives within Jewish communities in Australia and internationally for combatting domestic violence.

Environment / Membership Morning Tea

This annual February event was generously hosted by Adele Rosalky in her home. Our guest speaker Yaeli Liebowitz gave a very informative talk entitled 'Environment: Everything is not awesome but it is connected'. A great deal of discussion followed. We were pleased to see some new as well as familiar faces, enabling us to maintain our membership numbers.

Council Shabbat

This annual event was held on Shabbat Zachor, 28 February 2015. We invited Council members, women of the ACT Jewish Community, their families, and their friends to join us in the morning service and afterwards for our hosted Kiddush. Jo Dixon, one of our steering committee, prepared and presented the drosha.

Rysia and Richard Rozen, Yom Hashoah - April

Richard Rozen OAM was invited by the ACT Jewish Community Inc. to be the speaker at its annual Yom Hashoah commemoration in Canberra. The night before, Canberra Section hosted a community screening of his film of the play that depicted his story as a child survivor. Discussion of Richard's film and story followed. The screening was introduced by NCJWA National President, Rysia Rozen OAM.

60th Anniversary of Canberra Section

The 60th anniversary cocktail party took place on Sunday 17 May 2015 from 5 till 7pm in the Dr Fanny Reading Auditorium at the National Jewish Memorial Centre. It was a most appropriate venue as Dr Fanny Reading was the founder of NCJWA. Dianne Hirsh OAM, National President, NCJWA (at that time) was the keynote speaker. Sylvia Deutsch presented the history of Canberra Section and handed over a facsimile of the first Minute Book of the Section from 1955 (Ruth Mendelsohn was the President) for safe keeping off the National Jewish Memorial Centre premises. Yvette Goode presented Sylvia Deutsch OAM with a Life Membership Award (Certificate) to Canberra Section for recognition of 31 years' exceptional service to Council and the Community. Rabbi Alon Meltzer said a few words and then pronounced a very special anniversary Bracha (blessing) of Canberra Section. On the night guests generously donated to the ILAN project in Tel Aviv, a day care centre for young adults with very special needs.



Conference

Sylvia Deutsch, Anita Shroot, and Yvette Goode attended NCJWA Conference in Sydney, May 2015. Canberra Section was awarded the inaugural Young OAM/Stewart-Kann OAM Israel Project Shield for raising the most money per capita for Israel projects.

We expect to display the shield in the Dr Fanny Reading auditorium. Janet Frommer was awarded (in absentia) the NCJWA Honour Badge 2015.

Show and Tell

On a delightful winter's afternoon in June ladies gathered to enjoy Karen Tatz's generous hospitality in her home for the ever popular annual "Show and Tell" function. While it may be a challenge to think of something suitable to bring to such an event, the range of presentations is always fascinating, as are the stories that accompany the demonstrations. Additionally, the depth of talent of our ladies, particularly in the arts and crafts department, is awe-inspiring to those of us who are not so blessed, so some ladies are content to support their peers with active attention. Our cover charge income was earmarked for the Haifa Rape Crisis Centre.

Short and Sweet Poetry Afternoon

Yvette Goode generously hosts this annual event in August or September for our members and women of the ACT Jewish Community. One can be assured of a scrumptious afternoon tea, interesting contributions of poetry and sometimes songs and the proceeds are earmarked for Breast Cancer Network Australia. This event resonates with many of our members who have either fought the disease or sadly lost friends to this cancer.

Where to Find Us

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia has a website on which Canberra Section has a page maintained by Jo Dixon. Our functions are advertised in the community Grapevines and in the ACT Jewish Community Inc's magazine, 'Hamerkaz'.

Our Future

Our aim is to engage young Jewish women in Council. This is our challenge for the immediate future.



Sylvia Deutsch, Yvette Goode and Anita Shroot accepting the inaugural Young OAM/Stewart-Kann OAM Israel Project Shield awarded to the Canberra Chapter. *Photo courtesy of Bill Arnold.*

Grumps R Us

Tom Frommer
Hon. Coordinator

Grumps R Us is a group of retired and semi-retired men with diverse backgrounds who meet every Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm in our Centre. We regularly have about 14 members turning up with a total membership of about 25. Our group has been meeting for over 6 years.

On the first Thursday of the month some of us meet for lunch before Grumps, in a local café/restaurant. The group is not structured and there are no membership fees. Everybody is welcome. Cups of freshly brewed coffee and (birthday) cakes and other munchies are provided by our members. We discuss the most entertaining and interesting topics of our choice and sometimes get into serious political and religious arguments, however eventually they all get resolved. For those more physically active, there is a game of table tennis. A few members are involved in maintenance work of the building and grounds of the Centre. We provide everything ourselves there is no subsidy from the Community.

During the year we have many times been unable to use our regular meeting room downstairs and the foyer for table tennis due to other activities such as Anne Frank Exhibition, Playgroup and school holiday programs. This we hope will be rectified when the extension is built.

Our meetings are an essential weekly gathering for men who otherwise would miss the opportunity to engage in social intercourse in a friendly and caring environment.

Ladies Who Lunch

Janet Frommer
Coordinator

Ladies who Lunch (used to be called Yiddishe Mammias) meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the California Café, Mawson Shops. It is a very casual arrangement, those who can come on the day just turn up, the café doesn't take bookings so we find a suitable table and extend as needed. On average we have about eight to ten ladies who chat over a modest lunch.

Notice of our meeting is in the weekly Grapevine, we welcome newcomers and enjoy the company of regulars.

ACTJC Committee for the Centenary of Anzac Jewish Program (CoAJP)

Dr Merrilyn Sernack

The ACTJC committee for the Centenary of Anzac Jewish Program (CoAJP) is in excellent shape with funding of \$17,900 having been approved by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in October 2014 with the support of the federal electorates of Canberra and Fraser under the Government's Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program.

The first instalment of the grant of \$5,390 has been paid into our special CoAJP account.

The federal funding is to be used to host a National Jewish Memorial Service in Canberra on Remembrance Day, Sunday 11th November 2018.

The funding will also support the following CoAJP National Projects being coordinated by Charles Aronson of the Sydney Jewish Museum (and NAJEX).

Anzac Centenary Photographic Travelling Exhibition in late 2018: The Great War - Through the Lens of Harold Collins

The ACTJC committee for CoAJP will cover packaging and freight costs and manage advertising and/or venue (likely the Australian War Memorial or Old Parliament House). An outline of the Exhibition is at <http://sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au/exhibition/the-great-war-through-the-lens-of-harold-collins/> and further background is at <http://www.jwire.com.au/anzac-exhibition/>.

Anzac Centenary Educational Materials commencing in 2016

This project is being coordinated by the Sydney Jewish Museum and will commence in 2016.

Australian Jewish Historical Society

Victor Isaacs
Vice President
AJHS ACT

The AJHS ACT arranged three well-attended meetings this year. However, following the move to Sydney of our esteemed former President, Sylvia Deutsch OAM, many other Society activities have had to be put into abeyance for the time being. Indeed we are presently without the leadership of a President.

At the AGM on 17 March 2015 the following committee was elected unopposed: Victor Isaacs (vice-president); Naomi Robertson (honorary secretary); Dr. Vernon Kronenberg (honorary treasurer); Margaret Beadman OAM, Judith Wimborne and Adele Rosalky (committee members).

Functions

18 November 2014

Committee member Judith Wimborne provided a fascinating presentation on *A Lost Tribe: The Jews of Geelong*. This even led to the discovery of some hitherto unknown family connections.

17 March 2015, Annual General Meeting.

The AGM was followed by Sir David Smith KCVO AO, and Adele Rosalky presenting three historic films from the 1960s - the *Unveiling of the Foundation Stone of the ACT Jewish Community* on 26 February 1962, a brief Hoffman family film of celebrations at Mt Stromlo in 1961 (filmed by Earle Hoffman), and footage of the foundation stone function filmed by Adele's brother David Hoffman. Sir David and Adele also spoke of their reminiscences of the opening of the ACT Jewish Centre. This provoked very considerable resonance in the audience.

15 June 2015

Third annual Earle Hoffman Memorial Lecture in Australian Jewish History: Dr. Susannah Helman: senior curator, National Library of Australia, provided a very enlightening and professional presentation on '*John Monash, the man*'.

Archiving

Adele Rosalky continues to sort a vast amount of archival material collected by her late father, Earle Hoffman OAM, relating to the Canberra Jewish community. Some of this material has been amalgamated with material previously collected by Sylvia. Over time it is planned to move several filing cabinets to the Archive Room. The Society continues to seek archive material relating to the history of Jews in Canberra and the ACT Jewish community.



The Foundation Stone of the ACT Jewish Community.

Building Maintenance and Upgrade

Robert Cussel

Over the last few years, the Board has adopted a continuous program to update and maintain our existing facilities:

- An important priority has been the roof, which was developing severe rust problems. The gutters have been scaled back, resealed and persistent leaks repaired. To have neglected the roof for much longer would have resulted in much more serious damage involving very expensive repairs. Thank you to Bret Ridley for all the work, which has been ongoing;
- The room dividers in the downstairs shul have been repaired for the second time and this work appears to have been very effective. Thank you Bret Ridley;
- Last year, a floor to ceiling insulated wall partition has been installed downstairs in the office to create two workable spaces from the one that had been used for many years. Thank you Bret Ridley for managing a complex job. Carpet has been repaired in the new Rabbi's office;
- Radiant panel heating was installed in the foyer last year, making this space usable during the winter. All electric fan heaters throughout the building were also serviced and repaired last year. The air conditioning unit in the office was serviced;
- External doors to the external storeroom have been

repaired and resealed. Hinge guards to protect children's fingers were installed on the main external doors;

- Ventilation in the security room was installed last year;
- A new professional cleaning firm has been engaged and the results are much improved, with more control over costs. A new system of rubbish skips has been implemented;
- Lighting in the auditorium has been reorganized and LED globes installed in the existing heritage light fittings. The results are much improved;
- Electrical upgrade work, especially in the office and in the downstairs classrooms, has been ongoing;
- A broken window in the upstairs auditorium has been replaced with laminated glass;
- Adele Rosalky has been sorting important records in the archive room;
- Repairs to the bitumen carpark have been undertaken by Grumps.

Thank you to all our volunteers who assisted.

ACT Jewish Playgroup

Sally Liebowitz

ACT Jewish Playgroup has had a successful year and is gearing up to celebrate its third birthday. With 21 families currently on the list, playgroup offers families a fun and relaxed environment to develop lasting friendships with other children, parents and carers.

Managed and run by volunteer parents on a roster, playgroup continually evolves based on the preference of our families. Over the past year different arrangements have been trialled. For much of the past few years, we have been meeting every second Tuesday from 10am to 12pm at locations organised by members on a roster basis - either at the ACTJCC, in members' homes or at a range of kid-friendly locations across Canberra. For a few months of this year we trialled meeting only at the ACT Jewish Community Centre, playing in the foyer with the communal toys. Most recently, we have trialled fortnightly meetings on Mondays 10am-12pm. We also organise occasional

weekend events - most recently to Corin Forrest for some snow play and tobogganing - including for those families who can't make the weekday catch ups. We have welcomed some new families this year and are always keen to welcome more.

The focus for the coming months is to work with the board to make the centre and its activities more toddler friendly and suitable for pre school age children. We hope to begin with a monthly childrens service on a Saturday morning, and some future activities from Pj library following their successful visit.

Centre Security

Peter Neeson
Head of Security

Each year's report could almost be a cut-and-paste from that of the previous year, particularly with regard to the need to recruit new and younger security volunteers.

The year has seen the ongoing upgrading of our security infrastructure, greatly improved lighting. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Ilya Leydman for his tireless work and detailed technical knowledge.

During the last 12 months, 21 people performed 124 security duties (last year 18 people and 120 duties), with 12 of those performing five or more duties. This is a great commitment and I offer my gratitude to all of them. Although our goal is to have two people rostered on for normal shabbat services, and more as needed for larger events, we rarely achieve our objective due to the relatively small number of people volunteering. We need more volunteers, the role is not arduous, training is provided, and the community gratitude is rewarding.

I have established and maintain contact with the Crime Prevention Unit within ACT Policing, the security team at the Israeli Embassy, members of the AFP Protection Liaison Team, as well as maintaining a close relationship with Sydney CSG. Evidence of the strength of our ties with Sydney SCG is an offer of regular training of our security volunteers. During the last year, there have been no significant incidents in our region.

Our radios have been replaced, thanks to Sydney CSG who have given us six radios as a result of an upgrade to their communications infrastructure. I have also purchased a digital SLR camera to enable easier capture of details of vehicles or people who may be of concern to security volunteers.

I would like to thank the President and David Reiner for their support during the year. My thanks and gratitude, also, to John Serra for his commitment and support.

I look forward to working with the new Board and congratulate them all on their election.

Children/Youth Group

Daniel Coppel
Youth Group Leader

This year we began a youth movement oriented program, with the aim of bringing informal education to the youth of the ACTJC, and engaging them with Judaism from another angle. There were three major instances where this occurred.

On Yom Ha'atzma'ut, at the communal dinner, a 90 minute program was run, entertaining the kids, introducing them to informal Jewish education, and teaching them a little bit about Israel. The program was very successful, reaching about 20 kids between 5 and 13 years old.

Over Shavuot, in conjunction with the Limmud, we brought down 7 madrichim from Sydney and Melbourne, to run a three day program for the junior kids, and the teens in the community. Unfortunately, we did not have huge numbers for the teen program (sporadic attendance from 5 different people), however, the junior section was very successful, with as many as 20 kids attending the programs. The madrichim, (from Bnei Akiva, Habonim Dror, Netzer and Hineni) all tremendously enjoyed the event, and indicated that they would like to return at some point to run another program.

Over Sukkot, we ran a mini-camp, where the kids stayed overnight. Again we brought madrichim from Sydney and Melbourne (3 of the 7 returned, and the remaining 4 had other commitments, however we brought 5 new madrichim). Over Sukkot, running a traditional camp-format program, with activities, shul, prayers, meals and a sleepover, we were able to give 23 kids an introduction to youth movements on another level.

Already we have had tremendous feedback from parents, kids and madrichim that the event was a great success. With the aim long-term of creating a self-sustaining youth culture, these events have signalled the foundation, and a growing trend of youth engagement with informal Jewish education. We will look to continue this over the coming year, with further events planned, and further madrich visits.



Izzy Kingsberg's Burning Bush sculpture which adorns the side of the National Jewish Memorial Centre.