

ANNUAL
REPORT
ONE ²⁰²⁰
VOICE
OUR
VOICE



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA INC

ONE VOICE OUR VOICE

Advocating.

Educating & Training.

Embracing Diversity.

Advancing Social Cohesion.

Protecting the Vulnerable.

Liaising with Government & Police

Building Relationships with
Diverse Communities.

Promoting Israel.

Zero Tolerance to Racism.

Holocaust Remembrance.

Promoting Jewish Life & Traditions.



A STRONG FOUNDATION



OUR VISION

A society in which members of the Victorian Jewish community are able to live as Jews in peace and security, participating fully and without prejudice.



OUR MISSION

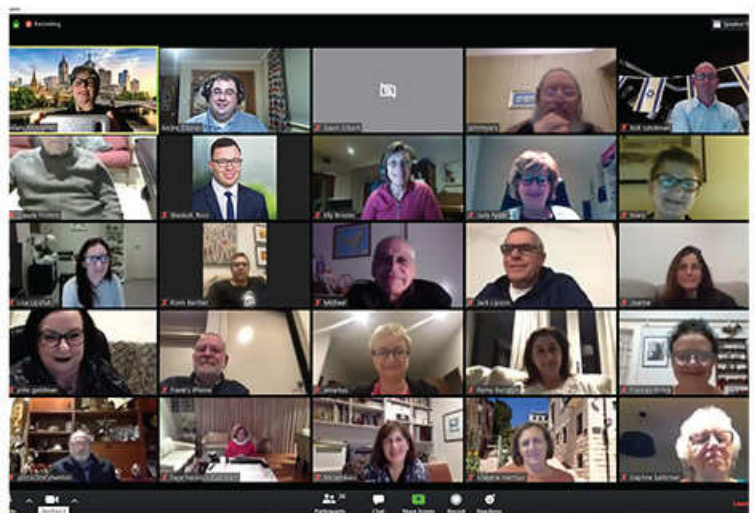
To be the recognised and responsible peak body and voice of Victorian Jewry through advocacy, representation, networking and collaboration, both within the Jewish and wider communities.



OUR VALUES

To be inclusive and representative of the diversity of the Jewish community:

- To be independent and objective;
- To support Jewish continuity and the Jewish way of life; and
- To support Israel.



JCCV Executive

President

Vice President

Honorary Treasurer

Jennifer Huppert

Frances Prince

Ricci Steckoll

JCCV Portfolios

Interfaith & Multicultural

Online Engagement

Social Inclusion & Community Engagement

Security

Co-Opted June 2015

Co-Opted November 2017

Co-Opted March 2018

Co-Opted November 2018

Ex-Office, Zionism Victoria

Frances Prince

Dr Andre Oboler

Doron Abramovici

Jack Lipson

Bram Presser

Dean Cohen

Isabelle Polgar

Frank Greenstein

Sharene Hambur

JCCV Professional Staff

Executive Director

Business Manager

Project Manager

Judy Fetter

Hilary McMahon

Anat Aloni

Community Service Group – CSG

Chief Executive Officer

Justin Kagan

ECAJ Councilors

Anton Block

Daniel Aghion

Miriam Bass

Sharene Hambur

Jennifer Huppert

Gavin Silbert QC

Anthony Lewis

Dr Andre Oboler

Isabella Polgar

Dean Sherr

PAST PRESIDENTS

PRESIDENTS OF THE VICTORIAN JEWISH ADVISORY BOARD THE VICTORIAN JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES and the JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

As at 2020 twenty-eight people have served as President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and its predecessor bodies, the Victorian Advisory Board and the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies, since its beginnings in 1938. Maurice Ashkanasy served three non-consecutive terms as President, for a total of eight years at the helm, the longest of any President. Robert Zablud served for six and a half years and Isi Leibler AO CBE for four and a half years. The average term as President has, however, been two or three years.

The dates of the earliest Presidents of the Advisory Board are tentative and have been pieced together from the fragmentary surviving records of the Advisory Board and Jewish newspaper accounts. If they were ever kept at all, neither Minutes Books nor Annual Reports of the Advisory Board could be traced. Prior to its reform in 1943 the Advisory Board acted with considerable secrecy, and was mentioned in the Jewish Press of the time only rarely. It met only when its Executive had something to discuss, and only about a dozen persons were entitled to attend its meetings. The Council's monthly meetings, attended by over 100 delegates, only became a reality at the end of the Second world War.

Post nominals following the names of Presidents include honours gained after their term of office. The Victorian Jewish Advisory Board officially changed its names to the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies on 7 May 1947. It had become an affiliate of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry when the body was formed in 1944. On 10 October 1989 the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies officially changed its name to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

Victorian Jewish Advisory Board – Presidents

Isaac Herbert Boas	1938-39
Archie Michaelis (late Sir Archie Michaelis Kt)	1939-40
Dr Jacob Jona	1940-Dec 1942
Alex Masel	Dec 1942-Nov 1946
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1946-7 May 1947

Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies

Maurice Ashkanasy	7 May 1947-Oct 1950
Ben Green	Oct 1950-Aug 1951
Bernard Cowen	Aug 1951-Dec 1951
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1951-Dec 1954

PAST PRESIDENTS cont.

Abraham Samuel Leibler	Dec 1954-Dec 1956
Trevor Rapke	Dec 1956-Oct 1958
Nathan Jacobson	Nov 1958-Dec 1961
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1961-Dec 1962
Leon Lasky	Dec 1962-Dec 1966
Nathan Hirsch Beller OBE	Dec 1966-Dec 1969
Walter M Lippmann MBE AM	Dec 1969-Dec 1972
Isi Joseph Leibler AO CBE	Dec 1972-Mar 1977
Arnold Bloch AM	Mar 1977-Feb 1980
Phil Symons OAM	Feb-Apr 1980
Robert Zablud	Apr 1980-Dec 1986
Phil Symons OAM	Dec 1986-Dec 1987
Shmuel Rosenkranz	Dec 1987-Oct 1988

Jewish Community Council of Victoria

Shmuel Rosenkranz	Oct 1988-Dec 1990
Joe Gersh AM	Dec 1990-March 1993
Leon Rosen	Mar 1993-Aug 1994
Geoffrey Green OAM	Sep 1994-Dec 1996
Nina Bassat AM	Dec 1996-Dec 1998
Dr Philip Bliss OAM	Dec 1998-Nov 2000
David Klein	Nov 2000-March 2001
Grahame Leonard OAM	Mar 2001-Mar 2003
Michael Lipshutz OAM	Mar 2003-Nov 2005
Anton Block	Nov 2005-Nov 2008
John Searle	Nov 2008-Nov 2011
Nina Bassat AM	Nov 2011-Nov 2014
Jennifer Huppert	Nov 2014-Nov 2020

COMMUNITY AWARDS

JCCV COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

General Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Service to the Jewish Community

2006	Shmuel Rosenkranz
2007	Ann Zablud OAM
2008	Rabbi John Levi AM
2009	Nina Bassat AM
2010	Phil Symons OAM
2011	Sylvia Gelman AM OBE
2012	Anton Block
2013	Joey Borensztajn AM
2014	Professor Louis Waller AO
2015	Tony Levy OAM
2016	Susi Ivany OAM
2017	Johnny Baker OAM
2018	Danielle Charak OAM
2019	Dr Helen Light AM

Sylvia Gelman Young Leader Award

2014	Josh Back
2015	Lauren Mandel
2016	Jemima Hoffman
2017	Shira Appelbloom
2018	Co Founders of The Jam Project -NCJWA Vic Alexandra Davis, Morgan Lincoln and Jainie Mills
2019	Joel Kuperholz





The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia
Telephone: +613 9651 5000

D20/151178

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

I'd like to congratulate the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) on another successful year representing Jewish communities across our state.

It goes without saying, this has been a year like no other. We've had to face new and unprecedented challenges – as individuals, as families and as a state.

And while staying home has been critical to staying safe – we've all gained a greater appreciation of those things that unite us: connection, compassion and community.

The JCCV has been a uniting voice for many years and I want to thank you for your role in keeping Jewish communities informed and supported during this time.

In particular, I want to recognise the sacrifices you've made during the High Holy Days. I know and understand the importance of these celebrations – it is an important time to honour your rich heritage and recognise the path Jewish communities have forged over many years.

Please know, that by doing things differently this year, you have made an enormous contribution to keeping our state safe. On behalf of all Victorians – thank you.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognise the outstanding efforts of Jennifer Huppert and her Executive team who will be concluding their term of leadership this year.

While your official duties may be coming to a close, I'm confident you will each continue to contribute your voice on behalf of Victoria's Jewish communities for many years to come.

I'd like to send my best to everyone participating in this year's Annual General Meeting and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier





MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am pleased to send my best wishes to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria as it gathers for its Annual General meeting, and my congratulations to Jennifer Huppert as she completes her term as President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

During her presidency, Jennifer has shown tremendous leadership in facilitating positive and harmonious relationships between Victoria's diverse faith groups. She has been an important and active member of our State's multicultural community, and I have no doubt her work has helped maintain the social cohesion and community harmony Victoria is renowned for.

Here in Victoria, the Jewish Community Council is distinguished for its active community engagement, and productive and collaborative working relationships with government departments and service providers. Through a continued effort, you bring communities and cultures together, building bonds of understanding and mutual respect.

With the onset of COVID-19, the Jewish Community Council of Victoria has been a vital part of our State's multicultural community, helping maintain a spirit of compassion, friendship and belonging, ready to support those in need, particularly the most vulnerable members of our community.

I pay tribute to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) for the remarkable work that you continue to do, in the strength and guidance, you have displayed during in these uncertain times, and in advocating for the interests and needs of our Jewish community.

I thank Jennifer for her many years of service and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

THE HON. MICHAEL O'BRIEN MP
 Leader of the Opposition
 Leader of the Liberal Party
 Shadow Minister for Small Business
 Member for Malvern

Shadow Minister for Small Business | State Member for Malvern

📍 Level 1, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000 📞 03 9651 6701 📧 MichaelOBrienMP
 ✉️ michael.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au 🌐 MichaelOBrien.com.au 🐦 MichaelOBrienMP

Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

הוועד המועל של
יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

Level 2, 80 William Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Address all correspondence to:
PO Box 1114, Edgecliff NSW 2027

Tel (+61 2) 8353 8500
Fax (+61 2) 9361 6888
Web: www.ecaj.org.au
E-mail info@ecaj.org.au

PRESIDENT

Jillian Segal AO

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Robert M Goot AO, SC

HON. TREASURER

Peter Wise

HON. SECRETARY

Daniel Aghion

Co-CEOs

Peter Wertheim AM
Alex Rychin

VICE PRESIDENTS

Lesli Berger (NSW)
Jennifer Huppert (VIC)
Joan Hillman (WA)
Paul Myers (QLD)
Annetay Henderson-Sapir (SA)
Jeff Schneider (TAS)
Veronica Leydman (ACT)

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT

Anton Block

CONSTITUENTS

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies
Jewish Community Council
of Victoria Inc
Jewish Community Council of
Western Australia Inc
Queensland Jewish Board of
Deputies
Jewish Community Council
of South Australia
Hobart Hebrew Congregation
ACT Jewish Community Inc

AFFILIATES

Australasian Union of Jewish
Students
Australian Federation of WIZO
Union for Progressive Judaism
Federation of Jewish Aged
Care Services
Maccabi Australia Inc
National Council of Jewish Women
B'nai B'rith of Australia/ NZ
Jewish National Fund of Australia
Joint Distribution Committee Australia

OBSERVERS

Council of Progressive Rabbis
Federation of Australian Jewish
Ex-Service Associations
New Zealand Jewish Council
Zionist Federation of Australia
Council of Orthodox Synagogues of
Australia



14 October 2020

Jennifer Huppert

President

Jewish Community Council of Victoria

306 Hawthorn Road

Caulfield South VIC 3162

Dear Jennifer

On behalf of the ECAJ councillors, observers, advisers and staff, I thank you and all your colleagues and staff at the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) for another year of dedicated service to the Victorian Jewish community.

In a year that has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic you have worked diligently to bring together Jewish organisations in Victoria, to keep the Jewish community connected, supported and regularly updated through increased community engagement via virtual meetings, educational sessions and plenums.

The JCCV has collaborated with its key affiliate organisations in educational sessions to add value to the community's understanding of child protection, spiritual health and antisemitism and strengthened the ties between them to optimise the community's response to the challenges of the pandemic.

The JCCV intensified its focus on the Multi Faith Advisory Group of the Multicultural Commission of Victoria, giving voice to the effects of the Covid restrictions on the Jewish community at each stage, and to the particular needs of the Jewish community.

In addition to addressing these challenges, the JCCV has pursued its advocacy role with State Education Minister, James Merlino and his Department to create strategies and resources to educate youth and staff about antisemitism, racism and the Holocaust, specific to years 9 and 10 in State High Schools.

The JCCV also managed, despite the restrictions on movement and gatherings necessitated by the pandemic, to continue with its key annual events, such as Yom Haatzmaut and Yom Hashoah, by adapting to a virtual format, thus offering a continuum of the Jewish rhythm of life.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the valued role you have played during your 6 years of service to the Victorian Jewish community as President of the JCCV.

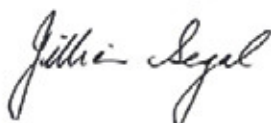
You have been passionate in promoting gender equality & equal opportunity across the Jewish community through educational programs, panel discussions and being a signatory to the 2019 Gender Equality Pledge.

I thank and commend you also for a range of other significant initiatives and achievements including: developing close ties with the Victorian Multi-Cultural Commission and encouraging social cohesion and inter-faith dialogue; strongly advocating for the Jewish Community at State and Local Government; leading in the Victorian Jewish Community Taskforce on Covid-9 together with CSG Vic; encouraging and nurturing young leaders to become involved in the work of the JCCV; in achieving (with CSG) the Project Fortify Grant of \$3 million to upgrade security across several Jewish organisations and your close co-operation with Zionism Victoria to link Zionism with Jewish identity.

Finally I thank you for your contributions over the years to the work of the ECAJ as an ECAJ Councillor.

On behalf of the ECAJ I wish you well as you step down from this significant period of communal leadership.

Yours sincerely



Jillian Segal AO
President

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Road
South Caulfield, VIC 3162

T: (03) 9272 5544
E: Admin@zionismvictoria.org.au
W: www.zionismvictoria.org.au
ABN 93 880 343 953

President
Sharene Hambur
Vice Presidents
Jeff Morrison
John Searle
Hon. Treasurer
Greg Blashki
Executive Director
Jean Katzen



President of Zionism Victoria to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria 2020

On behalf of Zionism Victoria it gives me great pleasure to extend greetings to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria on the occasion of its Annual General Meeting.

2020 has presented challenges to the Victorian Jewish community and the wider community of a type that we could not have imagined as we began the year. The year began with the horrific bushfires and I congratulate the JCCV in the leading role that it took in the establishment and administration of the Jewish Community's fundraising response to this disaster. The coalition of Jewish funders and the JCCV enabled our community to show its support for the wider Victorian community and the work in this area continues as the balance of funds are distributed.

As we know, no sooner had some sense of normality returned to our lives, then the COVID-19 pandemic arrived on our shores. The pandemic has necessitated our community changing many of the ways in which it functioned. The resilience and strength that our community has shown over the past six months is a testimony to all of those who form part of it. The JCCV has been in the forefront of keeping the Jewish community informed, providing opportunities for people to come together to discuss issues arising from the "new norm" and working with other faith and ethnic groups on the Victorian response to this crisis.

The JCCV under the Presidency of Jennifer Huppert continues to be in the forefront of standing up for our community wherever antisemitism has manifested itself. The past twelve months has seen several very concerning incidents of anti-Semitism in Victorian Government Schools and the JCCV has taken a leading role in working with the Government and other Jewish communal organisations to respond to these reports. While we wish that this work was not required, I am confident that the work of the JCCV is vital in ensuring that anti-Semitic incidents are brought to the attention of the Victorian community and Government.

This Annual General Meeting marks the end of the term of Jennifer as President and of the current Executive. Jennifer and I have enjoyed a close working relationship over the last three years and I have greatly appreciated her support. I have attended many of the Executive meetings and have seen firsthand the passion, professionalism and dedication of each Executive member. The last twelve months also saw the arrival of Judy Fetter as the new Executive Director of the JCCV - she came to the organisation at a particularly difficult time but has already shown that she is an enormous asset.

Zionism Victoria congratulates the JCCV on a successful year and wishes it *hatzlacha raba* for all your endeavours.

Sharene Hambur
President



Child safety and online learning

Monday 31 August
7.30pm - 8.30pm

For educators, youth leaders
and other organisations
working with young people



- assess online risk
- set online safety behavioural expectations
- create risk mitigation strategies
- know when and how to report



A free presentation by



To register, visit:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5115858688137732367>



JCCV PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES 2020



TOPIC: LEARNING EMPATHY
HOW TO WORK WITH PEOPLE YOU MAY NOT LIKE
WITH ADAM SLOIM

EMPATHY: WHAT IS IT? HOW IS IT EXHIBITED? AND MORE IMPORTANTLY AT WORK, HOW CAN YOU TURN IT ON WHEN NEEDED, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT FEEL EMPATHIC TO ANOTHER?

IN THIS SESSION, WE WILL COVER:

- WHAT EMPATHY IS, AND ISN'T
- UNDERSTAND USES AND ABUSES OF EMPATHY
- LEARN THE CORE SKILLS THAT DRIVE EMPATHY
- LEARN AND PRACTICE TECHNIQUES TO BE MORE EMPATHIC ON DEMAND.

GUEST SPEAKER ADAM SLOIM

Adam Sloim is an Adjunct Fellow at Victoria University, and is the founder of Blended Learning Group which assists organisations with Leadership through Emotional Intelligence, Communicating with Purpose, and Sales Capability. He is Accredited to the Daniel Goleman Emotional & Social Competence methodology.

Adam has a long and successful career in sales. Adam was previously the National Sales Manager of Australia's largest outsourcing provider, managing a team of sales, account and marketing management professionals responsible for over AUD300M annually.

Adam consults to a number of companies on go-to-market strategies, and often connects people, ideas, capital and skills required for success. He has also partnered with a research company to measure organisational propensity for innovation, and trains companies in developing innovation.

DATE: THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2020

TIME: 9.00AM REGISTRATION & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

9.30AM - 12.30PM SESSION

LOCATION: LAMM JEWISH LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA 304 HAWTHORN RD, CAULFIELD SOUTH VIC 3162 (ACROSS BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE)

COST: \$25 PER PERSON / \$18 JCCV AFFILIATES

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL | P: 9272 5566 E: ANAT.ALONI@JCCV.ORG.AU



MENTAL HEALTH



PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE CONFRONTING SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 7PM - LIVE ON ZOOM

AN EVENING *With* PROFESSOR

PATRICK MCGORRY

INTERVIEWED *by* SKY NEWS PRESENTER



SHARRI MARKSON

Shari Markson is an Australian journalist. She is an investigations writer at The Australian and host of the Sky News program "Shari" which airs on Sunday evenings.



PROFESSOR PATRICK MCGORRY

2010 Australian of the Year - Professor McGorry is an Australian psychiatrist known world-wide for his development and scaling up of early intervention and youth mental health services, and for mental health innovation, advocacy and reform. He is executive director of Orygen, Professor of Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, and founding editor of the journal "Early Intervention in Psychiatry". He led the advocacy which resulted in the establishment by the Australian government in 2005 of the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, which in 2009 became Headspace, and he remains a founding board member of that organisation.

zoom [Click Here To Register](#)

connecting our Jewish community through sport & wellbeing responsibly



20 October 2020

Message from the Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson

On behalf of the Victorian Multicultural Commission it is my sincere pleasure to acknowledge the continued achievements of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria over the past 12 months. Building on their decades of leadership and advocacy the Council has provided invaluable services and support, not only for Victoria's Jewish communities, but for the broader multicultural and multifaith community.

Through a range of activities the Council has championed cultural pride, and I congratulate them for their efforts in multifaith advocacy and in building unity and social cohesion in our state, throughout a particularly devastating year for so many communities.

The Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal raised over \$3 million for regional Victorians impacted by the summer's bushfires, bringing together many different organisations from the Jewish community in solidarity.

The Council has also made a critical contribution to the Victorian Government's COVID -19 efforts, sharing vital insights and disseminating information back to our state's Jewish community.

I also acknowledge and farewell Jennifer Huppert at the end of six extraordinary years as President. Jennifer, it has been a pleasure to work with you, and I extend my warmest congratulations for everything you have achieved for Victorians during your years of dedicated service.

The Victorian Multicultural Commission looks forward to continuing our collaboration, and we offer our best wishes to the Council for the year ahead.



Vivienne Nguyen
Chairperson
Victorian Multicultural Commission

Level 3, 1 Macarthur Street, Melbourne 3001
GPO Box 4698, Melbourne VIC 3001
multicultural.commission.vic.gov.au



Message from the Commissioner

In a year that has brought us many unexpected challenges, the Jewish Community Council of Victoria has continued to play a pivotal role in supporting Victoria's Jewish community. As Jennifer Huppert concludes her term as president, I congratulate her on six productive years as a voice for respect and inclusion.

During her time as president of JCCV, Jennifer has been a tireless advocate for Victoria's Jewish community, and multifaith and multicultural communities more broadly.

Her strong engagement with policy-makers and community leaders has allowed her to achieve a very important task – making real the experiences of Victoria's multifaith communities, the impacts of discrimination and vilification, and the value of a community where every person, regardless of their religion, race or background, can participate without discrimination.

Alongside matters of faith and social cohesion, Jennifer has also been a keen supporter of gender equality and has worked to advance equal opportunity practice within Victoria's community organisations.

Since 2016, Jennifer has been a dedicated member of the Board of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. To every conversation she has brought a considered perspective, rigorous thinking and a genuine empathy. We have all benefitted from her contribution to the Commission's strategic direction.

Congratulations, Jennifer, on all you have achieved with JCCV in the last six years.

Kristen Hilton

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jennifer Huppert

INTRODUCTION

At this year's JCCV AGM, my term as President comes to an end. It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to lead the JCCV for 6 years.

The report which follows details the activities of the JCCV during the previous 12 months. One thing I can say with surety is that 2020 has definitely not been 'business as usual.' Despite this, much has been achieved.

The year started with devastating bushfires which affected not only Victoria, but other parts of Australia, and which resulted in the loss of lives, and significant disruption as peoples' homes, business, school and community facilities were destroyed. The community as a whole came together in support of the those impacted by the bushfires, and the Jewish Community played a significant part on this response, raising over three million dollars for a for the recovery effort.

Then came COVID.

Sadly, COVID-19 claimed the lives of 3 member of the Victorian Jewish Community that we are aware of, and many more members of the community have been affected, some spending lengthy periods in hospital.

As I write this report, Melbourne is close to emerging from a strict lockdown imposed in order to deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic. The curfew has been lifted, but Melbournians are still prohibited from travelling more than 5 km from their homes. Over Rosh Hashana, no physical religious services were permitted. Restrictions were eased on Yom

Kippur to allow for a services of no more than 5 participants and a leader.

The response of Jewish community members to the Pandemic has been extraordinary, from the health professionals involved in the frontline response, to the volunteers who have provided vital services to isolated members of the Jewish and boarder community.

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) Antisemitism in Australia published in November 2019 showed that there was a significant increase in antisemitic incidents in Victoria between 2013 and 2019, and that during 2019 there was a marked increase in some of the more serious categories of incidents. This is supported by anecdotal evidence. There have also been reports of antisemitism associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

While I do not wish to overstate the of incidents antisemitism, they do exist, and where they exist, can have a significant impact on the community, and this provides context to many of the activities of the JCCV reported below.

antisemitism associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

While I do not wish to overstate the of incidents antisemitism, they do exist, and where they exist, can have a significant impact on the community, and this provides context to many of the activities of the JCCV reported below.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In mid March, as we became aware that COVID-19 would be a significant issue for Victorians, the Jewish Community COVID-19 Taskforce was established. This group comprises representatives from the JCCV, Community Security Group (CSG), Jewish Community Crisis Management (JCCM), Chevra Hatzolah, Progressive Synagogues Victoria (PJV), Council of Orthodox Synagogues of Victoria (COSV) and Rabbinical Council of Victoria (RCV), and has been communicating regularly with organisations within our community who are providing services to those impacted by COVID-19. The Taskforce established a website as a source of information for the community and has been issuing regular bulletins to the community regarding Government restrictions and services available to the community, and has been liaising with Government and Victoria Police.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the role of the Nicole Matejic, our crisis management, who has steered the Committee since its establishment.

A number of organisations have been involved with providing much needed services to those affected by COVID-19, including Jewish Care Victoria, which set up a helpline for community members experiencing emotional distress, social isolation, or financial hardship, and Standup, which established the Jewish Response to Coronavirus Facebook page, which is a vehicle for coordinating volunteers in a range of areas, providing an information exchange for those trying locate items, and assisting in areas such as employment and housing. The Australian Jewish Medical Foundation

has provided valuable support for frontline health professionals.

Many more organisations and community members have been working tirelessly to ensure that the more vulnerable members of the community continue to receive the support they need, be it food and grocery deliveries, financial support, and services to combat the isolation resulting from the restrictions on our usual community events.

Community, educational and religious groups have provided a much needed means of connecting the community via technology, narrow casting or livestreaming a wide range of events.

The long term effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, community, social and economic, will continue to be felt after the lockdown is lifted, and the immediate threat to our health is reduced, and will be a focus of the JCCV and the Community more broadly well into the future.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

BUSHFIRE APPEAL

As mentioned above, during the 2019-2020 summer Australia experienced devastating bushfires, which have resulted in the loss of over 30 lives, thousands of homes and business, and millions of animals.

The fires started in Victoria in late November, and burnt a large part of East Gippsland and the High Country.

In early January, I was approached by David Smorgon, who wished to raise funds within the Jewish community in order assist those impacted by the bushfires in Victoria. This resulted in the establishment of the Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal, coordinated by the JCCV, which has raised over \$3 million.

Of the money raised, \$1million has been allocated to fund the St Vincent de Paul's "Back to School Program", which will provide assistance to 1000 Victorian children who will be returning to school without school clothes, computers and back packs etc.

Funds have also been donated to assist with the replacement of infrastructure which supports 'The Main from Snowy River' Festival in Corryong, and the rebuilding of a community hall in Cudgewa, and have been distributed to Blazeaid Inc, the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund; Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal; Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife; ALF Emergency Disaster Appeal.. The scope of works include repairing and replacing farm fences, sheds, essential farming equipment, rebuilding communal infrastructure, supporting the regeneration of flora and fauna and enabling social and emotional support for families across generations.

I would like to acknowledge the amazing work of the organising committee, comprising David, Ruth Alter, Ian Davis and Fiona Geminder, the support of the JCCV affiliates who publicised the appeal, and the professional support of Charidy, Kreative Solutionz and Australian Jewish Funders, and the hard work of Judy Fetter and Hilary McMahon in the JCCV office, who have ensured that the Victorian Jewish Community has been able to make a significant contribution to recovery from the devastating impacts of the fires.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

REPRESENTATION – Political, Police, Interfaith and Multicultural

Political

Representatives of the JCCV have continued to meet with all levels of Government to discuss issues of concern to the Victorian Jewish Community. This year, many of our interactions with both the State and Federal Governments have been focussed on the responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and its impact on the Community, in particular on religious services and lifecycle events, but we have also focussed on the role of Government in supporting social cohesion and combatting racism.

As members of the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Multifaith Advisory Group, Judy Fetter and I have participated in briefings given by Government members, including most recently the Deputy Premier and Education Minister, James Merlino MP, and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence MP. Through her membership of the Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV), JCCV Vice President and Multicultural and Interfaith portfolio holder Frances Prince attended a briefing with Federal Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs, Jason Wood, MP, and I attended a briefing with the Minister on 6 October which focused on the impact of the Pandemic on faith communities.

Ms Spence was appointed to the role of Minister for Multicultural Affairs in March 2020, and I had a briefing her with her shortly after her appointment, Ms Spence addressed the JCCV Plenum meeting on 1 June 2020.

At last year's AGM I spoke about the well publicised incidents of Antisemitism at two Victorian school. When the reports of antisemitic bullying were first published in the Australian Jewish News I, as well as representatives from other Jewish communal organisations, met with Education Minister James Merlino, who informed us that the Government had commissioned a report into the incidents.

In addition to addressing the specific circumstances raised by the families affected, the report recommended a number of actions designed to improve responses to antisemitism and other forms of racism, and to improve educational resources aimed at reducing the incidences of antisemitism in schools.

One of the measures was the introduction of Holocaust Education as a part of the year 9 and 10 school curriculum. The development of Holocaust Educational Resources for Staff and Students has been rapid, and representatives of the Department of Education and Training have been working with Gandel Philanthropy, Yad Vashem and community leaders and educators towards the release of the final curriculum for Term 4 2020. Judy Fetter, Frances Prince and I have participated in this process, as have representatives of the United Jewish Education Board (UJEB), Jewish Holocaust Centre, Anti Defamation Commission (ADC), Jewish Museum of Australia, & Courage to Care.

There were further reports of Antisemitic bullying in a Victorian Government school in the Australian Jewish News in July. I wrote to the Education Minister to express the JCCV's concerns, and to request an update regarding the steps previously announced.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

Minister Merlino has announced that there will be an independent, external inquiry into both the incidents themselves, and effectiveness of the earlier actions announced by the Government in December 2019.

Following discussions with the Minister's office, Andre Oboler, JCCV Executive Member, CEO of the Online Hate Prevention Institute and an antisemitism expert appointed to the Australian Government's delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, joined the independent investigation as an intercultural advisor. The investigation is due to report before the end of the year.

Victorian Parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee is currently holding an inquiry into legislative protections against vilification. The JCCV made a submission to the Inquiry, calling for greater protection against antisemitism, racism and other forms of vilification. On 25 February I gave evidence at the public hearing held as part of the Inquiry. It was an opportunity to speak to Committee about the JCCV submission, and some of the recent discussions regarding proposed changes to legislation, and my evidence, which was reported in The Age the following day, included a submission that a ban on hate material should be included as part of any reform of the current legislative framework.

The JCCV has joined a coalition of organisations advocating for reform, which is being coordinated by Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission and Victorian Legal Aid.

The JCCV and Jewish Care Victoria also made a joint submission to the Victorian

Government in support of the proposal to ban conversion therapy and practices.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Annual Parliamentary Cocktail Reception in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut, as well as other regular events, such as the annual Politicians' Jewish Immersion Day could not be held.



Police

JCCV has a strong relationship with Victoria Police. JCCV is a member of both the Victoria Police Multicultural Portfolio Reference Group and the Victoria Police Interfaith Council. JCCV Business Manager, Hilary McMahon continues to regularly participate in the Community Encounters program for police and PSO recruits, but remotely due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. We also have a representative on the Victoria Police Multifaith Youth Council.

The Community Security Group plays an important role in this relationship, in particular CEO Justin Kagan. This year has been particularly challenging, as Victoria Police have been at the frontline of enforcing restrictions on gatherings as part of the

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The JCCV's direct work with Victoria Police provides increased understanding of real life demands and how to best interact on a number of levels with members of the Jewish community. In addition, this trusted bond allows for input into policy settings and positively influences decision making at the highest level.

On 17 November 2019 Judy Fetter and I attended the annual Evening of Remembrance and Acknowledgement for Victoria Police on 17 November, at which Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton spoke about the importance of the relationship between Victoria Police and the community. Combatting antisemitism.

The JCCV continues to highlight the impact of antisemitism on the Victorian Jewish Community and, through activities such as engagement with Government, including our response to specific incidents such as the reports of antisemitic bullying referred to above, advocacy for measures which will reduce incidents of antisemitism, and responding to particular incidents when they occur.

In March 2020, our engagement with the with RMIT Gallery management regarding an installation which included designs almost identical to Nazi swastikas resulted in the installation being screened from public view.

On the eve of Yom Hashoah, Dymocks Bookstores announced that it, in response to a request from the ECAJ, Dymocks has removed 55 of the 60 editions of 'Mein Kampf', which their bookstores had previously offered for sale. All references to these editions have also been removed from

the Dymocks website, the remaining editions being annotated with commentary by recognised scholars, and serve an educational purpose. The request for removal of the books from sale, by the ECAJ was prompted by research carried out by JCCV executive member Andre Oboler on behalf of the JCCV. I would like to acknowledge Andre's role in the Dymock's decision.

The interfaith and multicultural engagement outlined below also plays an important role in combatting antisemitism.



Multicultural and Interfaith

Victoria has a strong multicultural society, which has the support of all major political parties. The JCCV plays an important role in maintaining this through its work with interfaith and multicultural groups, in both the Government and NGO sector, and with individual faith and ethnic groups.

While we have not been able to hold the multicultural and interfaith events which have played such a valuable role over recent

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

remotely. The JCCV is a sponsoring organisation of the Jewish Christian Muslim Association (JCMA), and an active member of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) and the Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV). Executive member Frances Prince sits on the boards of the JCMA and FCCV, and ensures that the views of the Jewish community are heard in these forums. Nomi Kaltmann has joined the FCCV as the JCCV's youth representative.

The main focus of these organisations during 2020 has been the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the increase in racism experienced by particular communities.

Since my last report in October 2019, members of the JCCV executive and staff represented the Jewish Community in person at a number of events, prior to the imposition of restrictions, and have continued to attend events remotely, including:

- annual JCMA Friendship walk;
- Red Wednesday, an event organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne in support of those persecuted for their religious beliefs;
- the 5th Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast;
- forum organised by the ECCV to launch its 'All One Together' campaign;
- the 54th session of the Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims & Jews;
- the 49th National Dialogue between the ECAJ and the Uniting Church in Australia;
- round table discussion with the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) & ECCV

I have also participated in a video organised by the FCCV, which contained messages of hope from a variety of faith and community leaders in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and which has been distributed widely on social media.

The JCCV's multicultural and interfaith activities build relationships and create coalitions against racism and discrimination, and in doing so, strengthen our community. The role of the JCCV has been clearly recognised by the Victorian Government which has continued to be a key financial supporter of our multicultural and interfaith activities.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

COMMUNITY

Social Justice, Inclusion and Community Well-being

One of the JCCV's key aims is to ensure that we build a Jewish community which is both open and accepting, and which is focussed on the well-being of its members. One means of doing this is through participation in broader community networks, such as the Spiritual Health Victoria.

One of the JCCV's key programs is the Youth Alcohol Project (YAP), an educational prevention program which comprises sessions for both parents and students, aimed at educating students in years 6, 8 and 10 regarding issues surrounding alcohol and other substance abuse, and delivering techniques on how to handle peer pressure. The JCCV works with teachers and child psychologists and Victoria Police's Priority Communities Division and Alcohol & Drugs Strategy Unit to develop a structure which accommodates each particular audience. With schools teaching remotely for much of 2020, focus has shifted to reviewing and adapting the programs for a post COVID-19 world to deliver a refreshed format most relevant for 2021.

Judy Fetter and I joined representatives of Jewish Care, Tzedek, National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, Unchain My Heart, Maccabi, Progressive Judaism Victoria, Impact, Pathways Australia, AUJS and Australian Jewish News and the Rabbinical Council of Victoria at the Annual Walk Against Family Violence in the CBD. Family violence is a serious problem in our community, and the JCCV joined with the other organisations in order to send a clear

message that the Victorian Jewish community stands united saying 'No' to family violence.

The JCCV co-hosted the launch of the joint services of Tzedek and SECASA on 25 February, which highlighted the need to adopt best practice across the Jewish Community to keep children safe from sexual abuse and family violence.

On 31 August, The JCCV, Jewish Care Victoria and AZYC hosted a session with the eSafety Commissioner on Child Safety and Online Learning, and in September the JCCV co-hosted 2 child safety webinars with Maccabi Life and Maccabi Victoria.

The JCCV is also a member of Spiritual Health Victoria, the peak body enabling the provision of quality spiritual care in all health service settings, and Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann continues to represent the JCCV at that organisation. This year the JCCV has offered a number of on-line spiritual health sessions, most recently a webinar entitled 'Rosh Hashanah 2020 Style. Achieving Inner Peace, Spirituality & Connection'.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

Community engagement and affiliate support

With over fifty major communal organisations as affiliates, the JCCV represents and unites the mosaic of Jewish associations operating in Victoria.

The JCCV provides a forum where members of the Victoria Jewish community from across the spectrum can exchange ideas and learn from each other's experiences. Publications such as the JCCV Diary and Directory, and the "What's Nu" newsletter, provide information about Jewish community events and organisations.

The JCCV's professional development program provides opportunities for both staff and volunteers of affiliates to improve their skills and knowledge. This year training sessions moved online, which boosted the frequency of sessions and attendees. We continue to offer sessions on topic of interests to the community.

On 27 August, the JCCV and ECAJ hosted a webinar with a panel comprising Joshua Washington, a Black American civil rights activist, Olga Meshoe Washington, a Black South African political activist, and Dan Diker an American-Israeli analyst and Jewish leader, which explored the Black Civil Rights of the past and the contrast between the Black Lives Matter Movement today and other Black Civil Rights organisations.

Executive members and staff also attend many of the events held during the year by our affiliate organisations, again, many of them in the form of on-line meetings and webinars, and this forms a vital part of our engagement with the community.

The JCCV office provides assistance to Shoah survivors with restitution applications and certifying Life Certificates, and the JCCV is represented on the Jewish Care Restitution Committee.



Youth engagement

Early in 2020 JCCV and Zionism Victoria met with representatives from AUJS and Jewish Youth groups to exchange ideas and discuss ways in which our organisations can support the younger members of our community. As always there was a lively discussion regarding the challenges facing these organisations, including antisemitism on campus, and how to engage the next generation of Jewish leaders.

The contribution made to our community by young people is recognised each year by the JCCV Young Leader Award.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

Holocaust commemoration

One of the key objectives of the JCCV is to perpetuate the memory of the victims of the Shoah, and to promote understanding of the Shoah in the community.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year we were not able to hold our major event, the annual community Yom Hashoah commemoration. The Yom Hashoah organising committee had planned to mark the 75 years since the Holocaust ended, with a commemoration which focused on our community's wonderful Holocaust survivors and their inordinate contribution to the growth of one of the world's most vibrant Jewish communities. Our theme was to be 75 years of remembrance and rebuilding.

However, as we were not able to gather in person to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Committee made a decision to mark Yom Hashoah this year by making available recordings of testimonies given by survivors in previous years, and by asking community members to light 6 candles in their own home, in memory of the 6 million victims of the Shoah.

My thanks go to Randi Grose, who chairs the organisation committee, and to committee members . Hilary McMahon, Bram Presser, Nina Bassat AM, Michael Cohen, Ariella Leski, Sidra Moshinsky and Lena Fizman, who assisted with our commemorations this year.

There were a number of other on-line commemorations held over the day, which together enabled members of our Community to fulfil our duty to remember the victims and honour the survivors of the Shoah.

On 27 January 2020 the JCCV and the Jewish Holocaust Centre hosted an event to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz at Malvern Town Hall. Over 600 attendees heard survivor Eva Slonim describe her experiences of the Shoah, including her liberation. The keynote address was given by Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld informed by his experiences serving with a medical unit in Rwanda. The event was well attended by Politicians, Diplomats and leaders of Jewish community organisations.

On 24 November 2019 I spoke at the dedication of the Holocaust Memorial and the MCK Lyndhurst Cemetery. The memorial, a large stone inscribed with a quotation by Elie Wiesel, was designed by Andrew Rogers.



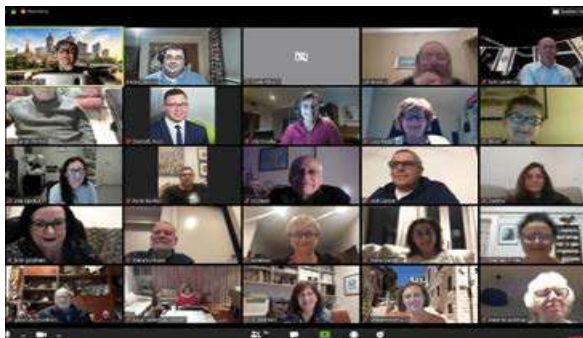
PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

JCCV Plenums

JCCV Plenums, held regularly during the year, bring together JCCV affiliates to discuss issues of importance to the community.

Apart from the February Plenum this year's Plenums have been Zoom meetings. Despite the change in format, they continue to be well attended, and provide a means keeping the community connected.

Speakers at Plenums have included Clive Lawton OBE, founder of Limmud, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Ros Spence, and UJEB Principal, Itzik Sztokman. We have also had regular updates on the Community response to COVID-19, and Glynis Lipson, chairperson of MDA Australia, provided an update on the COVID-19 response in Israel.



Community Recognition

Each year the JCCV Executive presents the General Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Service to the Jewish Community to a person who has demonstrated an exceptional and outstanding commitment to the Victorian Jewish Community over a long period of as well as the Sylvia Gelman Young Leader Award. This year these awards will be presented at the AGM. Last year's awardees were:

- General Sir John Monash Award - Helen Light AM
- Sylvia Gelman Young Leader Award – Joel Kuperholz

COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

The community is well served by a number of media outlets, including The Australian Jewish News, J-Air and J-Wire, each of which provide extensive coverage for the activities of the JCCV and its affiliates. I have appeared on a number of J-Air programs to speak about the JCCV's activities and items of concern to the community. We are grateful for the support of these organisations.

The JCCV uses a variety of media platforms to engage with the community. While the JCCV Directory and Diary continues to be an important resource for both the Jewish and broader community, the JCCV e-bulletin "What's Nu", and the JCCV website, jccv.org.au, which have both recently undergone a renewal, provide up to date information regarding the activities of the JCCV and its affiliates, as well as links to other communal sites, throughout the year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

COMMUNITY SECURITY GROUP

The CSG works closely with the Jewish Day Schools, Synagogues and other communal organisations, keeping them informed as to the threats facing our community and providing valuable advice and support.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the CSG volunteers, both those who work directly with the CSG, and the synagogue members and parents at Jewish day schools who volunteer who devote countless hours to the security of their organisations. This year, as schools have moved to remote learning, and synagogues have not been able to hold services in person, CSG's focus has shifted to providing support for Jewish communal organisations and business dealing with COVID-19 related restrictions.

The CSG continues to build on the strong relationships with both Victoria Police and the Australian Federal Police. The CSG held a number of briefings for community organisations during the year at which representatives of Victoria Police provided updates to community leaders.

Mark Gandur and the CSG Advisory Board continue to ensure that the CSG has funding to carry out its important work. The Jewish community in Victoria owes a debt of gratitude to the staff and volunteers of the CSG for the time they give to ensuring the protection of the community.

This year saw the completion of the works which comprise the first stage of Project Fortify, a project under the auspices of the JCCV and CSG, which assists certain Victorian Jewish Institutions to strengthen

the security measures at their facilities. Planning is well underway for the next stage of works, and the CSG has also assisted community organisations with applications for funding for security upgrades to the Federal Government's Safer Communities Fund and the Victorian Government's Security Infrastructure Fund.

In the last few years CSG and Chevra Hatzolah have developed a strong working relationship, which has resulted in the joint release of the Jewish Emergency Application (JEAP) this month.

Justin Kagan was appointed as CEO of the CSG early in 2020, and I have enjoyed a good working relationship with Justin and his team.



JCCV FUNDING

Patrons and Major Donors

The achievements of the JCCV outlined in this report would not be possible without the continued generosity, support and encouragement of our Patrons and major donors, including Gandel Philanthropy, the Estate of Jacob Frankiel and the Estate of Sylvia Gelman. This funding guarantees the

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

the financial viability of the organisation and ensures that the JCCV has the resources to deliver its program of events and activities.

Victorian Government

As mentioned above, the JCCV has received significant funding from the Victorian Government which facilitates our interfaith and multicultural activities, and we are grateful for this support.

Appeals

Fundraising during a pandemic, during which many of our community have faced significant financial hardship and have had to deal with social isolation, has been challenging. We did not hold our usual annual appeal in May, instead launching our appeal in July. We faced a further challenge when it became apparent that synagogues would not be able to hold services on Kol Nidrei, and so our Kol Nidrei Appeal was moved on-line. Despite this, members of the community continue to give generously to the JCCV and I thank the community for its continued support it gives to the JCCV through its donations, evidencing the trust the community places in the JCCV and its work. However, funding for the operations of the JCCV remains a challenge, where there are many causes competing for limited community resources.

The Council for Jewish Education in Schools (CJES) is the entity which provide tax deductibility for donations for Jewish education in schools and on University campuses. The CJES is administered by the JCCV, and oversight is by the CJES Committee, comprising Alan Samuel OAM JP, Hilary McMahon and myself. The Council for Jewish Communal Security (CJCS)

enable tax deductibility for donations for communal security, for both the operations of the CSG, and security for communal facilities. The CJCS is administered by the CJCS sub-committee, comprising Ricci Steckoll, Jack Lipson, Graham Goldsmith and myself.

ECAJ

The JCCV has worked closely with the ECAJ in areas which affect the whole of the Australian Jewish community. The ECAJ provides strong representation for the Jewish Community within Australia and abroad. ECAJ meetings also provide an important forum for the exchange of ideas with leaders of Jewish communities around Australia. During the Pandemic the ECAJ has played an importance role in keeping the Australian Jewish Community connected, via regular meetings with state representatives, and national bulletins.

I congratulate ECAJ Jillian Segal on a successful first year of her presidency in difficult circumstances. I also acknowledge the contribution made ECAJ Co-CEO's Peter Wertheim AM and Alex Ryvchin, and the rest of the ECAJ staff



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

STAFF, OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION

The JCCV staff have been working remotely since March, I would like to acknowledge their role in adapting our operations, to ensure that the JCCV continues to operate effectively under trying circumstances.

The contribution made by Executive Director, Judy Fetter, cannot be underestimated. As well as providing support to me and the executive, since her appointment in July 2019, Judy has been an outstanding representative of the Victorian Jewish Community in a variety of spheres, and has developed valuable relationships with other faith and cultural communities and organisations. Also of great importance, Judy has continued to work with our affiliates and donors and other community organisations and members to improve the reach and the standing of the JCCV.

In addition to her oversight of the finances of the JCCV, CJCS, CJES and the various Foundations administered by the JCCV, Hilary is a key member of the Yom Hashoah committee, and ensures that JCCV functions and events run smoothly. As mentioned above, Hilary makes a significant contribution in her role at the Victoria Police Community Encounters Program. She also represents the JCCV at events, both within and outside the community.

Anat Aloni has concentrated on refining the YAP program this year, coordinated online presentations and assisted with additional communication tasks, increased newsletter frequency and JCCV presence on social media.

The JCCV also administers the Trude Weiss

Foundation for educational support and The Marion and Kurt Lippmann Foundation, which provides scholarships for community professionals. The administration is carried out by Hilary McMahon. My appreciation goes to all those involved in the administration of these funds.

I would like to thank the volunteers who devote time to work of the JCCV, in particular Mervyn Chait, Rebecca Pillai and Diane Rose.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

EXECUTIVE

During my presidency I have been fortunate to have the support of a dedicated and talented executive and I would like to express my appreciation for the time they have devoted to the JCCV, attending executive and plenum meetings and events, and representing the community in a variety of forums.

At the commencement of 2020 Frances Prince, who has held the Multicultural and Interfaith portfolio for 6 years, took on the role of Vice President. Ricci Steckoll (Treasurer) Doron Abramovici (Social Inclusion & Community Engagement) and Dr Andre Oboler (Online engagement) and Dean Cohen (Strategy), Jack Lipson (Security Liaison) and co-opted executive members, Bram Presser, Isabelle Polgar and Frank Greenstein have continued to make a significant contribution to the work of the JCCV. The executive is a diverse group, representing the breadth of the Victorian Jewish Community.

For most of my term as president, Sharene Hambur has been president of Zionism Victoria, and in that role has been a non-voting member of the executive.

Sharene has provided valuable advice and support during that time, and has ensured that there is a strong working relationship between the JCCV and Zionism Victoria.

CONCLUSION

On many occasions during my time as President of the JCCV, I have been asked to describe my goals for the organisation. My response has always been that I want to foster an environment in which all those who identify as Jews feel comfortable doing so.

There are two aspects to this – ensuring that our community is open, inclusive and welcoming to all, and that Victoria remains a socially inclusive society where members of our community can feel secure.

These principles sit behind the actions I have taken during my term as president of the JCCV, and I hope that they will continue to drive the organisation into the future.



Jennifer Huppert

President

6 October 2020





JCCV Plenum Meeting

Monday 3rd February 2020



Keynote Speaker – Clive Lawton
OBE, Founder Limmud

Anti-Semitism in the UK, perceptions, realities and lessons for the Australian Jewish community.

Clive has extensive experience in education, inter-faith dialogue and government relations.

Don't miss the opportunity to attend our first Plenum meeting for 2020 with leading Jewish British educator, Clive Lawton!

Blake Street Hebrew Congregation at 8pm
868 Glenhuntly Rd Caulfield South 3162

JCCU PLENUM MEETING

MONDAY, 3 AUGUST, 2020 8.00 PM

Keynote Speaker:



Bill Appleby, CEO, Jewish Care Victoria
Social Services Management during COVID-19



Zoom Conference call
RSUP to receive a link
anat.aloni@jccu.org.au



JCCU PLENUM MEETING

MONDAY, 7 September, 2020 8:00 PM

Keynote Speaker



Access inc.
Celebrating ability

Sharon Malecki, CEO Access Inc.

Access Inc.'s Covid Response –
Celebrating Ability in Our Community During Crisis.



Zoom Conference call
RSUP to receive a link
anat.aloni@jccu.org.au



JCCU Plenum – Monday 2nd March, 2020 – 8PM

VICTORIAN JEWISH BUSHFIRE RELIEF APPEAL HOW, WHERE, WHY – THE FACTS

Keynote Address:

Ian Davis, Organising Committee member

- The process ensuring our donations directly assist people, programs and investment to fast track recovery operations
- Where specifically our donations have been directed and prioritized
- Comparing our donations for maximum recognition of Victorian Jewish community
- How about the "Back to School Campaign" with St Vincent's de Paul and the Supported Emergency Relief Fund

Find out how our donations have directly assisted the recovery efforts in Victoria and been guided by the Jewish values of Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

JCCU March Plenum
Monday 2nd March 2020 – 8pm
Beth Weizmann Community Centre – Auditorium
305 Hawthorn Rd Caulfield South 3162



The Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal - FEEDBACK

Join us at the JCCV March Plenum

Keynote Address by Ian Davis,
Organising Committee member.

HOW the funds are being allocated

WHERE the direct benefits are being achieved

WHY the Jewish community has responded so generously in one voice

Monday 2nd March at 8pm.

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre,
304 Hawthorn Rd Caulfield South.

Thank you to the Jewish community
for your generosity and unified support.

www.jccv.org.au

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Community Sport, Minister for Youth

Glynis Lipson, Chairperson Magen David Adom

MOR's fight against COVID-19 in Israel

Zoom link <http://tiny.cc/wuxnpz> Meeting ID: 495 206 9553 | Password: 639459





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy Fetter

The power of community engagement has helped boost people's morale during a difficult 2020. As bushfires and the pandemic impacted the social, emotional, financial, and spiritual life of Victorians, the JCCV identified priority areas to support and advocate for the Jewish community with purpose and dedication in a year of unprecedented challenges.

The JCCV has a proud history of uniting the community. In 2020, virtual communication became the "new norm" and ensured our community remained updated, valued and respected with a renewed focus on collaboration, community, connection and culture.

Collaboration

This year working with our affiliates to strengthen our reach and relevance has been a key priority. The JCCV expanded our educational programs in Child Protection, Multicultural Dialogue and Spiritual Health, developed curriculum of the YAP-Youth Alcohol Wellness Program and reviewed Holocaust teaching and learning resources. We have strengthened links with specialist affiliates and attracted more attendees through collaboration and shared messaging.

Working together with our affiliates to advance our educational messages and professional development sessions has been an inclusive and meaningful model.

I particularly wish to thank Jewish Care, Maccabi Victoria, The Ark Centre and Jewish Holocaust Centre for working on specific projects with the JCCV this year for the Victorian Jewish community.

Our bonds with Local and State Government and Victoria Police have never been greater. Owing to the impact of Covid-19 in Victoria, the JCCV has been directly involved in regular meetings and consultative planning sessions to share knowledge about the Jewish community and raise issues regarding relevant messaging, local antisemitic incidents, raised awareness regarding Covid-19 grant opportunities, social welfare and security initiatives to assist members of the Jewish community affected socially, emotionally, medically and financially.

We have worked closely with the Community Security Group – CSG, and thank them for their exceptional efforts to advise the entire community about current Covid-19 restrictions, security, best practice and outcomes for every sector of the Jewish community on a regular basis.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT cont.

Community

The united approach of the Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal reconnected our community through empathy and generosity. The JCCV continues to directly assist with the coordination, management and distribution of the allocations with the Appeal Organising Committee. I thank David Smorgon, OAM, Ruth Alter, Ian Davis and Fiona Geminder for their trust and belief in the JCCV to represent the Victorian Jewish Community with professionalism and integrity.

A "Back to School" program was set up with St Vincent de Paul to assist children with learning materials, clothing and counselling services for the year ahead. I represented the Organising Committee at the St Vincent de Paul Educational Scholarships Committee, predominately funded by the Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal. This evaluated and recommended 31 distributions to senior students applying for tertiary studies in 2021 directly impacted by the effects of the bushfires in 2019/2020.

The Committee has also partnered with Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund; Blazeaid Inc; Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal; Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife; Man from Snowy River Bush Festival Community and authorised the renovation of the Cudgewa Community Hall in the Upper Murray this year. The JCCV continues to work closely with the Committee to ensure the remaining funds are allocated appropriately with purpose and transparency.

As a community, we have clearly honoured the values of Tzedakah and

Tikum Olam supporting the recovery of the rural community, with a sense of shared responsibility, heightened by the compounded effect of the pandemic on rural Victorian communities.

Not only did the Victorian Jewish community come together in solidarity and determination as a result of this Appeal, but many have now re-engaged with communal programs, including many JCCV affiliate organisations, and raised their sense of belonging and identifying with the Jewish community.

A highlight in 2020 has been interest-based forums via zoom which have strengthened the value of Jewish community relationships and helped to reduce social isolation, particularly for those living alone. A focus on Spiritual Health and Wellness sessions to support mental health concerns has been undertaken with the assistance of Spiritual Health Association funding. Community friends have joined guest speaker presentations in record numbers with the convenience of online sessions at home and despite missing traditional face to face gatherings, have been inspired and uplifted by our range of 18 presentations.



COMING TOGETHER AS ONE COMMUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT cont.

Advocacy for the Jewish Community with the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Multi-Faith Advisory Group has been extremely active this year. The JCCV has worked closely with the Victorian Multicultural Commission on a daily and weekly basis to be briefed on urgent crisis information regarding the pandemic. I have regularly participated in group online meetings with Commissioners, Ministers, and representatives from over 50 multicultural organisations to serve the interests of the Victorian Jewish Community with one voice.

The importance of broad community involvement and building social cohesion paths have escalated this year. We have been constantly focused on protecting and supporting our community's regular rhythm of life, whilst being faced with evolving pandemic related restrictions on all religious ceremonies and services, impacting across our daily routines.

Connection

Bringing people together through virtual platforms has effectively connected our community and boosted our morale in a Covid-19 world. The JCCV had to quickly adapt in early 2020 to online communication in place of traditional styled meetings and events. Our small but dedicated staff coordinated every aspect of hosting online Plenum and Executive meetings, guest presentations, educational sessions and discussions and delivered reliable and professional services to our growing number of attendees. I sincerely thank Hilary McMahon and Anat Aloni for their dedicated support.

During 2020 the JCCV reviewed the purpose of the What's Nu newsletter and as a result, increased the thematic messaging content, promotion of affiliates and frequency. Not only is this an important communication platform to share affiliate events, zoom sessions and Covid-19 updates, but it has evolved as the trusted JCCV voice to raise communal matters, highlight synagogue updates and encourage participation, services, awareness and inclusion. This year, 43 editions of What's Nu and 40+ CSG Covid -19 Taskforce Updates have been issued, a new record for the JCCV.

To assist seniors in our community, especially those living alone, a JCCVirtual IT guide has been created. The aim is to bridge the knowledge gap for those requiring more step by step guidance and build confidence to independently master popular virtual options to stay connected with friends and community. The JCCV is responding to inter-generational community demands and launching this project in December 2020 with follow up sessions in 2021. Younger adults will assist interested seniors to benefit from mastering basic IT skills and stay connected through new virtual platforms.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT cont.

Owing to social distancing restrictions, regular communal and commemorative events have not been possible this year. Provisional planning is underway for a revitalised calendar in 2021 with a blend of new ways to bring people together. In our “new normal” world, we are planning for a mix of virtual and personal engagements. The convenience of zoom meetings has resulted in an increase in participation numbers, whilst the importance of returning to face to face socialisation remains our shared goal.

Culture

The JCCV inspires the gift of giving. This can be displayed through dedicated voluntary service and generous donor support. Over the past six years as JCCV President, Jennifer Huppert has tirelessly headed the JCCV with a level of dedication, communal knowledge, respect and insight to advance the role of our community across Victoria, and we have been most fortunate to have Jennifer’s professional guidance during these years. Her level of expertise with members of Parliament, Commissioners, communal and multifaith leaders has been exceptional and placed the JCCV at the forefront regarding Victorian Jewish community matters.

Our Executive team are all volunteers who dedicate their time and specialist knowledge to advance the role of the JCCV. I thank every member for their communal conscience, vision and commitment to the JCCV.

Donors are the lifeline of the JCCV. As a roof body, our work is multi-faceted, and relies on the generosity of Donors, Patrons and Government Grants to sustain our organisation. Our supporters are strongly aligned with the culture and purpose of the JCCV. The financial demands are great to deliver quality programs, services, and effective advocacy. We greatly appreciate our donors and the support of our Patrons-Gandel Philanthropy, Estate of Jacob Frenkiel and Estate of Sylvia Gelman. To further strengthen our reach, I look forward to discussing new funding opportunities for those interested in the sponsorship of JCCV programs and events in 2021- 2022.

These challenging times have reignited the bonds of the Jewish community. This has been a year of uncertainty and evaluation to redefine our core services to best assist the Victorian Jewish community in a Covid-19 world. The positive culture of the JCCV family, Executive members and affiliates has generated inspiration and resilience within the Jewish community and strengthened the profile of Jewish life across Victoria.

Judy Fetter

Executive Director



MULTICULTURAL REPORT

Frances Prince

What a strange year it has been for all Victorians. It is obvious that each individual, family, workplace and organisation have faced unprecedented challenges. We have all tried to cope and adapt as best we can. In place of face-to-face meetings, discussions and events we have relied on Zoom to be our mode of communication and connection. This has certainly been the case in the multicultural and interfaith space.

Although nothing can replace face-to-face encounters, I have found that strong and trusting relationships that are well-established, continue seamlessly. With the coronavirus crisis, many communities with recent immigrant members, have been working tirelessly to inform, advise and update people about the health and legal situation. Under difficult conditions, religious leaders across diverse faiths have devoted many hours and much effort to assist and sustain those in their own communities, and beyond. Their dedication and devotion have been admirable. Jewish communal leaders and rabbis have continued to be involved in interfaith initiatives. I believe that these relationships, conversations and participation in on-line events are more important than ever.

I continue to serve as JCCV Liaison on the Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia (JCMA) Board. Over the past year JCMA has been very ably led by Reverend Ian Smith, the Executive Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches (VCC). Besides myself, the Jewish Board members are Jenny Better, Jim Cyngler and Harold Zwier. Each of them brings dedication, expertise and experience to the (virtual) table.

The JCMA held a well-attended on-line conference entitled, Kindness & Love in a Time of Separation: Perspectives From The Three Abrahamic Faiths. The speakers were lay-leaders and clergy from each of the respective faiths. The Jewish community was excellently represented by Mandi Katz and Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann. Another JCMA event was a series entitled Understanding & Interpreting Sacred Texts: Perspectives from the Three Abrahamic Faiths. During each of the three parts of this series, a faith leader explained the methodology of how their religion interprets their sacred texts. They then illustrated this methodology by teaching a few texts. Rabbi Fred Morgan elucidated for the many participants how Jews study Torah. The predominantly Christian and Muslim audience members were fascinated and delighted to learn about the Written Torah, the Oral Torah, Midrash, commentaries and more.

In my on-going role as Co Vice-President of the Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV) I continue to liaise with leaders from a wide variety of religious communities. Together, we try to work towards a Victoria exemplifying multicultural values. An example of this has been a dialogue with Hon Jason Wood MP, the Federal Assistant Minister Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs. I have co-opted a young member of the Jewish community to the FCCV Board, in order to have the voice of youth represented in this forum. Ms Nomi Kaltmann, a lawyer and Jewish communal activist, has already made her mark on the Board and earned the respect and admiration of its members.

MULTICULTURAL REPORT cont.

This year, the Victorian State Government has made Holocaust education compulsory for all students in Years 9 and 10. In preparation for the induction of this policy, a detailed and high-standard curriculum was commissioned by the government. The State Education Department together with individuals from the Jewish community have worked tirelessly together to produce this curriculum and related teaching resources. It has been my privilege to be a member of the Holocaust Education Expert Working Group, representing the JCCV.

I'd like to thank Jennifer Huppert for her leadership and direction, Judy Fetter for her interfaith involvements and counsel and all Executive members for their teamwork, brainstorming and advice.

Frances Prince
Multicultural & Interfaith Portfolio



YOUTH ALCOHOL WELLNESS PROGRAM REPORT

Anat Aloni

YAP – YOUTH ALCOHOL WELLNESS PROGRAM is an interactive and research-based wellbeing program aimed at preventing and minimising the risk of alcohol and other drug-related harm.

Due to COVID outbreak and increasing uncertainty in the schools, regarding the upcoming months we have continued our plan to use the second part of 2020 to focus on educational program development, implementation and assessment. The program not only includes facts about alcohol and other drugs and their effects, but also integrates skills development training to build and improve behaviours in critical areas, such as communication, emotion development and social competence.

Owing to the rapidly changing landscape for teens, the heightened awareness of anxiety and social isolation especially during COVID-19, YAP was adapted to benefit youth moving from the strict social distancing restrictions in 2020 to easing back to a new pattern of social interaction in 2021.

Better equipped to help teens to manage challenging times, the program now delivers added opportunities to identify substance abuse and the emotional impact of the pandemic on our youth. Adapted to ensure continued relevance, YAP focuses on strengths, and through guidance on practical actions they can take to help feel empowered, safe and healthy.

As the COVID period evolves, teens will be feeling anxious about more things, for some a whole new set of concerns than before the outbreak. We have spent time researching the current situation and how it might be different for teens, as well as interviewed

parents sharing challenges and concerns as we look ahead to the easing of the COVID-19 crisis. Adolescents are risk takers at the best of times, and there is a strong possibility, that this behaviour will increase after the COVID pandemic and so parents are even more keen for these sessions to occur.

Whilst maintaining YAP core focus on preventing and minimising the risks of alcohol and other drug-related harm, YAP's aims have now been broadened and redesigned to encompass issues of resilience, mental health and general holistic well-being, ready for implementation in 2021 with a refreshed focus, reach and branding to better engage with our youth at different stages of growth and development.

The key aims of YAP Wellness Program are to:

1. Preventing and minimising the risk of alcohol and other drug-related harm
2. Providing students with skills to support self-reliance and making informed choices
3. Establishing the building blocks to positive mental health
4. Combining practice in social skills with evidence-informed knowledge
5. Enabling students to develop strategies to identify and manage risky situations, and
6. Promoting positive and collaborative relationships.

While the program can be customised and tailored to meet the school's needs and developmental level of the students, it is

YOUTH ALCOHOL WELLNESS PROGRAM REPORT

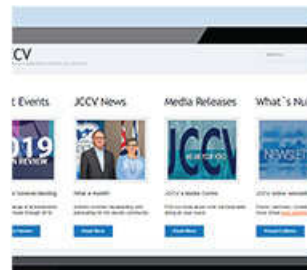
designed to be delivered in student and parent sessions to be most effective in the short and longer term.

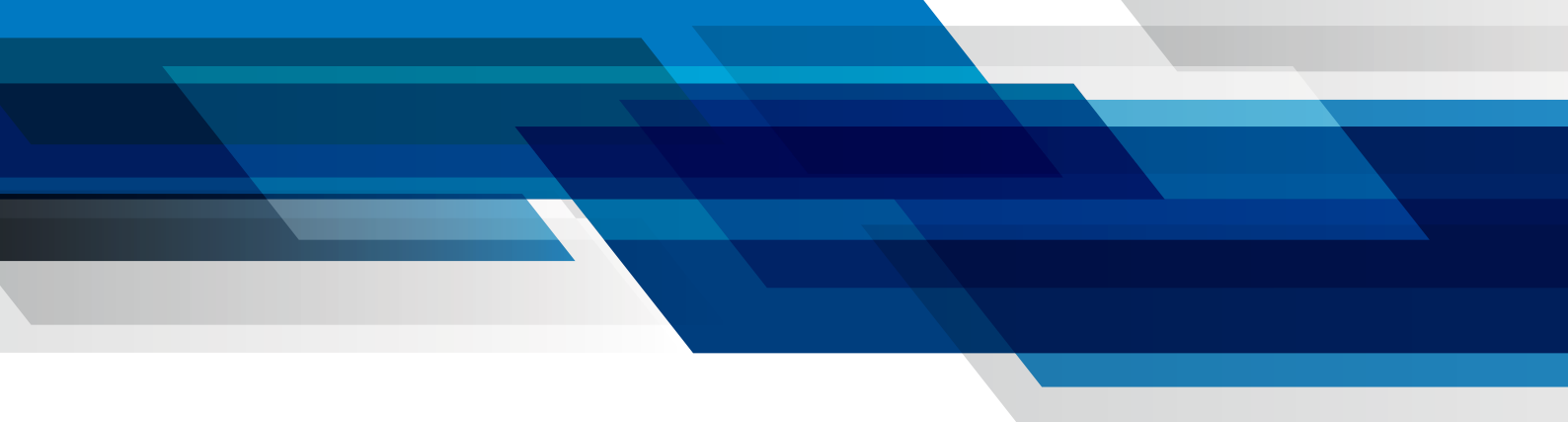
The JCCV recognises the generous support of Gandel Philanthropy and the involvement of Frenkiel Estate for the review and implementation of the YAP program.

Anat Aloni
Project Manager - YAP Wellness Program









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CONTACT US



Beth Weizmann Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Road Caulfield South
Victoria 3162



Tel 03 9272 5642



Email info@jccv.org.au



www.jccv.org.au



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