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# INFORMATION

ISSUE 4

VAJEX Australia Newsletter

April 2016

## THE NEW VICTORIAN JEWISH WWI & WWII MEMORIAL

- 1914 - 1918
- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| AARONS     | MAURICE I.   |
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| ANSSELL    | HERBERT A.   |
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| BARNARD    | SYDNEY H.    |
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| FINE       | GORDON       |
| FRANKEL    | SIMIE        |
| FREEDMAN   | ZAVEL E.     |
| FROMER     | HARRY        |

THE MEMORIAL WAS UNVEILED BY  
MAJGEN JEFFREY V ROSENFIELD AM OBE KSTJ

CONSECRATED BY  
RABBI HAZELI GENESIE

ESTABLISHED BY  
DR JUDY LANDAU  
PRESIDENT VAJEX AUSTRALIA

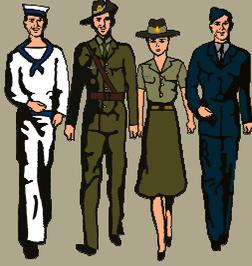
15 November 2015  
(3 Kislev 5775)

LEST WE FORGET

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HONORARY AUDITOR TO VAJEX AUSTRALIA INC



## FAREWELL FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

BY DR JUDY LANDAU

“It wasn’t meant to be like this.” These words were spoken by my precious daughter when we found out her devastating medical diagnosis. The happily married mother of six children, 13 year old triplets, plus a ten, six and three year old, Renée (היא בת יהודית מרים) is known as Super Girl. It is with sadness that I have to step down when there was so much more to do, but for now I am needed by my family to hold them close as the fight against this monster begins.

Last year was quite a wild ride for VAJEX Australia and I feel that a significant legacy has been left for the Jewish Community. We reached heights that we didn’t imagine possible and the teamwork of the Board was exceptional.

We jumped from the 2015 AGM straight into the Centenary of ANZAC Commemoration with our Guest of Honour, The Hon Tim Fischer AC. The number attending was inspiring as many who have not come in the past joined with us to honour and remember our own.

The 28th June saw three major events. The launch of the joint WWI exhibition with Jewish Museum Australia, the Birth of the ANZAC Spirit service at St Kilda Hebrew Congregation and the launch of our updated website. Massive amounts of organisation were involved and everything ran seamlessly. Many high ranking VIPs supported us with their attendance and VAJEX Australia was firmly put on the map of the military and wider communities as a professional and dignified presence.

The August 2015 pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance was so well attended that we ran out of programs and seating. The Shrine volunteers have spread the word that our service is one not to be missed. We are seen as the association who gets military protocol correct.

Next came the pièce de résistance. The Unveiling and Consecration of the new WWI & WWII Victorian Jewish Memorial. What a journey that was on its own. The Book of Remembrance Reception that followed was memorable with The Hon Ted Baillieu our keynote speaker. The new venue at the Function Room at the Caulfield RSL and the new lighter milchig menu were a big hit with the membership.

I now look back on that year and wonder how it was all possible with such a massive workload. The answer is by taking one step at a time and running at a pace to match the deadlines. At times it was exhilarating and other times exhausting.



Enormous amounts of research was undertaken to get the names for the memorial as correct as possible and this alone, pushed into the wee hours for many months.

Thanks to Ian Mansfield who is standing in the gap as Chairman until a replacement President can be found for 2016. Thanks also to the elected Board members for giving your time as we continue to honour the memories of those who died so that we could live freely in this wonderful country. We also remember those who have passed away after their service finished.

Members, please support the new Chairman and his Board. They will work long and hard representing you and to further promote the association. There is much that goes on behind the scenes and words of encouragement go a long way.

I will still be here as Webmaster and Editor of PARADE and InFormation. All the graphic design work will still come out of my computer and assistance in every way will be given to help the Board as they carry on without me. Ian and the Board will have my strong presence behind the scenes and VAJEX Australia will continue from strength to strength.

Let’s hope that I can get to some of our events so that we can join together, as before, to remember our fallen.

Thanks to the membership for your support and understanding in releasing me at almost no notice before the AGM.

LEST WE FORGET

## MAKING OF THE NEW MEMORIAL

BY DR JUDY LANDAU

Advanced Stone was commissioned by the President, Judy Landau of VAJEX Australia to build the Victorian Jewish War Memorial to commemorate the lives lost in the first and second world wars.



This difficult task was made easy by Judy Landau's precise and detailed planning.

Thank you Judy. It was a pleasure working with you, the time and hands on dedication was truly the reason for a fantastic outcome.

Your passion and dedication to this project was truly inspiring and we at Advanced Stone are grateful for the opportunity to work with you.

Kind regards,  
Stephen Papal  
Manager

*Advanced Stone*

03 9357 6990

[www.advancedstone.com.au](http://www.advancedstone.com.au)

### From our Website Home Page since 28 June 2015:

An announcement was made in the weeks leading up to the Centenary of ANZAC by Judy Landau, President of VAJEX Australia. She stated that it gave her great delight to announce that VAJEX Australia (Victorian Association of Jewish Ex & Servicemen & Women Australia) has successfully raised the required funds to build a new Victorian Jewish WWI & WWII Memorial after the style of the historic memorial located in the Jewish section of the Melbourne General Cemetery. After an extensive two year process, Judy has single-handedly sought letters of support, raised the funds, and obtained approval from the City of Port Phillip.

The original Victorian Jewish Memorial built in 1924 by the Chevra Kadisha contains the names of 79 WWI & 56 WWII servicemen who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Judy researched all the names for the new memorial and was shocked to find many WWI and WWII names were either:

- not Jewish
- had no known connection with Victoria
- didn't exist; no casualty found

Photographs of all Jewish Victorian servicemen and women of all eras, both fallen and returned, would be gratefully received as Judy is working on a

collection for the Victorian Jewish Nominal Roll. Additional names found during the research will be added to the new memorial.

#### Donors

- The Pratt Foundation
- Department of Veterans' Affairs through Melbourne Ports
- Eva Besen AO & Marc Besen AC

The Gandel Group funded much of the World War II research. The project would have been significantly delayed without their generosity. Thank you to all our donors!

### The Story

November 2011 was the last Remembrance Day Commemoration held at the Melbourne General Cemetery at our Historic Memorial known as "The Obelisk." Our ageing veterans found it too far to travel.

After more than two years research by President Judy Landau, it was proven that 15 WWI names on the Historic Memorial were not Jewish or were not found as casualties. Therefore will not be included on the new Memorial. Those on the Historic Memorial who, during the research period, were not found to have a connection with Victoria, will be included on the new Memorial as there is a possibility that the connection was there but not found at the time. Twenty two newly discovered WWI names will be added.

It was proven that one WWII name on the Historic Memorial was not Jewish. Therefore will not be not included on the new Memorial. Those on the Historic Memorial who, during the research period, were not found to have a connection with Victoria, will be included on the new Memorial as there is a possibility that the connection was there but not found at the time. Fifteen newly discovered WWII names will be added.

A plaque remembering the civilian Jews lost in WWII and those killed in the Holocaust and Kristallnacht, which preceded WWII, will also be placed on the Memorial.

The Memorial will be unveiled within a week of the 77th anniversary of Kristallnacht and within days of the 97th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice of WWI. The unveiling and consecration will be held on Sunday 15 November 2016 at 11am.

We Will Remember Them





## UNVEILING THE NEW MEMORIAL

ADDRESS BY MAJGEN JEFFREY ROSENFELD AM OBE KSTJ

Firstly, I am sure we are all in shock over the terrible atrocities that took place in Paris yesterday. Our sympathies go out to the French people for the murder of over 150 civilians and the injuring of over 300 more by ISIS terrorists. We stand in solidarity with the French people at this time of crisis and grief. French President Francois Hollande has responded resolutely and vowed that France will strike back against these terrorists. Vive La France! Our Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday, 'protecting freedom is a global battle' as Australia continues its war against terror. It is not going to be over any time soon.

Every year from 1929 - 2011, VAJEX Australia had held a moving Remembrance Service at the Melbourne General Cemetery at Carlton where the Historic Obelisk containing the names of some of the Victorian Jewish Soldiers (and as research has shown some who were not Jewish) who died in WWI and WWII.

Unfortunately as many of our members have become older and more frail, the numbers attending had dwindled. Our President had the brilliant idea of creating a replica memorial and placing it in a park in this part of Melbourne. The City of Port Phillip Council and Heritage Victoria gave their permission. Applications were made to the Pratt Foundation, the Anzac Centenary Committee and Department of Veterans' Affairs for funding. I wish to particularly acknowledge the support of Mr Michael Danby MP the Member for Melbourne Ports (the electorate in which this Park is located) for enthusiastically supporting this endeavour. This was the first Anzac Centenary project to be approved in his electorate. When Marc Besen AC & Eva Besen AO became aware of the project, they also donated a generous amount.

Now we can have our annual services here and we hope that the numbers attending, including student representatives from all the Jewish Schools and their parents and teachers, will progressively grow.

I particularly wish to congratulate VAJEX Australia President Dr Judy Landau for her energy and persistence in seeing this project to completion. Judy has also done a magnificent job investigating all the names and adding some who were missing.

I am delighted and deeply honoured to be invited to unveil this magnificent Victorian Jewish WWI & WWII Memorial.

Myanmar has just been through its first democratic election in over 25 years, having been through a military dictatorship. You can see the joy on the peoples' faces on the television news as they



realise they are on the cusp of gaining freedoms which they previously have not enjoyed. Democracy is starting to take root. Sadly though, many countries today are still ruled by dictators or military juntas. Australia and its allies are currently at war with ISIS which is the most extreme example of a fascist dictatorship in the world today.

Australians enjoy freedom, democracy and the rule of law and I am sure we all believe our way of life is worth protecting. Our way of life has been hard won by our soldiers, sailors and airmen. I also recognise the many women who have served. Wearing the Australian uniform is the highest calling of a citizen and means that the individual is ultimately willing to lay down his or her life to serve Australia and preserve our way of life.

We are here to remember the courage and sacrifice of those Australians particularly the Jewish Australians who have fought to preserve our freedom and democracy and were injured or indeed paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Many Jews served in WWI. British Jews had a high rate of per capita participation with 41,000 serving out of a total population of 280,000. In 1914 there was a total population of 20,000 Jews in Australia. Of about 10,000 males only about 3000 would have been fit to serve. In fact, 2000 Australian and 200 New Zealand Jews voluntarily enlisted in WWI.

This is an incredible contribution, as nearly every able-bodied young Jewish male enlisted. The loyalty patriotism and commitment of the Jews cannot be questioned just as it remains so today.

More than 200 of the 2200 ANZAC Jews were killed on active duty and a large percentage were wounded. About 200 held commissioned rank and 100 received honours and distinctions. LT Leonard M Keysor from 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, NSW was awarded a Victoria Cross at Gallipoli "For conspicuous bravery

## UNVEILING THE NEW MEMORIAL CONTINUED

and devotion to duty at Lone Pine”.

The outstanding senior soldier of WWI was General Sir John Monash. Of course many Australian Jews also served in WWII and Australian Jews have served in all the wars and conflicts we have been involved in since WWII.

This year we commemorated the Centenary of the commencement of the Gallipoli Campaign. Let us remember the fallen and all those who served on Gallipoli and the other battlefields of WWI and indeed in all our wars. Let us also remember all our prisoners of war who suffered so terribly particularly in WWII. Let us also appreciate what they have all achieved for us.

We are the guardians of this history and the precious memories. We have a heavy responsibility to those who served our Nation to preserve this legacy and to commemorate it annually as we are now doing. ‘They shall not grow old as we that are

left grow old’. ‘Lest we forget’.

This remembrance of our history forged in battle will make us all stronger as a Nation. Many Australians are discovering our wartime history for the first time during this centenary commemorative period and this remembrance. I believe this recognition of our past forged in battle is vital for Australia’s future.

We should never take for granted the defence of our Nation. Let us remember what all Australian sailors, soldiers and airmen including the many Australian Jews have sacrificed to allow Australia to grow in peace and prosperity as a vibrant multicultural democracy. Let us particularly remember those men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in wars past.

May they rest in peace.











BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION 2015  
ADDRESS BY THE HON TED BAILLIEU

Ted Baillieu was born on 31 July 1953 in Melbourne.

He studied architecture at Melbourne University and throughout his public life has retained a keen interest in planning.

Before entering Parliament, Ted was a Director of Knight Frank for 20 years; a Trustee of the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Trust; a Board Member of Tourism Victoria, and a Partner with Mayne & Baillieu architects.

He has also served as a Board Member of the Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

In 1999 Ted became the Member for Hawthorn. On entering Parliament he held a number of shadow ministries including Tertiary Education and Training, Gaming, Planning and the Arts.

Ted was elected Leader of the Victorian Liberal Party on 8 May 2006. Following the Victorian State Election on Saturday 27 November 2010, he served as Victoria's 46<sup>th</sup> Premier and Minister for Arts from 2 December 2010 to 6 March 2013. He retired from parliament at the 29 November 2014 Victorian State Election.

Ted is passionate about improving the lives of Victorians and has a clear plan to encourage a growing competitive economy, make our services work, provide a government Victorians can trust, foster strong families and vibrant communities, secure our water supplies and create a healthy environment.

As a former architect and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, Ted uses his knowledge and experience to meet Victoria's planning challenges and build a better future for Victorian families.

Ted has also actively pursued a very significant International Engagement Strategy to provide increased opportunities for Victorian business to grow our economy. He is the recipient of the 2013 Ashoka Medal from the Australia India Business Council Victoria in recognition of his contribution to Australia-India relations; and the Asian Leadership Network of Australia's 2014 Special Public Service Award.

Ted is Chair of the Victorian Government's ANZAC Centenary Committee – coordinating Victoria's commemorations - and is passionate about connecting as many Victorians as possible with our Original ANZACs. He served as an Honorary Ambassador for the Victorian



Government's *80 Days of Melbourne* initiative during

which Victoria hosted an unprecedented number of internationally recognised sporting, arts, cultural and trade events between 9 January and 29 March 2015.

Well known for his love of swimming, Ted tries to find time for a few laps or a swim in the ocean. Ted and his wife Robyn have three children.

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Thank you very much. It is an honour to be here – very much so in the presence of so many members of the Jewish community. I have to say as an observation as a member of the community, as a politician and as a political leader, there is no community in Victoria or arguably Australia, that understands community and looks after community better than the Jewish community. The Jewish community in that way is a model for so many others. I congratulate each and every one of you. I'd like to acknowledge Judy Landau the President, Lady Cowen of course a loving and living legend, Jeffrey Rosenfeld the patron in chief, Jack Smorgon. I'm not going to go through everyone else in the normal way because Judy did all of that. Let me simply say with friendship I acknowledge Ben, Ruby, Simon, John and Peter, Bob and Gary. Mike Wells, David, former colleague Jennifer Huppert, Brenda, Margaret, all the families here. All of those who have attended, and thank you for attending.

I think we first of all have to acknowledge the presence of Morrie Smith today. Morrie is 192 years old today. Sorry 92 years old. Well done! You don't look a day over 50 Morrie. I also acknowledge the work that VAJEX Australia does. It's an extraordinary organisation. You can see that in the passion that was evident at the park today and in all the work that VAJEX undertakes. Congratulations

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION 2015 CONTINUED

Judy and all of those on the Board and those who have preceded, going all the way back to the First World War, and of course to John Monash in particular.



I take the opportunity to also acknowledge the Jewish Museum. Your joint exhibition with them, which is on there now – True Jews and Patriots – is a fantastic exhibition. If you haven't seen it, I recommend you go and have a look. There is a brochure attached to what you received today, and there is a photograph on the inside of the back cover of 3 boys in the First World War, smiling. It is a set piece photograph, as so many of our Original ANZACs had; it is dated the 18th August 1917 and it has a caption which simply says "Out for jokes". Tragically it was anything but. The 18th August 1917 was the day before my mother's father was mortally wounded in Ypres and he is buried at Vlamertinghe, near Ypres. It wasn't a joke, it was real.

I join Jeffrey and all the others who acknowledged the events overnight, and over the last couple of nights in Paris. What a tragedy. What an horrendous act. I join with everyone else in saying we must stand together with the rest of the world and fight this off. What a sadness it is that one hundred years after the folly of the First World War, the folly continues in that part of the world. It says something about humanity, something about our failure to learn. Perhaps it says something about the times, but we need to understand how

important it is to not let go, to not turn our backs, to not run away but to actually, for the sake of humanity, push back against this evil.

Today we have honoured those who have passed away in the last twelve months and rightfully so. Thank you to VAJEX Australia for doing that, and on behalf of all the families, thank you. We are also honouring those who served one hundred years ago. Winston Churchill, 96 years ago, after the First World War, made some remarks about Australia and the First World War. He said amongst other things, *in one hundred, two hundred and three hundred years' time, Australians will look back at these events* and he said, *every family will seek to make some connection to those who served, to the places and to the events*. He was thinking about the act of commemoration in three hundred years' time. We've just dealt with the commemoration for those who passed away in the last twelve months. We are collectively dealing with the commemoration of events one hundred years ago.

In that respect, it is important to understand what commemoration means and how we do it. Last year when I was giving a presentation at a school to Year 10's, we got to question time at the end and the first hand went up out of a couple of hundred independent school children, otherwise perfectly good kids, the first hand said, *Mr Baillieu why are we bothering? This is a hundred years ago*. It's a perfectly legitimate question. Why do we bother? What has transpired over one hundred years that could lead a young boy to perfectly legitimately ask that question? We need to understand the act of commemoration. My answer to him is the same now as it was then. You have to know your history, to understand your history, to know your place in the world, to know what you have to do to maintain the lifestyle, the privileges and democracy we do have. It couldn't be more relevant than it is today. You have to understand the act of commemoration.

When we started out as the ANZAC Centenary Committee which I have the honour to Chair and it proceeded on a totally bipartisan basis. We set ourselves five objectives. Firstly, to honour those who served and sacrificed. Secondly, to educate Australians, Victorians and particularly the younger generations. Thirdly, to pass the torch to the next generation and the generations after that for three hundred years down the line. Fourthly, to leave a richer legacy; more accessible information, more understanding and we set about doing that.

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION 2015 CONTINUED

Finally, we said we need to strengthen the relationships that ensued from this conflict, whether they be with allies or those who were then enemies.

Whether it is New Zealanders, French, British, Germans, Turks or those in the Middle East. All of those you would understand straight away. They are perfectly reasonable objectives for a Centenary Committee.

Then we had to ask ourselves, how were we actually going to do that. We set ourselves some themes. First of all we said this is not going to be just about ANZAC Day 2015. But all the events that led up to the War, the events and happenings and people concerned through the War. Not just about that one day of the year. Yes, we had a big commemorative ceremony on ANZAC Day. But it is all these other things as well.

Next year there'll be a focus on the events in France, on Pozieres, on Fromelles; the year after that in the Middle East, Beersheba and others; the year after that in France. Then there will be a focus on the Peace Negotiations and the Soldier Settlement that took place. We will move through all of that.

We also said it is not a celebration. We are very careful never to use the words "we celebrate". We celebrate people's lives but we are never going to celebrate war or the horrors that ensued. We don't say it's a celebration, it's a commemoration. But how do we commemorate. I was just discussing with Lady Cowen, there is a traditional commemoration – probably a worldwide tradition – the one on the shelf. It's the one you go to every year, and repeat it every year. It says we'll have a service, we'll build a monument, we'll make an honour board, we'll produce some stories, we'll tell some stories. That is fantastic and what VAJEX Australia has done today is a beautiful thing and I'll come to that in a moment.

My observation, having been doing this for a while, is that the day after doing that, you are back to where you started. Particularly for children. They will walk past the honour boards, they will walk past the monuments. They are not drawn to the stories. The stories are vital. But if we simply tell the stories, publish the stories but no one is reading them in the future, then we will end up with a library, a metaphoric library, full of stories that are not well attended. Our focus has been of course to

undertake the commemorations, to hold the services, to tell the stories. The stories are one thing, but our focus has been to seek to connect people to those stories. A connection that will last for a lifetime particularly for kids. I think the average age in this room is probably 30 (laughter). No one's denying that (laughter). Think about this. Most of us who are baby boomers have a tendency, particularly those of us who have picked up a bit of an history bent, to supply stories to our kids and our grandkids. They say thank you very much and where does it go? On the shelf. But if you can give a child, anything up to 31, a connection which they find themselves and they own, they will have it for life.

My general proposition to you is it is much better for you to ask your children and grandchildren to find some information for you than to give some information to them. We want to make that information accessible so that they can understand it. If they pick up the threads of connection, they will have it forever. There is a chance we will get to 200 and 300 years.

How do you connect? As I said we can chronicle the stories, we can commemorate, we can hold ceremonies, we can consecrate cenotaphs and all that, but the obvious connection is a family one. A family one is pretty easy if it's immediate. Here's a little show of hands game. Hold your hand up if you can name both your parents' family names. Keep it up if you can name all four of your grandparents' family names. What about all eight of your great



grandparents' family names. What about all "16" of your great great grandparents. That is the typical reaction. Bear this in mind – your own grandparents to whom you probably feel close and attached are for your grandchildren, great great grandparents. They are part of your grandchildren's "16". Over time, family connection changes as names change. It is difficult over time. If I asked you – do you know

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION 2015 CONTINUED

the Jewish Victorians who died and participated in the Boer War, I'm not sure whether VAJEX Australia know that? You do. Crimean War – you are probably better at it than anybody else. It becomes difficult. But there is obviously family connection.

Then there are institutional connections – the schools, sporting clubs, religious bodies – and that is what VAJEX is doing so well today. That is why what was done in Burnett Gray Gardens this morning is fantastic. The institution is putting its arms around those who served albeit that it is a memorial to those who paid the ultimate price but there are all those who served as well.

Then there are occupational connections. At the moment we can't generally search our records in Australia for religion, place of birth or occupation. But as part of leaving a richer legacy, we had our first ten thousand records in Victoria, that First Convoy who left in October 1914, we had their records transcribed so we could search by occupation amongst other things. We searched the number of police officers who served for instance. I went down to the Chief Commissioner and I sat with him and asked him to tell me what he knew about the Victoria Police Officers who served in the First World War. Well there is our honour board, there are the ones who died. Yes but what about those who served? And they didn't know. We were able to hand over those records for the first ten thousand and they joined us in a re-enactment of the departure of the First Convoy and we had one serving police officer for everyone who was on that First Convoy. They have since had a round of commemorations and connection based material on the basis of their occupation. They have put their arms around some commemoration. We can now search all occupations. You'd be staggered at the different occupations there were in those First World War records. What we'd like to do, is to take that ten thousand out to the 400,000 plus records that we have in Australia. We probably hold the best World War I records of any nation. Hopefully, we will get that driven by Victoria.

Then there are the multicultural connections as well. Most Australian's wouldn't realise that our First Convoy was escorted to Egypt by the Japanese Navy. Most wouldn't realise we had Original ANZACs who were Russians, Chinese, Japanese, Chileans, Indians. Most wouldn't realise we had Jewish Original ANZACs but of course you

obviously do. We had South African Original ANZACs and those groups too are putting their arms around a commemoration. Then there are the geographical connections as well. Obviously, in Victoria we are proud of Victoria and our cities and towns. Country Victoria had extraordinary representation. There is not a town in country Victoria that you can walk through or drive through without seeing a monument. They are very good at it, because generally country communities do community very well.

But here's a thought for you. I know you are all in your 30's – have you ever thought about whether you live in a home that was once occupied by an Original ANZAC? Most Victorians haven't. Last year before I retired from Parliament, I had the opportunity to write to 1,000 constituents in Hawthorn and Camberwell, who now live in the homes once occupied by an Original ANZAC. We attached a summary of their service records. The response was extraordinary. It is my hope that we will be able soon with the help of the State Government, to put a plaque on those homes. I was able to knock on the doors of some of my constituents and say, listen I'm just here – late on a Friday night in one case, man is pulling his pants on ready to go out and he said, *oh what do you want?* I said I just wanted you to know that your home was once occupied by a boy who left in the very first group to leave Melbourne from Flinders Street. They went up by train to Sydney. He picked it up and he said, *oh my god, the house speaks again.*

Well my PA who lives in a little house in Hawthorn, has a weatherboard cottage across the road where three boys, Original ANZACs had lived. She took their records across the road and the kids who live there now were 4' tall when she started and 5' tall when she finished. They put their arms around Original ANZACs with whom their only connection was they looked out the same bedroom windows. They stood in the same garden. They'd seen the same trees. They'd walked down the same street. Kids get that better and more easily than they get my great great great uncle's second cousin's third wife. It's just the way we are.

Some of you I am sure still have many years to travel, because you are only in your 30s. Some of you will have been to Rome. Hands up who's been to Rome. Who's thrown a coin into Trevi Fountain. Why did you do it? I haven't yet met anyone who can answer that question. You do it because, in my

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION 2015 CONTINUED

view, it's a place with which you connect. No one better understands the importance of place than the broader Jewish community and in Australia, the Indigenous community. They don't talk about family so much, they talk about place. Place is a very powerful concept. We will see it a lot more as we go through the Western Front and through the Middle East.

I promised Judy I would talk for 2 hours today. I'm narrowing it down to 1 ½ hours. I simply wanted to mention three boys with whom I think you will be familiar. One, a young boy named **John Monash** – proud Jew, proud engineer, successful engineer, great General, changer of people's lives, thinker, humanitarian, arguably – certainly in my view – the greatest Australian of all time. A proud Victorian to boot. John Monash lived in half a dozen homes in Melbourne. Anybody been to any of them? Not many. He would be our most decorated member of the Jewish community. Some of his homes still exist. There's one in Clifton Street, Richmond. One in Hawthorn. One in North Melbourne. One in East Melbourne. Germana Cottage in Clifton Street, Richmond. There's nothing to mark that it was John Monash's home. We should do something about that. There was one in St George's Road, Toorak. He lived next door to my parents' home for a long time. It is now just denoted by a little court called Monash Court. Ironically, Monash University did a survey a few years ago, three or four years ago. 80% of their graduates didn't know what the name Monash meant. Now they're not the academically uninclined. These are graduates from Monash University. Familiarity has built indifference. We can rebuild that in my view. If you asked young people today what the name Monash means, it means that freeway they are stuck on, that council that gave them the parking ticket, or the university they didn't go to. There is a lot of work to do to re-elevate John Monash's name. I look forward to helping in whatever way I can to do that.



The second one I want to mention is an Original ANZAC named **James Martin**. James Martin was born on 3 January 1901 in NSW. His family moved to Melbourne and ended up living at 43 Mary Street, Hawthorn. James Martin was one of six children, the only boy in the family. He enlisted in April 1915 at the age of 14. He told his parents if they didn't let him go, he'd go anyway and never write to them. You can look at his documents and see his parents' signatures on the forms saying he was over 18. He left on a ship called the Berrima in June 1915. Ironically, my grandfather was on board the same ship. Cutting a long story short, they both made it to Gallipoli and James, or Jimmy as he was known, tragically died off Gallipoli in October 1915 at the age of 14 years and 9 months. He is listed in his official records as an 18 year old, Church of England religion. Our boys, when they enlisted – and this will come as a terrible shock to you – didn't always tell the truth. They fibbed about their addresses, they fibbed about their ages, they fibbed about occupations. This will come as a great shock to you, they misspelt things and so did the enlisting officers. Judy and I were just discussing this, it's a torture to get the records right. Judy's done some amazing forensic work between the original cemetery memorial to the one you saw today. I think she has it right. It's interesting; Jimmy Martin lived at 43 Mary Street, Hawthorn. There were 12 other boys who enlisted from Mary Street, Hawthorn. 43 Mary Street is still there. Those who occupy it, know its history very well. They treat his memory, as does the local school, with some distinction.

Down the road and also on the Berrima ironically, **Frank Francis** and **Edward Francis** both of Pleasant Road, Hawthorn; a 23 year old and 27 year old who left on the same ship as Jimmy and my grandfather, both killed in action on the same day in 1916. With all of those homes there is an invitation for somebody in that street to say there is something special here. Jimmy Martin was the youngest Original ANZAC to die. What's interesting about Jimmy Martin is that his father changed his

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION 2015 CONTINUED

name to Martin from Marx, because he was Jewish. Came to Australia from New Zealand, sadly he feared discrimination, and changed his name to Martin. I don't profess to know whether that qualifies him to be Jewish or not. Some people have written to us and said it does. I just make the comment. So many of those boys who enlisted, who were Jewish, didn't say so. So a search by religion leads you to a lot of other painstaking research which Judy has done in her case. You will see on your list **Sam Bishop** on the back of the brochure you received today. A Jewish boy who went to a Jewish school in the UK, but said on his form that he was Church of England. There are many others like that as well. Dealing with this is difficult.

Let's just twist it around. We've just dealt with a couple of names. What about a place. Let's take a street – some of you might know Burnett Street, St Kilda. We were at Burnett Gray Park this morning. I don't know if there's a connection but interestingly the Park is spelt Grey at the Park and Gray on the program. (*Aside from Judy Landau: It's Gray. Council made a mistake.*) I'm with Judy, but I note there's a Burnett Street and a Gray St, St Kilda and he was a councillor at St Kilda so who knows.

At Burnett Street, St Kilda there happened to be 14 Original ANZACs from that little short street. Only about 40 or 50 homes in Burnett Street one hundred years ago. It's on the brow of the hill, overlooking Albert Park behind Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. The first boy to leave Burnett Street was a young lad named **John Heggie** who enlisted in August 1914. You can actually walk through their enlistment dates and see who had an influence on whom. Of the 14, two didn't come back. **Francis O'Dwyer**, the twelfth to leave and killed in July 1918. The other you might be a little more familiar with if you turn to the back page of your program, **Maurice Kozminsky** who died of wounds in August 1916.

Now Maurice was on that monument today and he's Jewish, but he wasn't the only Jewish boy from Burnett Street. His brother **Cliff (Kozminsky)** enlisted and came back. **Claude Goldberg** is a 20 year old who enlisted in February 1916. **Oscar Bennett** a 20 year old who enlisted in July 1915 and came back as well. Both made it all the way through. There were 14 boys who lived in Burnett Street – four were Jewish, six were Church of England, three Catholic and one Presbyterian by declaration. Whether it was true or not you don't know. But there's an opportunity, perhaps for VAJEX, perhaps

for the Jewish community, perhaps for the Jewish Museum, to say let's put our arms around Burnett Street and give the children who live there now an opportunity to commemorate in their own way, to commemorate those who shared the homes they live in. All but one of those homes they lived in is still there including the glorious Marion Terrace – and if you haven't seen Marion Terrace, it's on the north side of Burnett Street. Neighbours went and the kids who live there now, can pick up those threads and own that. If we do that, we'll have even more people with their arms around those who served and sacrificed. If we do that, we'll get great understanding of our position in the world, the sacrifices that are made. Perhaps we'll have a force majeure greater than those who seek to undermine us on a day to day basis.

If I can simply conclude by remembering a hundred years ago today. Lord Kitchener, with whom John Monash became familiar first in 1911 at the war games in Seymour and Avenel when 10,000 militia marched into Seymour and Avenel under John Monash's command in 1911. Kitchener was out here inspecting the Empire troops. They became "matey" at that time and of course Monash became familiar with Sir Ian Hamilton in February 1914 at the war games in Lilydale.

But on the 15 November 1915, having the day before and the day before that visited Gallipoli for the first time, Kitchener cabled London and said – *the country is much more difficult than I imagined and the Turkish positions look like nature fortresses, which if not taken by surprise at first, could be held against very serious attacks by even larger forces than have been engaged.* I think Kitchener was basically saying – "oops" – and in fact it was that cable that led the British command to say they were going to pull out instead. Two days before Kitchener had told the troops at Gallipoli – and this is literally one hundred years ago to the day – *you have done splendidly, better than I thought you would.* Heavens above!

We have a challenge on our hands. We need to enlist the minds and the convictions of everybody in our country and around the Western world, particularly young people and the next generation and the generation after that. The way to do that – don't give them the stories; ask them to go and find them for you. Thanks very much for listening and congratulations again to VAJEX Australia.













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# UPCOMING *Events*




**C**ity of Glen Eira ANZAC Ceremony  
 Caulfield Park  
**Sunday 17 April 2016 at 2.30 pm**



**V**AJEX Australia ANZAC Commemoration &  
 The Private Gregory Sher Shield Awards  
 City of Glen Eira Auditorium  
 Cnr Hawthorn and Glen Eira Roads, Caulfield South  
**Sunday 1 May 2016 at 10.30 am**

## *Guest of Honour*

SQD/LDR Peter Meehan  
 RAAF Specialist Reserve  
 Journalist & Broadcaster



**S**hrine of Remembrance Pilgrimage  
 Our Chaplain, Rabbi Dovid Gutnick will lead the prayers. The VAJEX Australia Service at the Shrine is held on the first Sunday in August each year. The VAJEX Australia flag will be raised at the Shrine's forecourt.  
 Form up in the Sanctuary at 11.45am  
**Sunday 7 August 2016 at 12 noon**

**MEDALS TO BE WORN AT ALL FUNCTIONS**