

2021 End of year update

2021 has been a year of challenges and opportunities for the Israel for Youth Foundation.

I'm thankful of the support provided by my fellow directors and our founding donors, who are leading real change in the Jewish communities of Australia.

We are proud to support the United Jewish Education Board's Year 10 Israel Trip and know that our efforts are validated when we receive messages from Jewish parents in remote communities of Australia, desperate for their children to meet other Jewish teenagers. Here's a quick round up of what has been, what is happening and what is planned.

With Chanukah commencing on Sunday evening, on behalf of our Board, I wish you Chag Chanukah Sameach. Like the miracle of Chanukah, sometimes even the smallest actions we all do can result in the greatest outcomes, and we look forward to supporting more children experiencing Israel, getting a better sense of their Jewish identity, and becoming active members of their communities.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday break.

Kind regards,

Ronn Bechler President Israel for Youth Foundation Inc. www.israelforyouthfoundation.org.au

Tax deductibility & building our fund

We announced it in June, but we're happy to repeat the news. In February, the Israel for Youth Foundation's application for tax deductibility was approved. We are accredited through the Council of Jewish Education in Schools (CJES) because we are

supporting an approved education program.

We are very grateful for the donors who have already jumped on board with our Foundation. We would welcome discussions with familes or organisations interested in getting involved in our initiative - either supporting places on the program for individual students or helping to build our fund, in a 3-5 year commitment.

With an increasing population of Jewish students moving into non-Jewish schools, this is a real and

tangible opportunity to connect sixteen year olds from across the country with each other, experience all that Israel has to offer, and increase the chances of them become active participants in the Australian Jewish community.



Speaker: Rabbi Zsolt Balla

Jewish identity is core to what the Israel for Youth Foundation is all about. In the absence of Trips, we are pleased to have Rabbi Zsolt Balla speaking, on **Sunday 5 December**, about his experiences.

Rabbi Balla is the Chief Rabbi of Leipzig. He was born in Hungary and until the age of 9, didn't know that he was Jewish or that his mother was a Holocaust survivor. It will

be fascinating to hear his journey - embracing his Jewish identity, deciding to become a Rabbi, fighting anti-Semitism and then most recently, joining Germany's military as the first Chief Rabbi in 90 years since Hitler expelled Jewish soldiers.

The live event is taking place by zoom in an interview format on **Sunday 5 December at 7.30pm AEDT**. It should run for 45 minutes and is free to register: <u>https://israelforyouthfoundation.org.au/events</u>



UJEB Year 10 Israel Trip: Dec 2022

Plans are well and truly underway for the Year 10 Israel Trip in 2022. NSW's Board of Jewish Education run the program in partnership with Victoria's United Jewish Education Board. Together, they take applications from all Jewish students in non-Jewish schools from around Australia.

The result so far? Over 100 students have registered interest. They represent over 40 different schools from across QLD, NSW, VIC, SA & WA.



What about the students in Year 10 & 11 who missed out on their trips?

It's been a tough couple of years, none more so than for students in their senior years of high school. There are discussions taking place for those students currently in Year 10 & 11, who missed out going to Israel because the Trips were cancelled. All we can say is, watch this space!

