

WELCOME

If supporting a 16-year old gives the Jewish community an active member for another 70 years, then that's a great outcome.

We are delighted to provide you with our first quarterly newsletter, having been busy over the past 9 months establishing the Foundation and preparing to support our first group of Year 10 students.

The current global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has created uncertainty for all year 10 Israel trips and postponed our official launch (that had over 70 attending). However, it has not stopped us moving forward with our long-term vision of fostering the personal growth of Jewish youth in Australia by providing financial subsidies towards the cost of educational Israel programs.

Ronn Bechler,
President of the Israel for Youth
Foundation Inc.



Pictured L-R: Melbourne sisters Peri and Shaini Kuran on UJEB's 2019/2020 Israel Trip



SUPPORTING UJEB'S YEAR 10 ISRAEL TRIP

The Board of the Israel for Youth Foundation selected UJEB's Year 10 Israel Trip, for Jewish students at non-Jewish schools, as the first program to support. Many of you would know that most Australian Jewish schools provide Year 10 trips to Israel for their students. The UJEB / BJE Year 10 trip provides the same opportunity for kids at non-Jewish schools across Australia, many of whom are on the "outer" in our community.

Youth 2 Israel (Y2i) is a similar organisation covering Jewish students in NSW, Queensland and ACT, and we work very closely with them. The success Y2i has had in connecting Jewish students with Israel and most importantly, becoming more actively engaged in the Jewish community, inspired us to ensure that the rest of Australia's Jewish students have the same opportunity.

Bringing together Jewish students from across Australia provides an opportunity for them to learn and bond as they form their Jewish identity, and supports them in becoming more involved in our community upon their return. For this reason, we are asking you to be part of this life changing opportunity.

OUR GOAL

We have established and are growing an Endowment Fund that provides Grants of up to \$5,000 to enable Australian Jewish students to travel to Israel and discover its history, politics, culture and spirituality. By supporting students with an Israel experience, they will return and become more active and engaged members of our community.

Between Y2i and Israel for Youth, we want to ensure that all Jewish families across Australia are supported with this initiative for the long term.

A number of families have committed to support the program over 3 years. Some are supporting with places on the program, others for the Fund and some for both.

All donations are tax deductible.

UJEB / BJE INFORMATION EVENING

Over 100 people participated in a national UJEB / BJE Information Evening Zoom meeting held on Sunday, 26 April. Presenters included representatives from BJE, UJEB, Y2i, Israel for Youth and the program provider in Israel – Alexander Muss High School.

At this point in time, BJE and Alexander Muss High School have taken the position that the program will go ahead (7 Dec 2020 – 14 Jan 2021), but will make a final decision closer to time based on Government regulations and directives, and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the Year 10 kids is paramount.

THE STATS

While COVID-19 has created some uncertainty, families are still determining what they do:

- 45 UJEB families expressed interest in the trip
- 22 of the 45 families expressed interest in our Grant
- 16 UJEB families have formally applied to BJE to go on the trip
- 10 of these 16 families requested our Grant & 1 does not require it.

ISRAEL FOR YOUTH BECOMES JCCV AFFILIATE

In early March, Ronn Bechler presented an overview of Israel for Youth followed by a Q&A session at the JCCV Plenum. Following a recommendation from its Executive, they voted in favour of Israel for Youth becoming an Affiliate of the JCCV.



Pictured L-R: Jennifer Huppert, JCCV President, Ronn Bechler, Israel for Youth President, Sandra Jacobs, Israel for Youth Secretary & Judy Fetter, JCCV Executive Director.

PROFILES



Student: Chloe Guss

Chloe is a Year 12 student at Glen Eira Secondary College. She went on UJEB's Year 10 Israel Trip in 2018/2019, and after returning played a key leadership role in UJEB's B'nai Brith Youth Organisation (BBYO). She was selected by UJEB to take part in the BBYO International Leadership Program in the US in 2019. Together with Chloe, Noah Loven who also attended the Leadership Program and are both leaders in UJEB's BBYO, were also appointed 2020 School Captains for Glen Eira Secondary College.



Board Member: Michael Ostrobruski

Michael is a strategic and results driven Operations Manager with a career spanning 20+ years; working with local and global corporations, across the Australian and European hospitality industry. Michael is a Wesley College graduate and is also a dad to Toby who attends Caulfield South Primary School, and Arielle who attends Buddies.