



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA

Issue 2, December 2018

CHANUKAH
EDITION

"Women working together can achieve anything" - Dr Fanny Redding

VALE SYLVIA GELMAN AM MBE Z'L

We are deeply saddened at the passing of Sylvia Gelman AM MBE (z"l), our mentor and wise woman.

Sylvia was National President from 1973 to 1979, Life Governor from 1988, Honorary Life member of ICJW and NCJWA Victoria. She was also President of the National Council of Women Victoria for 3 years.

Sylvia made a significant contribution to the Jewish and general communities for over 6 decades, particularly in the areas of education and women's rights. Her wide-ranging achievements were acknowledged in being awarded an MBE, an AM, the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal, induction into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women and the JCCV Sir John Monash Award.

Sylvia was deeply loved and a great inspiration to all who knew her. These photos were taken very recently at the launch of the NCJWA Sylvia Gelman Foundation, which will award scholarships to women for education and research in the area of women's rights.

A shloshim service was held by NCJWA, NCJWA (Vic), Maccabi and Mount Scopus Memorial College. Di Hirsh spoke on behalf of NCJWA.



(l-r) Shirley Glance OAM, Sylvia Gelman (z"l), Rysia Rozen OAM, Negba Weiss-Dolev, Di Hirsh OAM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been a whirlwind few months since I stepped up to the National President's role on June 28, 2018. I was privileged to meet many wonderful women in current and past leadership roles in NCJWA and tap into their passion, aspirations and experience. Supported by a wonderful, renewed National Board and my amazing Vice-Presidents, Di Hirsh OAM and Shirley Glance OAM; we have commenced implementing our new Strategic Plan. This plan, developed during my exceptional predecessors, Sylvia Deutsch OAM and Viki Nadel OAM's time as co-presidents, is an ambitious blueprint to invigorate and position our important Women's organisation for the future.

Managing an orderly presidential transition whilst moving the National Office back to Victoria was a mammoth task but also an opportunity to streamline our processes and reduce our costs, especially our IT expenses.

A few 2018 highlights stand out:

- The International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) Convention, hosted in Sydney by NCJWA in May, with close to 100 delegates from around the world.
- We were thrilled that Shirley Glance and Victoria Nadel received Medals in the Order of Australia in June, recognising the outstanding work they have done for NCJWA and other organisations.
- Implementing key planks of our National Strategic Plan well beyond our limited resources and capacity. The review of the Strategic Plan in July, enabled new and carryover Directors to focus on the progress to date, and discuss the areas that still require discussion and clarification.

ICJW CONVENTION - CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

Female Jewish Leaders from 16 countries around the world enjoyed ICJW's inspiring 3-day Quadrennial Convention in Sydney in May.

The Convention organiser and ICJW President for the past 4 years, Robyn Lenn OAM, formally handed over leadership of the International Council of Jewish Women to Penelope Conway from the UK, who will lead the organisation for the next 4 years.



(l-r) incoming ICJW President Penelope Conway, Sydney MP Gabrielle Upton, Past President Sharon Gustafson, and outgoing President Robyn Lenn OAM.



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**

**SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 8, 2019**

- The August launch of the NCJWA Sylvia Gelman Foundation with Sylvia Z'l, one of our founding mothers, in attendance. Together with important guests and beloved family and friends, we basked in the glow of her wisdom and inspirational words. Sylvia was taken from us a few weeks later, as a true Tzadika, on Yom Kippur.
- Appointment of part-time office administrator, Debby Kloot who commenced working in August and has already had a positive impact.
- Following on from the three previous Presidents' Fora (2017-2018), we held a very successful Leaders Forum in November with Sections' leadership. Numerous vital issues were proposed, raised and discussions were constructive and forward looking.
- The concept, format and dates for the 2019 NCJWA Quadrennial Conference were endorsed unanimously by the Leaders Forum and the conference will be held in Victoria in September 2019. Watch this space!
- Advocacy is a vital plank of our organisation with much joint activity with our Sections and with external organisations such as *Unchain My Heart* and Equality Rights Alliance. Key initiatives include: work on Malka Leifer's extradition, support for the NSW government strengthening its *Anti-Discrimination Act*, support for the Irish vote on the Abortion constitutional amendment, submission to the Australian Law reform Commission on *Gett* refusal.
- Work has commenced on a new Constitution for NCJWA using the ACNC's recommended model. This

substantial undertaking will involve much consultation with our member Sections.

- A new focus and emphasis on social media (primarily Facebook) and the approval by the National Board of a rebuild of the website.

Thank You to:

- Our dedicated and wise National Board members: Vice-Presidents Di Hirsh OAM and Shirley Glance OAM, Hon Treasurer Sharlene Lustig, Rysia Rozen OAM, Carolyn Goldsmith OAM, Robyn Lenn OAM, Ester Steingisser and Melinda Jones.
- Sylvia Deutsch OAM and Viki Nadel OAM for their achievements and mentorship and support during the transition.
- NCJWA Sylvia Gelman Foundation Launch Steering Committee: Rysia Rozen OAM, Malvina Malinek OAM, Shirley Glance OAM and Di Hirsh OAM.
- Section Leaders, who do a great job with so few resources and still find time to work on the future of our National organisation. We are fortunate to have so many passionate and talented women leaders.
- All of you who have taken the time to encourage, support and wish me well.

May 2019 see NCJWA grow, prosper and deliver on its Strategic Goals.

I wish you, your families, Sections' Boards/ Committees and members a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2019.

Negba Weiss-Dolev
National President

SECTIONS - 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

NSW

DAYS FOR GIRLS PROGRAM

NCJWA NSW launched an exciting new project producing and distributing reusable sanitary kits for women in developing countries.



From left: (back) Renee Koonin, Jilly Alsford, Roni Vador, Ruth Shteinman; (front) Eileen McDonald, Dalia Ayalon Sinclair OAM.

Millions of girls of menstruation age miss a week of school each month because they do not have the funds to buy sanitary towels and tampons. This equates to almost 3 months a year and leads to loss of dignity and significant gaps in their education. As a result these girls often drop out of school completely. This problem has a solution that leads to better school attendance, empowerment and joy for this special biological time in each girl's life.

[Read more on NSW](#)

CELEBRATING ISRAEL CANBERRA EVENT- PARLIAMENT HOUSE



BRISBANE

A recent event was a tour of the Queensland Art Gallery by one of our members who is a trained guide at the gallery. Lee presented both women in art and women as artists. Who knew there was so much to learn about this topic?

[Read more on Brisbane](#)

Our two groups, Natanya and Shalom continue to meet monthly.

Natanya group held an Israeli musical afternoon in August, which included a delicious afternoon tea, at Sue Levy's new home. Over 40 people attended and everyone enjoyed the function.

[Read more on WA](#)

WA

Miriam Berinson, Pat Curtis, Valerie Frank, Shula Lazar and Maggie Fisher at one of the Natanya group meetings.



GOLD COAST

GALA DINNER WITH GOLD COAST HEBREW CONGREGATION

Gala Dinner Dance held at the Arundel Hills Golf Club



David Reibou, Sol Ezekiel, Barbara Stewart-Kann OAM



Janette and Mark Kornhauser

YOUNGER RECRUITS INJECT NEW ENERGY

VIC

We are excited with the unfurling of our NextGen group. We formally established NextGen as a committee to concentrate specifically on engaging the next generation of women and girls and connecting them to NCJWA (Vic)'s mission.



The Next Gen Committee - From L-R: Ellie Smorgon, Bianca Janover, Lindy Susskind, Anna Serry & Moran Dvir

They have enthusiastically thrown themselves into presenting a calendar of events aimed at their age group to educate, engage and fundraise for NCJWA (Vic). Their success has been astounding.

[Read more on Vic](#)

WHO WE ARE

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia is an Australian Jewish women's organisation committed to social justice and women's issues. We are a representative voice to key national and international organisations. At national level and through our six Sections around Australia we strive to advance the status of women, counter discrimination, build a harmonious multicultural society and support Israel.

NCJWA.ORG.AU



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NCJWA - MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL

ILAN TEL AVIV DAY CARE CENTER

By: **Silvina Freund,**
Director, Ilan Tel Aviv

On October 25th we officially opened the Ilan Tel Aviv "Beit Hana" Day Care Centre for Young Adults. This new and beautiful facility is named after Hana Laor, Ilan Tel Aviv's 94 year-old chairwoman.



ILAN Tel Aviv's Day Care Rehabilitation Center is specially adapted for the welfare of people with physical disabilities. This building has the best facilities dedicated to their rehabilitation, treatment, creativity and self-expression.

This magnificent building is a reality thanks to the help of Ilan's good friends, and with the support of many good friends at the NCJWA, such as Di Hirsh and Shirley Glance. We were blessed with the presence of our dear friend Beverley Walter (above, centre) and we thank her for making the time to be with us in such an important occasion.



Viki Nadel OAM and NSW Governor David Hurley AC

Shirley Glance OAM and Viki Nadel OAM both received Order of Australia Honours earlier this year. We wish both of them a big mazel tov for these much deserved honours!



Shirley Glance OAM and Vic Governor Linda Dessau AC

AWARDS

- Volunteering Victoria State Award - Finalist NCJWA (VIC)
- NAPCAN Awards - MUM for MUM NCJWA (NSW)
- Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Service to the Jewish Community - Danielle Charak OAM (VIC)
- JCCV Young Jewish Leader Award 2018 - JAM Project Founders (VIC)
- 2018 Volunteer of the Year Team Awards from the Australian Centre for Volunteering - MUM for MUM (NSW)