AJGS (VIC)-MINUTES: December 2nd 2025, 7.30 P.M.
Venue: 98 Carlingford St, Caulfield South 3162

Apologies: Max Wald, Mark Ellinson, Andrea Cooper

Present: Terry Ashton, Rodney Eisfelder, Liz James, Viv Bayer, Helen Gardner, Heshy Adelist, Rene Eisner, Aaron Blicblau, Bernie Kuran

Minutes of Last Meeting –The 30/10/2025 minutes were accepted.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- **Rodney:** welcomed committee members to the 2025-2026 committee.
- **Rene:** members are encouraged to list their ancestors with Yad Vashem on the Pages of Testimony and if possible, on the Survivor's Pages of testimony too. Terry will include this item in the December newsletter to members. Perhaps we could have a combined meeting with the Holocaust Museum in 2026 to further facilitate this.
  Rene mentioned that Viv has collated all the surnames and places that our members are researching. What we will do with this file should be further investigated and this could be an agenda item for our next meeting.
- We have renewed our membership re the NAA and in the joint reading room at PROV, Nth Melbourne, you can access NAA material from their archives
- **Liz:** Roots Projects -2026-Liz explained how committee members will be assisting students with their Roots Projects and the sorts of records etc. students should access. Rodney will organise for committee members to sign a confidentiality agreement before the start of the Roots Project. When searching for records, we should not include parent's marriage records. So far only Yavneh and Bialik (25/2/26 @1.30 p.m. for a 1.45 start. The afternoon will finish around 3.45 p.m.) have booked for us to help with this project. There will be a Mt Scopus meeting for parents on an evening-the date is to be confirmed.
  Possible speaker, Searle Brajtman who works for Yad Vashem has offered to speak to our members in May or November 2026. Perhaps this talk could be combined with the Holocaust Museum…..Liz will follow this up.
- **Yolande:** Discussed the proposed cuts to staff and public access at the State Library of Victoria and that the AJGS should send a letter to David Southwick, MP, Colin Brooks, the state minister for the Arts and Jess Wilson in response to this threat to the SLV and its collections. Yolande will draft a letter and Rodney will sign it. This has now been completed and forwarded on to the politicians mentioned.
- **Terry:** as a recognition of Allan's contribution to AJGS-VIC, Allan will be invited to attend our next presentation in February 2026, so he can be officially acknowledged.

REPORTS:

- **MARRIAGE DATABASE REPORT -RODNEY**
  - ❖ No change to the number of marriage records.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT-MARK**
  - ❖ Another new member, Daniel Low, has joined and we now have 7 honorary members. Membership renewals will be emailed to members in December.
  - ❖ The WhatsApp group needs updating and Andrea's details need to be added.
- **ROOTS PROJECT REPORT-LIZ**
  - ❖ Please see earlier comments in the agenda items
- **DoJR REPORT-HELEN**
  - ❖ The Kew shule documents were intended to be finished by the end of 2025, but there was a flood so they will be completed in 2026. Then the records re the Chevra Kadisha will be seen to.
- **FACEBOOK REPORT – HESHY**
  - ❖ It was suggested that Andrea could become the administrator of our Facebook page.

- ❖ We now have 900+ followers
- ❖ Could we post our future presentations on Instagram?

- **WEBSITE REPORT -AARON**
- ❖ The website is being updated all the time.
- ❖ Aaron needs the biographies of the committee members who have not yet submitted them
- ❖ The 'Members Only' section needs to be worked on

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

Liz James to give an introduction to Genealogy	February the 10th, Lamm Library at 6.30 p.m.
Rachelle Unreich speaking on the importance of recording one's personal history	March 15th 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
Terry's family connection to the Dunera boys-is it possible for this to be recorded?	April the 28th, Lamm Library at 6.30 p.m.
Yolande speaking about her Jewish heritage	May 31st @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
Using and researching the Polish State Archives -Terry will investigate this	
Elise Bath of the Weiner Library, London will discuss how to use the International Tracing Service Archives as a resource Terry will investigate this	June 2026 as a zoom presentation
AJGS will help with your genealogical research. Come with your questions/brick walls etc. and let us try and solve your genealogical queries. This event is free for all attendees. Afternoon tea provided?	July 19th 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
2026 AGM & Lionel Sharpe Presentation	11/10/2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Can we get permission from Sydney to put Jan Gronski's talk on our website?
- Using the premises of the JMA as a possible future occasional venue, is to be investigated.
- Viv discussed membership and how we might increase it. We need to engage members more and see if they are engaging with the website. She and Heshy also suggested printing flyers re our future talks and leaving them in Jewish businesses. Andrea will be asked to develop a flyer.
- Rene mentioned that Viv has collated all the surnames of people who have been researched. This should be further investigated and this could be an agenda item for our next meeting.
- Another future agenda item could be to collate places of Jewish interest to see, when travelling.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 27/1/2026 at Bernie's home
MEETING ENDED AT: 9.20 p.m.