

AJGS (VIC)-MINUTES: January 27th 2026, 7.30 P.M. on Zoom

Apologies: Heshy Adelist

Present: Terry Ashton, Rodney Eisfelder, Max Wald, Liz James, Viv Bayer, Helen Gardner, Rene Eisner, Mark Ellison, Bernie Kuran, Andrea Cooper, Aaron Blicblau

Minutes of Last Meeting –The 8/12/2025 minutes were accepted – Yvonne’s name was added as attending the 8/12/25 meeting and Mark’s surname was corrected.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- **Rodney:** Security at our venues, post Bondi - We think that we are a fairly low risk organisation. Rodney will talk to Glen Eira Town Hall re their security as well as CSG and ask for their advice. Perhaps it would be a wise move to consider using TryBooking or Humantix for our future talks, preferably TryBooking. We should consider writing to these organisations and see what the requirements and costs are for each. Terry will investigate. Also, Mark will talk to CSG.
- Our member Paul Gardiner is talking (via Zoom) to the JGS of British Columbia on 4th of Feb at 7:30pm (Thursday 5th at 2:30pm Melbourne Time). I have asked the President of the JGSBC if we can advertise this talk to our members. Terry has emailed members with this information plus Rodney’s email so members can ask for the Zoom link.
- **Rene:** using our domain name as an email address-if we do this, we would advise members and also put it on our website and Facebook. Rene will talk to Digital Freak about this and also the size of email usage. Gmail is causing problems. There could be ‘President/membership and Admin’ domain email addresses.
- **Liz:** Roots Projects, 2026 & Possible speaker - Searle Brajtman - May or June. Liz mentioned that there will be 5 different groups for the Roots Project. Bernie’s talk has been moved from February the 3rd to the 20th and he will attend Mt Scopus on the Thursday night and not on the Wednesday night.
- **Mark:**
 - The AGM will now be on October the 25th at the Glen Eira Town Hall and Max will check a booking for that date.
 - We will consider using a mailing programme such as Mailchimp for email and SMS mailings to members. An annual cost is involved if we do. SMS can give us up to 600 messages a year for \$230. Mark will prepare a report for our next meeting. We also need to publicise our newsletters, flyers etc. re our meeting more frequently. Viv queried how do we drive our membership? Do we need a marketing person? Please ask family and friends if they have such experience and would be willing to help. Yolande mentioned that things have changed since Covid and perhaps that’s a reason for a decline in attracting members. Do we want to post something on our Facebook page re the fact we are looking for a publicity person and that there would be payment?
 - security at our events-see comments under Rodney.
- **Terry:**
 - In One Voice-please let me know asap if you can volunteer some time on March the 15th to help at our stand. Email Terry with your preferred shift.
 - Elise Bath- has agreed to present on Zoom. Terry will ask her if 21/6/26 at 7/7.30 p.m. our time will suit Elise which is about 8.30 a.m. UK time.
 - Robinn Magid -has agreed to present on Zoom and can do hers after midnight her time. Shall we ask Robinn to present a ‘Beginners How to Access JRI’ and then follow it a few months later with a mid-level zoom? Terry will ask her what time and date suits her in August.

REPORTS:

- **MARRIAGE DATABASE REPORT -RODNEY**

The database now contains 34,648 records. Added one record based on newspaper report. There are a small number of records in the queue to be processed. If you want information, complete the Confidentiality Agreement and email it to Terry.

- **FINANCIAL REPORT-MARK-** received via email

- **ROOTS PROJECT REPORT-LIZ-** see above. Thanks to Rene for creating the 'Parent1 and Parent 2' tables
- **DoJR REPORT-HELEN-** I thought we had almost completed Kew Shul, but it seems they like what we've done and have asked us to come back and catalogue material they didn't include when we first went. Marcel Alter and I are booked to go there on Monday 2nd February, and then I will have a better sense of what they want catalogued, how much there is to do, and how long it might take.
- **FACEBOOK REPORT – HESHY-** Heshy is overseas but we have 944+ followers, an increase from last time
- **WEBSITE REPORT -AARON-** Continuously updates site, and includes images of presenters as well as links to Lamm library online booking facility. Always appreciate suggestions for corrections or improvements to the web site.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

Liz James to give an introduction to Genealogy	February the 10 th , Lamm Library at 6.30 p.m.
Rachelle Unreich speaking on the importance of recording one's personal history. Note change of date from March the 15th	March 22 nd 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 28 th , Lamm Library at 6.30 p.m.
Yolande speaking about her Jewish heritage	May 31 st @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
Elise Bath of the Weiner Library, London will discuss how to use the International Tracing Service Archives as a resource on Zoom	June 21 st 2026 as a zoom presentation TBC
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 19 th 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
Robinn Magid - Using and researching the Polish State Archives on Zoom	August 2026 TBC
2026 AGM & Lionel Sharpe Presentation – we need a speaker.	25/10/2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Aaron asked if we would pay if we record speaker's presentations e.g. for Terry's talk in April. Videos will be uploaded to the 'Members' Only' section on our website.
- Viv asked for the wording for the spreadsheet to be emailed for our next meeting as an agenda item.
- Yvonne informed the meeting of the Yiddish Book Centre talk, 11 a.m. our time on 5/2/26 and it's been mentioned on our WhatsApp chat too.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8/3/26, 10 a.m. on Zoom

MEETING ENDED AT: 9.33 p.m.

