

Dear members

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2025. Don't forget that if you have any suggestions as to items you would like to see included in future newsletters, please contact Terry Ashton at ajgsvictoria@gmail.com

Membership fees

With the help of our donors, AJGS-(Vic) is keeping the membership fees as before, having not changed for 10 years. We offer memberships for individuals, families with discounted rates for pensioners and students and membership fees are payable in January of each year.

Please note that as from the 1st of July 2025, we will no longer be able to accept payment by cheque, due to the fact that the banks are discontinuing this facility.

Membership renewals for 2026 will be emailed to members in December 2025

Who we are

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc (AJGS Vic) is a non-profit society passionate about encouraging and assisting people in researching their Jewish ancestry. We welcome everyone with an interest in this research area, regardless of ethnicity or background, whether you are researching your family history for connections to Jewish heritage or studying this fascinating and important area of history.

We provide access to the AJGS (Vic) research library and the expertise of our specialised researchers; we hold regular meetings; provide workshops and events to support members and provide practical assistance for research on such topics as DNA, using JRI Poland and more.

Welcome to new members

AJGS (VIC) extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

- Andrea Miller
- Daniel Low
- Laura Steadman
- Naomi Beder
- Serena Dorf

2025-2026 AJGS-VIC Committee

After the 2025 AGM held on November the 9th, the following members were elected to the committee for 2025-2026:

- President: Rodney Eisfelder
- Vice President: Bernie Kuran
- Secretary: Terry Ashton
- Treasurer: Mark Ellison
- Committee members: Liz James, Heshy Adelist, Aaron Blicblau, Helen Gardner, Max Wald, Viv Bayer, Yolande McNicoll, Rene Eisner, Andrea Cooper

Past president and committee member, Allan Jankie decided not to stand for re-election for the 2025-2026 committee. Allan joined the committee in 2008, serving as president from 2009-2022. We thank him for his years of research, helping many members with their

genealogical enquiries, his years of leadership as president and for his considerable contribution to AJGS-VIC over the past 17 years.

The Passing of Enid Yoffa-Elton

We note the recent passing of Enid Yoffa-Elton at the grand age of 93. Enid served as vice president of our society from 2002 to 2009. We wish her family all the best during this difficult time and wish them 'long life.'

Recent updates

Collection centre now in Australia: My Heritage

A new MyHeritage blog has provided the following information:

"We're pleased to share that MyHeritage has opened new DNA collection centres in Australia, Norway, and Switzerland.

Earlier this year, changes to U.S. import policies made it more complicated for customers to send their DNA samples directly to our lab in Texas. To make things easier, MyHeritage has established local collection centres in several countries, including Australia, Norway, and Switzerland. These join our existing centres in Germany (serving European Union countries) and the United Kingdom, as well as centres in Mexico and Argentina.

Customers in these countries can now send their DNA samples conveniently to their local centre using standard domestic postage. MyHeritage then takes care of securely forwarding all samples to the lab for processing."

Source: <https://blog.myheritage.com/2025/11/new-collection-centers-make-sending-dna-samples-easier/>

Yad Vashem News: Yad Vashem has recovered the names of five million of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust

This milestone marks seven decades of work and is at the heart of Yad Vashem's mission – recovering the identities and memory of those whom the Nazis sought to erase. This mission is more important than ever, as the number of Holocaust survivors dwindles and the world will soon be without first-hand witnesses.

There are still an estimated one million names of Jewish victims who are unknown and many will likely remain so forever.

Yad Vashem's teams are using new technologies such as AI and machine learning to recover as many names and personal details as possible by analysing hundreds of millions of archival documents that were previously too extensive to research manually. With these tools, an estimated 250,000 names could still be recovered.

The names are compiled in [Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names](#), which is accessible online in six languages. The database also includes hundreds of thousands of 'personal files' aggregated from archival sources that talk about the lives and the fate of the individual victims. A primary source has been the [Pages of Testimony](#), one-page forms submitted by survivors, family members and friends that

commemorate individual victims. If you know of a Holocaust victim whose name is not yet commemorated in the database, we encourage you to submit a Page of Testimony in their memory, online.



(Source: <https://www.yadvashem.org/remembrance>)

Israel Genealogy Research Association

[New Databases Release for November 2025](#)

IGRA has added three new databases and updated four databases, adding over 40,000 new listings, many of them with images. With a variety of subjects, from immigration to military, from the Ottoman period to the Israel times after the British mandate, the following preview will give you a good idea about our latest additions

Jewish War Dead Anglo-Boer War

The following information was emailed to me and may be of interest regarding Jewish service personnel who died in the Anglo-Boer war (1899-1901):

Records are being added on the IWM War Memorial Register at the moment. Log onto the following link: <https://memorials.iwm.org.uk/memorial/38904>

The rest of the names should appear on the public website within a few days but the image of the memorial is quite readable though it sometimes appears with the wrong orientation.

Registration Is Now Open for JewishGen 2026 Education Courses

Organise your research for a great new year - January through March. To register, log onto the following link: <https://www.jewishgen.org/Education/>

All class registrations are non-refundable; donations to JewishGen Education

Forthcoming AJGS-VIC Events, 2025:

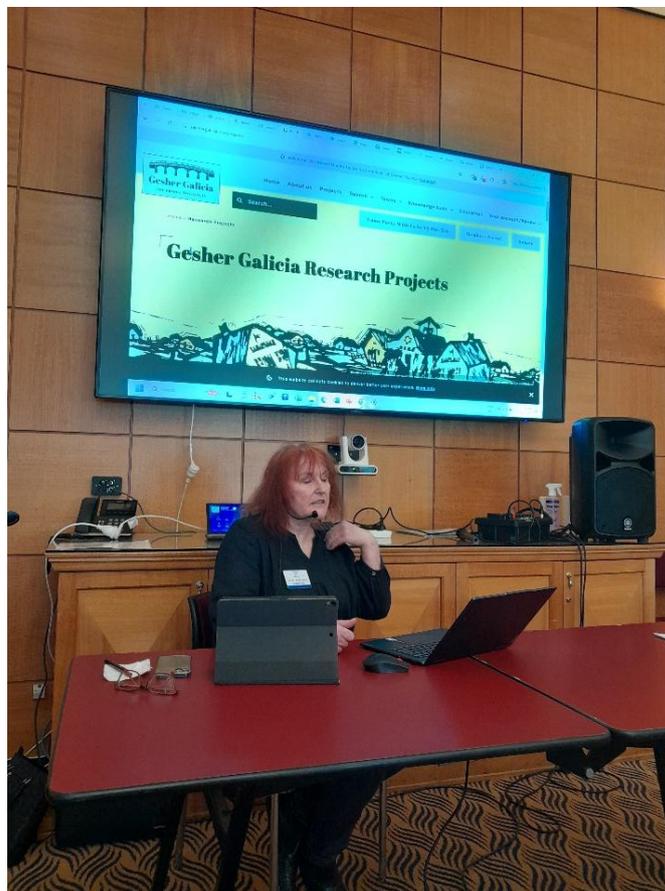
AJGS archivist and librarian Liz James, will present an introduction about researching Jewish genealogy	February the 10 th , Lamm Library at 6.30 p.m.
Rachelle Unreich, a journalist for over 37 years, will speak on the importance of recording one's personal history, touching on the story of her mother, a Holocaust survivor	March 15 th 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
Secretary of AJGS-VIC Terry Ashton, will discuss her family connection to the Dunera boys	April the 28 th , Lamm Library at 6.30 p.m.
AJGS-VIC committee member, Yolande McNicoll, will discuss her Jewish heritage	May 31 st 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall

Update on Past Events

October 12th 2025: Using records to find families in Galicia

AJGS committee member, Viv Bayer presented a highly detailed and informative talk on how to use records to find families in Galicia. To see a PDF copy of Viv's notes, log onto <https://ajgs-vic.org.au/> and go to 'Events'>'Past Presentations.'





Committee member, Viv Bayer, discussing how to use records to find families in Galicia.

November 9th 2025: AJGS-VIC'S AGM & ANNUAL LIONEL SHARPE MEMORIAL PRESENTATION

The annual AGM was held at the Glen Eira Town Hall, where elections were held for the 2025-2026 committee, after which Sidra Kranz Moshinsky (Director and CEO at the Jewish Museum of Australia), delivered the annual Lionel Sharpe memorial presentation, providing a detailed discussion on the roots of the Roots Project and its development over time. To view Sidra's presentation, log onto <https://ajgs-vic.org.au/> and go to 'Events'>'Past Presentations.'



Sidra Kranz Moshinsky discussing the roots of the Roots Project and its development over time.

November 30th 2025: New AI Tools for Jewish Genealogy

Dr. Jan Gronski discussed how the L'Dor V'Dor Foundation is building first-of-kind AI models that read historic Yiddish handwriting and other languages common in Jewish records. He explained how demystifying training Handwritten Text Recognition in Transkribus with Mame-Loshen and its two related Yiddish AI models, which showed real accuracy gains enabling full text search and translation capability on 19th–20th-century sources. He then discussed how PastPort, an interactive map, built on the largest online database of Jewish surnames and Jewish towns, places ancestors with their town neighbours. To see a PDF copy of Jan's notes, log onto <https://ajgs-vic.org.au/> and go to 'Events'>'Past Presentations.'



Committee member, Helen Gardner, introducing Jan Gronski

Resources and Links: The Lamm Jewish Library of Australia has over 46,000 books and includes the collections of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) and the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

To help with your genealogical research, here are some genealogical sites, relevant to the Netherlands

Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands

<https://www.joodsmonument.nl/>

Dutch Genealogy

<http://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/blog/>

Dutch Jewry (Akevoth) – family trees and more

<https://www.dutchjewry.org/>

Dutch Survivor Lists at USHMM

https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/source_view.php?SourceId=27995

Levie Kanes Family Tree Collection

<http://levie-kanes.com/>

Open Archives – search genealogical data in Dutch and Belgian Archives

<https://www.openarch.nl/>

Wie Was Wie

<https://www.wiewaswie.nl/>

And A Final Note

Chanukah will be here very soon, so on behalf of the AJGS (VIC) committee, we wish you a happy time over Chanukah, sharing games with family and friends and eating the occasional donut!



Stay in touch with us via any of the following:

Email: ajgsvictoria@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.ajgs-vic.org.au/>

Facebook: Australian Jewish Genealogical Society-VIC

Ms Terry Ashton
Honorary Secretary
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC)