

## AJGS (VIC)-MINUTES: March 8<sup>th</sup> 2026, 10.00 a.m. on Zoom

**Apologies:** Aaron Blicblau, Andrea Cooper, Liz James, Heshy Adelst, Max Wald

**Present:** Terry Ashton, Rodney Eisfelder, Viv Bayer, Helen Gardner, Rene Eisner, Mark Ellison, Bernie Kuran, Yolande McNicoll

**Minutes of Last Meeting** –The 27/1/2026 minutes were accepted.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

#### Mark:

- CSG-we are going to notify CSG of future meetings and a committee member will need to liaise with them. Therefore, we need a nomination from within the committee and this will be further discussed at our next meeting.
- Booking system (TryBooking)-we are going to use TB as our booking system for future presentations and we will review it in 6 months to see if we absorb the 50 cents per booking or pass it on to the 'bookees.' Yolande's presentation in May, will be via TB. Mark and Terry will get together to discuss the setting up of a TB account.
- Mailing system (Mailchimp)-Mark explained how it works the notes are attached in the email. It was decided to keep the SMS system as operated by Rene.
- PO Box-still useful for 'snail mail' and we are obliged to have one for legal reasons such as for CAV. Mark is happy to use the PO Box in Caulfield and will check it regularly. Our PO Box address will change and will apply to outgoing correspondence etc.

#### Terry:

- In One Voice-Rodney will arrive around 10.15 a.m. on 15/3/26 to set up, with the box. Name badges will be inside the box, if you don't have yours already. Either Rene or Liz will bring their laminated family trees; the books of names won't be on display (they're very heavy to carry); but if you have books of your family to display, please bring them to show visitors.
- Mrs Rink and her concerns re her son's family tree-Terry will prepare a letter and share it with the committee before it goes to Mrs Rink. This is a learning curve for us and we should develop a rider for future Roots Projects explaining that there can be discrepancies in records we source.
- Elise Bath-zoom presentation, 21/6/26, zoom presentation, 7 p.m. AEST
- Robinn Magid-zoom presentation-for October, date to be confirmed
- Naomi Beder as a possible presenter in winter-Terry will approach Naomi to see if she can present a zoom talk in August.
- Biographies re our website-can Viv and Andrea please email biographies to Aaron for the website, asap
- Venue details re the placement of future AJN ads-in future attendees will have to register via our website
- MDA Diary advertising- the committee has agreed to the following advertising option of Half Page (with white border) - 125mm (W) x 93mm (H), \$250 incl. GST

#### Rene:

- The committee agreed to list our events on Social Blueprint, and to have our society listed on their contact list <https://thesocialblueprint.org.au/events/>
- The flyer for Rachel Unreich completed by Indigo, cost for the first one was \$80, but subsequent ones will be easier as she will be preparing a template after a few have been created and after we decide about Mailchimp. Copies of flyers will be kept in a display book for future reference and events

### REPORTS:

- **MARRIAGE DATABASE REPORT -RODNEY** - The database remains at 34,648 records.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT-MARK**- received via email. We have 86 paid members so far; many are still unpaid. We will look at this again at the next meeting.

- **ROOTS PROJECT REPORT-LIZ-** Now in our tenth year, AJGS Victoria is proud to have helped more than 4,000 students explore and document their family histories since we began with Bialik College in 2017.

Over the years, we have expanded our assistance across the schools and the general community. In addition to Bialik, we have worked with King David (both on campus and in partnership with the Jewish Museum of Australia), and have supported students from Mount Scopus, Sholem Aleichem, UJEB, Yavneh, and many Batmitzvah students undertaking their family history projects.

February has been an especially busy and rewarding month. We have greatly enjoyed collaborating with the schools and their families. A special thank you to Bernie Kuran, who has already attended sessions at King David, Mount Scopus and Yavneh, as well as evening sessions with parents at the latter two schools. He was very well received. I conducted a session at Bialik and at Sholem Aleichem.

We are also grateful to our dedicated research volunteers who assist students in building their family trees and attaching important historical documents. These include Terry Ashton, Viv Bayer, Rodney Eisfelder, Rene Eisner, Helen Gardner, Yolande McNicoll and Max Wald.

Attending the recent Bialik workshop were Viv Bayer, Rodney Eisfelder, Mark Ellison, Bernie Kuran, Yolande McNicoll, and myself.

We remain committed to supporting students and families as they discover their heritage and preserve their stories for future generations.

Liz James, AJGS-VIC Roots Project Coordinator

Committee members raised the following concerns:

- ❖ Generation sheets need to be filled out more clearly and a larger font size used
- ❖ Ask students to use PDFs to complete the Generation sheets
- ❖ Teachers need to demonstrate via media presentations before they are handed to us, as to how students should fill them in.
- ❖ Ask Liz to develop a check list for schools.

- **DoJR REPORT-HELEN-**

### **Routine report**

Evie Katz and I will be starting at MCK on March 11<sup>th</sup> to catalogue their archive boxes.

AJHS in Sydney have agreed to put the organizational catalogues we are creating on their website.

### **New developments**

1. DoJR needs to grow.
2. To this end I am putting various plans into place, which will take some time to eventuate.
3. **I plan to step down as team leader of DoJR. Not immediately. But hopefully within the next year. Until then I will continue as team leader focusing on strategic development. PLEASE DO NOT DISCUSS THIS OUTSIDE OF THIS COMMITTEE MEETING.**
4. A project Development Officer will hopefully be appointed some time in the next few months for a period of two years to:
  - Recruit new members for the archiving team
  - give talks to community organisations, schools etc to make the project more widely known in the community
  - Promote the project to philanthropic organisations for grants or other financial support
5. As we continue to develop the project, two things have become clear.
  - **Melbourne needs an archivist**, and providing one is one of our long term goals.

- **Melbourne also needs dedicated communal archival storage space** in climate controlled conditions, which is available for storing archival material that organisations and individuals have no room to keep. That’s a medium term goal
6. I already have someone looking into potential donors for the expansion of the project.
  7. These goals require major funding, and to be eligible for such funding the project needs DGR status. I am currently exploring options with two organisations with whom this might be achieved.
  8. If all goes well, within the next few months we should have DGR status and a project development officer working towards our goals.

- **FACEBOOK REPORT – HESHY-963 followers to date**

- **WEBSITE REPORT -AARON-** Everything is running smoothly. There has been a counter attached to the front page (at the very end of the first page) to indicate the number of times the site was looked at since January 1 2026 --> 1495 visitors as of 5 March 2026.

There are zero broken links.

Future meetings are highlighted on the front page with appropriate links for booking e.g. Lamm Library. To ensure that all information is backed up, digital freaks (the Web managers) take a full backup of the website every time there are changes made, to ensure everything is safely stored. This means we’ve got a secure version to roll back to if ever needed—just part of keeping the site protected

### **FUTURE PRESENTATIONS**

Rachelle Unreich speaking on the importance of recording one’s personal history.	March 22 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> , Lamm Library at 6.30 p.m.
Yolande speaking about her Jewish heritage	May 31 <sup>st</sup> @ 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	June 21 <sup>st</sup> @ 7pm AEST, on Zoom
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 <sup>th</sup> 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
<b>Using and researching the Polish State Archives -Robinn Magid</b>	<b>August TBC</b>
<b>Naomi Beder to offer a Zoom presentation on how to use Album Works</b>	<b>September the 6<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>
<b>Using and researching the Polish State Archives -Robinn Magid</b>	<b>TBC for an October date</b>
2026 AGM & Lionel Sharpe Presentation	25/10/2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 14/4/2026, 7.30 p.m.at Bernie’s home

**MEETING ENDED AT:** 11.55 a.m.

