

AJGS (VIC)-MINUTES: August 26th 2026, 7.30 p.m. - Zoom

Apologies: Rene Eisner, Yolande McNicoll, Aaron Blicblau

Present: Terry Ashton, Rodney Eisfelder, Max Wald, Viv Bayer, Helen Gardner, Mark Ellison, Liz James

Minutes of Last Meeting –The 9/7/2026 minutes were accepted with the following comments:

- Bernie will contact Heshy again (preferably before the AGM) to see if he wants to be part of the committee
- Terry has to finish drafting a letter about the desecration of graves at Castlemaine
- Viv has agreed to take over organising bookings on TryBooking, 2027

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Rodney-

- Re Rene and Max's forthcoming departures - they are not unexpected and both have put in an enormous amount of work over a very long period, not just in one area, but in several areas.

Mark-

- Bendigo Bank account-Bernie has to go to the branch and complete the verification process.
- Registering as a charity-Joey Borensztain was contacted and is happy to work for us, pro bono and also raised some points for us to consider e.g. do we spend about 50% of our expenses on the library?
- Discussion ensued as to whether or not we register as a DGR with perhaps a separate fund being set up such as a library fund. Is it worth the effort to do this? Money would go into a fund but perhaps only to be used as a library fund.

Helen-

- Helen suggested a project, namely having a place where people could offer us their records which could be part of Melbourne's archival history. It was felt that this didn't fall in with our genealogical scope and would perhaps be better suited to the Jewish historical society.
- Helen will talk to Andrew Markus and Natasha Gordijn about possibly being interested in joining our committee.

Rene-

- Marketing: Becky Nebenzahl beckyneb@gmail.com has been asked if she would be interested in doing the design of the flyers etc. plus, the setup design for the Banner.
- DGR: Mark has a report from Joey, please discuss. I personally think pursuing the DGR is not necessary.

Terry-

- New committee members-discussion ensued as to new committee members. Liz will approach Nigel Meinrath to see if he would be interested. Terry will email members to say that we are anticipating vacancies on the committee and ask members to nominate if they are interested. A nomination form will be emailed to members. (DONE)

Viv-

- Facebook posts-an LDS post was deleted as a couple of members were concerned re references to their church

Yolande-

- Yolande is happy to send out SMS messages prior to presentations and prepare some flyers for future presentations.
- Yolande will look after keeping the Roots Projects Handouts more up to date

Aaron-

- Please liaise with Digital Freaks more often

REPORTS:

MARRIAGE DATABASE REPORT -RODNEY We now have marriage records up to 1955. Liz will write a post for Facebook about the marriage data base. I've processed most of the backlog - four certificates from W.A. (donated by Don Cohen), two from Maroubra, one from Geelong (donated by Yolande), one from South

Brisbane (donated by Ian Doust). The database now has 34656 records and Rodney has caught up with the backlog.

FINANCIAL REPORT-MARK- received via email. We have 6 new members and up to 127 paid members. Our insurances are quite limited and Mark is using a broker to further investigate how we can do better. We don't have committee members' liability insurance.

ROOTS PROJECT REPORT-LIZ Nothing to report

DoJR REPORT-HELEN Natasha Gordijn natashagordijn@gmail.com has agreed to take over as team leader for DoJR. She is not actively involved in genealogical work, but is passionate about archiving. I have invited her to the meeting on August 26th to introduce her to the committee. I will step down from the committee once Natasha is geared up for the role.

Evie Katz and Manny Kingsley are working on Chevra Kadisha archives. MCK have provided a list of information they collect, and the next step is to define what information is collected under each category, so that this can be added to JCat.

Marcel Alter, Natasha Gordijn and Helen Gardner have recommenced work on Kew Shul archives. It should only take a couple more visits to complete.

FACEBOOK REPORT – 1100 followers now

WEBSITE REPORT-AARON- The website is running well, there are no major problems. Digital Freaks, the web hosts, have smoothed out any minor issues. The front page of the website has information on current events. The side column of the front page of the website has a summary of events as well as the events tab at the top of the website. All current events are really in triplicate. Rodney noticed some errors but they have been corrected.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS It was decided that we would start charging for zoom presentations after the 2026 AGM-\$5 for members and \$10 for non-members

2026 AGM & Lionel Sharpe Presentation – Naomi Beder speaking on using 'Albumworks' to share your family's story	October 25 th 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall
Using and researching the Polish State Archives -Maurice Tobias/Robinn Magid. Terry will email Morris Tobias	February 2027??
Jeremy Lehmann discussing how to use TreeLab-date to be finalised	2027
Bubbles Segal-Using ChatGPT Responsibility in Genealogical Research	Late 2027
Peter Yule AGM 2027	2027
Yolande-Fink family?	2027
Mark's wife=rabbinical ancestry?????	2027
IAJGS??	
A speaker on Genealogy in Lithuania-Liz will check this out	2027

- Mark might become our new 'zoom master' and could set up an account
- Is there an IAJGS discount offer that could be taken re using Zoom? Rodney will discuss this with Mark

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mitzvah day is 22/11/26-could our "job" this year be taking photos of the headstones in Fawkner Cemetery?
- There are 42 attendees for Daniel's talk so far
- Someone needs to take over Max's role of booking the Glen Eira town hall when we need it. Could the new publicity officer do this?
- Terry addressed about 30 people on August the 23rd at the Glen Eira town hall, speaking on how to research one's Jewish heritage, as part of Glen Eira's History month. Bernie was there too and answered a number of questions at the end. I have been asked back for 2027.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6/10/26 on Zoom

MEETING ENDED AT: 9.27 p.m.

