

Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.



Member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations

NEWSLETTER

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1. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

(a) Received with thanks from:

- Jackie Shiha and Leon Price- personal papers of Leo Medina
- Lionel Abeshouse - *Russia-China-Australia. The Story of Abraham and Ruby Abeshouse.*
- Lew Rischin - update for Southport cemetery.
- Bill Hornadge - *The search for an Australian paradise.* Chapter 15 deals with the Kimberley scheme; Chapter 16 with Bob Hawke's kibbutzim suggestions.
- Harry Lewis - *Reeds Flat, on the banks of the Lachlan* by Helen V. Lloyd. Contains history and photos of the Schapira family.
- Dora Dreyfus, from the estate of the late Julius Karpin, including -
Trouble by Alan Collins
Jewish contribution to civilization by Cecil Roth
Four Jewish plays by H.F. Rubinstein
Plain Words to Australian Jews by I.N. Steinberg
Outline of Jewish religious knowledge by A. Rothfield
The Synagogue, its history and function by Isaac Levy
A history of Jewish life in modern times by Dorothy Zeligs
A peculiar people by Barnet Litvinoff
- Geoffrey Lemke - *Reluctant rebel; Lt.Col. George Johnston 1764-1823.*
- Adrienne Simpson - *Opera in New Zealand* with chapter on Frances Alda (nee Davis) Also copy of article by Simpson on Alda from *Opera Australia* July 1991.
- Jewish Museum of Australia - CD ROM of exhibition *A distant home; Jews in Australia.* [This exhibition included objects lent by the AJHS].
- Rabbi Apple - serial publications and ephemera.
- Sophie Caplan - publications and ephemera.

(b) Purchased:

Enough Already (anthology of Jewish writers) ed. By Alan Jacobs.

Please remember that donations to the Library Fund of the Society are tax-deductible.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE FOR 2000

President: Dr. Suzanne Rutland
 Vice-Presidents: Nate Zusman, Sophie Caplan OAM
 Hon. Secretary: Sylvia Rosenblum/ Jeanette Tsoulos
 Hon. Treasurer: Miriam Solomon
 Committee Members: Joe ben Mayor, Helen Bersten, Julius Mayer,
 Helen Rasko OAM, Sylvia Rosenblum, Judith Shapira, and Jeannette Tsoulos

3. FUNCTIONS FOR 2000

The AJHS functions tentatively planned for this year are as follows:

Monday 10 April Hans Kimmel Prize readings at Moriah College 7.30pm

Sunday 28 May Dr Suzanne Rutland on *Isi Leibler and ASIO* at
 Mandelbaum House 2pm

Sunday 27 August M Panel of Speakers on JEWS IN SPORT
 on at Mandelbaum House - 2pm

Sunday 10 December Rabbi Apple on *Rabbi LM Goldman: The Soldiers Rabbi* at
 Mandelbaum House 2pm

4. THE JEWISH VICTORIAN: Genealogical Information from Jewish Newspapers 1871 – 1880. [Transcribed and edited by Doreen Berger]

This has recently been published in England. Doreen is a founder member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and writes regularly on stories from the Jewish Newspapers of the past. She is a contributor to the new Dictionary of National Biography to be published by Oxford University Press.

This publication of 600 pages covers more than 20,000 entries and incorporates genealogical cross-referencing, narratives from Jewish newspapers including contemporary accounts of events and communal achievements.

5. A LETTER FROM PERTH dated 10 March 1830

Neville Milston has provided us with a copy of letter dated 10 March 1830 that was sent by Elizabeth Shaw to her friend Mrs Anne Waghome in England. Together with her husband and family, Elizabeth was a settler on the Swan River, Western Australia arriving shortly after the proclamation of the Colony in 1829 by Captain James Stirling.

The letter is printed in "My Dear, Dear Betsy" A Treasury of Australian Letters compiled by Warwick Hirst, published by Hale and Iremonger, Sydney 1993. It is about 1400 words and contains disparaging references to Jews including the following:

The fact is simply this, all the land that is good for anything and that is but a small patch here and there is kept as Government reserves and what land is given, is given to Jews, Stockbrokers, men of war's men etc.etc.

6. A PRESENTATION SILVER TROPHY TO GEORGE RAPHAEL of the Sydney Synagogue 1 January 1859

Alan Landis recently alerted us to the presence in Sydney of a substantial presentation silver cup to George Raphael that he had been asked to inspect. Its inscription is as follows:

Presented to Joseph George Raphael Esq. By his friends Members of the Sydney Synagogue for his valuable and unremitting services as treasurer during the period of three years he held that Office, Sydney 1 January 1859.

Raphael subsequently left to become Treasurer for the breakaway Macquarie Street Synagogue formed in 1859.

7. Geelong's Person of the Millenium

On 1 January 2000, the *Geelong Advertiser* announced that Henry Higgins (the presiding officer in Harvester minimum wage case) had been selected as Geelong's person of the millennium.

The newspaper's choice came from a listing of 50 people who were considered by a panel to have made significant contributions to Geelong and the wider community. The list includes the opera singer Majorie Lawrence, the silversmith Stuart Devlin, the editor of the Bulletin magazine J.F. Archibald, the long distance runner John Landy, and Cr Zillah Crawcour (my aunt) whose role as a pioneer of women in local government has been briefly printed in this newsletter.

8. The Death of Hilda Zinner OBE

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of this remarkable woman who was rightly described as a heroine in the obituary notice that appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald. She is greatly missed by those of us privileged to know her.

9. Congratulations to Sophie Caplan OAM

Heartiest congratulations to our joint vice-president Sophie Caplan on the awarding of her OAM in the Australia Day's Honours List.

Bruce Le Bransky
Newsletter Editor

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome and should be sent to the Honorary Archivist of the AJHS at Mandelbaum House.