

Australian Jewish Historical Society Int.

NEWSLETTER



Member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations

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(A) The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies - 50th Anniversary

Many members will have received the impressive 1995 Jubilee Issue of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies Annual Report. The AJHS extends its congratulations to the Board and its Executive and commends the excellent work performed by the Board on behalf of the Jewish Community of NSW. This Society is a member of the Board's general body of deputies, and is currently represented by Sophie Caplan.

The Address of the Governor of NSW to the Board's Jubilee meeting held in the Legislative Council at State Parliament House, contains much on the involvement of Jews in the economic and public life of NSW. The ability to speak with confidence on these matters and the many incidents His Excellency chose to highlight, owes much to the work of this Society over many years. The Report of the Board also includes a *Historical Review of NSW Jewry* written by Suzanne Rutland, AJHS Vice President and Editor of the NSW edition of the Journal.

Next year the Society will be publishing a special edition of the Journal with articles written by Suzanne Rutland and Sophie Caplan on the history of the Board of Deputies.

(B) The Annual General Meeting - 14 November 1995: **Parliament House of New South Wales**

Mr Morris Forbes will be presenting a paper on Sir Julian Salamons, QC whose career included serving as Solicitor-General and Chief Justice of New South Wales.

Members are asked to consider nominating for the Committee. We need further enthusiastic members as we enter a new stage in the Society's future.

(C) The Relocation of the AJHS to Mandelbaum House

Included in Michael Marx's Report as President of the Board of Deputies is reference to Mandelbaum House at Sydney University. He notes in passing that the AJHS will have use of these facilities. Members may not be aware that it is also planned to shift the office and archives of the AJHS from its present location at the Great Synagogue, to the much larger space which has been made available to us by the Trustees of Mandelbaum House at the completion of the building work. This represents a significant event in the Society's development and evolution.

While the Society cannot praise the Great Synagogue enough for its support over forty years, shown in part by the Presidencies of Rabbis Porush and Apple, the move is necessitated by the expansion of the Society's archives under the guidance of Helen Bersten, Hon. Archivist, and her hardworking assistants - Irene Rothenberg, Noni Guthrie, Les Belinfante, Sylvia Freedlander and June Cantor.

An appreciation of the longstanding efforts of Nate Zusman to find such facilities for the AJHS cannot be left unsaid.

(D) The Archives Has Received with Thanks

- From Flora Davis via Julie Morris. Programme of NSW Jewish War Memorial 1927.
- From Rabbi Apple. Papers on Rabbi Jacob Danglow, Rev. Ephraim Kowadlo, Mendel Cohen, and Solomon Herman.
- From National Library of Australia. *Our Multicultural Heritage 1788-1945* - an annotated guide to the collections of the National Library of Australia.
- From Melbourne University Press. *Rabbi Jacob Danglow* by Rabbi John S. Levi.
- From Jim Barrett. *Yerranderie, Story of a Ghost Town*, 1995.
- From Aviva Bloomfield, descendant of former AJHS Secretary SB Glass, her family tree tracing ancestors of Elias and Leba Green.
- From GP publications, New Zealand. *Far from the Promised Land* by Ann Beaglehole and Hal Levine.
- From Dennis Bluth. *The Woman I Am*. Poems by Nancy Keesing, selected by Meg Stewart.

Books available for sale from the Society:

Rabbi John Levi's *Rabbi Jacob Danglow* \$45.

Jewish Sydney - the First Hundred Years 1788-1888, prepared by Helen Bersten will be available for sale in November.

(E) Cohens Store, Cootamundra

The Australian Weekend Magazine of 19/20 August 1995 published a special feature by Professor Geoffrey Blainey on the Homecoming of Australian troops at the end of WWII. It included a photograph of *Cohens Store*, Cootamundra, NSW. Through the efforts of Zara Selby the people in the photograph are as follows (left to right): Tom Murphy, Ray Cullen, George Oldfield, Ron Price, Jack Albert, Jack Lewis and Sam Freed.



Cohens Store, Cootamundra, NSW. Self-service supermarkets did not exist.

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Cohens Store is named after Solomon Cohen. He was a son of Lewis Cohen of Murrurundi, who became licensee of the Woolpack Inn in 1848 and was a pioneer settler of the Upper Hunter Valley.

(F) Agricultural Medals By The Silversmith Joel John Cohen

In their sales catalogue for July/August, the auctioneers I.S. Wright listed a group of agricultural medals which were awarded to Dr David Ramsay and his son between 1842 and 1876.

Four of the medals were presented by the Australian Floral & Horticultural Society and are the work of Sydney Silversmith, JJ Cohen, who was active between 1839 - 1853. One of these medals was featured on the front page of the catalogue and is reproduced below.

An article on Joel Cohen by Noni Guthrie has been published in the Journal (Vol X 1988, Part 3), together with a follow-up piece by Morris Forbes, OAM.

(G) Jewish Place Names in South Australia from Morris S. Ochert, OAM.

The possible listing of Jewish place names in South Australia is much smaller than in the other mainland states but it does include the following. Mr Ochert would be interested in knowing of any other possible names:

Beaconsfield - after Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield.

Cohen - after Lewis Cohen, Mayor of Adelaide 1889 and on six more occasions by 1911.

Montefiore Hill - North Adelaide after the Colonisation Commissioner, Jacob Montefiore, a leading figure in South Australia's early settlement.

Zion Hill - in the Wilston-Bugle Range, after one of the hills of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem - near Wallaroo Mines.

Jericho - near Wallaroo Mines.

(H) Correction to the Previous Newsletter

Gary Luke donated the life story of Mr Sekel, not Mr Sebel.

Bruce Le Bransky (Editor)

Contributions to the Newsletter are most Welcome



1842 AUSTRALIAN FLORAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEDAL by J.J. COHEN