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HEBREW WRITING AND RECORDING PROJECT

'Let Hebrew be your language'

AJN STAFF

LAST year marked a record number of submissions for the Hebrew Writing and Recording Project, with students from years 8-11 across NSW participating.

The project, now in its fifth year, is proudly supported by JNF, Sydney University and the Suzanne Rutland Foundation. It was established to further encourage and recognise students' development and commitment to the Hebrew language. It also highlights the dedication of modern Hebrew teachers across participating schools including Moriah College, Emanuel School, Reddam, Masada College and BJE-affiliated schools.

Dr Yona Gilead, senior lecturer

and program director of the Malka Einhorn Modern Hebrew Program at the University of Sydney and a member of the judging committee, said: "We were impressed by both the quantity and the high level of quality of the entries."

"We deeply appreciate the teachers who support these projects across all schools. The increase in submissions reflects a growing recognition of the love for the Hebrew language and the people of Israel."

Students were invited to choose from three topics: "My Country, My Homeland", "Together We Will Win" or "The Person Who Had the Greatest Influence". Submissions were judged based on the authenticity of the student's voice, originality and narrative



Hilli Lam from JNF at Moriah College.

development, creativity, linguistic richness and accuracy.

During the award presentation at Moriah College, Hilli Lam,

JNF NSW educational madrichah, emphasised the importance of Hebrew. "Let Hebrew be your language, not someone else's lan-

guage," she said.

Jana Joffe, head of Hebrew at Moriah College, added, "It's inspiring to see how our students embrace the Hebrew language with such creativity and passion. The Hebrew Writing and Recording Project is a wonderful opportunity to showcase their unique voices and commitment to preserving and promoting Hebrew within our community. Moriah College is proud to be part of this meaningful initiative."

The prizes, generously donated by JNF and the Suzanne Rutland Foundation, include vouchers for first, second and third place in each year at every participating school as well as certificates for all participants.

HONOURS CLUB

Knox shares Israel experiences

AJN STAFF

LATE last year the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University Honours Club hosted Ro Knox at Mizrahi Bondi. Knox shared her experiences studying at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and how they shaped her career, her connection to Israel and her unwavering support for its future.

Knox arrived in Israel shortly after the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Israelis hoped for a lasting peace, though this hope dimmed with the realisation that Yasser Arafat was not a trustworthy partner.

She enrolled in the renowned Mishpatim program at Hebrew University, drawn by Israel's reputation as a beacon of international law and as the only democracy in the Middle East. This program became the foundation for her deep connection to Israel and its values.

Although her primary focus was legal studies, Knox found herself inspired by Israel's burgeoning culture of innovation, fuelled by initiatives like the Yozma Fund. This



From left: Roslyn Hakim, Estelle Phillips, Ro Knox, Sue Lasker, Phillipa Jacks.

government program revolutionised venture investments in Israel, positioning the country as a global leader in innovation.

Knox saw firsthand how innovation was not just an economic tool but a means to influence the world for the better. This realisation became a guiding principle in her own professional journey.

Knox recounted experiences that left a lasting impression, such as the tremendous sense of community among Israelis, especially their support for olim (immigrants). At the time, a significant influx of Russian immigrants was being successfully integrated into Israeli society.

One memory stood out: seeing a

bus full of soldiers returning home for Shabbat, singing together in high spirits.

"They were all just kids," Knox reflected.

"Around my age or younger at the time. I think about the soldiers now, the sacrifices they're making in Gaza and Lebanon. The IDF is incredible."

These moments deepened her admiration for Israel's spirit and the sacrifices made to ensure its security. During the Q&A session, audience members raised questions about combating antisemitism and fostering social cohesion in Australia. Knox emphasised the need for strong, consistent leadership to counter hate and promote unity. She reiterated her firm belief that Israel has the right to defend itself and consistently communicates this message to all audiences, underscoring the importance of understanding Israel's unique challenges.

The Honours Club will return in February 2025 with another engaging program. To find out more and book your place, visit austfhu.org.au.



Mount Sinai College students.

MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

'You Be Their Light' Shabbat campaign

LAST year's year 6 students at Mount Sinai College participated in the 'You Be Their Light' Shabbat candle campaign, initiated by Joanne Woolfe and the Village Shule in Hampstead, London.

The initiative aims to light Shabbat candles on behalf of the hostages currently held in Gaza, who are unable to light them for themselves. Each Shabbat candle pack includes photos of the hostages along with prayers for their safety, the soldiers and Am Yisrael. These candles serve to dispel darkness and ignite the divine spark within them and within us all.



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