

JNF

CONNECTING THE NEXT GENERATION TO ISRAEL

JNF Australia's education department plays a vital role in connecting young Australians with Israel, Jewish heritage and the environment. Through a broad range of dynamic programs, resources and immersive experiences, JNF fosters leadership skills, cultural identity and a deep appreciation for the land of Israel among students and educators alike.

As a special treat for Israel's 77th Independence Day celebrations, KKL-JNF hosted two inspiring young leaders from Israel: Naama Rodner and Lior Biran. Running programs across Jewish day schools, Naama and Lior brought a powerful message of connection, pride and advocacy for Israel to Jewish communities in the Diaspora. With strong educational backgrounds and a deep bond to their homeland, both Naama and Lior, who grew up in Israeli youth movements, embody the spirit of Israeli leadership.

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Their visit, made possible through the important Caravan Madrichim program facilitated by KKL-JNF, left a lasting impact. Students experienced a meaningful, personal connection to Israel through the moving commemorations of Yom Hazikaron and the heart-warming celebrations of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Continuing the connection, JNF created a fun and engaging space at the Yom

Ha'atzmaut community festival in partnership with Zionism Victoria. Children had the chance to layer colourful sand into mini bottles – a creative and tangible link to the land of Israel. The smiles, laughter and pride as children showed their sand bottles to their parents captured the spirit of the day.

The celebrations extended to JNFuture, JNF's young adult division, with an epic Yom Ha'atzmaut party at a beloved St Kilda bar. DJs spun Israeli hits, drinks flowed, Israeli food was served and the ruach and dancing were unmatched. It was a night full of memories, connections and pride. JNFuture is excited to host more events – follow @JNFutureVictoria on Instagram to stay in the loop!

Meanwhile, JNF's much-loved education officer, Eldad Shoham, continues to enrich classrooms across Jewish day schools, youth movements and UJEB. Eldad says, "Connecting students to Israel through JNF is more important than ever. As Israel celebrates 77 years, we help young Australians strengthen their bond with the land, people and history of Israel, ensuring a bright future built on shared values, sense of identity and pride."

Looking ahead, JNF invites educators to experience Israel firsthand on the upcoming Educators' Tour, taking place from December 30, 2025, to January 8, 2026. This enriching journey allows teachers to deepen their knowledge, gain firsthand experiences and bring essential Israel-related content back to inspire their students. Applications are open now until June 30 at jnf.org.au/educatortour.

For more information, visit jnf.org.au.



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