

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

JNF AUSTRALIA

As we approach Rosh Hashanah 5786, a time of reflection, renewal and hope, JNF Australia is supporting two powerful initiatives in Israel that demonstrate a profound truth: environmental rehabilitation is human rehabilitation. In the aftermath of trauma and displacement, these projects show how tending to the land can also nurture the spirit, rebuild communities and restore resilience.

Kibbutz Malkiya: healing through a community greenhouse

For decades, Kibbutz Malkiya's 400 residents have lived under constant threat. The recent war and forced evacuation further tested their strength. As families return, JNF Australia is supporting three projects designed to restore land and community. Together, these initiatives create a holistic vision of renewal in which agriculture, animal care and environmental responsibility come together.

- **Community greenhouse:** A 200-square-metre greenhouse will provide a therapeutic environment where residents can process trauma through cultivation, while producing sustainable food, reviving agricultural traditions and creating an intergenerational gathering space.

Rosh Hashanah 2025 Blue Box campaign



- **Animals heal – a place of compassion and rehabilitation:** This unique project will combine an advanced dog park with meeting areas for animal-assisted therapy, promoting social connection, education and emotional healing. It will also expand green space within the kibbutz, encourage active living and foster awareness of animal welfare.

- **Bringing back life – from waste to hope:** An advanced recycling centre will dramatically reduce landfill waste, generate green income for the kibbutz and provide educational programs for schools. The project will not only improve soil and water quality in the region, but also embed

environmental awareness into the community's rehabilitation process.

Netiv HaAsara: "Between the Olive Trees" healing garden

On the southern border, Netiv HaAsara was devastated by the terror attack of October 7, 2023. Families endured enormous loss and months of uncertainty. Now, as they return home, they face not only the practical task of reconstruction, but the deeper challenge of restoring a sense of peace and belonging.

At the entrance to the moshav lies a barren, sandy area – empty ground that residents now see as an opportunity. Their vision is to transform it into "Between the Olive Trees", a community healing

garden. This green sanctuary will feature fruit trees, native plants, shaded seating areas and pathways designed for quiet reflection. The first two olive trees have already been planted, symbolising roots of resilience and anchors of hope. When complete, the garden will offer calm and beauty to those entering the community, while also providing a visible reminder that renewal is possible, even after the darkest of times. By turning neglected land into a flourishing, welcoming space, Netiv HaAsara is reaffirming life, unity and the enduring power of growth.

Though separated by geography, Malkiya's greenhouse and Netiv HaAsara's healing garden share the same mission: to restore communities by restoring their environment. When Israelis living on the periphery cultivate their land, they are also cultivating resilience, dignity and hope.

This Rosh Hashanah, through the Blue Box campaign, JNF Australia invites you to be part of this journey. Together, we can help ensure that environmental rehabilitation becomes human rehabilitation, bringing strength, renewal and healing to communities across Israel.

Donate today at <https://jnf.org.au/vic-bbrh25> or call 1300 563 563.

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JNF Blue Box Rosh Hashanah 2025

Creating green communal spaces for rehabilitation, healing and growth



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