

To share your stories, email [skolieb@jewishnews.net.au](mailto:skolieb@jewishnews.net.au)

## Around the community

## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL RECEIVES A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

# Ruptured launched in the Northern Rivers

SHARYN KOLIEB

**RUPTURED:** *Jewish Women Reflect on Life Post-October 7*, published by the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia, has had book launches across Australia, with a recent launch in the Northern Rivers, NSW.

Around 70 people recently gathered at the historic community hall in Newrybar to hear about the lived experience of Jewish Australian women since October 7.

The Northern Rivers, which encompasses seven council areas of northern NSW, has a significant Jewish and Israeli population – around 2000 at any one time. Over the past two years the region has felt a growing rise in

antisemitism, together with the passing of an Ethical Procurement Policy by the Greens-led Byron Shire Council which has targeted Israeli businesses for boycotts.

With this backdrop, the event was welcomed by many in the Jewish and non-Jewish community, and the mayor of Ballina and two Byron Shire councillors also attended.

Sharon Sztar, a local resident and contributing essayist to *Ruptured*, led the event alongside Romy Moshinsky, a key member of the books' editorial team, and Shelley Kenigsberg, who moderated the discussion. With the theme of "story" woven throughout the afternoon's flow, the guests were treated to the sounding of the shofar, a musical performance



*Ruptured* launched in Newrybar in the Northern Rivers on November 2.

of Hebrew songs, an afternoon tea of recipes from Sztar's Booba Bertha – passed down through the matriarchal line – and an in-depth dive into *Ruptured*.

The *Ruptured* anthology emerged from a call for submissions to Australian Jewish women



Dr Rolene Lamm delivers *A Year Like No Other* and *Ruptured* to National Library of Israel CEO Oren Weinberg in Jerusalem. Photos: Supplied.

for *A Year Like No Other*, resulting in 150 powerful personal essays about life post-October 7 that was to be archived at both the

Lamm Jewish Library of Australia and the National Library of Israel.

Lamm Jewish Library of Australia chair Dr Rolene Lamm recently fulfilled that promise delivering *A Year Like No Other* and a copy of *Ruptured* to the National Library in Israel in Jerusalem, for its archives of the Bearing Witness program, on behalf of its editorial and publishing team.

"These senior representatives of the National Library of Israel were delighted to hear all about the project and so pleased to receive the copy for the archive," Lamm told *The AJN*.

"They were moved by the project and grateful for the deposit. This is believed by the National Library of Israel to be the only project of its kind in the world."

## MHM BOOK LAUNCH

## Sisters share Greek tragedy

THE Melbourne Holocaust Museum (MHM) is launching a new book by Carol Gordon and Gregoria Boursinos, which recounts the experiences of two Greek Jewish sisters, Maria and Lola Seror, who survived the Holocaust and moved to Melbourne.

Maria and Lola were the sole survivors of their family, and their stories told 70 years after the war reveal their courage and resistance in the face of unendurable hardship.

The book, *Maria and Lola: Stories of Survival*, will be launched on November 30 at 2.30pm, and Lola, who is 99 years old, will attend. At the launch Gordon and Boursinos will join Dr Simon Holloway in conversation, as they discuss the circumstances of Maria and Lola's survival and the Holocaust in Thessaloniki.

Boursinos is a Greek Australian who majored in World War II history and has always had a strong interest in Holocaust studies.

She has completed Holocaust

education courses at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum and at the Yad Vashem School in Jerusalem.

Boursinos met Maria and Lola at the MHM and knew she wanted to record their stories. She spent countless hours with the sisters, documenting their stories and doing research.

When that was all done, she approached Gordon to co-author the book with her.

Gordon is a Melbourne-based writer, filmmaker and Holocaust educator who has devoted more than 25 years to researching the history of Greece's Jewish communities and their near-destruction during the Holocaust.

She presents The Shira's Journey Project sharing unknown histories of once vibrant communities. She also works as a volunteer guide and Holocaust educator at the MHM and has helped to transcribe survivor testimonies for the museum.

To book visit events.humanitix.com/  
maria-and-lola-stories-of-survival-  
book-launch

## JEWISH NATIONAL FUND AUSTRALIA

## Launch of 2026 Israel tour programs

AJN STAFF

JNF Australia has announced its 2026 Israel tours program, offering a range of experiences from immersive multi-day adventures to curated single-day visits. Travellers will explore Israel from north to south, meeting the communities whose lives are touched by JNF-funded projects, from flourishing kibbutzim and pioneering water initiatives to educational and cultural programs.

"Visiting Israel with JNF changes you," said CEO of JNF Australia Doron Lazarus.

"You see firsthand the impact of your support, and you feel the deep connection between our community and the people of Israel. We give Israel strength by visiting, and the people gives us strength in return."

The tours are designed to meet a variety of interests. Group tours are ideal for those seeking to explore Israel's highlights while engaging with transformative JNF projects. Flexible On-Demand



2025 JNF Unity Tour.

Tours allow families and friends to travel together at their own pace where itineraries are built based on the travellers' interests.

Single-day tours provide a window into JNF's work, perfect for those short on time but eager to witness the difference their contributions make.

For those who want to give back more directly, a Volunteers Tour offers a hands-on experience from planting trees, supporting agriculture, to running community programs.

JNF is planning to add JNF Future and Young Professionals Tour, combining volunteering, adventure, and inspiration alongside like-minded peers.

Past participants have described returning home with renewed pride and a sense of connection to Israel, to the people they meet, and to their own role in supporting the Jewish homeland.

For more information on tours and to register your interest, visit [www.jnf.org.au/tours](http://www.jnf.org.au/tours)



## New Bursaries for Girls in Years 2 & 3 (2026)

[www.kds.vic.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.kds.vic.edu.au/scholarships)



Apply Now



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL