

JNF NSW

A time of miracles and renewed hope

During Chanukah, Jews in Australia, Israel, and around the world celebrate the Jewish festival of light with their family, friends and community.

It's a special time of togetherness, and a chance to reflect on the miracles of Chanukah, such as the Maccabees prevailing over a much larger imperial Greek force in ancient Israel, and how a tiny amount of oil proved enough to keep a menorah inside the restored Second Temple lit for eight consecutive days instead of just one.

“The JNF Green Sunday Appeal is all about planting hope and growing resilience.”

Since October 7, 2023, JNF has directly supported more than 100 projects in Israel's border communities, both in the north and south.

Each JNF project brings with it renewed hope for so many families, as they continue their journey of healing, rebuilding and return.

To witness this rebirth is like a miracle in itself – where the laughter of children has broken the eerie silence of communities which had been abandoned over the past months and years.

The JNF Green Sunday Appeal 2026, this coming February, is all about planting hope and growing resilience.

It will be in support of Netaim, a transformative environmental and community initiative led by the Or Ofir Foundation, in memory of Ofir Libstein z"l, the late mayor of Sha'ar HaNegev.

Libstein was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to strengthening Israel's south, connecting Israel and the Jewish world, and empowering young people to lead with purpose.

He was tragically killed defending his community on October 7, 2023, but his legacy of resilience and unity continues to inspire.

The Netaim program will help replant, restore and rejuvenate the western Negev – a region deeply scarred after the attacks.

It combines ecological renewal with youth empowerment, bringing together more than 1000 young participants from Israel, and Jewish communities worldwide, during the Darom Adom Festival and Tu B'Shvat celebrations.

These young people will participate in hands-on activities such as planting red anemones and trees, environmental education, and community engagement.

“Ofir believed that hope grows from the ground up,” JNF Australia CEO Doron Lazarus said.

“Through supporting Netaim, we are



Where hope grows again: The Netaim initiative unites young people to replant and rejuvenate the Western Negev communities.

continuing his mission, nurturing environmental stewardship, community resilience and connection between the people and the land.”

The JNF Green Sunday Telethon and Giving Day will be on February 8, 2026.

The day will see hundreds of volunteers including high school students and youth movement members come together across Australia to raise much-needed funds for Netaim.

Every donation and action will help plant trees, restore landscapes and keep the Negev alive with hope and renewal.

To register your interest in volunteering for Green Sunday in Sydney, contact the JNF NSW office on (02) 9389 5466 or visit jnf.org.au/nsw-gs-2026

Hannukah Sameach!

May light fill your home with warmth and joy as we celebrate this season of miracles.



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