

JNF

Building connections that last

At JNF Australia, education is about far more than sharing knowledge. It is about inspiring young people to build a lifelong connection with Israel; embrace their Jewish identity and recognise the role they can play in shaping our collective future.

JNF education coordinator Hilli Lam visited youth movement camps throughout the school holidays, engaging hundreds of campers through dynamic, hands-on programs that encouraged curiosity, creativity and leadership.

Each workshop was carefully designed to spark meaningful conversations about Israel and the challenges and opportunities facing the Jewish world today.

For senior campers, an interactive “Shark Tank” challenge invited teams to tackle contemporary issues affecting Israel and Jewish communities. Working together, participants developed ideas, presented their solutions and discovered that leadership begins with the courage to think differently and take action.

For younger participants, Israel’s story unfolded through the lives of extraordinary Israelis whose vision, resilience and innovation have helped shape the nation. As campers completed each challenge, they earned coins to place into a tzedakah box, connecting Israel’s achievements with

the timeless Jewish value of giving back.

These holiday programs are just one expression of JNF Australia’s year-round commitment to Israel education. Throughout the school year, Lam works with Jewish and non-Jewish schools across New South Wales, creating learning experiences that introduce students to Israel’s people, history, innovation and diversity while strengthening their understanding of the Jewish homeland.

“Education is about creating moments that stay with young people long after the activity ends,” explained Lam. “When students engage with Israel through conversation, creativity and shared values, they begin to see themselves as part of an ongoing story. That sense of belonging is what inspires pride, leadership and a lifelong connection to Israel.”

As Israel evolves, so too does JNF’s educational vision.

Another highlight of the term was the successful completion of JNF’s My Israel Passport initiative, which inspired hundreds of primary school students to discover Israel through an interactive community-wide adventure. Launched on Yom Ha’atzmaut, students explored Israel’s people, places, history and achievements by collecting stickers from participating community organisations before designing their own iconic JNF Blue Box.

The program received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, parents and educators alike.

“The My Israel Passport initiative has been a tremendous success with our students. They loved the challenge of collecting stickers, and it was wonderful to see them swapping stickers at lunchtime and talking enthusiastically about the Israeli personalities and places they had discovered. It created genuine excitement around learning and encouraged students to engage with Israel in a fun, interactive and



A JNF NSW Bnei Akiva camp activity.

meaningful way,” said Orly Mizrahi from Emanuel School.

“My Israel Passport was a fantastic learning experience for our students. They thoroughly enjoyed discovering new facts about Israel, and the program sparked curiosity, engagement and meaningful conversations both inside and outside the classroom,” added Elita Field from Moriah College.

As Israel evolves, so too does JNF’s educational vision. New classroom resources, interactive learning experiences and innovative teaching tools continue to be developed in partnership with educators and organisations in Israel, ensuring every generation can connect with Israel in ways that are relevant, inspiring and meaningful.

The journey continues beyond the classroom. This December, participants in the JNFuture Leaders Tour will

experience Israel firsthand, meeting the people rebuilding communities, driving innovation and shaping the country’s future. Soon after, educators from across Australia will embark on an exclusive JNF Educators Tour, returning home with fresh perspectives, practical resources and unforgettable experiences to inspire thousands of students in classrooms across the country.

From preschool to primary school, youth movements to future community leaders, JNF Australia is cultivating the next generation of proud, informed and connected Jewish Australians. By creating experiences that inspire, challenge and empower, JNF is helping ensure that Israel remains not only a place young people learn about but a place they feel deeply connected to.

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jnf.org.au/tours or 1300 563 563



Students show off their JNF NSW My Israel Passport.

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