

Annual Review 2025



MELB[✶]URNE
HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM

Judy & Leon Goldman Learning Centre

Thank you

We exist to amplify the voices of Holocaust survivors as a catalyst for greater understanding and acceptance of difference, to inspire a better future.

To our community of supporters – we say thank you. We could not do the work we do without your ongoing support.

OUR PURPOSE

We are a place of learning, amplifying the voices of the Holocaust through education, memorialisation and research

OUR VISION

To inspire a world free of hate, discrimination and antisemitism.

OUR PRIORITIES

- Enhancing our Advocacy and Impact
- Expanding our reach as a Centre of Excellence in Holocaust Education, Memorialisation and Research.
- Conserving the Voices of the Holocaust
- Completing the transition from the 'Jewish Holocaust Centre' to the 'Melbourne Holocaust Museum'

OUR VALUES

Integrity, Empathy, Responsibility, Respect, Inclusivity

Melbourne Holocaust Museum

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Cover: Holocaust Survivor Guta Goldstein with Montana Tucker at the 'Evening with Montana Tucker' event held on 27 August 2025.

Highlights

3
special
exhibitions
hosted

Over
1,000
collection
artefacts
donated

180
active
volunteers

42,591
TOTAL VISITORS

**MELBOURNE
HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM**

Judy & Leon Goldman Learning Centre

New
CEO
commenced

25,581
students
participated in
our education
programs



4,023 attended
78 events

1,088
participated in our
corporate programs

388
schools
attended our
education
programs

8 teachers
from **3** schools
participated in
our professional
development
program

RAISED OVER
\$2,986,175

**Launch
of MHM Friends
Membership
Program**

20
survivor testimonies
recorded

**Launch
of our 3 year
Strategic
Plan,
2025-2027**

A Momentous Year

Acknowledging achievements

The year 2025 was marked by significant transition, strong public engagement and an unwavering commitment to education, remembrance, and justice. Against a backdrop of rising antisemitism and global uncertainty, the Melbourne Holocaust Museum (MHM) remained a place of truth-telling, dialogue and community connection.



MAJOR MILESTONES

MHM achieved re-accreditation - reaffirming our commitment to professional excellence, best practice museum standards and public trust.

Our public programs series featured leading international and local voices, including Dr Simone Gigliotti, Andrew Markus, Kasia Person and Montana Tucker - each contributing to high quality public dialogue and strong audience attendance. In June, MHM hosted a reunion of over 50 Holocaust survivors to commemorate 80 years since liberation, accompanied by a message from the President of Israel. We also strengthened partnerships with authors and survivor communities through significant book launches.

MHM officially launched *Journeys of Hope*, a national partnership with ABC Education, featuring testimonies of five Holocaust survivors. This collaboration was further strengthened through a Memorandum of Understanding

with the ABC to nationally distribute *Critical Thinking is Critical* school resources, significantly expanding our educational reach.

Two special exhibitions opened to strong public engagement. *Aftershocks: Nolan and the Holocaust* attracted a significant first-time audience, i.e. 47% of attendees visiting MHM for the first time (out of more than 1500 visitors). Later in the year, we also launched special exhibition *Zachor: Ask a Survivor and Portraits of Survival* by Anita Lester, which further deepened opportunities for survivor testimony and contemporary reflection.

While we explored new areas, education remained central - engaging students, teachers and general visitors. Advocacy also became an increasing focus in late 2025, strengthening public awareness and institutional engagement. The Museum was honoured to host diplomats, Australian political leaders, and education stakeholders, further deepening civic and international relationships.

CONGRATULATIONS

In late 2025, Dr Breann Fallon was appointed MHM's new CEO. Dr Fallon brings extensive experience in Holocaust and human rights education. A scholar, media contributor, and former Senate advisory committee member on Nazi symbols, she is dedicated to preserving the past to inform a better future for all.

We welcomed Dr Shol Blustein, who was elected to the Board in October, where he was appointed Treasurer.

We also acknowledge honours and recognition received across our community:

- Sean Meltzer was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2025 Australia Day Honours for service to the Jewish community and to the arts.
- Sarah Saaroni OAM was recognised at the Glen Eira Volunteer Recognition Awards for 40 years of service.
- Ten other volunteers were recognised for their dedication: Jenny Sach, Debbie Max, Thomas Elliot, Margaret Taft, Guta Goldstein, Helen Mahemoff OAM, Sue Hampel OAM, Jack Ginger, Gita Ginger (20 years of continuous service) and Pauline Rockman OAM (30 years of continuous service).
- For 20 years, Julie Cohen has made an extraordinary contribution to the Education Team, helping to inspire learning and deepen holocaust understanding. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Julie and congratulate her on her retirement for 20 years of volunteering.

CONDOLENCES

We honour and remember members of our Museum community who passed away during the year. Each made a profound and lasting contribution to MHM's mission of education and remembrance.

Henri Korn engaged with many students over the years, particularly through the Survivor Connect Program, where he responded to students' letters thoughtfully and eloquently, with intelligence and warmth. Primary students still learn about Henri, who is one of the seven child survivors featured in MHM's Hidden exhibition. Henri's remarkable story will continue to inspire countless visitors

Cesia Goldberg, a beloved Holocaust survivor whose testimony reflected *resilience, hope and humanity*.

Halina Zylberman had an extraordinary ability to connect with students, sharing her experiences with such honesty, dignity, and purpose. Halina is one of the seven child

Below: Journeys of Hope launch, a national partnership with ABC Education

Bottom: Guta Goldstein celebrating her 95th birthday

Opposite far left: Australian Parliamentarians

Opposite left: Survivor lunch event



We congratulate community milestones including Guta Goldstein, Joe Szwarcberg, and Lusja Haberfeld on their 95th birthdays, and Wolf Deane on his 100th birthday.

survivors featured in *Hidden: Seven Children Saved*, her story of survival will continue to inspire countless of students and visitors.

Abram Goldberg OAM, MHM founder and Board director, passed away just months short of his 101st birthday. Respected survivor whose lifelong commitment to testimony ensured the Holocaust remains present in public memory.

Andy Factor OAM passed away at the age of 101. A tireless educator, Andy's life embodied resilience, courage and compassion.

Sharona Josefsberg, a valued volunteer whose quiet dedication and care supported the Museum's work over many years.

Their legacies endure through the lives they touched and the ongoing work of the Museum.

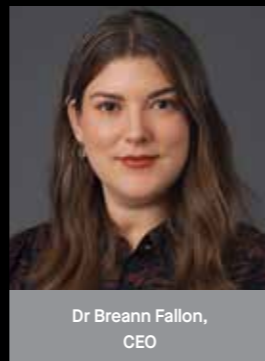
Memory Demands Action



Michael Debinski OAM,
Co-President



Sue Hampel OAM,
Co-President



Dr Breann Fallon,
CEO

Photographed by Simon Shiff

As we reflect on 2025, a year that has asked much of us as a Museum, as a community, and as a society, it has become clear that memorialisation is never static; it is an active, evolving responsibility shaped by the world around us and the voices we are entrusted to carry forward.

The tragedy of the Chanukah by the Sea massacre weighed heavily on our community. Such violence serves as a stark reminder that hatred is not confined to the past. The Holocaust demonstrates that the pathways to atrocity begin long before the violence is carried out. They take root in language, exclusion, and the gradual erosion of shared humanity. The work of the Museum is therefore not only to preserve memory, but to deepen awareness and strengthen the moral courage required to respond.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Dr Breann Fallon, the Museum has continued to build on this purpose with clarity and care. Dr Fallon's approach reflects a strong commitment to education, human rights, combatting antisemitism and the enduring relevance of Holocaust history. The resilience and generosity of the survivor community continue to guide this work, ensuring that their testimonies are not only heard but meaningfully understood by contemporary audiences.

Education remains at the heart of the Museum's work. In 2025, more than 25,000 school students visited, engaging with Holocaust history through guided programs and direct encounters with survivor testimony. These visits reflect both strong demand and the urgency of this work. Students continue to approach these experiences with curiosity and thoughtfulness, demonstrating the critical role education plays in countering prejudice and indifference.

The Museum's special exhibitions in 2025, *Aftershocks: Nolan and the Holocaust*, *Zachor: Ask a Survivor and*

Portraits of Survival, exemplified this commitment. Each exhibition invited visitors to explore deeply human stories while drawing thoughtful connections to the present. *Aftershocks* examined the enduring impact of trauma across generations. *Zachor* emphasised remembrance as both an act and an obligation. *Portraits of Survival* centred individual lives with dignity and clarity. Together, these exhibitions created spaces for reflection that were both intimate and challenging.

The Co-Presidents and CEO acknowledge the collective effort that sustains the Museum's impact. Staff, volunteers, educators, and supporters, including the Melbourne Holocaust Museum Foundation chaired by Helen Mahemoff OAM, all contribute to a shared commitment to remembrance and learning. The Museum is not only a place of reflection of the past, but also a space that encourages visitors to consider their responsibilities in the present.

In a time marked by rising antisemitism, uncertainty and division, the MHM remains steadfast in its purpose. Our Museum continues to centre survivor voices, foster critical understanding, and create meaningful encounters with history that inspire empathy and action.

To remember is to accept responsibility. In 2025, the Museum reaffirmed this commitment with clarity and purpose, grounded in the belief that education can help shape a more just and humane future.

Advocacy Work with Government and Implementing our Strategic Plan

2025 has been a year of momentum, challenge, and shared commitment at the MHM, as strategy has been translated into visible impact across our community.

Our work is guided by four strategic pillars: enhancing our advocacy and impact; expanding our reach as a centre of excellence in Holocaust education, memorialisation, and research; conserving the voices of the Holocaust; and completing the transition from the 'Centre' to the 'Museum'.

A defining step forward has been the introduction of the Museum's first formal advocacy plan. For the first time, advocacy has been clearly articulated as a core pillar of our work, providing structure and intent to how we engage with government, parliamentarians, the diplomatic corps, and the broader civic landscape. A key milestone was our inaugural parliamentary and consular breakfast, which brought together diplomatic leaders in a setting grounded in reflection and responsibility. It marked an important shift in deepening relationships and ensuring that remembrance informs meaningful public action.

Expanding our reach has also been central to this year, as we continue the transition from the 'Centre' to the 'Museum'. A highlight of the year was the gala dinner featuring Montana Tucker, which brought together survivors, supporters, and new audiences in a shared commitment to remembrance. The evening also strengthened our growing membership program, helping to build a more connected and engaged community around the Museum's mission. Our education team has been at the heart of this growth, welcoming over 25,000 school students in 2025. Each program is carefully designed and delivered, with a strong focus on creating encounters with history that are both intellectually rigorous and emotionally resonant.

A significant operational milestone this year was the transition to a new Customer Relationship Management system. This investment has strengthened how we understand and engage with our visitors, supporters, and donors. It has enhanced the visitor experience, improved donor stewardship, and provided richer marketing insights, enabling more thoughtful and personalised engagement across the Museum's community.

Conserving the voices of the Holocaust remains foundational to our work. Our collections team continues to record survivor testimony with care and precision, ensuring these irreplaceable accounts are preserved for future generations. Alongside this, we have continued to receive donations of personal artefacts, photographs, and documents, each entrusted to us with profound meaning and responsibility.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will significantly expand our out-of-home presence across Melbourne, bringing the Museum more visibly into everyday public space. We will also grow our corporate engagement programs, including the expansion of *The Space Between*, our initiative focused on confronting antisemitism and fostering workplace understanding, dialogue, and responsibility. In parallel, we are setting an ambitious target of reaching 30,000 students through our education programs, ensuring even more young people encounter this history in meaningful and lasting ways.

We want to acknowledge and thank our extraordinary team of staff and volunteers for their dedication, care, and unwavering commitment across every part of this work. We are deeply grateful to our partners, our donors, and in particular the Melbourne Holocaust Museum Foundation, for their steadfast support, belief, and investment in our mission. 2025 reflects what is possible when a community comes together with purpose and conviction.

My first 100 days as CEO

Dr Breann Fallon, CEO

The first 100 days at the MHM have stayed with me in a deeply personal way.

I stepped into this role in October 2025 and began with listening and learning - meeting many of you over coffee where we engaged in conversations that were generous, honest, and grounding. I often think back to hearing why you give your time, your energy, and your support to this place. Those conversations were not formal or distant. They were personal. We shared family histories, our commitment to moral conviction, and about a belief that remembrance must be active. In those moments, I understood that this Museum is carried every day by people who choose, repeatedly, to stand behind its purpose.

Just two months later, the tragedy of the Chanukah by the Sea massacre occurred at Bondi, and everything shifted. What was a period of listening and learning became a period of shared grief, reflection, and responsibility.

In the days that followed Bondi, the Museum was overwhelmed in the most human sense. The phone did not stop ringing. Messages came from across the community, from partners, from supporters, from people simply wanting

to know what they could do. Flowers arrived at our doors. Notes of grief and solidarity filled our inboxes. There was a steady stream of people coming in to sit, to talk, to be present. It was a moment of collective sorrow.

During that period, I approached the role with a strong awareness of the emotional weight being carried across our community. It was important to me that our staff, volunteers, and survivors felt supported in a genuine and practical way, including ensuring access to daily check-ins, security updates, and wellbeing resources such as counselling and employee assistance services.

We made the decision to open the Museum free of charge on the National Day of Mourning. This was a considered response, grounded in the belief that the Museum should remain accessible in moments of collective grief. It provided a space where people could come together quietly, to reflect, to sit with loss, and to feel a sense of shared presence.

At the same time, I was mindful of the need to remain anchored in our purpose. The Museum exists to confront hatred, to educate, and to contribute to the shaping of moral understanding. In these times, that responsibility becomes more pronounced. Through our education programs,

we continued to engage students in examining how prejudice develops, how violence can emerge, and the role individuals play in responding to it at every stage of life.

Throughout, my focus was on staying attuned to the lived experience of our community, while ensuring that our response was measured, considered, and aligned with the values that define the Museum's work. We found ourselves drawn more deeply into national conversations about antisemitism and social cohesion, including the ongoing implications of the Royal Commission process and the need for sustained government engagement. The Museum has been advocating for stronger Holocaust and antisemitism education, and for policy settings that recognise the lived reality of our community. These conversations with government and civic leaders have been important in ensuring that remembrance is not treated as symbolic alone, but as something that must inform action, accountability, and prevention.

Alongside this, continued the work of our remarkable team. We continued to deliver Holocaust education to tens of thousands of students with care and rigour.

We have created exhibitions and visitor experiences of extraordinary depth and sensitivity. We have supported personal donor engagement with generosity and attentiveness, strengthening the relationships that sustain this institution. Our dedicated administration team has held everything together with extraordinary steadiness, ensuring that in moments of intensity the organisation continues to function with care, precision, and calm. Our security team has also been an essential part of this fabric, quietly and consistently keeping our visitors, staff, and survivors safe, allowing the Museum to remain an open and welcoming place even in difficult times.

These first 100 days have been shaped by both overwhelm and solidarity. From those early coffees with volunteers and donors, to the flood of support after Bondi, I have seen a community that does not turn away from grief but moves through it together. I am deeply grateful for this extraordinary community that surrounds and sustains the Museum. It is held by care, strengthened by commitment, and united in shared responsibility to ensure that remembrance continues to lead us forward.



Photographed by
Simon Shiff

Following the success of the MHM's inaugural special exhibition *Underground: The Hidden Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto*, the Alter Family Special Exhibitions Gallery has presented a powerful and diverse exhibition program that deepened the public's understanding of Holocaust history, memory and contemporary resonance through a range of artistic forms.

Exhibitions & Experiences

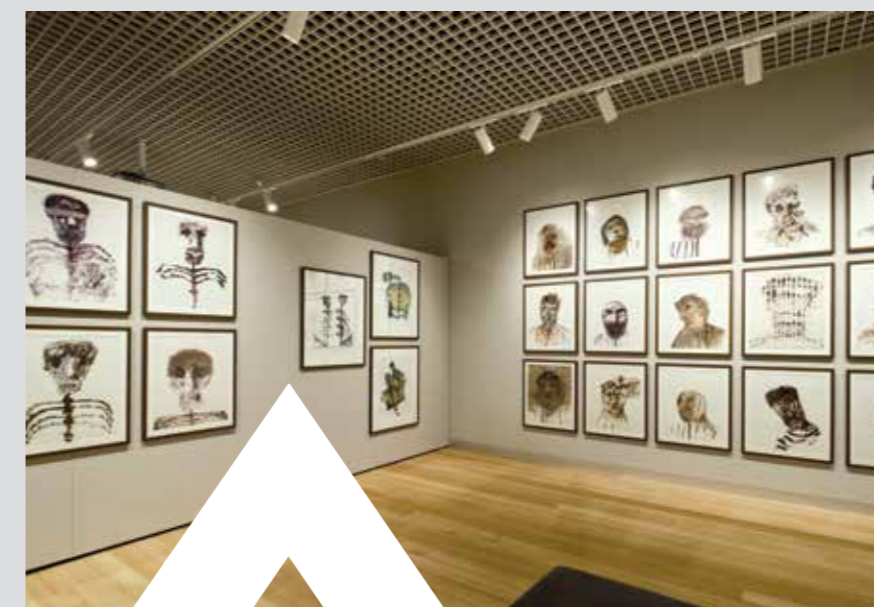


In October 2025, *Portraits of Survival* opened in partnership with Melbourne-based artist Anita Lester. Originating with a portrait of Abram Goldberg OAM z"l, made as a submission to the Archibald Prize, the project grew through strong community engagement. Sixteen oil portraits of Melbourne-based Holocaust survivors were displayed in *Portraits of Survival*, demonstrating Anita's deep connection to the sitters and the foregrounding of resilience, identity and intergenerational connection. Through these paintings, visitors encountered survivors not only as historical witnesses but as living members of the community.

Across these exhibitions, the Museum demonstrated a commitment to innovative, historically compelling and emotionally resonant programming. By combining major historical narratives with personal stories and contemporary artistic responses, the 2025 exhibition program strengthened the Museum's role as a vital space for remembrance, education and dialogue.

In partnership with the Sydney Jewish Museum, the Museum presented *Aftershocks: Nolan and the Holocaust*, featuring previously unseen works by Sidney Nolan. Bringing together more than 50 works, this exhibition offered visitors a rare and lesser-known insight into one of Australia's most significant artists. Nolan's practice was revealed as deeply affected by antisemitism and the Holocaust, responding as a contemporary observer to the unfolding events and their aftermath, including the trial of Adolf Eichmann. The exhibition demonstrated Nolan's lifelong concern with injustice, persecution and human suffering, underscoring the role of art as both witness and response.

In June 2024 five child survivors - Nina Bassat AM, Andre Dubrowin, Peter Gaspar OAM, Charles German and Eve Graham - were interviewed by ABC Education for the *Journeys of Hope* project. From these interviews an immersive and interactive exhibition, *Zachor: Ask a Survivor*, emerged. Reinforcing the Museum's core mission to conserve the voices of the Holocaust, the exhibition invited visitors to engage directly with survivor testimony. Through a digital interface they could pose questions to each survivor on the topic of their migration experiences and receive a response drawn from the recorded interviews. Presented as a semi-permanent offering, *Zachor: Ask a Survivor* responds to visitor demand for deeper access to survivor stories beyond *Everybody Had a Name*.



Opposite: Anita Lester photographed in her special exhibition, *Portraits of Survival*. Photographed by Simon Shiff

Above: Visitors experiencing *Zachor: Ask a Survivor* exhibition.

Left: *Aftershocks: Nolan and the Holocaust* special exhibition at the Melbourne Holocaust Exhibition. Photographed by Simon Shiff

Visitor Experience



I have done a lot of reading and listened to numerous personal testimonials on the Holocaust. However, I had never turned my mind to Australia's relationship to it (immigration policy, limited immigration visas etc) at the time. Furthermore, I had not (up until recently) considered the contributions that survivors had made to Australia and, in particular, Melbourne. The MHM helped me a lot in my understanding of this.

- Visitor Review, 2025

The Visitor Experience team continued to grow and evolve through its second full year. This period brought valuable learnings and ongoing developments as we worked to enhance the visitor experience.

Several volunteers progressed into casual roles, further building their skills and professional development within the organisation, while strengthening the team overall.

It is also incredibly special to have volunteers who are personally connected to our survivors' stories. The inclusion of survivor family voices, with histories woven throughout the exhibitions, brings a depth of authenticity and empathy that creates a more meaningful and powerful visitor experience. It reinforces that this history is not simply "long ago and far away". Seeing the descendants of survivors highlights that they are everyday people, making these stories more immediate, tangible, and relevant to visitors today.

Visitors are often struck by seeing young people actively working and volunteering in the space. Their presence highlights the ongoing relevance of this history in an Australian context, reflecting the lives survivors built here. Having a team made up of people from diverse backgrounds further strengthens this connection, helping visitors see themselves in the stories and understand their continued significance today.

Following the events in Bondi, we saw an increase in visitors seeking to learn and reflect. The Visitor Experience team played a pivotal role in supporting people as they navigated the impact of the attack. We delivered back-to-back *Hidden* exhibitions and VR sessions, reflecting both the strong demand and a clear commitment from visitors to engage deeply with the content.

School Visits & Virtual Workshops 2025

Over the last year, more than 25,000 students from schools and other education institutions visited the MHM. We are very excited to see this number continue to grow as we plan to welcome more students than ever before.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Academy Of Mary Immaculate | Donvale Christian College | McKinnon Secondary College | South Oakleigh Secondary College |
| Aitken College | Dromana Secondary College | Melbourne Girls Grammar | Southern Cross Grammar |
| Alamanda K-9 College | Drouin Secondary College | Melbourne Girls' College | St Albans Secondary College |
| Albert Park College | Edenbrook Secondary College | Melbourne Grammar School | St Aloysius College |
| Alexandra Secondary College | Elevation Secondary College | Melbourne High School | St Andrews Christian College |
| Alkira Secondary College | Elwood Secondary College | Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School | St Bede's College |
| Alphington Grammar School | Emerald Secondary College | Melton Secondary College | St Dominic's Primary School |
| Altona College | Emmanuel College Warrnambool | Mentone Girls' Grammar School | St Francis Catholic College |
| Ararat College | Epping Secondary College | Mentone Grammar School | St Joseph's College Ferntree Gully |
| Ashwood High School | FCJ College Benalla | Methodist Ladies' College | St Joseph's College Geelong |
| Bacchus Marsh Grammar - Maddingley | Fintona Girls' School | Monbulk College | St Kevin's College Toorak |
| Bacchus Marsh Grammar - Woodlea | Fitzroy High School | Monterey Secondary College | St Leonard's College Brighton |
| Baimbridge College | Flinders Christian Community College | Mooroolbark College | St Mary's College Seymour |
| Ballarat Christian College | Frankston High School | Mount Eliza Secondary College | St Michael's Grammar School |
| Ballarat Grammar Schools City Cite | Gardenvale Primary School | Mount Lilydale Mercy College | St Peter's College, Clyde North |
| Balwyn High School | Geelong Baptist College | Mount Scopus Memorial College | Star of the Sea College |
| Bayside Christian College | Geelong High School | Mount St Joseph Girls' College | Staugton College |
| Bayswater Secondary College | Geelong Lutheran College | Mount Waverley Secondary College | Strathcona Baptist Girls' Grammar |
| Bayview College | Genazzano FCJ College | Mullauna Secondary College | Strathmore Secondary College |
| Beaconhills College - Berwick Campus | Gilson College Taylors Hill | Murtoa College | Sunbury College |
| Beaconhills College - Pakenham Campus | Gisborne Secondary College | Narre Warren South P-12 College | Sunshine College West Campus |
| Beaumaris Secondary College | Glen Eira College | Nazareth College | Surf Coast Secondary College |
| Beechworth Secondary College | Glen Waverley Secondary College | Newhaven College | Sydney Road Community School |
| Belgrave Heights Christian School | Goulburn Valley Grammar School | Noble Park Secondary College | Tarneit P-9 College |
| Bellarine Secondary College | Grovedale College | Northcote High School | Taylor's Lakes Secondary College |
| Belmont High School | Hallam Senior Secondary College | Northern College of the Arts and Technology | Templestowe College |
| Benalla P-12 College | Hampton Park Secondary College | Northside Christian College | The Grange P-12 College |
| Bendigo South East College | Hawkesdale P12 College | Norwood Secondary College | The King David School |
| Bentleigh Secondary College | Hazel Glen College | Nossal High School | Tintern Grammar |
| Berwick Secondary College | Heritage College | Notre Dame College | Toorak College |
| Beth Rivkah Ladies College | Highvale Secondary College | Nunawading Christian College - Secondary | Trinity College Colac |
| Bialik College | Hillcrest Christian College | Oakleigh Grammar | Trinity Grammar School Kew |
| Billanook College | Hopetoun P-12 College | Our Lady of Sion College | University High School |
| Birchip P-12 School | Hoppers Crossing Secondary College | Parkdale Secondary College | Upper Yarra Secondary College |
| Blackburn High School | Huntingtower School | Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College | Upwey High School |
| Boort District P-12 School | Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School | Patterson River Secondary College | Victorian College for the Deaf |
| Boronia K-12 College | Ivanhoe Grammar School | Peninsula Grammar | Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) |
| Box Hill High School | John Monash Science School | Penleigh & Essendon Grammar School | Victory Christian College |
| Brentwood Secondary College | Kambrya College | Keilor East | Viewbank College |
| Bright P-12 College | Kilbreda College | Plenty Valley Christian College | Wangaratta High School |
| Brighton Secondary College | Killester College | Prahran High School | Warrandyte High School |
| Brunswick Secondary College | Kingswood College | Presbyterian Ladies' College | Waverley Christian College - Narre Warren South |
| Buckley Park College | Kolbe Catholic College | Preshil, The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School | Waverley Christian College - Wantirna South |
| Camberwell Girls Grammar School | Koonung Secondary College | Preston High School | Weeroona College |
| Camberwell Grammar School | Korowa Anglican Girls' School | Princes Hill Secondary College | Wellington Secondary College |
| Carey Baptist Grammar School | Korumburra Secondary College | Pyramid Hill College | Werribee Secondary College |
| Carrum Downs Secondary College | Kyneton High School | Richmond High School | Wesley College Elsternwick |
| Castlemaine Secondary College | Lakeside College | Rochester Secondary College | Wesley College Glen Waverley |
| Cathedral College Wangaratta | Lakeview Senior College | Rosebud Secondary College | Wesley College Melbourne |
| Catherine McAuley College | Lalor Secondary College | Rowville Secondary College | Westall Secondary College |
| Catholic College Sale | Lavalla Catholic College | Roxburgh College | Western Port Secondary College |
| Catholic Ladies' College | Lauriston Girls' School Armadale | Rutherglen High School | Whitefriars College |
| Catholic Regional College Caroline Springs | Leongatha Secondary College | Ruyton Girls' School | William Ruthven Secondary College |
| Caulfield Grammar School | Lilydale Heights College | Sacre Coeur | Williamstown High School |
| Caulfield Grammar School Wheelers Hill | Lilydale High School | Sacred Heart College Kyneton | Williamstown High School - Bayview |
| Charlton College | Loreto College - Ballarat | Sacred Heart College Newtown | Woodleigh School |
| Chelsea Primary School | Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak | Sacred Heart College Yarrowonga | Woodmans Hill Secondary College |
| Christian College - Waurn Ponds | Lorne P-12 College | Sacred Heart Girls' College | Wycheproof P-12 College |
| Clonard College | Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School | Salesian College Chadstone | Yarra Valley Grammar School |
| Clyde Secondary College | Luther College | Salesian College Sunbury | Yarram Secondary College |
| Cobram Anglican Grammar School | MacKillop Catholic Regional College | Sandringham College - 10-12 Campus | Yea High School |
| Cohuna Secondary College | Macleod College | Scoresby Secondary College | Yeshivah & Beth Rivkah Girls' Colleges |
| Cornish College | MacRobertson Girls High School | Scotch College | |
| Cranbourne Secondary College | Marian College Ararat | Seymour College | |
| Croydon Community School | Marian College Sunshine | Shepparton ACE Secondary College | |
| Damascus College | Maribyrnong Secondary College | Shepparton Christian College | |
| Dandenong High School | Marist College Bendigo | Sherbrooke Community School | |
| Diamond Valley College | Maryborough Education Centre | Sholem Aleichem College | |
| Dimboola Memorial Secondary College | Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College | Simonds Catholic College | |
| Docklands Primary School | Mazenod College | Somerville Secondary College | |
| Doncaster Secondary College | McKinnon Primary School | | |

Education

In 2025, MHM continued to strengthen its role as a national leader in Holocaust education. Our programs engaged a diverse range of students and teachers from across the country, reflecting a growing national recognition of the Museum as a trusted educational partner. With more than **25,000 students** participating in onsite and outreach programs, this year saw a significant increase in interstate participation, with schools travelling from South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, and North Queensland to take part in our onsite learning experiences. Their willingness to journey such distances highlights both the unique value of our programs and the continued importance of providing authentic, survivor centred Holocaust education to young Australians.

Two cornerstone programs remained central to this success. The *In Touch With Memory* senior program continued to offer students powerful encounters with survivor testimony and curated content that brought history vividly to life.



I found the PD extremely useful – it was very interactive and very practical based. What set the PD apart from others I have attended is the number of resources and practical application strategies we could take and use straight away. The focus on the importance of language was excellent and is relevant for other history and humanities subjects as well.

Teacher, Strathmore Secondary College

Its combination of personal narrative, digital innovation, and reflective learning ensured that older students walked away with a profound appreciation of memory, resilience, and responsibility.

“It is my opinion that you cannot walk through this building and participate in this program without becoming a changed person.”

Year 10 student, Whitefriars College

For primary-aged learners, the *Hidden* program again proved to be an essential introduction to understanding the Holocaust through age appropriate storytelling and guided exploration. Teachers consistently praised the program's sensitivity, clarity, and ability to make complex history accessible without compromising emotional care. Student responses were equally enthusiastic, with many expressing a sense of connection and curiosity that extended beyond their visit.

“This was amazing. I think all Victorian students should have to come here.”

Year 6 student, Gardenvale



Students participating in guided experience of the *Everybody Had a Name* exhibition. Photographed by Simon Shiff



Across all programs, participant feedback in 2025 was overwhelmingly positive. Teachers commended the Museum for its engaging facilitators, well designed resources, and meaningful learning outcomes. Students described their visits as eye opening, memorable, and inspiring - an encouraging reflection of the Museum's ongoing efforts to evolve and refine its educational approach.

Throughout the year, a number of students returned to the museum with their families on a Sunday or during term breaks to share the experience, which further highlights not only the impact of the programs, but also the ripple effect created.

The Museum also delivered a specialised Teacher Professional Learning workshop tailored specifically for government high school educators. This session equipped teachers with practical strategies, historical frameworks, and ethical guidelines for teaching the Holocaust within classroom settings. Feedback indicated that participants left with a deeper understanding of both the content and the pedagogical responsibilities associated with Holocaust education. For many teachers, the session provided not only

new knowledge but also a renewed sense of purpose in shaping informed and compassionate future citizens.

Our volunteers - at the heart of the School Programs department - played an essential role in delivering meaningful experiences to students. In 2025, we invested in upskilling our volunteer guides, providing additional training in facilitation, object based learning, and engaging with diverse student cohorts. We were also pleased to onboard a new cohort of volunteers who brought fresh energy, commitment, and passion to the team. Their contributions helped ensure every school group was met with a knowledgeable and empathic guide able to bring history to life.

As we look ahead, the successes of 2025 reaffirm our commitment to expanding our educational offerings and continuing to build a national community of informed, thoughtful, and compassionate young people. The Museum remains dedicated to providing students and teachers with the tools to understand the past, reflect on the present, and contribute to a more just future.

Corporate Programs

AND THE SPACE BETWEEN



other stakeholders. It is a program that has proven especially popular with medical practitioners, and one that we have also used in our engagement with police, local councils and a variety of local businesses, large and small.

In addition to the above, and with support from the Victorian Government, the MHM is launching a new and innovative workplace program, *The Space Between - Where Understanding Begins*, designed to create meaningful dialogue in complex and challenging times.

At the heart of the program is a powerful series of immersive storytelling films featuring six Australian Jews, their lives, the challenges that

they face and the hopes that they have. Their stories are personal, nuanced and thought-provoking. The program invites participants to pause, to listen, and to see one another more fully as human - to step into the moments between assumption and understanding, reaction and reflection, disagreement and dialogue.

In environments where people are often hesitant to speak openly, particularly about issues like antisemitism, identity, or difference, *The Space Between* creates a structured, facilitated setting for meaningful conversation. This workplace program is designed to promote listening, reflection and the consideration of other views.

This framework for dialogue will offer space for participants to consider how they listen, lead and make decisions at work, and in life.

Opposite: Participants using VR technology during the workplace program. Photographed by Aaron Zajonc.

Below: Dr Simon Holloway on a corporate tour. Photographed by Simon Shiff

In 2025, Melbourne Holocaust Museum continued its roll-out of corporate programs with the creation of two new workshops: *Understanding the Holocaust* and *The Jewish Community Today*.

The former enables participants to delve into elements of the history that are of special interest to them, with a focus on themes of resistance and bravery. The latter workshop, which has proven popular with groups that engage with the Jewish community, explores the social and religious diversity of Melbourne's Jewish population.

Our most popular program remains our flagship program: *Cultural Competence*. As with the other two, this includes a 60-minute tour of the exhibit and bespoke workshop. Last year, we welcomed 59 different corporate groups to the museum, bringing over 1,000 individuals. Over 700 of those individuals engaged in a program, the overwhelming majority of whom participated in *Cultural Competence*. Building on the lessons of the Holocaust, this program also allows for an exploration of contemporary antisemitism.

Our purpose with this program (which continues to receive very positive feedback) is to enable participants to better understand the sensitivities of Jewish colleagues, customers and





In Conversation with Montana Tucker and Dr Breann Fallon. Photographed by Jarrod Freedman



An Evening with Montana Tucker. Photographed by Jarrod Freedman



Above: Guta Goldstein sharing with testimony. Photographed by Jarrod Freedman

An Evening with MONTANA TUCKER

Almost 600 people gathered for *An Evening with Montana Tucker*, an event that was intimate and electrifying, deeply personal and powerful. The evening demonstrated how memory, when carried with purpose and authenticity, can resonate across generations and inspire action in the present moment.



Montana Tucker Private Dinner Event

Montana Tucker is widely known as an accomplished performer - singer, dancer, and digital creator - with nearly 14 million followers across TikTok and Instagram. Yet it is her work as a Holocaust education advocate that brought her to Melbourne, and it was this role that defined the evening.

Montana was on stage in conversation with Dr Breann Fallon. Their discussion traced Montana's journey from entertainer to educator, shaped profoundly by her grandparents' survival of the Holocaust. Growing up, the Holocaust was not a distant chapter of history for Montana - it was part of everyday life. Her Zadie wore pins reading "Never Again" and "Survivor," and spoke openly about his experiences whenever he could. These were stories told not for drama, but for truth.

It was only after her grandfather's passing that Montana felt compelled to retrace her family's history in a more tangible way. That journey led her to Poland, and to the sites that would later form the backbone of her acclaimed digital

docuseries *How To: Never Forget*. Standing in Auschwitz, Belzec, and other key sites, she described feeling an overwhelming sense of responsibility. The silence, the physical traces of absence, and the weight of history crystallised for her one clear truth: these stories could not end with her.

In sharing excerpts from that journey, Montana spoke candidly about translating such immense history into short form content without diminishing its gravity. She explained how she uses creativity - music, movement, strong visual cues - not to soften the truth, but to ensure people stop scrolling long enough to hear it. Her goal, she said, is simple: to make people feel something they cannot ignore.

The conversation also addressed the cost of speaking out. Since posting Holocaust related content, Montana has lost followers and faced relentless antisemitism online, including daily threats. Yet she remains resolute. Silence, she said, is what allows hate to grow. Education, empathy, and persistence are the only meaningful responses.

A particularly moving moment of the evening came with firsthand survivor testimony from Guta Goldstein. Her presence underscored why events like this matter so profoundly. As the number of living survivors continues to decline, the opportunity to hear directly from those who lived through the Holocaust becomes ever more precious. The room held a collective stillness as Guta shared her testimony, a reminder that behind history are individuals, lives, and voices that must never be reduced to numbers.

The following morning, Montana Tucker continued her visit to Melbourne by meeting with students at Mount Scopus Memorial College and Bialik College. Speaking directly with young people, she reinforced the importance of asking questions, challenging misinformation, and understanding

the responsibility each generation carries in ensuring Holocaust memory and the fight against antisemitism endure.

That night, we hosted an intimate dinner for major supporters and donors. In this smaller setting, Montana Tucker connected one on one with members of the community, speaking openly about her journey, her family history, and the responsibility she feels as a third generation descendant of Holocaust survivors. The dinner reinforced the tone for the night before: reflective, sincere, and grounded in shared commitment to remembrance and education.

The impact of Montana's visit was reflected not only in its emotional resonance, but in tangible outcomes. These events raised over \$100,000 in support of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum's education and remembrance programs, affirming the community's commitment to confronting antisemitism through knowledge and engagement.

Hosting Montana Tucker at MHM felt like a meeting point between past and present, tradition and technology. Montana Tucker embodies that intersection. By carrying survivor stories into digital spaces where millions spend their time, she is ensuring that Holocaust memory remains alive, relevant, and urgent.

As antisemitism rises in Australia and around the world, the significance of Montana's visit could not be clearer. *An Evening with Montana Tucker* was not just a talk or a performance - it was a call to remembrance, education, and action. It reminded all who attended that memory is not passive. It is something we carry forward, together, choosing every day to speak, to learn, and to stand against hate.

2025 Events



Throughout the year, the Museum delivered a dynamic and thought provoking program of events centred on Holocaust remembrance, survivor testimony, justice, cultural memory, and intergenerational engagement. These programs fostered meaningful dialogue, learning, and reflection, reaffirming the Museum's commitment to preserving historical truth while addressing contemporary challenges of memory and responsibility.

HEAR A SURVIVOR THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Survivor talks remained a cornerstone of the Museum's programming. Holocaust survivors Sarah Saaroni OAM, Paul Grinwald, Dr Henry Ekert AM, Judy Kolt, Joe Szcwarcberg, and Dr Jack Leder AM shared their lived experiences across multiple events, offering audiences firsthand insight into survival, resilience, and the enduring impact of the Holocaust.

BOOK LAUNCHES AND LITERARY ENGAGEMENT

The Museum hosted several book launches celebrating survivor testimonies, including David Marlow's *Uncovering Their Names and Stories: 300 Years of a German-Jewish Family, 1697-2024*, *In the Sunset of My Days: Fourth Anthology of the Melbourne Child Survivors of the Holocaust*, and Carol Gordon's *Maria and Lola: Stories of Survival*. Each event reinforced the written word as a vital vehicle for preserving Holocaust memory.

Above: Holocaust Survivors speaking at International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Photographed by Jarrod Freedman

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY – TESTIMONIES OF FREEDOM

Marking 80 years since the end of World War Two and the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau, this commemorative event featured survivor testimonies reflecting on liberation and the meaning of freedom. The panel highlighted the continuing importance of survivor voices in shaping historical understanding and moral responsibility.

SURVIVOR LUNCH

In June, the Museum hosted a special Survivor Lunch bringing together over 50 Holocaust survivors to commemorate 80 years since liberation. The gathering provided a meaningful opportunity for survivors to reconnect, reflect, and honour their shared histories in a supportive and communal setting. The occasion was further marked by a message from the President of Israel, acknowledging the survivors' endurance and reaffirming the importance of remembrance, recognition, and legacy as survivor voices continue to guide Holocaust education and memory.

AN EVENING WITH PHILIPPE SANDS KC: 38 LONDRES STREET

We hosted nearly 180 attendees for a compelling exploration of justice, memory, and identity with internationally acclaimed author and human rights lawyer Philippe Sands KC. Drawing on his latest work, *38 Londres Street*, Sands blended memoir, courtroom drama, and historical investigation to offer an insider's perspective on the Pinochet trial - where he acted as counsel for Human Rights Watch - and to unravel an unexpected connection between the Chilean dictator and a Nazi who later lived in Patagonia.

REMEMBERING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE – YOM HASHOAH

Delivered in partnership with Australasian Union of Jewish Students and The Australasian Zionist Youth Council Inc, this interactive commemoration invited participants to experience the redeveloped Museum, hear testimony from Dr Henry Ekert AM, and engage in facilitated group discussions.



Top: Yom HaShoah Photographed by Jarrod Freedman
Above: Special performance of Sarenka at the Oration. Photographed by Aaron Zajonc
Right: Lighting candles at the Yom HaShoah Event. Photographed by Jarrod Freedman

Sessions explored the meaning of "Never Again," personal connections to Holocaust history, and strategies for preserving memory for future generations.

FUTUREGEN NOLAN AT NIGHT

FutureGen's, *Nolan at Night* offered 68 attendees an intimate, after hours viewing of *Aftershocks: Nolan and the Holocaust*, exploring how iconic Australian artist Sidney Nolan grappled with the trauma and legacy of the Holocaust. The event provided a rare opportunity to view select works up close and engage directly with curators, uncovering the stories behind Nolan's evocative depictions of memory, history, and the human condition. The evening encouraged reflection on how art can confront difficult histories and create new pathways for understanding and remembrance.

BETTY & SHMUEL ROSENKRANZ ORATION: KEEPING MEMORY ALIVE – THE POWER OF MUSIC

The annual *Betty & Shmuel Rosenkranz Oration* examined the powerful role of music in preserving Holocaust memory and transmitting stories of survival across generations. Presented by acclaimed pianist Simon Tedeschi, the evening highlighted music's ability to convey emotion, history, and lived experience beyond words. The Oration concluded with a special performance of Sarenka by



composer Elena Kats Chernin, inspired by the life of Sara Weis. Originally commissioned by the Weis family and premiered by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2023, the work reflects themes of resilience, loss, and remembrance, demonstrating how artistic expression continues to keep memory alive.

NAZIS IN AUSTRALIA

This widely attended panel discussion, of over 150 people, featured journalist Mark Aarons and historian Professor Konrad Kwiet examining Australia's investigation of Nazi war criminals through the work of the Special Investigations Unit. The conversation highlighted the pursuit of justice, accountability, and historical truth within the Australian context.

FUTUREGEN - THROUGH THEIR EYES – PORTRAITS OF SURVIVAL

This FutureGen event brought intergenerational testimony to the forefront as grandchildren of Holocaust survivors shared their grandparents' testimonies alongside portraits by artist Anita Lester. Together, the testimonies and artworks formed a moving tribute to memory, identity, and resilience across generations. During the night, over 170 people heard from Simon Olenski, grandson of Luba Olenski, Ellie Freeman, granddaughter of Ester Braitberg, and Nastassja Kuran, granddaughter of Abram Goldberg OAM z"l.

VOLUNTEERS



In 2025, Melbourne Holocaust Museum's volunteer program focused on expanding its volunteer community, recognising the contributions of our volunteers, and strengthening opportunities for engagement across the organisation.

Volunteers remain essential to the museum's daily operations, helping bring the space to life while supporting staff in delivering our mission of education and remembrance.

Throughout the year, we hosted six volunteer information sessions, welcoming 51 new volunteers into the program. By the end of 2025, our volunteer community had grown to 183 dedicated individuals.

Across the year, volunteers contributed 20,122 hours of service, equivalent to 838 full days of volunteer work. Their commitment supports many areas of the Museum, helping to support its programs, operations and broader mission.

In 2025, we also renewed our internship program and strengthened relationships with key universities, including Deakin University and

Monash University. Through these partnerships, we hosted four students from relevant courses who supported teams across the Education, Visitor Experience and Archives departments.

A highlight of the year was recognising volunteers for their long-standing service. During National Volunteer Week in May, ten volunteers were honoured at the Glen Eira Volunteer Recognition Awards at Glen Eira Town Hall. Each nominee received a certificate from the City of Glen Eira Mayor in recognition of their dedication.

To conclude the year, we hosted a celebratory morning tea in December, welcoming our volunteers to reflect on shared achievements and look ahead to the future.

Thanks to their dedication, we can continue to educate, remember and inspire future generations.



Volunteers participating in a guided tour of the Collections Department

On its own, this application form to set up a vegetable patch in the Lodz Ghetto may not look like much, but when combined with testimony it provides insight into survival in the ghetto and beyond.

When the Germans established the Lodz Ghetto in 1940, they imprisoned 164,000 Jews into a small, dilapidated section of the city where they were forced into slave labour and experienced horrendous living conditions, disease, exhaustion and starvation.

When the ghetto was closed, there was immense hunger. People were stripped of all of their belongings. There was no money. People couldn't buy their essentials.

**Abram Goldberg OAM,
Object ID: AV-253.**

Fenced in and isolated from the rest of the city, they were reliant on the German administration for food. This was strictly controlled using ration cards. Only registered workers could obtain a ration card and, even with a card, rations were insufficient and hunger and starvation were rife.

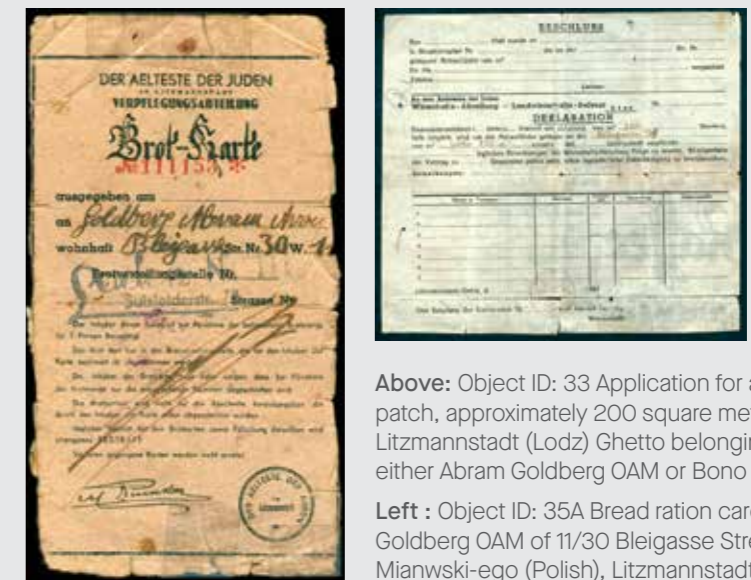
In his testimonies, Abram Goldberg OAM recalled establishing a vegetable garden with Bono Wiener.

When my father was in charge of those three houses, I had gardens... so we had the permission to grow vegetables. And, and well you wouldn't believe it. And there was even a cherry tree, an apple tree... And I and Bono, at the beginning my father and Bono's father, we worked very hard on some land.

And we helped a lot of our friends, of our friends also. We didn't know at the time that vegetables are healthy to eat.

From the Archives: GARDENS IN THE GHETTO

The MHM holds thousands of artefacts and testimonies detailing the lived experiences of Melbourne's Holocaust survivor community. As custodians we are privileged to share their stories of courage, resilience, loss and hope, ensuring their voices are heard and memories live on.



Above: Object ID: 33 Application for a vegetable patch, approximately 200 square metres, Litzmannstadt (Lodz) Ghetto belonging to either Abram Goldberg OAM or Bono Wiener.

Left: Object ID: 35A Bread ration card for Abram Goldberg OAM of 11/30 Bleigasse Street (German) Mianwski-ego (Polish), Litzmannstadt (Lodz) Ghetto.

**Abram Goldberg OAM,
Object ID: AV-4024-1**

By having a vegetable garden, Abram and Bono were able to supplement their meagre food rations, and those of their family and friends, with fresh fruit and vegetables which Abram highlighted as an important factor in his survival.

People can't realise what this help meant. The supplement of fresh vegetable. And this is why we were in physically, not too bad condition....so this is why when I came to Auschwitz-Birkenau with my mother, I was in a reasonable physical condition.

**Abram Goldberg OAM,
Object ID: AV-253**

SUPPORTERS

Our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our supporters — your generosity continues to allow us to preserve Holocaust memory and teach the important lessons of the Holocaust.



For all gifts in Will or general fundraising enquiries, please contact donate@mhm.org.au

The Melbourne Holocaust Museum Foundation

The aim of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum Foundation is to ensure the ongoing financial security and sustainability of the Museum.

It has been chaired and administered since inception by Helen Mahemoff OAM and has a Board of Trustees consisting of Nina Bassat AM, Joey Borensztajn AM, Allen Brostek, Phil Lewis, Jeffrey Mahemoff AO and Helen Mahemoff OAM.

The Foundation plays a vital role in financing the ongoing activities of our organisation. While building and growing a substantial endowment fund, the Foundation continues

BEQUESTS

Acknowledging the following bequestors:

The Estate of Rachel Magda Hornung
The Estate of Janina Marcus
May their memory be a blessing.

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We apologise if your name has been omitted. Please contact Aviva Weinberg fundraising@mhm.org.au for donation enquiries.

REVENUE

Operation revenue	\$3,917,166
Capital campaign revenue	\$96,000
Other revenue	\$653,315
Interest Revenue	\$7,4239
Total revenue & other income	\$4,673,904

EXPENSES

Administration expenses	\$400,714
Professional fees	\$284,119
Employee benefits expense	\$3,171,395
Depreciation & amortisation	\$765,549
Loss on disposal of assets	\$2,435
Occupancy expenses	\$555,442
Other expenses	\$751,843
Total expenses	\$5,931,497

Deficit for the year attributable to the members of Melbourne Holocaust Museum Inc (\$1,257,593)

Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of Melbourne Holocaust Museum Inc (\$1,257,593)

Deficit/comprehensive income is made up of monies received specifically for the new museum building project and have expended and capitalised in the statement of financial position.

ASSETS

Current assets	\$224,905
Non-current assets	\$27,758,880
Total assets	\$27,983,785

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities	\$1,047,180
Non-current liabilities	\$69,122
Total liabilities	\$1,116,302
Net assets	\$26,867,483

EQUITY

Retained Surplus	\$26,867,483
Total equity	\$26,867,483

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 2025

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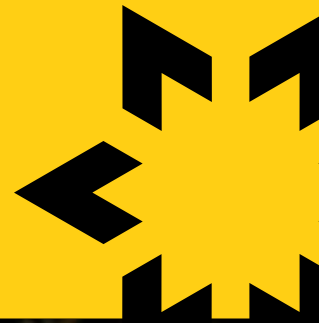
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”

To the survivors of the concentration camps, I say thank you for your generosity in sharing what happened. As humans we should never forget. I am not Jewish but as a human being I am appalled at the atrocities that mankind can inflict on each other. Thank you Melbourne Holocaust Museum for opening my eyes a little more to what happened and for teaching me so much.

Public Visitor, 2025

Eternal flame at Melbourne Holocaust Museum.
Photograph by Jarrod Freedman

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