

#StrongerTogether

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July Newsletter #3

Message from the CEO.

There is a lot of exciting news in this issue of our fortnightly newsletter. The lead article contains the announcement of our participation in the first **research project** of Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, funded by the Kerry Baker Memorial Endowment for Gender Research. We are thrilled to be part of this project.

We also launch a new initiative in the Caring Mums program: **Caring Mums - Extended Reach**. We have long wanted to offer the program to new mums outside our local government areas and one of the 'silver linings' of the COVID pandemic is that we now have the tools to do this!

Finally, August is a busy month for events with the annual **Mina Fink Lecture** on Tuesday 4th August 2020 and the first **Advocacy Workshop on Gender Equality: Tips, Hurdles and Successes** the following week. Our **AGM** this year will be held via Zoom on 27th August 2020. Please join us as we celebrate our achievements in 2019/2020.

For more details please keep reading!

Lee Ann Basser
CEO



A Major New Research Partnership.

Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC) has chosen NCJWA Vic to partner on a special research project. In a statement released earlier this week, the ACJC revealed with much excitement: "We are delighted to announce a major new initiative to facilitate research into gender issues in the Australian Jewish community".

An interdisciplinary team of Monash researchers will partner with our organisation on a project "exploring issues of gender equity, inclusiveness and safety in Jewish communal organisations".

This exciting research will support the ongoing implementation of our Advocacy Subcommittee's campaign **#MakeSpaceForHer**, which was launched in July 2019.

"It is particularly timely in light of a recent investigation by the Australian Jewish News, which revealed startling levels of gender-based discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment in Jewish communal organisations" [ACJC].

This research project is part of a new ACJC initiative *The Kerry Baker Memorial Endowment for Gender Research*, which has been established thanks to a gift from the Pratt Foundation and other benefactors. *Fiona Geminder*, a Pratt Foundation Family Trustee, said "Supporting the promotion of equal involvement by women is a gender issue, but it matters to the whole Jewish community".

NCJWA Vic President, *Miriam Bass*, said "We are honoured that the ACJC chose NCJWA Vic to partner with them for the inaugural Kerry Baker Memorial Endowment for Gender Research project. This research will provide the evidence base from which

to **develop and grow our advocacy work**, enabling us, more effectively, to increase women's participation in leadership roles within communal organisations and to enhance the visibility of women in the Jewish community."

Thank you, ACJC, for choosing to work with NCJWA Vic on this important issue.

Don't Miss Our Upcoming Events.



2020 Mina Fink Lecture

Join us for a very special opportunity to hear our 2020 Mina Fink lecturer **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. Hear about Phumzile's journey as an advocate for women and why education is so critical in achieving gender equality.

The Mina Fink Lecture honours the late Mina Fink z'l and addresses topics relevant to women, education and Israel. We are thrilled to have Mina's grandson, **Mark Regev**, International Spokesperson, Israel's Ambassador to the United Kingdom 2016 to 2020 and a former Advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister, join us from Israel. He will speak about his relationship with

his grandmother and her relationship with Israel.

This special event will be facilitated by **Rebecca Davis**, Features Editor, The Australian Jewish News.

Tuesday, 4 August 2020 7:30pm-8:30pm, via Zoom.

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Gender Equality Webinar

NCJWA Vic is delighted to invite leaders and change makers from all Jewish organisations who have gender equality aspirations and goals to join our inaugural Gender Equality Webinar 'Gender Equality: Tips, Hurdles and Successes'.

Guest speakers: **Cameron McLeod** (General Manager, Community Engagement, North Melbourne Football Club (NMFC), **Jennifer Huppert** (President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), and **Annette Charak** (President of Shira Hadasha).

The purpose of this webinar is to support leaders and change makers from Jewish organisations to succeed in achieving their gender equality aspirations. By providing an inspirational and informative interactive forum for organisations to learn from others' experiences, lessons, hurdles and successes in gender equality.

This free online webinar will be interactive, with three speakers and time for participant questions.

Wednesday, 12 August 2020, 1pm-2pm via Zoom.

[**REGISTER NOW >**](#)

Introducing: Caring Mums Extended Reach.



NCJWA Vic is proud to announce the launch of Caring Mums Extended Reach. The huge impact this continued lock-down is having on pregnant women and new mothers is palpable. Our Caring Mums team is receiving an increasing number of requests from mums and perinatal professionals who are outside of our current catchment area. We are now saying 'YES, WE CAN SUPPORT YOU TOO!'

Caring Mums Extended Reach is designed to provide emotional support to new mothers outside our current municipalities (Cities of Glen Eira, Bayside, Kingston, Port Phillip, Yarra and Stonnington).

How will it work?

- A volunteer will be matched with a mum initially for a period of **4 months**;
- All meetings will be done **virtually** (via FaceTime, Zoom, etc.);
- Mums are welcome to participate in *Caring Mums Together* – weekly virtual mothers' group;
- Mums will receive the Caring Mums monthly newsletter;

- Mums will be invited to *Caring Mums Conversations* – virtual events with expert guest speakers.

If you are a mum, or know of any mum, who would like to be part of *Caring Mums Extended Reach* please contact the Caring Mums team.

Latest news.



The Art of Public Speaking in the Zoom Era

The **Jam Project** participants and buddies were all smiles at their recent virtual Jam Session. The session with guest speaker **Jordana Borensztajn** focused on the art of online communications.

"The smiles you see in this photo are a reflection of some of the valuable tools our Jam Project cohort were given by the brilliant Jordana to help make those Zoom calls and speeches more entertaining and engaging" reflected *Naomi Swart*, Jam Coordinator.

In our new hybrid digital world, communicating online requires a unique set of skills. In this very engaging and interactive Jam Session, Jordana - Public Speaking Coach, Keynote Speaker, Author and Humourist -

taught the group how to turn our public speaking fear into fun!



A Virtual Annual General Meeting

In light of the current COVID-19 restrictions, the 93rd Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) Inc., which is followed by the 17th Annual General Meeting of NCJW (Victoria) Community Services Inc. will be held online this year via Zoom.

The AGM is an opportunity to celebrate all that we have accomplished and acknowledge the contributions we have made to the Jewish and wider communities, both in Victoria and Israel.

Please save the date - Thur, 27 August 2020, 7:30pm.
More information to follow.



Soup and Love

Our **Golden Age Club** members, residing in the Office of Housing in Prahran and South Yarra, received a special **soup kit** this week. With the help of volunteers, Coordinator *Nellie Khoroshina* put together a box of ingredients to assist members to keep warm and healthy in winter.

Each soup kit included legume tins, fresh vegetables and herbs. “The members thanked us and said that this box really helped them. They didn't need to go and collect all the ingredients themselves” said Nellie and added “this way each member could cook the soup to their liking”.

Upcoming events.



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7:30pm-8:30pm

Via Zoom

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7:30pm

Via Zoom

More details to follow.



“I did not have much support or any family member in Melbourne on an ongoing basis and Caring Mums has filled that void for me. I was an anxious new mother who did not know much about having a newborn and my volunteer has helped in easing my anxiety.”

ASHMA, CARING MUMS PARTICIPANT, 2020

Would you like to help us?

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National Council of Jewish Women Australia Victoria

T : [03 9523 0535](tel:0395230535) | E : office@ncjwavic.org.au

PO Box 2220, Caulfield Junction VIC 3161

131-133 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield North VIC 3161

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