

Embassy of Israel Newsletter



Welcome to the **fourth-quarter** edition of our Embassy Newsletter: your window into the vibrant ties between Israel and Australia.

In this issue, we're proud to highlight the meetings, events, and collaborations that continue to strengthen the Israel–Australia relationship, from high-level visits and community gatherings to cultural celebrations and strategic dialogue.

A WORD FROM THE AMBASSADOR

As I draw towards the end of my tenure here in Australia, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the community, my dedicated team at the Embassy, and the political and diplomatic circles in Canberra and around Australia. With my anticipated return to Israel, I wish the incoming Ambassador every success and look forward to the continued strengthening of Israel–Australia relations. Additionally, I sincerely hope to see the safe return of our last hostage.

OCTOBER - YOM KIPPUR + SUKKOT + SIMCHAT TORAH

The Embassy marked Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of Atonement, and the holiest day in our calendar, in Canberra. Jewish communities here and around the world gathered in solemn prayer to make amends for misdeeds of the past year. We then marked the high holiday of Sukkot, where Jews participate in the 2 thousand year old tradition of building and living in Sukkahs for a week-long celebration.

8 OCTOBER - SURVIVOR DANNY MAJZNER VISITS PARLIAMENT



Danny Majzner visited the Australian Parliament on the second anniversary of the murder of his sister, Galit Carbone, on October 7. The visit, coordinated and facilitated by the Embassy, focused on advocating for the release of those still held in Hamas captivity. During his visit, Mr Majzner met with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong, received public acknowledgment during Question Time by the Prime Minister and the Speaker, and held a meaningful discussion with Opposition Leader Sussan Ley.

Danny also addressed members of Parliament, speaking movingly about his sister Galit and expressing his hope that he and his family may one day return safely to Be'eri, with Israel's security restored.



12 OCTOBER - ZIONIST COUNCIL OF NSW'S OCTOBER 7 MEMORIAL



The Ambassador attended the Zionist Council of NSW's October 7 Memorial, joining Australian community leaders and thousands of Israelis and Jews from across the country in commemoration. The event honoured the 1,200 lives brutally taken on that day and renewed the call for the safe return of all hostages, underscoring the community's shared strength and resilience.

19-24 OCTOBER - DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISITS THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sharren Haskel conducted a historic visit to the Pacific, meeting with Prime Minister James Marape of Papua New Guinea and Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka of Fiji as part of her diplomatic engagement in the region. She also visited New Zealand, where she met with members of the country's vibrant Jewish community.



The visit celebrated Fiji's historic decision to open an Embassy in Jerusalem and reaffirmed the shared values and enduring friendship strengthening Israel's ties with Pacific nations.



26 OCTOBER - 2 YEARS TO THE OCTOBER 7TH MASSACRE

The Embassy of Israel hosted an October 7 commemorative event in Canberra, marking two years since the Hamas attack on Israel. The gathering featured powerful testimony from released hostage Agam Goldstein-Almog, remarks from the Chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Israel, a formal statement by the Ambassador, and shared prayers for the safe return of the remaining hostages.



The evening brought together parliamentarians, diplomats, and community leaders, uniting all present in remembrance and hope. The event reaffirmed Israel's commitment to peace, solidarity, and the safe return of all hostages.

26 OCTOBER - ISRAEL'S MINISTER FOR ALIYAH AND INTEGRATION VISITS AUSTRALIA

Israel's Minister for Aliyah and Integration, Ofir Sofer, visited Australia as a special guest at this year's Aliyah Expo. Speaking at the event, he shared: "It was important to come here and convey the message that Israel is the home of the entire Jewish people. We are happy for every Jew who decides to make Aliyah, and we will do everything we can to ease this challenging process."



28 OCTOBER - 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF NSWJBD



The Ambassador joined the 80th anniversary celebrations of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, commending the board's enduring leadership and the tireless efforts of all working to strengthen and educate Jewish communities throughout Australia, despite ongoing challenges.

3-6 NOVEMBER - AMBASSADOR MAIMON VISITS ADELAIDE

Ambassador Amir Maimon travelled to Adelaide to meet with the Greek Orthodox Bishop of Adelaide, the SA Parliamentary Friends of Israel, and the Hon. Frances Adamson, Governor of South Australia.



The visit, which had been postponed from the previous quarter due to the 12-day Iran war, also included discussions with Mark Mudri and other Christian community leaders, engagements with Young Liberal representatives, and participation in a Jewish community event.

4-6 NOVEMBER - INDO PACIFIC INTL MARITIME EXPOSITION

Ambassador Amir Maimon attended the 2025 Indo Pacific International Maritime Exposition in Sydney, meeting with Israeli defense companies including Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Elbit Systems, and Israel Aerospace Industries, that were showcasing the best of Israel's defense technologies, proudly highlighting the country's cutting-edge innovation.



11 NOVEMBER - AUSTRALIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY



Ambassador Amir Maimon was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Embassy of Israel in Australia and pay his respects at this year's Remembrance Day National Ceremony in Canberra. May their courage and sacrifice forever be remembered.

16 NOVEMBER - AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (ACT) MARKS GRAVE OF DUNERA BOY

Ambassador Amir Maimon participated in a moving ceremony hosted by the Australian Jewish Historical Society to dedicate a plaque at the previously unmarked grave of Dunera Boy Georg Hans Frohlich. Georg fled Nazi Germany, arrived in Australia aboard the HMT Dunera, was interned and later released, and tragically passed away at just 23. Believed to be the first Jewish burial in Canberra, his story is now permanently and formally honoured through this dedication.



25-26 NOVEMBER - DCM VISITS ADELAIDE

Deputy Chief of Mission Amir Meron met with several members of the SA Parliament, including Parliamentary Friends of Israel, chaired by Hon Dennis Hood and Hon Tung Ngo, to discuss Israel–Australia bilateral relations and recent developments in the region. He also met with Mark Mudri and Christian community leaders, as well as toured the Adelaide Holocaust Museum followed by a meaningful gathering with the Jewish community.



3-5 DECEMBER - SPOKESPERSON VISITS MELBOURNE



Spokesperson Ilana Lenk recently visited Melbourne for a series of meetings with Jewish community leaders, major media outlets and journalists, student representatives, and key parliamentarians, including the newly elected Head of Opposition, Jess Wilson.

4 DECEMBER - VISIT OF ISRAEL'S CUSTOMS ATTACHÉ FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Customs Attaché Yaniv Itzhak, accompanied by Deputy Chief of Mission Amir Meron, met with ATO Director of International Relations and Capacity Building, Gabrielle Jackson to discuss new technological systems designed to reduce tax fraud, as well as automated solutions for assessments, tax declarations, and other processes.

14 DECEMBER - EMBASSY RESPONSE TO THE ANTISEMITIC BONDI TERRORIST ATTACK

We are appalled by the shooting attack targeting a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach. Our hearts are with Australia's Jewish community. Hanukkah is a festival of light. Today feels unbearably dark. Solidarity alone is not enough – the Australian government must act decisively to protect Jewish life from antisemitic violence. Ambassador Maimon, who is currently in Israel, is making his way back to Australia following this horrific news.

16 DECEMBER - AMBASSADOR AMIR MAIMON VISITS BONDI

Upon returning from Israel, Ambassador Maimon's first stop was Bondi Beach to pay respects to the 15 victims of the antisemitic shooting attack. He then visited two hospitals to meet some of the injured and their families and offer support. He conveyed condolences to Rabbi Yehoram Ulman ahead of the burial of his son-in-law, Rabbi Eli Schlanger, and met with Premier Minns to receive an update and discuss next steps to protect the Jewish community.



In the days following the attack, Ambassador Amir Maimon and his team paid their respects at numerous funerals, including those of Rabbi Eli Schlanger, Reuven Morrison, Holocaust survivor Alex Kleytman, and 10-year-old Matilda B., the youngest victim of the Bondi attack. They also visited several hospitals, including the Children's Hospital, to offer support to Israelis and Jewish community members who were injured.

During this period, the Ambassador participated in a range of commemorative events. He lit one of the 15 candles in memory of the victims alongside hundreds gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral, spoke at a multi-faith Hanukkah event with Christian community leaders, attended a vigil at Sydney's Central Synagogue, and joined other gatherings honoring the victims and demonstrating solidarity with the community.

18 DECEMBER - AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH AUSTRALIA'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM



Following the government's announcement of its intention to fully implement the Special Envoy's report and recommendations on combating antisemitism, Ambassador Maimon met with Special Envoy Jillian Segal to receive a briefing on practical measures for advancing and executing the plan.

21 DECEMBER - NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ANTISEMITIC BONDI ATTACK

On the final night of Hanukkah, Ambassador Amir Maimon joined the Jewish community at a vigil for the victims of the Bondi attack. In the face of terror and rising antisemitism, one principle remains clear: Jewish life must be protected. Israel stands with the Australian Jewish community, now and always.



At the same time, Deputy Chief of Mission Amir Meron led prayers for the final Hanukkah candle lighting at a solemn memorial organized by the ACT Jewish Community and Chabad ACT. Thousands gathered in the Great Hall at Parliament House in Canberra to honour the victims of the antisemitic Bondi attack.

30 DECEMBER - AMBASSADOR VISITS SYDNEY TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING THE BONDI ATTACK

Ambassador Maimon returned to Sydney to meet with hero Ahmed Al Ahmed, alongside Premier Chris Minns, to personally express his deep appreciation for Ahmed's extraordinary bravery. He also visited Israeli Gefen Bitton, who remains in the ICU recovering from severe injuries sustained while attempting to disarm the terrorist alongside Ahmed.



The Ambassador visited and offered his condolences to the Morrison and Schlanger families and continues to stand with the community in time of need. May their memories always be a blessing.

31 DECEMBER - NEW YEAR'S

As Australia ushered in the New Year, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was illuminated in white with a Jewish menorah, commemorating the 15 victims who were brutally murdered on the first night of Hanukkah at Bondi.



News from Israel

Sports

This quarter, we celebrated our very own Omri Haviv, 23, who brought home the gold at the World Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Bangkok after defeating his Kazakh opponent, who then made an illegal kick and refused a post-match handshake. Congratulations are also in order for NBA star Deni Avdija, who became the top Israeli scorer in NBA history with an outstanding performance of 35 points, 9 rebounds, and 7 assists. We also commend the Israeli National Karate Team for their impressive achievements at the Karate World Championships in Poland, where they secured multiple medals: 1 Gold, 3 Silver, and 2 Bronze.

Culture & Jewish Life

Thanks to Yad Vashem's unwavering dedication, 5 million victims of the Holocaust have now been identified and documented. After decades of painstaking work, the database continues to grow, bringing us closer to the promise of #NeverForget. After a long hiatus, TLV Fashion Week returned with a deeply moving opening. Hostage survivor Eli Sharabi walked the runway, joined by other returned hostages and their families, marking a powerful moment of resilience and unity.

Innovation & Technology

Israeli companies Strauss Group, Remilk, and Gad Dairy have introduced "cow-free" milk. Produced without cholesterol, lactose, or hormones, it offers the same protein content, higher nutrient levels, and less sugar. Meanwhile, Israeli scientists have developed a system that can match antidepressants to a patient's blood sample, making the medication significantly more effective.

Security & Defense

On October 10, the first phase of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas was enacted, calling for the IDF to pull back to adjusted deployment lines and promising the return of all remaining hostages within 72 hours. On October 13, all of Israel took to the streets to rejoice as the last 20 living hostages were gradually released and began their journey home, reuniting with friends, families, and loved ones. Since then, Hamas has continued to violate the ceasefire, denying Ran Gvili a proper burial and prolonging his family's suffering.

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