

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY e-REPORT

www.ajgs.org.au



January 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year the AJGS looks forward to celebrating a significant birthday, marking twenty years of productive and enjoyable activity in the pursuit of Jewish genealogy and family history research. We are pleased to count among our current membership quite a few founding members, most of whom have served on the committee or helped in other ways over the years.

The popular *Kosher Koala* came into existence in September, 1993, and continued for fifteen years before being superseded by the e-Report. CDs of the first ten years of *The Kosher Koala* are still available from the Society for \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members. Our devoted long-term Editor of the e-Report and *The Kosher Koala*, Miriam Shifreen, steps down in March and we thank her for her enormous contribution to the success of these publications. We look forward to working with Robyn Dryen, who will succeed Miriam as e-Report Editor.

Activities Our year's activities began with workshops at Lindfield and one in Bondi on 23rd January, as publicised. **Our AGM** on Sunday **6th March** at the COA, Bondi Junction, will be followed by an unusual and fascinating presentation on Jews in Gallipoli, from Kim Phillips and Kym Morris, two talented Society members with a deep knowledge of the Gallipoli experience. At 10am on Sunday **13th March** at the workshop at North Shore Synagogue, there will be a **Panel Discussion** on travel and research in Poland, by members who have recently been there. A talk by Dani Haski on her research trip will be held on Sunday **10th April**. Venue to be advised.

For our anniversary we plan to collect members' success stories that will celebrate 20 years of the Society's achievements. Please see Dani Haski's "call for stories" p.9 and make a start on your own!

Registration is open for the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, which takes place in Washington from 14th to 19th August. Be sure to book early if you are interested, as this will be a popular conference.

We take pleasure in welcoming new members Kate Norton, Michelle Meyer and Don and Miriam Frommer.

Thank you to all who have renewed membership and our best wishes for a healthy, happy and productive 2011!

Jeannette Tsoulos
President

Mystery solved

By Jeannette Tsoulos

Genealogists tell some strange tales. One of mine concerns a young man known as Frank Joseph, originally Ephraim Shellim, who had arrived in Sydney from Baghdad with his brothers in the late 1800s. The brothers changed their name to Joseph.

In March this year I was contacted by Franks' great-niece, who had not been able to find out what had happened to him as he seemed to have disappeared without trace. She sent me a family tree and I went to Myer Samra for advice – Myer was from Baghdad and knew Sydney's Baghdadi Jews. He suggested I contact a member of the Shellim family, Hugh Rassaby, who in turn suggested two avenues of help. However no leads ensued and as my own research had uncovered no records of Frank's death or his movements, I had to tell my correspondent that I could help her no further.

For some years I have been assisting a lady named Therese with her research into her husband's Jewish background, which intersects with mine. She has made a point of getting in touch with other descendants of the family, one of whom is a priest, Father Peter King of Forbes. Therese must have mentioned my role as hon genealogist for the Australian Jewish Historical Society, as in May, out of the blue, a letter and photos from Father King arrived at the Society addressed to me. He had, some years before, passed through Mt Hope, an old copper mining township in western NSW, and in a tiny cemetery had noticed a solitary Jewish grave with a Hebrew and an English inscription on it. The unusual nature of a lone Jewish grave in such an unlikely place had triggered his curiosity and for years he had wondered about the occupant of the grave. Around March, hearing that a casual acquaintance was going out to Mt Hope, Father King asked if he would mind photographing the grave, and this was duly done. His letter requested me to tell him what was in the inscription.



Two kind gentlemen helped me with the Hebrew, the definitive translation being provided by our resident Hebrew expert, Michael Taub. It was not an easy task as the mason could not have been Jewish – some of the letters were wrong and according to the first translator there was Arabic mixed with the Hebrew. The age of the deceased in the English inscription was 28 but in the Hebrew was 29 years, 3 months and 13 days, and neither age tallied with his stated birth date, Adar 1, 5630 (February 1870) and death date, 13 Tammuz, 5658 (July 2nd, 1898). An interesting detail in the Hebrew inscription was the phrase "brought to rest here from Vopak" which seemed incomprehensible until a quick "google" search identified Vopak as a centuries-old Dutch mining company, which is still involved in mining in Australia. It would seem that this young man, unlike most Jews connected with Australia's mining history, was not a shop-keeper but a miner.

But the riveting part for me was the revelation that the deceased was "Ephraim, son of the Honourable Joseph Moshe Shellayim [confirmed by the Shellim family tree I had been given] born in the city of Baghdad..." The English below the Hebrew identified him as Ephraim Joseph. This was Frank Joseph!

So in the most serendipitous manner the mystery was solved. How odd it seems that the grave of Ephraim Shellim, aka Ephraim Joseph, aka Frank Joseph, lay undisturbed for 112 years unbeknownst to his family, until the concern of a great-niece and the interest of a casual passer-by, haunted for years by the memory of the Jewish grave, led them to take action in the same month, when their separate enquiries converged to unlock the secret of the young man's fate.

My Geneodyssey - Part 1

By Dani Haski

Between August and November 2010 I embarked on an epic journey across Europe and the Middle East to try to uncover information about my family history. I'd already spent a couple of years researching online but had hit enough brick walls to know that I had to get my hands dirty to find anything more. I also wanted to get a more visceral understanding of the lives my ancestors had lived and to walk the streets where they had walked. I felt this was the only way to really understand their stories.

I had a fair amount to go on. I had already traced my mother's family back to the cities of origin of most of my immigrant ancestors. My father was an immigrant himself and I had some information about his grandparents too.

My itinerary covered 10 countries over a period of three months: England, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Spain.

While the trip was a blast, genealogically I had mixed success. I did have one big success in relation to my father's maternal grandfather, Jacques Poppel, and it happened early enough for me to change my plans and follow up.



*Jacques Poppel (second from left)
at the internment camp in Malta*

I had been told by relatives that the Poppel family had originated in Cernowitz, Galicia (today Chernivtsi, Ukraine). During the course of my online research I discovered an index reference to a letter written by my great grandfather's brother in the National Archives in Kew, London (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>). While in London I went to the archives and retrieved and transcribed the letter. Addressed to Mr Israel Zangwill, a writer and renowned campaigner for social justice, the letter is a plea for release from a British internment camp for enemy aliens during WWI. Hundreds of Austrian and German nationals were incarcerated in these camps, even if they posed no threat to the Empire.

From the letter I learned that my great grandfather, Jacques, and his brother, Camille, were born in Zaleszczyki, Galicia (about 50km north of Cernowitz), in 1881 and 1871 respectively. They left Galicia as children, with their parent's, and were educated in Brussels. From there they migrated to Alexandria, Egypt. Jacques subsequently settled in Cairo.

Accompanying the letter in the file was the response from the Foreign Office, which yielded more fascinating information. Both men were denied release because they were *"of fighting age and maintained strong business ties with companies in Austria and Germany"*. Camille was an agent

for a number of German stationery manufacturers - including Staedler - and Jacques was an accountant with Leopold Kohn and Company “*who were reported as holding very prominent pro-German and anti- English views.*”

Armed with this information I adjusted my itinerary to enable me to visit Zaleszczyki when I was in Ukraine. I also added the archives at Ternopil to the schedule ... but more about that later.

My next big success came in Latvia. Here I was hoping to find more information on the families of two of my great grandmother’s siblings. My GGM, Ettie Diamond (originally Dimant), had come to Australia with her parents and six of her eight siblings in the late 1880s. The family’s eldest son Moses, aka Jeizel-Movsha, and daughter, Beila - had stayed in Riga, Latvia (the family originally came from Zhagare in northern Lithuania but moved to Latvia in the early 1880s).

Prior to arriving in Riga I engaged the services of Aleksandrs Feigmanis, a professional genealogical researcher and a contributing editor to *Avotaynu*, to do some preliminary record searches for me. He also contacted Zelik Dimant, a distant cousin, on my behalf. I had been given contact details for Zelik, who lived in Jurmala, not far from Riga, by my cousin, Barbara Leser. 85 year old Zelik is the grandson of Jeizel Movsha Dimant. Aleks went to his house and recorded an oral history with him. This proved invaluable as Zelik was in hospital when I arrived in Riga and it was impossible for me to do a proper interview. Despite being quite ill Zelik greeted me with a warm smile when I went to visit him. We had a halting conversation in several languages - Aleks translated - but sadly he was not quite well enough for an in depth interview.

Aleks and I spent a day in the local archives where we found more documentary references to the family including university records. We also drove out to Zaghare and Akmene - the shtetls in Lithuania where the family originated - and to Valmeira - north east of Riga, where Jeizel-Movsha’s family lived for several years and ran a timber company.

Latvian vital records are available online at www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en/about.html. The records are in Russian but the site has several language options for navigation. Unfortunately the resource is not indexed online. Indexes are only available on microfilm at the archives. It’s almost impossible to navigate if you do not have a year and record number.

A good resource for finding people resident in Latvia during the war years is the “Names” database (<http://names.lu.lv>). Begun in 2002 at the Centre for Judaic Studies at Latvia University this searchable database is an attempt to collate the names and fates of the Jewish citizens of Latvia during WWII.



From all these sources I managed to put a picture together of the lives and deaths of my family. Beila married into the wealthy Schmuljan family in 1888. In the archives we found her marriage record and the birth records of her seven children - Izak, Boruch-Leib/ Leopold, Aron-Moisey, Scholom, Cira-Mila, Zelik and Haya Zlate. The family is listed in a 1910 draft list as living in Siauliai,

Schmuljan Family

Back row (L- R) Aron-Moisey, Izak Zissel, Zira-Mila, Boruch-Leib, Scholom
Front row - Yossel, Haya-Zlate, Beila (nee Dimant), Zelik

Lithuania. In the 1920s they lived in an area of Riga that is today protected by a UNESCO heritage order as the streets contain some of the best examples of Art Nouveau architecture in Europe. Beila's children went to University and were doctors, dentists, businessmen, even an economist.

Sadly the Schmuljan wealth did not protect the family when the Nazis invaded Riga. Most of Beila Schmuljan's family died in the Holocaust: in prison, in the Ghetto, and in Rambula Forest.

Beila's brother, Jeizel-Movsha, and his wife, Sarah (nee Ilyon), had 11 children. The two eldest, Nehemia and Jacob, died of diphtheria in 1889. At least one son, Herz Leib, died during WWI and two sons, Harry and Zalman, and a daughter, Dora, died in the Holocaust. Leib Ber/ Leopold and Isaya/ Cecil came to Australia before heading to the UK and US respectively. Another son, Zelik/ Stanley, went directly to the US just before the war. The youngest daughter, Olga, was married to Beila Schmuljan's son. They fled with Olga's brother, Uriel, and his family to Gorky and then Tashkent. They spent the war in Fergana, Uzbekistan.



Dimant Family

*Back row (L-R) Leib-Ber, Herz-Leib, Olga, Isaya, Uriel
Center Row - Harry, Dora, Sarah (nee Ilyon), Jeizel-Movsha
Front - Stanley, Zalman*

One of the most exciting things Aleks tracked down for me were some photographs. What I didn't realise at the time was I already had two beautiful family portraits in my possession! I only recognised the significance of the photographs I already had when I compared them with the photos Aleks had found.

Today Riga is a beautiful city reclaiming the glory of its past after years of Soviet repression. They are proud of their strong culture and long history and acknowledge in memorials dotted around the city and the countryside the painful events of the recent past. Walking down Alberta Iela I could imagine my family here in better days.

In the next *e-report* I'll outline the wonderful success I had in Poland, including the discovery of a letter dated 1836 that opened up a whole new line of research.

Czechs to digitise vital records

By Daniela Torsh

In a move that will revolutionise the future of Czech Jewish genealogy, the Czech National Archives have begun scanning their Vital Records (*Matriky*) collection of 4,000 volumes of Jewish births, deaths and marriages to make these records available online in 2011.

The digitisation is the brainchild of archivist and historian, Dr Lenka Matušiková who is in charge of all the religious records held by the National Archives.

Dr Matušiková has had a long association with the Prague Jewish Community and is a Board Member and contributor to *Judaica Bohemiae* the biannual publication of the Prague Jewish Museum.⁽¹⁾ She is also on the Board of the Terezín Initiative based in the former concentration camp.⁽²⁾ In 2008 she gave a paper, "Historical Sources for the History of Jews of the Czech Lands Deposited in Czech Archives" at the International Jewish Genealogy Society's conference in Chicago.

The digitisation of the Jewish vital records began on October 18, 2010 in Prague and is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Dr Matušiková found the funds within the archive budget for 2011 for the scanning work by a private firm.

The next phase of her project is to prepare the interpretative material which will allow public access via the Moravian Regional Archive's website in Bruno.

In conjunction with the digitisation and scanning of the vital records, Dr Matušiková is seeking funds internationally to restore the precious collection which after 300 years is in poor shape. The 4,000 *Matriky* were seized by the liberating Russian forces in May 1945 and housed for years in Prague during the Communist era. In the 1980's they were handed over to the National Archives which have been slowly working on making them publicly available and restoring the volumes within their very limited resources. The *Matriky* start in the 1700's and go through to the 1950's. The specific dates vary depending on which town or city you are researching.

Since 1945 these valuable documents have been slowly deteriorating despite their maintenance and storage in the archives. In the early 1990's when I first found the archives and met Dr Matušiková I was appalled and saddened to see the state of many of the *Matriky* I was then permitted to handle in the reading room.⁽³⁾ In the post Communist era the Mormon Church (LDS) wanted to film all the Jewish records in Eastern Europe and were offering a very small payment per record. The Czechs, unlike many other Eastern Europeans refused permission.

Post Communism it was slow and difficult to obtain basic information about Jewish births, deaths and marriages in the former Czechoslovakia. The archives really only allowed in academics and genealogists were dissuaded from handling the *Matriky* due to preservation concerns.

After a long meeting with Dr Matušiková on a trip to Prague in the early 2000's I decided to offer the archives a donation to assist in the restoration of the *Matriky*. She was to decide which volumes were most in need of conservation and after signing a contract in 2003, the work proceeded. Over a period of 18 months, I funded the restoration of 18 registers. The archive didn't have enough conservators on staff to do all the work so they used private conservators and the senior students at the specialist college in Prague where archival conservation is taught. The restoration process was meticulously documented and as each volume was restored I was given a folder of photographs showing the condition before and after.

When I saw the "new" *Matriky* I was dumbfounded. I had never seen such a miracle. Pages that had been ripped were like new, bindings that had disappeared miraculously were renewed and pages that were loose had been glued into the volume and you couldn't see where.

On average the cost of restoration then was around \$A1,800 per volume. Dr Matušiková has estimated that in today's costs it will take around \$US3,300 or €2,400 to restore a single *Matrik*.



A Matrik in original condition and conservator Jana Hrivnova with a restored birth Matrik for the town of Neustadt (Straz) from 1784.

Seven years ago the Czech archives had very little or no experience of private philanthropy. It was only a few years after the Communist regime collapsed. Today philanthropy and sponsorship in the Czech Republic is more common and most welcome. Dr Matušiková is drafting a donor agreement and detailed information on how to make a donation. Once those documents become available I will do new postings on the Austria/Czech and Hungarian SIG's.

I met Lenka again in June 2010 when I was working in the Prague archives and she revealed her idea of digitising the vital records. I offered to help her raise funds and announced the project in my talk to the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Canberra on November 4, 2010. I am hoping that together we are going to be able to raise a substantial amount of funds to support this significant project which will ensure that the Czech *Matriky* for the Jews of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia will last at least another 300 years.

Any AJGS members who wish to make a donation are encouraged to contact me so I can facilitate the process and contact with the archives in Prague.

References and notes:

1. *Judaica Bohemiae* focuses on Jewish history and culture in Bohemia and Moravia from the Middle Ages through to the present. Special attention is paid to the history of the Jewish Museum in Prague and research into its collections. Featuring original specialist papers it is intended for local and foreign researchers, the texts are published in English, German and Czech.
2. Terezinska iniciativa Institut, an international association of former prisoners of Terezín Ghetto and other concentration camps, www.terezinstudies.cz
3. For conservation reasons, the archive now only allows access to the microfilm version of the Matriky collection, HBMA.

Broken Hill Synagogue 1910-2010

By Robyn Dryen

From 27 to 29 November, 2010 around 250 descendants and friends of the Broken Hill Jewish community descended on the Silver City to celebrate the centenary of laying the synagogue's foundation stone. Broken Hill is 1150 kms west of Sydney and 840kms north west of Melbourne. Its closest city is Adelaide 516 kms to the south west. It was a fantastic weekend of celebration

and connection organised by Margaret Price (Broken Hill Historical Society - BHHS) and a small committee of the Victorian and NSW Jewish Historical Societies.

On the Friday evening the synagogue came alive as a Jewish place of worship for the first time since the 1960s. The BHHS now owns the building and the attached Rabbi's residence which house the Society's headquarters, a museum and resource centre.

On Saturday the skies opened, and despite drenching rain the synagogue was full and had a somewhat soggy outdoor overflow for a service led by Howard Goldenberg and Richard Lew. For those who had once lived in Broken Hill it was a time for remembering their bar-mitzvahs or Rosh Hashanah services in this same place. For all of us it was a time of wonderment at this small community's efforts to build a shul and to proudly maintain their religious and cultural identity so far removed from the cities and their former shtetls. Richard and Ruth Lew hosted a kiddush following the service.

The planned guided walks of the city had to be abandoned as the rain continued unabated. Broken Hill has no street drainage so we were soon navigating large torrents of water but spirits could not be dampened. Everyone turned up back at the shul on Saturday afternoon to view a wonderful display of photographs and artefacts that form the basis of a fledgling collection of Broken Hill Judaica.

On Sunday morning it was even bleaker! The temperature had fallen to 12C but the rain eased just enough to conduct the tours of the Jewish cemetery. I had documented all 38 known burials (we have subsequently discovered another) and prepared a guide to the cemetery (copies available if you email me. In undertaking this research I discovered some previously unknown connections between the families and something of the background of those who arrived 1890-1920. Apart from their inter-relatedness, the other interesting discovery is the number of families who had roots in the Jewish Agricultural colonies of Ukraine. This I will explore further in 2011.

Late Sunday morning *Jews of the Outback: The Centenary of the Broken Hill Synagogue 1910-2010*; edited by Suzanne Rutland, Leon Mann, and Margaret Price was launched. The first print run sold out immediately. A few copies remain from the second printing and can be ordered online from the publisher: <http://www.hybridpublishers.com.au>.

On Sunday afternoon we enjoyed a re-enactment of the laying of the foundation stone. Leon Mann scripted a wonderful re-creation based on newspaper reports of the day. Descendants of the original founders participated together with Howard Goldenberg playing Rev Mandelbaum, Colin Tatz playing Solomon Saunders and a cub reporter from the *Barrier Daily Truth*. The Broken Hill Community Voices choir entertained us with renditions of specially rehearsed Jewish songs. I was privileged to be asked to speak on behalf of all the descendants. The activities concluded with a reception hosted by Mayor Wincen Cuy.

The weekend provided welcome opportunities to catch up with previously unknown mispouchah. Some found the final resting place for relatives that they did not know were in Broken Hill, and others discovered their parents or grandparents had more siblings than they knew. It was a fantastic success and there is now talk of establishing a Friends of Jewish Broken Hill group and the possibility of more organised trips to Broken Hill. Stay tuned for more on this on the AJGen list.

Call for stories

November 2011 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. To commemorate this anniversary we're looking for stories ... your stories.

Have you had a breakthrough in your research thanks to the society? What's the best story you've unearthed about your family, and how did you find it? What's the most unlikely connection you've made through the society? Did going to a conference help you break through a research wall? Whatever it is, we want to hear about it.

Send your stories (around 300 words) to ed@ajgs.org.au, with the approximate year the incident or discovery happened. A selection will be published later this year.

New Books in Our Library

Rabbis and Revolution, The Jews of Moravia in the Age of Emancipation, Michael Laurence Miller, Stanford University Press, Stanford, 2011

Passive Accomplices or Helpless Bystanders? British and American Responses to the Holocaust, 1941-5, Daniel Tilles, Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow, 2008. Donated by Dani Haski

Latvian Jewish Intelligentsia, Victims of the Holocaust, by Aleksandrs Feigmanis, Riga, 2006. Donated by Dani Haski

Light from the Shadows, Mila Sandberg-Mesner, Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, Montreal, 2005 (In English and Ukrainian). Donated by Dani Haski

"The 1793 Bohemian census of Jews", a talk for the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Daniela Torsh, Sydney 2009. On DVD.

Cemetery News

From Gary Luke

Maitland Council has applied for a grant to contract a heritage review and strategic management plan for the Jewish cemetery. I have had preliminary discussions with them about establishing a friends of the cemetery group, and will be working with them to submit the site for State Heritage listing. Maitland and Goulburn cemeteries are the first non-Christian regional burial grounds in NSW. Maitland is the only standalone regional Jewish cemetery from the pioneering period of the district with an associated Synagogue building. It has a few generations of tightly interwoven families, and is almost intact. Only six of the known 54 burials have no headstone.

At Goulburn there were 29 known burials but only 10 are still standing or have identifiable broken pieces. A grant application was submitted with Goulburn Council by the Jewish Cemetery Trust for ground penetrating radar, to discover the location of the burials and any buried monument pieces. It was unsuccessful as the work was classed as "research", so not within their guidelines. The Trust may be able to fund it alone or with donations during next year. A second part of the grant application was for a replacement brass plaque with corrected names fitted to the cairn near the entrance.

At Rookwood the Trust is currently conducting preservation work on 45 monuments in the Old Ground. Another three dozen will be selected when these are done, bringing the count to over

100 completed in 2010 and 2011. JCT has recently opened an account with the National Trust for receiving tax deductible donations for heritage work.

A new office is being built at Rookwood. By next Pesach the Trust administration will move from Bondi Junction to Rookwood, partly for cost savings, partly for staff efficiency, and to better service enquiries for sales of grave plots and genealogical research.

New and updated websites

Polish Borders through the centuries

<http://polmap.republika.pl/polska1.htm>

This is an interactive map of Polish borders from the 10th century to 2004. The website is in Polish but the town names are recognisable. Using the "NEXT" button provides more years than the "YEAR" tabs at the bottom of the page.

The Atlas of the Holocaust in Lithuania

<http://www.holocaustatlas.lt/EN/#about-project/>

A searchable map of Lithuania detailing events during the holocaust. This is a work in progress, with new information added continuously. Website in English and Lithuanian.

Genealogy Indexer – updated

<http://genealogyindexer.org/>

This site adds search capabilities (including soundex) to online genealogical resources available elsewhere. Includes historical directories (business, address, telephone, etc.), yizkor books, lists of Polish military officers, and pages of community and personal histories. Most of the directories are from Poland, Galicia, or Romania. This update means that the search results now take you to the relevant image.

UK - Deceased Online – updated with new cemeteries added

<http://www.deceasedonline.com/>

Over ½ million burial and cremation records for north and central London mostly dating from 1850 – searching is free, additional information is paid for by buying credits. This website is particularly useful if your relatives were cremated.

Lancashire BMD database - updated

<http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk/>

Marriage records of St Annes Synagogue (near Blackpool) 1942 -1973 have been added to the Lancashire BMD database.

National Library of Israel - Historical Jewish Press website – updated

<http://www.jpress.org.il/cross-section/allpub-en.asp>

Three additional newspapers (all in Hebrew) have been added to the digital collection:

Haskafa 1896-1908

Habazeleth 1893- 1911

Maariv 1948 -

Volunteers from Abroad Who Fought in Israeli War of Independence

<http://www.machal.org.il/>

Provides information about non-Israelis who fought in Israel's War of Independence.

Orange Free State, RSA - Estate Records, 1951-1973

<https://www.familysearch.org>

The Mormons have added some new South African records. To view, click on *Africa* and then *South Africa, Orange Free State, Estate Files, 1951-1973*. Ann Rabinowitz reports on the LITVAK SIG: *As the majority of Jews in South Africa were of Lithuanian descent, this is very handy as you can find all Lithuanian-born individuals by going to Advanced Search and plug in Birth and Lithuania. You will find approximately five pages full of listings.*

JOWBR (JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry) Database – update

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/>

Melbourne Chevra Kadisha has submitted over 29,000 records from 49 cemeteries in Melbourne and surrounding towns.

NB. Use in conjunction with the Australian Jewish Historical Society's BD-BD index:

<http://www.bd-bd.info/> - sometimes one has more information than the other.

SAG (Society of Australian Genealogists) Rookwood Cemetery index now on FindMyPast

<http://www.findmypast.com.au/>

SAG has announced that its index of Rookwood burials is now available through FindMyPast (paid subscription). This is a re-issue of their previous CD – it has not been updated since its 2002 issue, and it is not a complete indexing even up to 2002. For Jewish burials use the Jewish Cemetery Trust website for Rookwood Jewish Cemetery – it is free!

<http://www.rookwoodjewishcemetery.com.au/>

Canadian Naturalization 1915–1932 Database – update

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html>

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has announced the next stage of the Canadian Naturalization indexing project—the addition of images of the index pages for the years 1932-1951 to the LAC website.

JewishGen Hungarian Database - updated

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary>

80,000 new vital records added to the database including records from Stomfa, Szilsarkany, Papa, Petroha, Kapolcs, Bokony, Sopron, Duna-Szerdahely, Kiraly-Helmecz, Ujfeherto, Fehergyarmat, Galszecs, Sztropko, Mezokasony, Pozsony and Budapest, including the Pest Orthodox records.

New Online Records of the Jews of Vienna

<http://Genteam.at>

Nu? What's New?, Vol. 11 (24), December 19, 2010 reports that Genteam.at has added an index to hundreds of thousands of records of Viennese Jews to its site. It includes indexes to birth, marriage and death records as well as other Jewish and civil records. Information provided is minimal. It contains the year of the event, register number, type of record and name(s) of person(s).

31st IAJGS Conference Blog

www.dc2011conference.blogspot.com

Keep in touch with all the latest information about the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, August 2011.

Dates for your diary

February 6	Workshop (9:30am-12:30pm)	Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
February 14	Workshop (10:00am-1:00pm)	Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
March 6	AJGS AGM	COA, 25 Rowe St Woollahra
March 13	Workshop (9:30am-12:30pm)	Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
March 21	Workshop (10:00am-1:00pm)	Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
April 3	Workshop (9:30am-12:30pm)	Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
April 11	Workshop (10:00am-1:00pm)	Rev Katz Library, Lindfield

Robyn Dryen

(Editor with training wheels – many thanks to Miriam Shifreen, Rieke Nash and Jeannette Tsoulos for wise counsel)
ed@ajgs.org.au