



The Year in Review 2016

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Hon Alan Goldberg AO QC (Deceased)
Jeanne Pratt AC
Zelda Rosenbaum OAM
Emeritus Professor Louis Waller AO

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Gideon Kline
Ken Klooger
Adam Krongold
Ben Margow
James Ostrobrurski
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Finance & Operations Manager
Adriana Gomberg Acting Deputy Director (from December),
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Annette Bagle Development Assistant
Jenny Better School Education Coordinator
Katherine Bruce Visitor Services and Volunteer Coordinator
Elysheva Elsass Marketing and Communications Manager
Natalie Even-Bar Education and Programs Officer
Juliette Hanson Senior Curator and Collection Manager
Ariele Hoffman Curator
Debbie Hollander Accounts Officer
Leah Justin Community Education Coordinator
Clare Saunder Registrar
Susan Slode Development Coordinator
Charla Smith Executive Assistant

In Memory of the Honourable Alan H Goldberg AO QC 1940–2016



Alan Goldberg was a member of the Board of Governors of our Museum since its inception in 1993.

It's not easy to encapsulate in a few words Alan's remarkable life. Perhaps the best summary is contained in a speech given by the Chief Justice of the Federal Court at his retirement as a Federal Court Judge when he said: "Alan's combination of legal learning, energy, imaginative insight, sense of duty, wisdom and fundamental decency is such that I teeter on the edge of despair at the thought of the difficulty of finding a replacement. This combination of his qualities is such as to make him, I fear, virtually irreplaceable."

He was a generous donor and true friend of the Museum. His contribution and generosity will be sorely missed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Fradkin".

Barry Fradkin OAM
President

Message from the President and Director & CEO



The past year has been one of planning, testing new ideas and undertaking new projects with the commencement of our new strategic plan for 2016 to 2018. The plan is centred around key themes of knowledge, inclusion, diversity, excellence and respect. The targets for 2016 were set to include regular community and stakeholder consultations, cross-cultural friendship projects, kids and families programs and building multi-experiential platforms to tell our stories.

In March 2016, we were delighted to launch *Can we talk about Poland?*, our latest temporary exhibition which explored the complexities of the post-Holocaust Jewish relationship with Poland. *Can we talk about Poland?* was officially launched by the Polish Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Pawel Milewski. The exhibition broke new ground in the Polish-Jewish dialogue in Australia, and provided a focal point for our community's own self-reflection.

Consultation was key to developing an outstanding program series accompanying the *Can we talk about Poland?* exhibition. Programs were presented in partnership with several major community organisations whose activities touch on the subject of Poland, including the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs, Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants, Jewish Holocaust Centre, Kadimah Jewish Cultural Centre and March of the Living.

The Museum also presented three more temporary exhibitions during 2016. The exhibition program for this year reflected the Museum's commitment to running contemporary art shows that are socially relevant. Most notably, the Museum presented its second major exhibition for the year in September, titled *One man in his time*, by local Jewish artist Hedy Ritterman. This object-based installation highlighted how museums are the perfect platform for contemporary art.

Providing greater access to our extensive collection remained a key strategic priority for this year. One of the major projects to delivering this target was creating a tour for the *Calling Australia Home* permanent exhibition and starting the development of a tour for the *Timeline of Jewish History*. Another major achievement against this target was the completion of the *Calling Australia Home* catalogue, which added to the plan to deliver multiple interpretive pathways for visitors to engage with our permanent exhibitions. Behind the scenes, important work continued on the documentation of the Museum's collection, which laid the groundwork for the launch of the Museum's searchable online collection database in 2017.

Over the course of the year, the Museum also presented its usual diverse array of educational programs and cultural events – short courses, exhibition-related public programs, as well as business breakfasts featuring respected and high profile speakers to raise awareness of the Museum in the business community.

The Museum's school education program in general achieved outstanding results in 2016, with record attendances of over 13,500 students and teachers. The school education program is one of the most important ways in which the Museum achieves its core objective of promoting respect, understanding and appreciation of Jewish culture and of cultural diversity in general as well as pride and involvement within our own Jewish community.

One of our most significant achievements in school education in the past year was the development of a unique program to support the Roots Project – an important item on the Jewish studies curriculum at most Jewish schools. Our program was developed in conjunction with the Roots Project coordinators from Bialik, King David, Mount Scopus and Leibler Yavneh Colleges, and was delivered in collaboration with the Jewish Genealogy Society.

A program for kids and families was piloted in anticipation for delivery of a six-month program in 2017. Each Friday babies, toddlers and their carers experienced our innovative and playful program, celebrating Shabbat and the Jewish festivals in the stimulating surrounds of the Museum.

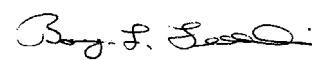
In October, we partnered with three other Multicultural Museums of Victoria members – Islamic Museum, Hellenic Museum and Museo Italiano, and 774 ABC Radio to present the second annual Multicultural Museum Cook-Off event. This cross-cultural friendship project was another key priority for this year.

The Museum also made important progress on several 'behind-the-scenes' initiatives, detailed throughout this publication. We are proud of the Museum's achievements over the past 12 months, and the impact we have, year after year, on all who come through our doors.

Finally, in the sphere of governance, two new Directors joined the Board – Marcia Pinski and James Ostrobrski. We take this opportunity to thank all the current Directors and Board of Governors for their continuing support and commitment to the Museum. We also especially want to thank the staff and many volunteers whose passion and loyalty help make the Museum into the great success it is today. We also want to express our gratitude to all the Museum's supporters – donors, members, corporate sponsors and providers of pro bono professional services. Without their ongoing generosity, none of our achievements would be possible.



Rebecca Fargas
Director & CEO



Barry Fradkin OAM
President

Highlights

Can we talk about Poland? exhibition opening

The significance of this exhibition and its unique connection to the local community was reflected in the day-long program that marked its opening. The morning began with the launch of Anna Ciddor's children's book, *The Family with Two Doors*, a beautiful evocation of her family's life in Poland. The book launch was conducted by esteemed author, Hazel Edwards OAM. Families were encouraged to visit the Museum throughout the day to take part in a range of activities and events inspired by Anna's book. The Krongold Gallery overflowed with people of all generations, sharing the rich illustrations and stories from the book. The Polish Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Pawel Milewski, officially launched the exhibition later that day at a full to capacity St. Kilda Shule's Adele Southwick Hall. The number of people in attendance and the mix of generations – both Poles and Jews – was an eloquent reflection of the cultural shift within our community in regard to Poland. Mr Milewski spoke frankly and sensitively about Jewish-Polish relations today before Arnold Zable and Lindsay Goldberg, the exhibition's featured photographers, participated in an insightful conversation with fellow photographer Emmanuel Santos. Popular Yiddish singer, Freydi Mrocki, added further to the event by performing songs with nostalgic connections to Poland.



Can we talk about Poland? programs

The exhibition inspired a rich series of public programs that aimed to explore the complexities of Polish-Jewish history, celebrate Polish-Jewish culture and, true to the exhibition title, encourage conversation about a sensitive topic – both within the Jewish community and between Jews and Poles. Programs included a panel discussion on Polish-Jewish connections, an evening of Yiddish-Polish cabaret, a public program on Jewish resurgence in Poland today and a pickling workshop.

Standing Up: Portraits of Social Justice exhibition opening and book launch

The exhibition *Standing Up* was opened at a joint event with *Stand Up* on 18 August to coincide with the launch of the book by the same title. John Gandel AO, featured in the book and exhibition, spoke at the occasion and gave his personal perspective about the importance of philanthropy and the Jewish community's role in philanthropy today and into the future. Vicki Vidor OAM was one of the many inspiring people who attended the launch.



Major Donor events

Special exhibition preview events were held throughout the year to show our appreciation of our major donors and bequestors. As a way of showing gratitude to these generous supporters, we held an exhibition preview of *Can we talk about Poland?*. Together with the Director, our donors shared their sentiments on the themes related to the exhibition.

In August with the opening of the *Standing Up: Portraits of Social Justice* exhibition, our major supporters were also treated to a special viewing. We held another exclusive viewing of the powerful exhibition *One man in his time*, with a presentation by the artist, Hedy Ritterman, who led the group on a guided tour.

One man in his time exhibition opening

It was full house for the exhibition opening of *One man in his time* on Thursday 15 September. The audience was captivated as artist Hedy Ritterman talked about what the exhibition meant to her and her family. In the Loti Smorgon Gallery, Hedy created an installation that served as a commemoration of the life of her late husband, Henry. In small groups, visitors took turns to walk through the very intimate installation which was placed in a spiral on the floor, creating a path for audiences to walk through. Taking time to contemplate and appreciate the "trip down memory lane", reflecting on Henry Ritterman's life and where it connected with their own, guests remarked on their emotional responses to such a unique and powerful exhibition.



Highlights

Business network breakfasts

We held three Business Breakfasts in 2016 featuring high profile speakers presenting to a business audience, at these much sought after networking events on the business calendar. In March we hosted, Russell Caplan, Director, Aurizon Holdings; July saw Robert Richter QC presenting to a captivated audience and finally in December, Geoffrey Smith, Chairman Sotheby's enlightened us about the Australian Art market.



New family roots education program

One of the most important items on the Jewish studies curriculum is 'The Roots Project'. Our unique new program was developed in conjunction with the Roots Project coordinators from Bialik, King David, Mount Scopus and Leibler Yavneh Colleges, and was delivered in collaboration with the Jewish Genealogy Society. This program provides essential assistance to students, parents and teachers. Students learn how to research their family tree, the history of surnames, interview techniques, historical context and the importance and significance of objects.



Toddler and baby steps program

Babies and toddlers, and their carers experienced our innovative and playful program, celebrating Shabbat and the Jewish festivals in the stimulating surrounds of the Jewish Museum. Children and grown-ups explored Jewish tradition and culture through songs, puppets, stories, games and the Shabbat ceremony. Each session focused on a new theme, and objects were displayed in a special cabinet to reflect them. The program was delivered on Friday mornings in Terms 3 and 4.



Multicultural Museums Cook-Off

Multicultural Museums of Victoria members the Hellenic Museum, Islamic Museum of Australia, Jewish Museum of Australia and Museo Italiano (Co.As.It.), together with 774 ABC Melbourne came together again for the 2016 Multicultural Museums Cook-Off on Sunday 23 October. Following the success of 2015's inaugural cook-off, this time the event was part of the Carlton Italian Festa. Sunday mornings presenter, Libbi Gorr, once again hosted the broadcast and was joined by special guest and fellow 774 presenter, Brian Nankervis from The Friday Revue. New to the event was Guy Hamawi, representing the Jewish Museum, an expert in Jewish Sephardi Mediterranean cuisine.



Open House Melbourne

During Open House Melbourne 2016 we offered regular tours of the curatorial area, the permanent exhibition *Calling Australia Home*, the temporary exhibition *Can we talk about Poland?* and the St Kilda Synagogue, as well as free access to all the exhibition spaces. This year more than 250 people visited the Museum on the day and enjoyed the program.



Annual volunteers' morning tea

On Thursday 8 December, the volunteers gathered for their annual end-of-year morning tea for Museum staff to thank them for their hard work over the past twelve months. Volunteers were entertained with singing from Janet Arndt, a display of quilting from Justine Kuran, and the highlight of the day – a presentation by Sue Hampel about Jewish memorial and museums around the world, including the new display at the War Memorial in Canberra. Her talk prompted a lively discussion about the role that places such as the Jewish Museum of Australia can play in educating visitors about Jewish culture, as well as the challenges this presents, which the volunteers experience first-hand.

Exhibitions



Loti Smorgon Gallery



Can we talk about Poland? 6 March – 31 July 2016

Presented in partnership with the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs, this exhibition aimed to explore the complex relationship between the Jewish community and Poland following the traumatic events of the Holocaust. While acknowledging the past, the exhibition sought to honour the richness and continuity of Jewish life in Poland, and to encourage healing and reconnection with the land that is the ancestral home of so many of Melbourne's Jewish families.

The exhibition showcased the photographic work of two artists, Arnold Zable and Lindsay Goldberg. Zable's photographs, taken in the 1980s, documented both the destruction and beauty that existed in the Polish landscape, whilst Goldberg's photographs provided a snapshot of the re-invigorated life of young Jewish people living in Poland today. The exhibition design evoked a sense of walking through a flourishing Polish city along with a sound track of klezmer music. Objects from the Museum's collection provided vignettes of the social, cultural and religious intersections of Polish and Jewish life, and various interactive components encouraged visitors to express their feelings and attitudes towards Poland.



One man in his time 11 September 2016 – 5 March 2017

A series of installation pieces by the contemporary artist Hedy Ritterman was featured in the exhibition *One man in his time*. The main installation was made up of a vast range of objects that were collected throughout the life of the artist's late husband Henry. During his lifetime, Henry archived and categorised his objects, a practice that the artist has continued. These objects formed a labyrinthine pathway that visitors walked through before entering a space of contemplation including three more installation works. The exhibition was accompanied by a soundtrack of Henry's favourite music.

This immersive and interactive exhibition explored mourning, loss, the passage of time in relation to grief, memorialisation and the process of commemorating and remembering the life of a loved one. Through the artist's personal journey visitors were encouraged to reflect on their own experiences of loss, and the objects that made up their lives and memories. The exhibition provided both an intimate encounter with one man's life and an insight into the social and cultural history of a generation of Jewish Melbournians.



Dinah & Henry Krongold Family Gallery



The Art of the Polish Poster School
11 May – 10 August 2016

This exhibition presented a selection of posters from the Polish Poster School, which was established after the Second World War as a form of communist propaganda. The poster was one of the few permitted means of autonomous artistic expression, and despite the cultural oppression of the communist regime, the Polish poster movement was still able to thrive as an art form.

These posters were kindly loaned to the Museum from the collection of Sam and Gina Rosenberg, who are both Melbournians of Polish-Jewish descent. These vibrant artworks provided an apt accompaniment to the *Can we talk about Poland?* exhibition, allowing a broader insight into the social and cultural history of Poland in the 20th century.



Standing Up: Portraits of Social Justice
21 August 2016 – 15 January 2017

The *Standing Up* exhibition was produced in collaboration with Stand Up, a Jewish social justice organisation, to coincide with the launch of a book by the same title. The book featured the profiles and achievements of Australians working in the areas of social justice, philanthropy and human rights. The exhibition featured 13 large photographic portraits by the photographer Woodrow Wilson, selected from the book. Included were prominent Jewish Melbournians, as well as Indigenous leaders and members of the Sudanese community who have contributed to the social justice movement. In addition to the photographs, quotes from each person accompanied their portrait, which highlighted universal messages of charity, humanity and activism.

Key Results 2016

In 2016, the Museum developed a new Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2018, which outlines our priority areas for the next three years and are summarised by the acronym **BRAVER**. Our vision for this period is to touch the heart and soul of the community. Outlined here are these key results against targets and objectives set out in the Strategic Plan for 2016.

Building Bridges:

- At planning stage of an exhibition with at least one other ethnic museum
- The Grandmothers exhibition is being planned in partnership with Melbourne Multicultural Museums members – Islamic Museum, Hellenic Museum, Museo Italiano and Chinese Museum to be delivered in 2018.
- Hold a joint event with at least one other ethnic museum
- Cook-off with Islamic Museum, Hellenic Museum and Museo Italiano (Co.As.It.) as part of Carlton Italian Fiesta.

Relevance & responsiveness:

- Six-monthly calendar of kids and families program published in advance for Jan-June 2017
- Activities for kids & families were planned and piloted in anticipation for delivery of 6-month program in 2017.
- Regular consultations with community members and stakeholders
- Consultation was the key to develop an outstanding program series to accompany the temporary exhibition *Can we talk about Poland?* The programs were developed and presented in partnership with a number of community organisations whose activities touch on the subject of Poland – the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs, Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants, Jewish Holocaust Centre, Kadimah Jewish Cultural Centre and March of the Living.

Access to the collection:

- 30% of the collection and 3 themed collection tours available online
- Work continued to digitise the collection in preparation for the release of the new website in 2017.
- Develop a plan to deliver multiple interpretive pathways for visitors to engage with our permanent exhibitions
- Tour of the *Calling Australia Home* permanent exhibition was developed by the curatorial team and offered to visitors on a daily basis by trained volunteers guides. Tours for the permanent exhibition *Timeline of Jewish History* also started to be developed in 2016.
- Completion of the *Calling Australia Home* catalogue.



Visitation & Participation:

- Total visitation for 2016
- 23,064 against target of 21,250 visitors.
- Record results achieved for school visitation in 2016 – 13,583 against target of 12,000.
- Target 12,500 Facebook likes
- Results achieved for Facebook followers for 2016 is 11,252 against target of 12,500.

Engaged staff & volunteers:

- Improved training and knowledge for staff & volunteers
- School guides visit to Islamic Museum.
- Presentations to staff about various areas of Museum operations.
- Staff attended Museums Australia Conference.
- High levels of staff and volunteer satisfaction
- A staff satisfaction survey was conducted in 2016 in which 70% of staff rated their overall level of satisfaction with their job as high and 30% as medium.
- A volunteer satisfaction survey was conducted in 2016 in which over 77% rated their overall satisfaction with the Museum as very satisfied or satisfied.

Relationships for the future:

- Relationships established and financial commitments secured with at least 10 new major donors
- Relationships established and/or new commitments secured from 7 major donors in 2016.
- Funding secured from at least 5 new corporate or government sources for major Museum projects
- Funding secured from 2 new government sources; discussions were underway with 3 prospective corporate supporters.
- Develop and commence implementation of a Next Gen engagement strategy
- A fundraising initiative – the Jewish Museum Giving Circle is a new opportunity for individuals with a keen interest in art, music and culture to join the Museum's inner circle of young donors.

Financial Performance 2016

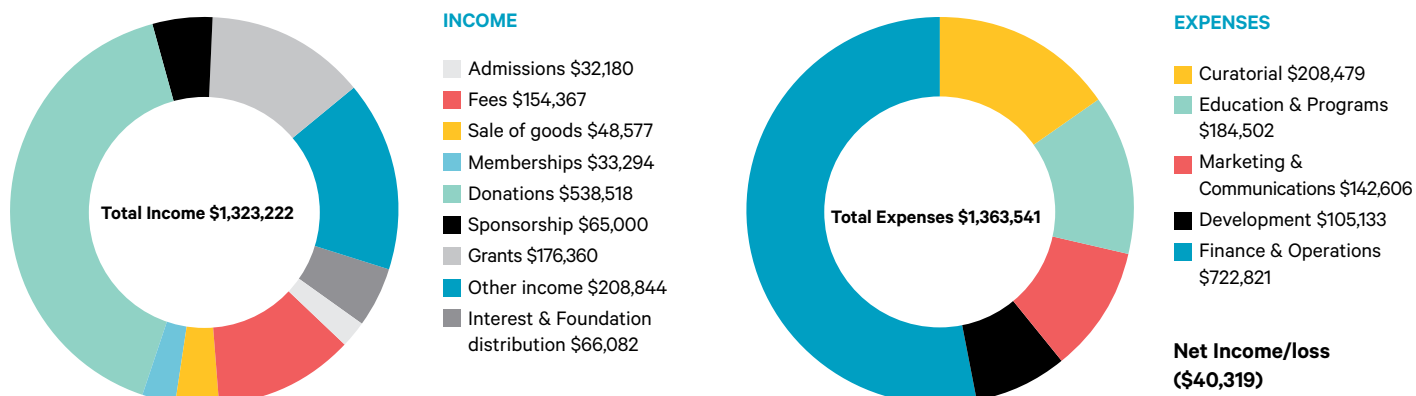
Overview

The Museum's total revenue for 2016 was \$1,323,222. The income graph below shows the breakdown of the revenue which included State Government funding via Creative Victoria in the amount of \$69,600. Expenses, shown in the graph below, for the year totalled \$1,363,541 resulting in a loss of \$40,319. The Museum's net assets as at 31st December were \$5,061,673.

Statement of Financial Position 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Current Assets		
Current savings accounts & term deposits	103,664	119,658
Accounts Receivable	11,983	46,463
Other Current Assets	30,891	14,447
Total	146,538	180,568
Fixed Assets		
Permanent Collection	1,211,144	1,211,144
Freehold Property & property improvements	4,044,712	4,123,915
Office furniture, equipment & software	60,222	44,040
Total	5,316,078	5,379,099
TOTAL ASSETS	5,462,616	5,559,667
Current Liabilities		
Trade creditors, accrued expenses & provisions	237,957	122,652
Fringe Benefits Tax payable	105,324	144,000
Total	343,281	266,652
Non-current liabilities		
Fringe Benefits Tax payable	0	188,525
Other payables	57,662	2,497
Total	57,662	191,022
TOTAL LIABILITIES	400,943	457,674
NET ASSETS	5,061,673	5,101,993
Equity		
Accumulated funds at the beginning of the year	5,101,992	4,940,452
Net surplus/deficit for the year	-40,319	161,540
TOTAL EQUITY	5,061,673	5,101,992

Income & Expenditure 2016



Donors & Supporters 2016

Lifetime Philanthropic Supporters

Principal Benefactors



Major Benefactors

Pratt Foundation

Benefactors

Daniel Besen

Finkel Foundation

Dinah & Henry Krongold Family

Naomi Milgrom AO

Spotlight Foundation

Nechama and the late Nathan Werdiger

Tauba and Dennis Wilson

Principal Supporters

Stewart Baron

Vivien and Phillip Brass

George & Freda Castan Families Charitable Foundation

Harry Flicker

Paula Flinkier

Ethel Goldin

Louise Green

Diane and Jack Gringlas OAM

Vivienne Harris

Leah and Charles Justin

Estate of Eva Rifka Knox

Solomon Lew

Bori & Helen Liberman Family

Morris Majtlis

William Majtlis

Orloff Family Charitable Trust

Bronia Raynor

Greg Rosshandler

Rae Rothfield

Ricci Swart

2016 Philanthropic Supporters

Helen and Michael Abeles

Roseanne Amarant

Australian Communities Foundation

Hans & Gini Bachrach Foundation

Besen Family Foundation

Ann Cebon-Glass

Lady Cowen

Zelman Elton (dec)

Miriam Faine and Greg Shalit

Helen and Paul Forgasz

Pam and Barry Fradkin OAM

Rachel and the late Alan Goldberg

Goldsmith Family

Gary and Susan Hearst

Robert Hershan

Helen Imber

Peter Isaacson (dec)

Julie and Simon Kessel

George Kline

Carol and Ken Klooger

Leonie Koadlow

Roxanne and Alan Kozica

Malka & Pinek Krystal Scholarship Fund

Elise and Ben Margow

Estate of Doreen Nayman

Theddy Nossbaum

Henry and Marcia Pinskier

Hedy Ritterman

Kay Ronec

Annie Rose

Gina and Sam Rosenberg

Lesley and Jack Silberscher

Ronald Taft

Ron Tatarka

Miriam and Frank Tisher OAM

Sandra and Leon Velik

Sam Webb

Sara Weis (dec)

Evelyn and Arnold Wittner

2016 Pro Bono & In-Kind Supporters

Arnold Bloch Leibler

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

Gary Peer

K&L Gates

Navigate Communications

SecureCorp

Shiff & Co Lawyers & Consultants

2016 Corporate Sponsors

Principal Corporate Sponsor



Exhibition Sponsors

Can we talk about Poland? exhibition

Isobel Hill Brown Charitable Trust

Ethel Herman Charitable Trust

Ken & Asle Chilton Trust

Government Supporters



2016 Media Partner



Volunteers 2016

Volunteers continue to provide wonderful service at the Museum across all of the departments. They can be found greeting visitors at the front desk, leading both adult and school tour groups around the Museum and the St Kilda Shule, and assisting visitors in our galleries. Less frequently seen, but just as critical, is our large band of behind-the-scenes volunteers who give of their time to help in every department of the Museum. Of particular note this year has been the team working in our curatorial department, who have played key roles in preparing Museum objects for their online debut.

Who are our volunteers?

85% are female, 15% are male

25% are under 30 while 45% are over 70

Our oldest volunteer is 93 while our youngest is just 13.

How often are they here?

On average, volunteers contribute 450 hours each month to the Museum. That is the equivalent of approximately 3 full time staff.

Where can they be found?

27% are at the front reception desk

18% are up in the galleries

20% lead tours of the Museum or the Shule

32% work with the school groups

11% are behind-the-scenes helpers

7% help at our special events

And yes, that's more than 100% because so many of our volunteers love to be involved whenever and wherever they can!



Will provoke me to search out my Polish Jewish roots.

Museum visitor, *Can we talk about Poland?* exhibition, 2016

**Absolutely
astonishing.**

**Very informative
and emotional.**

Museum visitor, *One man in his
time* exhibition, 2016

**In depth, thought provoking and it
is so good to learn with others.**

Short Course participant, October 2016

Provided students with opportunity to
make real connections with our classroom
lessons. Each student is able to take away
a range of ideas and facts that pertain
to their particular interests.

Year 7 teacher, MacKillop College Werribee,
November 2016

**A thought provoking event. It's good
that both communities organise
jointly such important events.**

Participant, Polish-Jewish connections –
Can we talk about Poland? program, April 2016

My first visit to a synagogue and a Jewish museum

Museum visitor, 2016

**Was very impressed with the
tour and with the presenter. She
spoke non-stop for two hours and
was a font of knowledge, but also
allowed time to those attending
who had stories to tell as well.
The added architectural person
was a little bonus too.**

Participant, The Leon Haskin Shamatte
Business Walk, February 2016

**Vey engaging and hands-on...
students were so interested
the whole time, always asking
questions.**

Year 3 teacher, Good News Lutheran
College, November 2016

**I shall continue to attend
these lectures at the
Museum as it adds a new
dimension to my life.**

Short Course participant, July 2016

**Provocative, thought-
provoking and very
moving. A triumph!**

Museum visitor, *One man
in his time* exhibition, 2016

it better represent
countries like the
feeding about 200
fm... Some of the
there was provided

The 11th house passed by a line of
high, or 1000000000, a common thing, as
it is so small through 1000000000
affectionally to go, along country paths, with
strangely all the still.

