



The Year in Review 2018

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Cover image: Jewish Museum of Australia volunteer
Judy Kluska and grandson in *Love & Legacy*.

Message from the President and Director & CEO



2018 was an extraordinary year for the Jewish Museum of Australia. *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait* took flight, with an exciting program of events that engaged new and existing audiences alike.

Our first joint project with Multicultural Museums Victoria – the Jewish Museum-led *Grandmothers* project celebrating the accomplishments, wisdom and central role of grandmothers in Chinese, Greek, Italian, Jewish and Muslim communities – came to fruition, further expanding our footprint and proving the potential of partnerships to deliver this. And a new standard in tailoring programming to target audiences was reached, with our events *Amy Winehouse: A Tribute*, *Love & Legacy* Open Day and *Love Song for Babushka* converting in the community and beyond.

Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait and its myriad events generated the Museum's highest ever visitation for a temporary exhibition, as well as strong financial results. This created a real sense of elation and uplift; our team taking great pride in seeing the Museum so full of activity and new faces.

The *Grandmothers* project, launched at Government House in May, comprised five exhibitions on a universal and heart-warming theme. The project represented the culmination of five years' work bringing together the Chinese Museum, Co.As.It Italian Historical Society & Museo Italiano, Hellenic Museum, Islamic Museum of Australia and Jewish Museum of Australia, with the aim of sharing our rich cultures and presenting joint programs and events. The centrepiece of our offering, the exhibition *Love & Legacy*, featured newly commissioned portraits by award-winning photographer Elli Bardas of remarkable and much-loved local. Installed alongside works from our collection, the exhibition promoted intergenerational engagement – introducing the Museum to the very young in a memorable way so they might continue visiting until they've grandchildren of their own.

Two further developments – Museums Together, an interfaith school education program with the Islamic Museum of Australia, and an augmented reality app for engaging students with our *Timeline of Jewish History* gallery – were initiated in 2018 through major government and philanthropic grants. We look forward to them materialising in 2019.

With antisemitism increasing in Australia and around the world, we are incredibly proud to be combating intolerance and division through education. 2018 was a record-breaking year in terms of school visitation, thanks to our expert team and their tireless volunteers, as well as our joint visit program with the Jewish Holocaust Centre for disadvantaged schools. We gratefully acknowledge Gandel Philanthropy for funding this work.

Finally, coming to the end of our three-year strategic plan, we underwent a significant planning process involving the team and board to create a new vision for 2019–2023 that draws on our collective strengths and organisational capabilities as well as identifying new opportunities for expanding our audiences and customising content to ensure we meet our mission. We look forward to executing this new plan together and thank all who support us in helping us engage people with Jewish culture.

Barry Fradkin OAM
President

Rebecca Forgasz
Director & CEO

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**JEWISH
MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIA**
Gandel Centre of Judaica

Highlights

Amy Winehouse: A Tribute

Students from Bialik College, King David School, Leibler Yavneh College and Mount Scopus College joined us for a special schools concert featuring a selection of Amy Winehouse's hits. Each performance – spanning soloists to big bands – conjured Amy's indomitable spirit. After the concert, students and their families and friends filled the exhibition – a fitting end to an event for the blockbuster celebrating the artist, her connection to those she loved and her Jewish identity.



Love & Legacy Open Day

The Museum was filled to capacity for an open day for the launch of our exhibition in partnership with Multicultural Museums Victoria, *Love & Legacy*. A full program of activities honouring grandmothers – Italian nonnas reading stories in the Loti Smorgon Gallery, portrait painting workshops with artist Jeffrey Kelson, tai chi with Professor Lily Sun, storytelling with representatives of social enterprise Space2B, and recipe sharing with Susan Hearst – attracted a broad range of visitors, and introduced them to the wider *Grandmothers* project.



Behind-the-scenes of haggadot viewing

The haggadah is one of the most important religious and artistic artefacts of Jewish life. In 2017, with assistance from the Copland Foundation and private donors, the Museum acquired 35 rare and unique haggadot to add to our collection, including hand-illustrated manuscripts from medieval times. A private, behind-the-scenes viewing of the texts in the Museum's curatorial department was arranged for a group of donors to thank them for this unique gift.



Highlights

Joint visit to the Jewish Museum and Holocaust Centre for secondary schools

Our joint visit program with the Jewish Holocaust Centre grew in popularity in 2017, with schools from disadvantaged areas offered the opportunity to travel to both institutions and enjoy lunch at the Museum. Costs associated with travel up to the value of \$1000 are met thanks to Gandel Philanthropy's generous funding of this program.



Panel Discussion: Exile, Loss & Mourning

This fascinating panel discussion expanded on rituals associated with mourning. Staged with the Footscray Community Arts Centre, the subject was inspired by our artist-in-residence Deborah Leiser-Moore's performance piece – *M: Kaddish for the Children*. Featured speakers included Deborah Leiser Moore; La Trobe University academic and playwright, Professor Peta Tait; editor of *Kaddish: Women's Voices*, Barbara Ashkenas; and Mutti Mutti / Wamba Wamba / Yorta Yorta / Boonwurrung artist, Maree Clarke.



Speaking Truth to Power: The Role of the Ombudsman Business Breakfast

Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass OBE headlined our August Business Breakfast in the Dinah & Henry Krongold Family Gallery. Guests were given a privileged insight into her experience in senior positions at the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, UK's Investment Management Regulatory Organisation and Policy Complaints Authority, and the Independent Police Complaints Commission of England and Wales (IPCC).

Love song for Babuschka

As part of *Love & Legacy* – and the Seniors Festival, local jazz vocalist Tamara Kuldin presented an intimate performance of story and song in tribute to the life and love of her late grandmother. Sharing treasured memories and moments, Tamara performed melodies made famous by generations of Jewish women, from Bette Midler and Sophie Tucker, to Madeline Kahn and Carole King.



Calling Australia Home: Stories of Migration and Community

Calling Australia Home: Stories of Migration and Community was a free open day presented in collaboration with The Joint that explored the origins of the modern Australian Jewish community. Our interactive programs empowered visitors to go behind-the-scenes of the collection, record their immigration story with an onsite historian, help identify faces of anonymous immigrants from mid-century photographs, and learn about the past and future of the Jewish community with Professor Andrew Markus, Dr. Margaret Taft, Emmanuel Gruzman, Dr. Erica Frydenberg and young adult volunteers from The Joint's Entwine Volunteer Abroad program.

Exhibitions



Loti Smorgon Gallery



Love & Legacy 6 May – 28 October 2018

Ten grandmothers, countless stories. *Love & Legacy* celebrated the diversity and complexity of Jewish grandmothers through commissioned portraits, interviews, objects and stories. Visitors from the community and beyond were engaged and enthralled by this joyful and heart-warming exhibition honouring bubbes, nanas, mémés and savtas – who not only nurture us but shape and support the world in which we live.

Love & Legacy was one of five exhibitions that launched the very first Multicultural Museums Victoria joint project: *Grandmothers*. An alliance of five ethnic museums in Melbourne – the Chinese Museum, Co.As.It Italian Historical Society & Museo Italiano, Hellenic Museum, Islamic Museum of Australia and Jewish Museum of Australia, Multicultural Museums Victoria promotes awareness, understanding and appreciation of Victoria's diverse cultural heritage. MMV was proud to have Gandel Philanthropy, one of the largest private family foundations, come on board as the Principal Partner for *Love & Legacy*, supporting the *Grandmothers* project exhibitions across all five museums.



Storytellers Exhibition and Program Series 19 November 2018 – 3 March 2019

Three exhibitions in one plus an accompanying program series, *Storytellers* featured two artists-in-residence – performance-maker Deborah Leiser-Moore and embroiderer Anna Hechtman – as well as an enticing exhibition of objects from the Museum collection, *What is it?* Each part of *Storytellers* invited visitors to discover stories they'd never heard before, while also asking 'what's your story?'

Deborah Leiser-Moore, *M: Kaddish for the Children*

Deborah is a performer and director. Her residency saw her construct a new work, *M: Kaddish for the Children*, which was later performed at Footscray Community Arts Centre as part of their Women, Art & Politics program. While Deborah developed her project, video footage of past works plus props used to create her set were on display.

Anna Hechtman, Making challah covers

Anna is a textile designer based in Melbourne; her oeuvre focuses on embroidery, crochet, weaving, tapestry and natural dyeing. For *Storytellers*, Anna created embroidered challah covers inspired by the Museum collection, with visitors encouraged to create their own with her. A selection of examples of embroidery from our collection, such as torah covers and challah covers, was also on display.

Krongold Family Gallery



Works From Our Collection 8 August 2018 – 28 April 2019

This intriguing exhibition showcased a selection of art from our collection influenced by Jewish religious thought and practice as well as historical events. Visitors were invited to discover depictions of kings, fantastical creatures, innocents and survivors of war, through artists such as Felix Tuszynski, David Rankin, Yosl Bergner, Victor Majzner and Simcha Fetter wrestling with themes of heroism, mysticism, resilience and trauma.



Behind-the-scenes

During 2018, the Curatorial and Collections team took steps towards the rationalisation of our collection, particularly in relation to our backlog of uncatalogued material. 22 boxes – one quarter of our existing backlog – have now been accounted for, with their contents fully inventoried thanks to the dedication and support of our volunteers.

This work heightens accountability as well as access to the objects in our care, and will help us address any inconsistencies within the acquisition process in order to strategically develop our holdings in future.

While our online database is now fully embedded within our documentation process, we continue to streamline all behind-the-scenes collection activities – ensuring best practice in handling, exhibition and making accessible the 20,000 objects in the Museum's care.

New acquisitions 2018

In 2018, the Museum acquired approximately 75 new objects for its collection; these came to us through donations or commissions and, after careful consideration, were accepted. While they vary in origin, age, material and historical context, they all satisfy the Museum's Acquisition Policy and are in keeping with the themes we cover and present to the public.

Of great historical, research and aesthetic value is the nineteenth century collection relating to Nahum and Ada Rose Barnett and Samuel and Eliza Cohen, kindly donated by their descendants via the Cultural Gifts Program. An exquisite silver tea-set, manufactured in England in 1873 and gifted to Nahum and Ada for their Melbourne wedding in 1885, as well as two unique nineteenth century portraits depicting Samuel and Eliza, offer a rare glimpse into the lives of early Jewish Australians – their stories, legacies and many, many descendants.

2018 also saw us acquire born digital audio-visual material commissioned specifically for the *Love & Legacy* exhibition, alongside a collection of items belonging to the late Walter Jona MP (1926–2007), all highlighting his wide ranging and active participation and contribution to political and community life.

These acquisitions offer new opportunities for interpretation, exhibition, education and research. They enhance the significance of our collection, and push us towards exploring innovative ways to make them accessible to visitors. We thank every member of the community for their donations – from the humble and mundane, to the precious and priceless, they all add something unique to our understanding of Jewish culture and the Australian Jewish experience.

Silver tea-set
1873, Birmingham
Silver
Donated by descendants of Nahum and Ada Barnett under the Cultural Gifts Program



Sterling silver tea-set in the neo-rococo style comprising a teapot, pot for hot water, sugar bowl and milk jug. Each piece is engraved: Ada and Nahum, A WEDDING PRESENT, from the Bridegroom's parents Isaac and Flora Barnett, Melbourne, June 16th 1885.

Portrait of Samuel Cohen
Photographer unknown
19th century, Melbourne
Hand-coloured collodion positive
Donated by descendants of Samuel and Eliza Cohen



Portrait of Eliza Cohen
Photographer unknown
19th century, Melbourne
Hand coloured collodion positive
Donated by descendants of Samuel & Eliza Cohen



These nineteenth century photographic glass plates of Samuel and Eliza Cohen offer a unique insight to the story of this early Australian Jewish family. Samuel (1821–1899) was born in London and came to New South Wales in 1833 with his mother and

nine siblings; his father Henry Cohen, whose story we share in our Calling Australia Home Gallery, had been transported to Port Macquarie, as a convict, in the same year. In 1840, Samuel married Eliza Hyams (1820–1881), who was born in Ireland. Samuel's early business interests included operation of two schooners, Elizabeth Cohen and Eliza, which plied between Port Macquarie and Sydney. In the mid-1850s, the family moved to Melbourne.

Collodion positives, also commonly known as ambrotypes, were introduced to Australia in 1954, three years after their invention in Britain, allowing us to place this pair roughly to the second half of the nineteenth century.

Love & Legacy commissioned work

All born digital audio and video content commissioned for the exhibition, captured by Daniel Bowden

Photographic portraits of the grandmothers featured in the exhibition, by photographer Elli Bardas.

Elli Bardas
Barbara Ajzenberg, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Rahel Vivat, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Claire Aghion, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Claudine Berman, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Lee Ann Bassar, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Lady Anna Cowen, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Genia Janover, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Hazel Kelly, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Carol Schwartz, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Renata Singer, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



Elli Bardas
Nechama Werdiger, 2018
Archival Giglee print on Canson Byrata Photographique



New acquisitions 2018

Assimilation... and so it goes (2), 2018
Digital archival inkjet print, edition 1/1

Set of six Machzorim
1806, London
Donated by Reuben Glass

The Machzorim were printed in London in the year 5567 of the Hebrew calendar. The sixth volume, designated 'Feast of Pentecost,' contains a 'List of Subscribers' which includes individuals, several booksellers and a coffee house, primarily in locations around London. The original owner of the books was the donor's great grandfather, Moses Marks. The books were brought to Australia from London, England in the gold rush times.

Set of five Pentateuch & Haphtorah
1858, London
Donated by Reuben Glass

This set was also brought to Australia from England during the gold rush years. The original owner of the books was the donor's grandmother, the wife of Benjamin Marks, who was Moses Marks' son. Mrs Benjamin Marks is engraved on the original binding.

Both sets offer a great insight into the London Jewish Community and an opportunity to understand connections into the early history and development of the Australian community.

35 objects belonging to Walter Jona (1926-2007)

The Collection includes photographs, awards and memorabilia relating to political, community and personal life and achievements; all were kept in the office of David Southwick MP who proposed they be donated to the Museum. The collection was donated with the kind permission of the sole executor of Walter Jona's estate.



14 documents the Englander family and primarily, Jacob Englander
Donated by Roslyn Seale.

1. Australian Certificate of Naturalisation for Jacob Englander, 1897.
2. Envelope marked 'Naturalisation Papers.'
3. Birth certificate, Oettingen 1905.
4. Document granting permission to Jacob Englander to be exempt from the War Precautions Regulation, Melbourne 1916 (exemption of wartime asset freeze).
5. Document granting permission to Edith Claire Englander to be exempt from the War Precautions Regulation, Melbourne 1916 (exemption of wartime asset freeze).
6. Brighton Cemetery Certificate of Right of Burial for Jacob Englander, 1920.
7. Brighton Cemetery Certificate of Right of Burial for Jacob Englander, 1923.
8. Envelope marked 'Deed of Grave Miss Rosa Englander.'
9. Letter to W J Cowell from Jacob Englander, St Kilda, 10 July 1951 re: electric car patent (1 page).
10. Letter to Jacob Englander from W J Cowell, Adelaide, 16 July 1951 re: electric car patent (2 pages).
11. Oettingen-Marktplatz postcard (ND).
12. Photo postcard depicting Clara Englander (nee Kronheimer) grave stone.
13. Photograph of grave stone in Hebrew 1918 (text in verso of photo indecipherable).
14. Prayer book: *The Form of Daily Prayers*, Vienna, 1857 with handstitched bookmark in Hebrew.

Jacob Englander, born in 1873, was a member and supporter of St Kilda Hebrew Congregation. His uncle was Joseph Kronheimer, a well-known philanthropist and tobacco merchant born in Bavaria, who spent 60 years as a business man and philanthropist in Melbourne. He provided charity to the Jewish community, both in Australia and in Israel, particularly to hospitals such as the Austin for which he donated money to set up a tuberculosis wing. He was the person to personally encourage Jacob Englander to migrate to Australia in the late 1890s.

Jacob was one of the executors of Joseph Kronheimer's will, as he was associated with the firm W D & H O Wills Australia and was Joseph's only relative in Melbourne.

Joseph Kronheimer's tobacco company, which was both called W D & H O Wills in Sydney and J Kronheimer and Co in Melbourne, formed under one new title Australia-wide: Kronheimer and Co., Limited. The success of the company enabled Kronheimer's charity to continue after his death; he had supported an orphanage in Jerusalem as well as providing other gifts to Jewish communities around the world, and his charity to the Jewish community and Australian causes continued post-1914.

The collection complements our existing holdings relating to Jacob Englander and Joseph Kronheimer, with the documents offering further insight into Englander's activities and life in Melbourne as well as into the pre-WWII Jewish community networks life.

Visitation



VISITATION

	Total 2018	Total 2017
General admissions	8,410	6,923
School education	15,441	12,294
Short courses	2,357	2,177
Public programs	1,330	2,119
Other events	595	1,259
TOTAL	28,133	24,772



VISITATION 2017

- General admissions
- School education
- Short courses

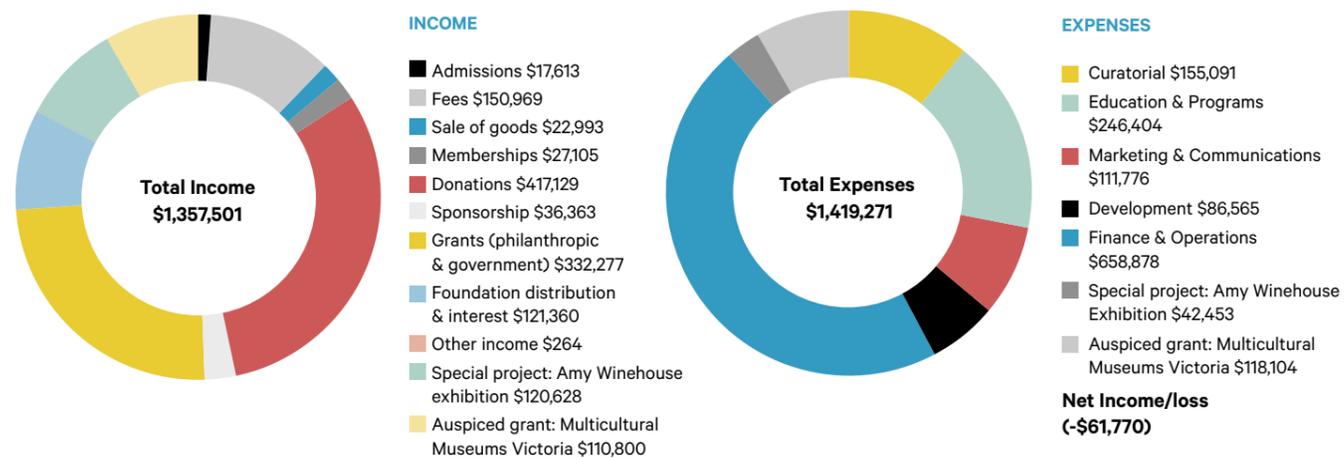


Financial performance

Statement of financial position 31 December 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Current Assets		
Current savings & term deposits	\$114,342	\$161,668
Accounts receivable	\$20,948	\$23,316
Other current assets	\$40,788	\$41,625
Total	\$176,078	\$226,609
Fixed Assets		
Permanent Collection	\$1,259,405	\$1,238,416
Freehold Property & property improvements	\$3,913,144	\$3,972,860
Office furniture, equipment & software	\$62,074	\$50,348
Total	\$5,410,701	\$5,261,624
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,410,701	\$5,261,624
Current Liabilities		
Trade creditors, accrued expenses & provisions	\$383,121	\$382,045
Total	\$383,121	\$382,045
Non-Current Liabilities		
Other payables & provisions	\$151,412	\$168,250
Total	\$151,412	\$168,250
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$534,533	\$550,295
NET ASSETS	\$4,876,168	\$4,937,938
Equity		
Accumulated funds at the beginning of the year	\$4,937,938	\$5,061,673
Net surplus/deficit for the year	-\$61,770	-\$123,735
TOTAL EQUITY	\$4,876,168	\$4,937,938

Income & expenditure 2018



Thank You

We gratefully acknowledge all our donors and supporters, without which we could not achieve our mission of engaging people with Jewish culture.

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Principal benefactors



Major benefactors



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Feedback

'I love meeting and being with the children and teachers from different schools. Coming to the museum feels like being part of a very large family with both the guides and the staff. I am very glad I made the decision to be part of it.'

Volunteer, December 2018.

'Thank you to the Jewish Museum for bringing this wonderful exhibition to Melbourne for us all to see.'

Visitor, *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait*, April 2018.

'The show was brilliant, funny and so much more than I expected! Would love to attend and bring my kids to more shows like that.'

Participants, school holiday program, July 2018.

'Thoroughly entertaining, appropriate to a broad age range. Loved it!'

Participants, school holiday program, July 2018.

'It was compiled with heart-felt moments. Thank you for the kindness behind the exhibition. I never met my mama Helene, but I feel closer to her.'

Visitor, *Love & Legacy*, September 2018.

'Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share a special Bobba activity with my grandsons, it was well organised and much enjoyed.'

Participant, *Love & Legacy*, September 2018.

'It exceeded my expectations. Truly glorious.'

Visitor, *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait*, April 2018.

'The exhibition was excellent. It gave an insight to Amy as a person rather than a superstar.'

Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait, April 2018.

'It was a beautiful tribute to Amy, who was such a talented and complex character. It was the main reason we travelled to Melbourne. Well worth the trip.'

Visitor, *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait*, April 2018.

'The space provided for the exhibition was rather intimate and it was beautifully set up for viewers.'

Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait, April 2018.

'Very important and timely work presenting the diversity of roles that grandmothers fulfil and how they lead us to create lives of significance. A celebration and tribute to women of wonder and resilience.'

Visitor, *Love & Legacy*, September 2018.

'The Museum offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with stories. When we know each other's stories, it leads to understanding and a better world. Thank you for the visit.'

Visitor, *Love & Legacy*, September 2018.