



# Ark

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Av 5781

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# TIMES





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# WELCOME TO ARK CENTRE



ARK Centre has been bringing a modern-day approach to Orthodox Judaism for over 12 years in the East Hawthorn area. Our driving passion is to enable inclusive and genuine connections to an ever-changing community.

We hope you enjoy our latest annual magazine, celebrating the past year, a most challenging time dealing with all the issues of Covid-19. Yet we have so much to celebrate about how we kept going, bringing our community along with us, and making sure that nobody was left behind.

In this issue of the magazine we will share with you how we celebrated in unique ARK Centre style this past year; all the joyous events and the not so joyous occasions, Shabbatot, Bar and Bat Mitzvot, the good times and sad times. Our aim was to support everyone through the Jewish Calendar as well as personal lifecycle events, taking into account the many and constantly changing restrictions that we all faced. We had to find new ways to make our community feel supported and remain connected to one another.

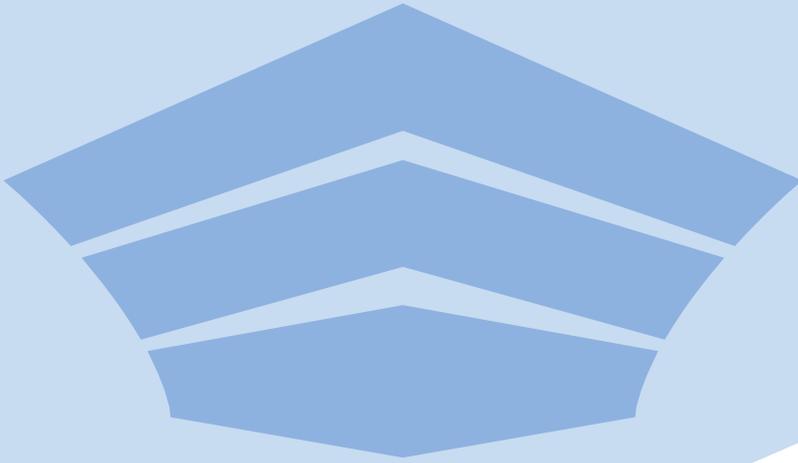
We hope you enjoy our 2021 issue and look forward to seeing you at ARK Centre as often as you can make your way here.

ARK Centre acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our organisation is located and where we conduct our activities. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. ARK Centre is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

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# FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

RABBI GABI KALTMANN



"MANN TRACHT, UN GOTT LACHT" –  
"MAN PLANS, AND GOD LAUGHS"

OLD YIDDISH ADAGE



As humans we often think that we have control over our lives. An entire genre of merchandise exists with the sole purpose of helping people plan their days using planners, diaries, calendars, and organisational charts. These organisational aids are great and have improved our time management and quality of life. Yet the uncertainty that last year has brought into our lives has taught us that as much as we plan and focus on the things we want to do and achieve, we are not in control. For while we can plan all we want, we must not take anything for granted.

2020 was the start of a new decade; its pristine round numbers made it seem like it would be an inviting year ahead, one that would allow for new starts. The beginning of a decade is often a time for renewal and reinvigoration. People take the opportunity to re-evaluate their priorities, ambitions, and goals. However, we mainly remember the past 12 months for the things we

planned but could not do because of the pandemic. Despite our best intentions, the past year was not what we expected.

*"Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht"* is an old Yiddish adage with a meaning that eschews the concept of karma and instead affirms the Jewish belief that everything in the world is purposeful, whether or not humans are ready to accept the outcomes. It presumes the existence of a constant and comprehensive rebirth of a person's identity and soul in everything they do.

In Judaism, we know that G-d not only created the world, but also created each tiny detail. Nothing is random, everything that occurs is intentional and according to the will of G-d. This is known as *"Hashgachah Pratit"* – Divine Providence.

Judaism stresses the importance of each person fulfilling their mission. As a child there was a song that we used to sing that went like this: "for 70 or 80 years a neshama [soul] wears and

tears, just to do a favour for another person." This sums up a beautiful approach to our lives on earth. While it cannot always be known why people suffer, why bad things happen to good people and why the world has had to endure one of the most difficult periods in recent history with the global pandemic, this does not negate individual responsibility to undertake acts of goodness and kindness.

The pandemic has taught us that what happens to every person affects others. It reminds us that we do not live in silos. If anything, the pandemic has reminded us that each person is responsible for each other. The measures put in place, from lockdowns to social distancing, therefore become acts of compassion and care, as we try to protect those around us from illness.

The virus has taught us that no one is immune; our focus is on ensuring that our loved ones are safe and protected. It has taught us



that we each have individual responsibility to do our bit for the collective good.

So, as we wind down on 5781 and begin planning for the year of 5782 there is much at stake to consider what we can do with the insights we have gained. While we had good lives before, we did not realise just how blessed we were to be able to gather in groups, visit loved ones, sit in our houses with friends, have access to childcare or spend time doing normal things like sit in a café. We only realised how extraordinary our ordinary lives were once it was all taken away from us.

We must remember that between humans, there are no real boundaries, we are all affected by the same factors on earth. The challenges we are facing are pertinent and real. However, if the last year has shown us anything it is that we are more resilient

than we thought. We have extended our kindness to those who are in need and even though we may live on opposite ends of the earth, we all have the responsibility to do our part to contribute to a better society, one where we work collectively against the challenges humanity is facing.

Judaism teaches us that there is never room for despair. Because wherever you land, G-d is with you and once all the dust is settled, you are in exactly the place where you are meant to be. Eventually the world will return to normal and along with normalcy it is possible that we may return to a sense of complacency, forgetting the lessons we have learned over this period.

My wish for you over the year ahead is that we do



not lose sight of what is important nor lose our hope and remain optimistic about the goodness of people—which has been so evident in our community over the last challenging year.

So as much as we can, we should plan for the year ahead to be one of gratitude, generosity, happiness, and safety. Wishing you and your families only blessings.

Rabbi Gabi





# THE YEAR THAT WAS

Lisa Naphtali, General Manager

In any given 12-month period there are, by the very nature of things, a range of highs and lows, highlights you wish could last just a moment longer and events you'd prefer to move past as quickly as possible. This past year has been, for all of us, a most heightened experience of these usual fluctuations.

When we first closed the doors at ARK Centre, moved what we could online, worked from home, lived by WhatsApp, Zoom & our phones, I didn't know how I would cope; for years I was convinced I just wasn't the kind of person who could successfully work from home. When we started livestreaming a pre-Kabbalat Shabbat 'service' and took classes & shiurim online I wondered how our community would take to the rapidly changing definition of normal. When we couldn't have Pesach together and then we still



couldn't have Rosh Hashanah together I lost a lot of sleep fearing what the loss of in-person connection would mean for all of us.

I, like so many others, have spent far too much time scared, uncertain and unsure. And I have no doubt that, like many of you reading this, having this community to grasp on to, to work with and to work for, made every ounce of difference in mine and my family's capacity to navigate our way through this time.

When I think back over these past 12 months, my heart and soul are divided.

I cherish and applaud this community's willingness and capacity to support each other. The acts of kindness, Pay it Forward donations, countless meal deliveries, phone calls, emails and 'Yom Tov Box' drop offs that took place during lockdown and continue through to today have floored me.

We talk about this community being young and dynamic. This past 12 months has been, perhaps, our coming of age. The ARK Centre community has shown itself to be so much more than 'just' a group of individuals and families who happen to come here. This community has a passion, a soul, a *ruach* (spirit) that is a guiding light to others.

At the same time, I remain somewhat scared. I hear a lot of people talking

about 'after Covid' yet we are still operating in a time of pandemic. The threat of another lockdown is never far away and while we have been incredibly fortunate that our day-to-day lives have been relatively unencumbered for stretches of time, the uncertainty of the next days, weeks and months is ever present. I feel that destabilising force in so many conversations and interactions each day and I have no doubt many of you do also.

What has become clear is that there is very little we can control. Any therapist would tell you that I'm a couple of decades late in coming to this realisation but there it is. And one most important lesson I have learned is that when we do something to gain some a sense of control, when we feel seen, when we connect with each other, when we get in touch, share a meal, make a phone call, send a text we are enriched at our core for doing so. That is our community.

I am in the privileged position to have seen these acts take place every day over an extended period of time now and the incredible difference they make. Which is why, despite being someone who is has a tendency to worry, I have only optimism and certainty about our kehillah and all the future holds.

My wish and prayer for all our community as we approach a new year is that when you wobble, as we all do, you remember that your community is not just here in a physical location in Cato St but your hundreds-strong community is part of your life, a stabilising force, whenever you want or need it.

Fortunately, we have at last been able to resume

face to face services, events & smachot, some of which you'll see and read about in the pages of this magazine. We have been able to open our doors and welcome back so many smiling faces. We operate with strict adherence to our Covid-safe plan, with the health and safety – physical, emotional and mental – of our community our North Star.

Thank you all for your support and commitment to ARK Centre. You make the difference.

To those who have and have not yet come back in person, we see you, we appreciate you and remain dedicated to you, regardless of when, where or how we see your faces.

May 5782 bring peace, health and happiness to all

Shanah Tovah Umetukah



## HAPPENINGS @

## (AND AROUND) ARK CENTRE

## TISHA B'AV

ARK Centre observed this most sombre and reflective day online this year, and despite the restrictions, we managed to present a most absorbing and thought-provoking evening. After a reading of Eicha, Major Haim Vashdi presented a most interesting and dramatic lecture about his experiences in the highly regarded Golani Brigade. We were delighted that so many of our ARK Centre members and others in the community logged on to watch this absorbing presentation.

## ROSH HASHANAH

Despite all our hopes, a face-to-face Rosh Hashanah was not possible in 2020, but ARK Centre rose to the occasion to make our community feel as connected and involved as possible.

Before Rosh Hashanah, Rebbetzin Mushka hosted an online discussion group with some fabulous talks by wonderful guest presenters from around our community.



In the lead up to Rosh Hashanah, the membership committee and a slew of volunteers delivered a Rosh Hashanah Box to our members that included a guide to prayers at home, a honey cookie and some other items to help celebrate the festival at home. A highlight of the box was the inclusion of the Rosh Hashanah journal. In his inimitable style Rabbi Gabi collected a range of articles, poems and pictures from ARK Centre members of all ages and compiled them into a companion journal for all to enjoy on the *chag*.



It was so moving to read about what Rosh Hashanah means to so many and what some of our enduring memories are from childhood of this special festival.

Chef Dan created a delicious Rosh Hashanah menu that sold out very quickly. As a special offer, a custom designed and made Rosh Hashanah board was also on offer and the limited numbers were quickly snapped up. What very few people know is that the boards were hand crafted by none other than Chef Francis who many of our regulars know well as he's worked with Chef Dan for quite some years now.

Our community stepped up again and supported the Pay it Forward initiative to enable us to deliver countless additional meals around the community.

Rabbi Gabi walked to Anderson Park & Glen Iris Park on second day Rosh Hashanah to blow the shofar to enable our Jewish locals to mark the end of the festival. The crowd, though socially distanced, was delighted to hear the shofar especially

when so many feared it would not be possible. Passers-by (and their dogs!) were also entertained by the sight of families standing apart, together, to watch and hear the Rabbi deliver the traditional shofar blasts.

## YOM KIPPUR

One of the very special elements of Yom Kippur at ARK Centre is our now renowned Yizkor service where everyone speaks the names of their loved ones who have passed and whom they honour. This year was different of course with no face to face services. So, in the afternoon, prior to Kol Nidre, we held a Zoom service. Rabbi Gabi davened a Yizkor service and called on those who had registered to say the names of those they wanted to remember in this very moving and significant service. Given no other option than to shift the service online, it was difficult to know how it would translate. Remarkably, the service was incredibly moving and the sharing of names to remember was an incredibly emotional way to begin Yom Kippur.



## SUCCOT AND SIMCHAT TORAH

We were very disappointed not to be able to be together to celebrate these two joyous festivals in our typical style. Usually, ARK Centre hosts a children's party and we all look forward to Chef Dan's delicious treats being eaten in the Succah, along with many other activities to mark these festivals. Hopefully, 2021 will mark a return to a more 'normal' celebration.

We continued with our online services before Yom Tov and Chef Dan created a delicious Succot-in-a-Box to help the *chag* feel more like a celebration.

## SHULE SERVICES RETURNED

Requirements were such that we were able to finally open up for Shule services in November. While prior to that there had been a limit of 10 allowed indoors, ARK Centre wanted to ensure that both men and women were able to daven and attend if they so chose. The decision was made that services would resume once we were allowed 20 people indoors which is precisely what we did. When that happened it seemed as though a cork had been removed from a bottle; we were quite amazed at just how many people were keen to come to Shule after having not been able to do so for such a long time. We were delighted to see so many of our 'regulars' and quite a number of new faces who have become regulars too.

## CHANUKAH

For the first time, ARK Centre presented Pillars of Light which you can read about later in this magazine. Especially because of how isolated we had all been feeling, we knew the ARK Centre families and community needed our own Chanukah celebration as well.



The Chanukah Kabbalat Shabbat was a joyous return to ARK Centre with families returning, many for the first time in almost a year. It was a warm gathering that was a bit like coming home after a long absence and leaving everyone with the feeling that at last the world might be righting itself on its axis and change for the better.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Third Annual Whiskey night, with a broad array of whiskeys for everyone to enjoy, with many thanks going to hosts Dov and Rosie Potaznik.

The new tradition of Yom Tov deliveries continued with members receiving a box of Chanukah candles and a letter containing the *brachot* (prayers) and information about the

festival, why we celebrate it, and how we celebrate.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for giving their time to deliver these wonderful items for the *chag*.

## END OF YEAR KABBALAT SHABBAT

It seemed all too soon from our starting to open up for face to face services when the end of the year arrived. We celebrated with a gathering of old friends and families, ready for a real break, and the promise or hope for a brighter 2021. It was a different end of year to previous with everyone quite pleased to



put the year behind them but still unsure of what 2021 would bring. What was clear was the joy everyone felt to be able to celebrate together.

## PESACH 2021

Pesach was back!!

Not everyone loves Pesach, but everyone loved the fact that Pesach was back in 2021.

We were delighted at ARK Centre to really get back into the kitchen cooking up a storm for all the orders for Seder meals and our Seder plates, which went out all over Melbourne. While we weren't able to resume our Communal Seder, Seder-in-a-Box was once again a welcome relief for families. Chefs Dan and Francis didn't stop cooking, chopping, planning and creating delicious Seder meals for all who had ordered for themselves and for Pay it Forward.

Hundreds of matzah boxes and Seder companions were delivered by a willing team of

volunteers to our members and friends around the community. This year the *shmurah* matzah box was accompanied by a Seder companion compiled by Rabbi Gabi that helped to explain the elements of the Seder and included some great stories and Rabbi jokes. (For those wondering, Rabbi jokes are remarkably similar to Dad jokes).

Thank you (again!) to the team of volunteers who delivered the matzah boxes, it couldn't have happened without you. You are a critical cog in the wheel at ARK Centre and we look forward to continuing our very successful partnership. Thank you also to our (anonymous) donor who made the printing of the Seder companion possible.

## SHAVUOT

A few days before Shavuot Rebbetzin Mushka hosted a flower arranging workshop ably led by Henna Meltzer from Hena & Co. Those who attended learned the art of how beautiful colourful flowers can be arranged to decorate our homes and offices for the *chag* and bring simple and pure joy to a room. Everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly and was able to take home their creations for display.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot, that takes place on Erev Shavuot, brought together many from our community to listen to "Six Speakers for Six Minutes" after a delicious Kiddush and the evening service. Each speaker talked on the theme: **Bouncing Back: Life after Lockdown** and each brought a unique and truly interesting perspective based on their field of expertise. Our thanks to our wonderful speakers Terry Better, Alex Fitzgerald, Corinne Goldberg, Michelle Jablko, Ash Krongold, and Joan Lurie.

Each of the talks was honestly presented, and eloquently delivered giving insights into returning to work in the office, mental health after the long





lockdowns, dealing with having Covid, and keeping some sense of community and connection both in the workplace and among friends and families. They shared their own experiences about how people in their industries and community are bouncing back after such a long-extended time in lockdown; the triumphs, the trials, what we've learned, how we have all been challenged and, hopefully, how we have grown and pivoted to deal with the changed, and changing, world we now find ourselves in.

### ROSH CHODESH SERVICES

Many thanks go to Barry Teperman for his ongoing coordination of this monthly ritual. He manages to get a number of members to show up to ARK Centre to daven Shacharit each month, and always brings poppyseed cake for which everyone is grateful.

### ONLINE SHIURIM

Every Tuesday during lockdown, Rabbi Gabi discussed current events, both here and around the world. He talked about the week's Parsha, and discussion would then move into whatever was on the mind of those watching, glued to their computer or tablet. It kept everyone connected, interested and absorbed and not only was it a distraction from the rest of the working week on Zoom and Teams and other platforms, participants enjoyed the informal discussion, and definitely learned a lot.

### PURIM 2021

Our Hamentashen Bake Off with Rebbetzin Mushka, thanks to the support of Rosie Potaznik, was a sell-out. In fact, had it

not been for Covid restrictions we could have had many more attending. The hamentashen were delicious and many families were fortunate to enjoy them. All those who were there had an amazing time and learned a bit about Purim along the way.

On the night of Purim we held separate Men's and Women's Megillah readings. The Women's reading was thanks to the fabulous efforts again of WOTIV (Women's Orthodox Tefillah in Victoria), a growing group of Orthodox women who love to learn to lein (read) the Torah and the Megillot. We at ARK Centre are delighted with our ongoing relationship between our two organisations and look forward



to more opportunities to come together.

Kabbalat Shabbat for Purim brought families to ARK Centre who thoroughly enjoyed decorating the delicious cookies baked to perfection by Chef Francis. They played old-school arcade games, loved the Kiddush thanks to Chef Dan, sang songs and really lived the spirit of Purim in our community. It was a stark contrast to the previous year and the joy was evidenced by the many sugary smiles from parents and children alike.

### VOLUNTEER PHONE CALLS

During a time of lockdown many can feel isolated and lonely even if surrounded by people. So we made a list, divided it up, and our volunteers (Atida, Collette, Janice, Leah, Naava, and Naomi) called our members and friends to check in, see if they were ok, and check if there was anything they needed, asked if there was anything the ARK Centre team could do to help. The callers would have a chat, make sure all was well and reassure them that we were there if they needed anything.

### FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION

It's become an annual tradition to run our ARK Centre tipping competition, with the main prizes coming a distant second to the bragging rights. Our competition is proof that our congregation should stick to davening rather than tipping! Congratulations to Joel Davis who won in 2020. We look forward to seeing who takes the crown in 2021.

# PAY IT FORWARD

The first lockdown just before Pesach meant all smachot, kiddushim, conferences and events at ARK Centre had to be cancelled. At the same time, Ark Catering's Head Chef, Dan Woltema, was raring to go to do what he does best – cook!

The team at ARK Centre, Chef Dan, Rabbi Gabi and Lisa put their heads together to think of how best to support a community that was facing this major festival at home and not with the traditional scores of family and friends around the Seder table. The ingredients, if you'll forgive the pun, of a Chef + people stuck at home + a team intent to drive connection resulted in what might now be considered a 'no brainer'.

They looked at each other and quickly realised that while many families would welcome the opportunity there were others who, because of the challenging times, would struggle to put a Seder together. Rabbi Gabi knew the answer would be to go to the community and put the call out for support to ensure no one went without a Seder meal.

And so Pay it Forward was born. In addition to the meals sold to enthusiastic recipients, scores of people donated funds to enable Chef Dan to prepare double the amount of meals for distribution around the community to people who were struggling for a range of different reasons due to Covid, lockdown, distance, personal tragedy and more.

After the last meal and Seder plate were delivered, the team sat back, looked at the empty kitchen and storeroom, thanked the volunteers who helped get all the meals packed and delivered and grinned exhaustedly at each other. But they didn't stop for long.

As soon as Pesach finished, the requests for more meals came through. The week after Pesach the Shabbat Box launched to an incredibly enthusiastic response.

Week in and week out people bought for themselves and many more bought for a loved one or donated knowing a meal would go to a good home.

The number of people in the ARK Centre community who responded to Pay it Forward was

not just overwhelming but humbling. As a result, it has become an ongoing fixture throughout lockdown and beyond.

For those who were delivering the food, there was a very clear sense that the meal being delivered was so much more than just good, wholesome delicious food. The brief chat between the volunteer delivering the meal (contactless of course), and the person receiving it was sometimes the only chance that person had all week to talk to someone face to face. Many of the volunteers recounted how emotional they felt at the response to them delivering the Shabbat box; the smiles, the tears and the joy of connection is something they will never forget.

A few weeks into Pay it Forward, Rabbi Gabi had a conversation with local MP John Kennedy about the situation in the general community and how many people were struggling with losing their job or business; how people were dealing with this changed world we were living in, where all the usual routine events during an average week had just stopped, and a lot of people didn't know how to deal with it. Food, a generous gift to cheer people up, can and did make a huge difference. Reinvigorated by that conversation, ARK Centre expanded Pay it Forward to anyone who could use a show of support and be cheered up by a delicious unexpected meal delivery. That too, continued throughout lockdown.

As we find ourselves in and out of lockdown and still unsure of what the future will bring, Pay it Forward remains as important as ever. For anyone who needs to know they are being thought of, is struggling for financial or personal reasons, is going through a rough patch, has health struggles, has lost a loved one, recently welcomed a new baby or any other of life's trying times there is a meal ready to be delivered.



If you, or a loved one, could use a meal please don't hesitate to be in touch to arrange the delivery of a Shabbat Box simply by emailing the office via [office@arkcentre.com.au](mailto:office@arkcentre.com.au)

If you're in a position to do so, please consider a donation to Pay it Forward by visiting our website: <https://thearkcentre.org.au/support-us/donate/>

# DIRECT FROM THE COMMUNITY

Not being able to come together at ARK Centre as we once did hasn't stopped our community from finding creative ways of connecting with their friends, families and loved ones. Though these past months have offered up plenty of challenges, the time at home has also led to some new passions and modes of interaction that may well last beyond these pandemic times. We asked you, our community to share with us some of the highlights, considerations, questions and achievements over the past 12 months. Here's a taste of the responses we received...

## Section One: Rapid Fire Questions

### QUESTION: CRAZIEST YOM TOV EXPERIENCE IN 2020/21?

**Most Common Answer (it was a draw):** Zoom Seder & Hearing the Shofar in Anderson Park.

**Notable Mentions:** Davening at home with family / sending Yom Tov meal to family via Uber.

*"I turned to face Jerusalem for the Amidah and found myself facing an art book with large photos of nudes".*

### QUESTION: WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE KIDDUSH FOOD FROM CHEF DAN?

**Most Common Answer:** Schnitzel

**Notable Mentions:** Felafel / Herring / Egg Dip.

### QUESTION: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT LOCKDOWN?

Huge variety of answers to this one, the only common threads were 'time to myself' and 'wearing whatever I want'

**Notable Mentions:** Kausman family art challenge / AFL / Zoom chats around the world.

### QUESTION: WHO WILL WIN THE 2021 AFL GRAND FINAL?

**Most Common Answer:** Richmond Tigers. (Editor's note: there was no undue bias in the collection of these answers)

**Notable Mentions:** Western Bulldogs / Melbourne Demons / Not Carlton.

## Section Two: You Can't Ask That... Oh Yes You Can!

### QUESTION: WHY IS RABBI GABI'S FAVOURITE KIPPAH THE ONE FROM THAILAND?

**Answer:** It reminds me of my in-laws whom I love so very much!! I have a little bit of a ritual – each time I go back to Bangkok I go to the kippah box and get a new one. Funnily enough, it's actually super comfy and sits on my head perfectly. If someone out there can find me a similar one with the ARK Centre logo I'd be forever grateful.

### QUESTION: WHAT IS REBBETZIN MUSHKA'S FAVOURITE THAI DISH? AND INCLUDE THE RECIPE PLEASE

**Answer:** Tom Yum Noodle soup – you are invited to come by for Friday night dinner to try some.

### QUESTION: HAVE THEY EVER CONSIDERED FOLLOWING A DIFFERENT FOOTBALL TEAM – THEY'RE MAKING THE FUTURE DIFFICULT FOR THEIR KIDS.

**Answer:** I became a Collingwood supporter in grade 2 when my best friend convinced me that being a Pies supporter was where it was at! My father, who is a Carlton supporter, is still devastated. We're very open in our house and give our kids full support in whichever teams they would want to follow but obviously there is only one option.

### QUESTION: REBBETZIN MUSHKA IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD OTHER THAN MELBOURNE WHERE WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

**Answer:** Hmm that's a great question! I would love to make Aliyah one day.

## Section Three: Seeing is Believing

We asked the community to share pictures of things they drew / painted / cooked / created / photographed over the past year. Here's what was submitted:



Sunflower and Bird.

Debbie & Jeff Shenker with granddaughter Hannah Newall. This is what life is all about!



Rosh Hashanah Challah.

Ready for lockdown.

Ummmmm.



Amber Kausman, wins Kausman Family Pandemic Art Competition

Giraffe in Front Yard During Lockdown.

Lockdown life.



**Me:** This show is boring.  
**Boss:** Again, this is a Zoom conference.

# SHABBAT @ ARK CENTRE

Since ARK Centre opened our doors over 12 years ago, the coming together of members and friends to celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday afternoon and Shabbat morning services, have been pivotal to the joy of being part of the ARK Centre family / community.

With lockdowns one, two, three and four we couldn't be open for worship or celebration or commemoration, leaving an enormous hole in people's week.

But, like many others, we discovered Zoom, and Rabbi Gabi discovered he could talk and sing and encourage all alone in the Shule at 4:30 every Friday afternoon during the winter, and at 6:00 in the summer. It was a way of feeling connected, both to Rabbi Gabi, and to each other, with the familiar Shabbat songs filling our homes and marking the shift from the working week to Shabbat and the weekend.

Once lockdown ended, we were delighted to be able to meet physically at ARK Centre, of course in a Covid-safe way with check in, QR codes, and a bespoke 'member card system' for use on Shabbat & Yom Tov in order to ensure contact tracing records were kept, something that is a normal way of life for us

all now. We won't be able to remember a time without it before long.

Coming back into ARK Centre wasn't just about gathering, and not just about being able to enjoy Chef Dan's kiddushim (now provided in individual serves) once again but the symbolism of what it means to gather, as a community, being ever more important in our new reality.

We look forward to the future when we can host more special guests and keep seeing our stalwart members, friends and families, who continue to bring so much *ruach* (spirit) to Shabbat services at ARK Centre.



# ARK CENTRE WELCOMES DR NARIMAN ALMULLA

Her Excellency Dr Nariman Almulla, Consul General to the United Arab Emirates, was warmly welcomed into ARK Centre on Friday 9 April 2021. When asked her preference for a particular formality later in the evening she smiled, almost shrugged, and responded 'you're the boss'. It was that humility and sense of warmth that set the tone for the evening.

The ARK Centre community has welcomed being able to return to services and activities after months of lockdown. Presented with the opportunity to hear from Dr Almulla, the community came out in force despite capacity being limited by COVID density quotient requirements.

After a photo opportunity before Shabbat came in, Dr Almulla mingled with the congregation during Kiddush before heading into Shule for the Kabbalat Shabbat service. During the service Dr Almulla was invited to speak and did so with the ease of someone who had been in a Shule many times previously, when she in fact had never attended a Shule service.

Having just come out of Pesach celebrating the emergence from slavery to freedom, and this being the first event of its kind after confinement of an entirely different kind due to lockdown, welcoming a distinguished guest from the UAE to talk about the Abraham Accords, mutual respect and collaboration was more than just an honour, it was truly fitting, almost meant to be.

Dr Almulla began with the simple words "Shabbat Shalom". A sea of smiling faces returned the greeting before silence descended on the room. As we know, a silent congregation is a rare occurrence.

She spoke about the need for collaboration at all levels, the desirous belief to have "scientific and technological advancement come along with equality and social inclusion", and of the strong friendship and relationship between Israel and the UAE; "Israelis and Emiratis are not just partners, they are increasingly



close supporters" she said. As well as talking about the possibilities that are now more than just dreams thanks to the Abraham Accords, she also talked about the UAE's 50-year development plan. As a country that is just 50 years old, that sounds ambitious. It is an approach that offers food for thought for us all.

At dinner after the service Dr Almulla generously gave of her time for a Q&A led with ease and well-honed interviewing skills by Naomi Levin, Senior Policy Analyst at AIJAC. After sharing her thoughts on everything from her own story to gender equality to the AFL, Dr Almulla welcomed further questions from the floor showing yet again her openness and enthusiasm to share her time and views.

As Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann said "I am passionate about interfaith dialogue and collaboration. Usually I'm focused on our local community so to be able to look at such an important issue at a global level, to establish a relationship with Dr Almulla and our new friends in the UAE, is a rare privilege. And it's so important for us as a local and international community."

There was an energy and optimism throughout the evening around the future and what possibilities may be in store that many haven't seen, or felt, for some time.





## PILLARS OF LIGHT



Melbourne was a very quiet place for much of 2020. Activity was at home, in local neighbourhoods and surrounds but unlike previously, it wasn't in the CBD. The streets were quiet, eerily so.

To borrow from sporting parlance, through adversity comes opportunity. The quiet landmarks of the Melbourne CBD meant the City of Melbourne was looking for new, creative and interesting opportunities to excite the senses and curiosity of those

able to venture back into town. At the same time, Rabbi Gabi & Rebbetzin Mushka were working on a way to bring people, from across communities and geographic locations, together; to build and rekindle avenues for connection that was all too scarce through much of 2020. And so, the landscape was perfect for what would become the inaugural Pillars of Light event.

In Rabbi Gabi's work in the multicultural space, he often meets people who are interesting, inspirational and talented in a range of fields; multicultural, cultural, business, sport, the arts and politics to name a few. In his conversations with Lord Mayor Sally Capp during the winter, Rabbi Gabi mentioned that Chanukah would take place in December over eight days, giving the city the opportunity to mount a Festival of

Light, an opportunity to draw people into Fed Square in a Covid-Safe way. Jeff Shenker, known to many of you as our regular Gabbai and a stalwart of ARK Centre, has decades of experience in the event production space and was available for the project.

With Jeff on board, agreements with the City of Melbourne and Fed Square in place, and the visionaries having a clear image in mind, the search began for partners in this exciting venture. In a show of support that couldn't have been predicted, a number of very generous sponsors stepped in to make this dream happen. From Principal Partner Gandel Philanthropy through to Gold,



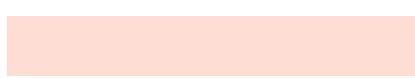
Silver & night sponsors, the ARK Centre team, with support, were able to deliver eight nights of Chanukah like Melbourne had never seen before.

The aim of Pillars of Light was essentially two-fold: firstly, bring people together in Melbourne in a safe way and illuminate the city, metaphorically and literally, using the lights of Chanukah, and secondly, as a catalyst to bring the multitude of cultures that form the foundation of our great city together in a way that celebrates light, harmony and togetherness.

Running over the eight nights of the *chag* (festival) Pillars of Light welcomed a huge array of community leaders, sports people, politicians and performers to share their messages of strength and unity.

With Covid safety being a prime objective, numbers at the Atrium in Fed Square were capped to ensure social distancing. Each evening members of the ARK Centre community, honoured guests and a number of dignitaries gathered in person or watched the live stream online from their homes.

Across the eight nights, those assembled (either in person or virtually) heard speakers and enjoyed performances from members of the Chinese, Muslim, Vietnamese, German, Greek, Bosnian, African, Russian, Indigenous and Jewish communities. Each was eager and enthusiastic to participate in this unique meaningful series of events and each was blown away, as was the audience, when



the 3.5 metre custom-built menorah was lit each evening. Audiences covered almost as many different ages and backgrounds as the presenters who ranged across a very wide spectrum. From a Welcome to Country from an Indigenous leader, to Major Brendan Nottle from the Salvation Army, to our ARK Centre member Harley Rose from Access who was one of the Chanukah lighters, to Sary Iuminado who entertained us with beautiful music. AFL players, such as Akec Chuot, media personality George Donikian, performer Olivia Meg, Claire Spences, CEO of Arts Centre Melbourne, Peter Khalil MP, Member for Wills, and the Royal Australian Navy Band all delighted the audiences.

Many of those attending and enjoying tea and coffee from the coffee cart as well as traditional Chanukah *sufganiot* (donuts), hadn't been into the CBD since early 2020. The atmosphere was joyful and optimistic.

The response to Pillars of Light in 2020 was truly remarkable and highlighted just how needed and wanted an avenue for connection and celebration was. Due to the success of last year's event, planning is already underway for Pillars of Light 2021 which, from initial discussions, promises to be an even more vibrant multicultural celebration and just as necessary, if not more so, as our concept of 'normal' is continually being redefined.



# B'NEI MITZVAH 2021

ARK Centre's B'Nei Mitzvah Program would not be possible without the generous support of the Erdi Foundation. In 2020, when we had to change and shift and re-engineer almost everything, we were able to complete as much of that program as we did with thanks to the support from an organisation that is founded on the ethos 'to be truly rich in the heart, one must give.'

That principle is one that speaks to the essence of ARK Centre and all we do, and in particular, the B'Nei Mitzvah Program.

Rebbetzin Mushka has designed and delivers a program that looks at a series of Jewish topics and subjects in a range of different and creative ways. The emerging generation of our community engages in a wide variety of topics and areas of Jewish thought and life that helps build the foundation of their Jewish identity in their Bar or Bat Mitzvah year.

The creativity is evidenced by the delivery. The subject matter across the program covers all

that you would want in such a program – gender identity and roles, Shabbat & Yom Tov, personal and cyber safety, respect for all different cultures, tzedakah (charity), Australian and Indigenous heritage, Holocaust remembrance, physical wellbeing & nutrition and so much more. The nature of the sessions, however, ensures that the topics are explored and understood in ways relevant and meaningful to these young adults.

So far this year the crew have welcomed a *Sofer* (scribe), been on the now famous 'Kosher Tour of East Hawthorn', prepared cards and baked treats for aged care residents, conducted Zoom sing-a-longs with aged care residents during the June lockdown, participated in a Flower Workshop with parents alongside, heard from a Holocaust survivor thanks to Gen 2 Gen, thoroughly enjoyed a Chocolate Seder, visited the *Mikveh*, heard from Indigenous Leaders and baked challah as a delicious exploration around the topic of Shabbat.

In 2021 we were excited to welcome back some of the participants whose B'Nei experience was unfortunately cut short due to lockdowns last year alongside a fabulous group of new faces. The crew have been enthusiastic at every step and are even pushing Rebbetzin Mushka to extend the program beyond its usual end date.

One important differentiator to our B'Nei Mitzvah Program is that it is open to absolutely everyone. Sessions are scheduled to ensure ample time for participants to get to ARK Centre from their respective schools.

And, once the program is over it doesn't end there. In the years following B'Nei, participants are invited back several times during the year to rekindle their friendships, meet and connect with others, reinforce their involvement and belonging at ARK Centre and to do something kind and practical for charity all at the same time.





## ORTHODOX CONVERSION @ ARK CENTRE

No matter how prepared someone may be to make a significant life change, to truly adopt, to accept and to integrate that change into all aspects of their life requires a lot of grit, a lot of soul and the commitment to give one's whole self to the process. To be successful in the endeavour, the unwavering support from teachers, and a community, makes all the difference.

Which is precisely what conversion candidates get when they learn with Rabbi Gabi & Rebbetzin Mushka. At the root of their approach to teaching is that each person is unique; their story, journey and timeline their own. The role of teachers is not just to impart information, though of course that's important, but to help guide and provide support throughout the learning process.

Candidates are drawn to ARK Centre because of that approach. Very few who have embarked on conversion would say they genuinely knew what they were getting themselves into. Those who have learned with Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka say that it was the understanding of the whole of life change required, their approachability, the time spent on the little things (not just the big ones) and increasing their involvement in the community that made them feel like they were part of something greater, that their experience was more than just the component parts they were learning about.

Conversion is, after all, not a dissertation or a PhD though some may argue that it can sometimes feel like it. The 'reward' is not just about the end result. Rather, the benefits begin from the outset. As candidates start to learn the modules or subjects at hand, they don't just start to become familiar

with prayers and logistics around living a Kosher life, for example, but as well, the rich history and tapestry of mishnah, midrashim, modern history, modern gender roles, life in the Melbourne Jewish community, family-favourite foods and so much more. Underpinning it all is the development of a personal identity, one that is informed by the individual's unique background and then given a new dimension from the insights gained.

For those who are part of a couple, learning is accompanied by discussions, conversations and even debates about how this new information, these new facets of life, will take shape in their own relationship and life they are planning on for their future.

Orthodox conversion is an incredible commitment - as anyone who has done it can attest. Those who do so are to be commended and are supported at all times from the first discussion with the Rabbi, meeting with the Beit Din and throughout each step along the way.

The whole of life approach that we witness from our candidates is truly inspiring.

For several years now, ARK Centre has been at the forefront of a modern approach to Orthodox conversion. ARK Centre's curriculum is set on a 12-month basis and provided to candidates Semester by Semester. Candidates meet as a group each week to learn about that week's subject matter complemented by individual sessions with Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka.

For many it is a truly enjoyable, life changing experience, despite (or perhaps because of) all the hard work they put into it.

# SMACHOT @ ARK CENTRE

There is something incredibly special about an ARK Centre simcha. Ensuring the balance between the weight of spiritual significance and levity of enjoyment is at the very heart of every occasion. Festivities looked very different during lockdown where Zoom Bar & Bat Mitzvot and home-delivered party packs became commonplace. You could feel a different atmosphere in the room once we were able to bring the celebrations back into ARK Centre and to celebrate with family and friends. One thing's for sure – you might be able to take the simcha out of ARK Centre but nothing can replace the way our community revels in a celebration.







# SWEET AS HONEY

## Rebbetzin Mushka

Have you ever tasted honey?  
Have you ever been stung by a bee?

As we lead up to Rosh Hashanah when we customarily dip apples into honey, it got me thinking; If we are praying for a sweet year, why don't we dip the apples in sugar water? Why honey? Honey can be associated with such sweetness, but at the same time it can also be associated with so much pain.

Have you ever been bullied, hurt or humiliated by someone others consider to be nice? Have you ever been showered by the sweetest kindness by someone others consider to be tough or cold?

I was fascinated to discover that Jewish texts speak about this.

I learnt about the two powers that guide us: the spiritual, altruistic power and the selfish, egoistic power. These two powers are constantly fighting for dominance within each of us. At any given time, we can choose which power will influence our decisions; will we hurt someone so we can get what

we want, or will we take a moment to pause to lend a helping hand?

Perhaps the honey isn't just a blessing for a happy sweet new year but also a lesson for us to take into the new year. Yes, we have the potential to be hurtful, but we all have just as much or even more power to be sweet and kind.

As we enter the new year, with all that is going on around us, let each of us be more mindful of both our decisions and our reactions. Let us bring sweetness into the world and brighten our loved one's days.

This year when I dip my apple in honey I will pray that this year please G-d bring a sweetness that isn't associated with any pain or hurt but a sweetness that brings light, joy, prosperity and tranquillity.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah! Blessing us all with a happy, healthy and SWEET new year!

# HIGH HOLY DAYS

## 2021/5782



At the time of going to print, Covid regulations are still changing and so we cannot be sure what restrictions will be in place by the High Holy Days. Our aim, and hope, is to be able to proceed with services as you have become accustomed to at ARK Centre.

We remain committed to delivering the kind of services our community has come to know and love, just as we have each year. As was the case last year, we have various contingency plans in place to ensure everyone's health and safety and can assure you all that nothing will get in the way of a true ARK Centre holiday period.

As we get closer to Rosh Hashanah, and we have clarity on the situation, we will provide detailed information on how services will run, how your safety will be managed, how we will proceed in accordance with any limitations on numbers. The information at this time will also include start and finish times of each service.

To keep up to date please sign up to our newsletter. Also, you can head to our website to find out more. We will communicate all updates including last minute changes via these channels, unless of course it is a Shabbat or Yom Tov. Should you wish to speak with the Rabbi or a member of the team please contact the office via [office@arkcentre.com.au](mailto:office@arkcentre.com.au) or phone 8658 4044.

### ROSH HASHANAH

**Monday 6 September**

*Erev Rosh Hashanah*

Candle Lighting 5:45pm

**Tuesday 7 September**

*First Day Rosh Hashanah*

*Shofar in the Park*

Rabbi Gabi will blow the Shofar at Anderson Park at 5:00pm

*Tashlich*

Meet at ARK Centre at 5:30pm and walk to Gardner's Creek together for Tashlich at 5:45pm

Candle Lighting 6:43pm

**Wednesday 8 September**

*Second Day Rosh Hashanah*

Holiday Ends 6:44pm

### YOM KIPPUR

**Wednesday 15 September**

*Kol Nidre*

Candle Lighting / Fast Commences 5:52pm

**Thursday 16 September**

*Yom Kippur*

Holiday Ends / Fast Concludes 6:50pm

### SUCCOT

**Monday 20 September**

*Erev Succot*

Candle Lighting 5:56pm

**Tuesday 21 September**

*First Day Succot*

Candle Lighting 6:55pm

**Wednesday 22 September**

*Second Day Succot*

Holiday Ends 6:55pm

### SIMCHAT TORAH

**Tuesday 28 September**

*Shemini Atzeret*

Candle Lighting 7:01pm

**Wednesday 29 September**

*Simchat Torah*

Holiday Ends 7:02pm

# ARK CATERING – LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

Dan Woltema, Head Chef



Last year, the piece I wrote for this magazine was very much about the Covid situation unfolding and the Ark Catering 'Pay it Forward' initiative, which helped engage the community by allowing us to get out there with delicious shabbat dinners for those in need.

Some were in need of food, many were in need of an act of kindness, of showing they are part of the "Ark family". We were able to show people in the community that we were still connected, still listening and most importantly, still caring.

Nearly 12 months later, we feel that we achieved so much during that time, and now recognise that the need is, in fact, still there. We continue to engage with the community and try to support anyone who needs that little help or boost to their morale. We want to assure our community, that we are

there for you during your time of need, be it a once off, or a more regular need. We ask you, to help us help others, by both letting us know if there is someone out there who needs our support, and/or by making a donation for this wonderful cause. We will do our best to impart the message of support in one of the best ways possible – with a beautiful, healthy and heart-warming shabbat dinner.

A large part of our past year, like many businesses who were affected by Covid, was the concern and challenge of keeping the business afloat. As corporate catering was reduced to zero – while everyone was working from home and office buildings were deserted – we were reliant on Shabbat Boxes as our income. I am very happy and thankful to say, the business was sustained by this pivot, which meant we were able to quickly return to our usual services once businesses reopened.





Thank you to all of our customers who ordered the Shabbat Boxes, some of whom were ordering every week, as well as generously donating to other families and the Pay it Forward program. You have all made a difference and helped us and others survive through a challenging year.

Thankfully, it is time to get back out there and gather with your families and friends in person, to celebrate all that life has to offer outside the bubble of our homes. The community is ready to celebrate together like we used to before the lockdowns of 2020, and now 2021 as well.

Though it is sad to think about the many events that were missed last year – Bar and Bat Mitzvot, anniversaries and more – we are grateful to be able to once again, come together to celebrate. So we urge you to do that – start planning, celebrate the small things as well as the big. Life might throw us some more curve balls, but we know how to adjust according to circumstances now, so we must continue to engage and come together when possible.

Recently, someone told me something wise that really resonated with me;

He said: "bad things will happen in life but the good things are up to us to make." I think he was spot on with his timing. This year was tough and coming back from it is not easy either, but to see the good as much as we can is up to us, so let's all try to be more positive and make the good times happen. We can get back into the rhythm of life with the conscious intention of being positive and helping one another.

The team at Ark Catering is now very busy with events and simcha bookings every week. It is great to see the community engaging again. We are here to make your simcha or function as joyous and delicious as possible. So let's get the good times rolling again!



We are also once again, gaining momentum with our corporate menu. We cater for work meetings and workshops as well as staff lunches for the team in the office. Many companies are providing their teams with a beautiful lunch to encourage them to get back into the office and rebuild a good team atmosphere again. What is better than a delicious lunch to keep everyone happy in the office? Please let us know if we can help your company or office colleagues, we would love to hear from you.

I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy year ahead with lots of good moments and free travel, make it a good one!

Chef Dan





# CHEF FRANCIS'

## BEEF & GUINNESS PIE

I'll always remember the first time that I had Beef & Guinness pie... it was in an Irish Bar on Smith St in Collingwood.

In Ireland we drink Guinness and eat beef and generally don't combine the two but I'm not one to tear down cultural stereotypes so here is my recipe. The base recipe is very versatile with a number of variations. It also freezes very well so make a double batch so you have some for ready for those rainy Winter evenings.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 500g diced beef
- 200g onion, sliced
- 300g carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- 150g celery, cut into chunks
- 200g button mushrooms, quartered
- 1 large clove of garlic, chopped
- 1 can of Guinness or dark beer of your choice
- 2 beef stock cubes dissolved into 500ml water
- 1 heaped teaspoon seeded mustard
- 1tsp tomato paste
- ¼ tsp Vegemite
- Tabasco, a good splash
- Salt & pepper
- 1 tblsp plain flour
- Vegetable oil
- 1 potato, sliced



### METHOD:

- Heat oven to 160c.
- Heat some oil in a casserole dish until it is smoking.
- Season the beef and fry in batches until well browned.
- Keep the beef to one side and add the onion, mushroom and garlic to the pan and reduce the heat to low.
- Cook for about 10 mins until the onion begins to soften then add the garlic and cook for a further 5 minutes.
- Add the tomato paste and cook for 5 minutes, then the flour and stir until well combined.
- Add all remaining ingredients and bring to the boil. Check the seasoning, you may need to add salt and pepper.
- Cover the casserole and cook for 90 mins (check after 60 minutes, the beef may be tender by then and you can also add a splash of water if necessary).
- Cover with sliced potatoes and cook for a further 45 minutes.

### NOTES:

Any diced beef is good but osso bucco or beef cheeks are particularly good.

If you stop cooking before you add the potatoes, you can freeze this very successfully or make a big batch and freeze the excess.

Can be cooked in a saucepan on the stove rather than in the oven. Add some more water at the start and cook, cover on a very low simmer for 2 hours. You can add small potatoes 45 minutes from the end for a beef stew.

For an extra hearty version add a ¼ cup of barley and an extra 300ml of water.

If you don't have a cast iron casserole you can get everything ready in a frying pan and transfer to a ceramic casserole dish.

If your casserole dish lid is loose, add a little more water and put a sheet of baking paper between the casserole dish and the lid.

### VARIATIONS:

Can be topped with mashed potato mixed with beaten egg for a 'cottage pie' style.

For a 'Beef Bourguignon' style use 250ml red wine and 250ml water instead of the Guinness and use whole button mushrooms and baby onions instead of the onion and quartered mushrooms.

Another variation is to substitute the Guinness with a can of chopped tomatoes and a splash of balsamic vinegar and some extra water. This version is excellent served with soft polenta.

# ARK CATERING

# Corporate Catering Menu

## Morning / Afternoon Tea (GF & Vegan options available)

- Muffins – caramelised apple and cinnamon or wild berry & dark chocolate.
- Soft centred brownies
- Sticky date puddings
- Muesli slice
- Scrolls – cinnamon or chocolate
- Mini Bagels – spinach egg & zaatar, frittata & tomato, smoked salmon & cucumber.
- Mini quiche with seasonal fillings
- Pastries - mushroom or spinach
- Mini sausage roll
- Fresh Fruit cups
- Fresh veggie sticks & house dips
- Green Falafel balls

## Pitas (GF & Vegan options available)

- Roast beef w/ chimichurri sauce
- Meatballs w/ house-made BBQ sauce
- Chicken schnitzel w/ spiced pumpkin aioli coleslaw & pickles
- Slow cooked lamb w/ smoky eggplant & pomegranate
- BBQ chicken w/ red cabbage salad & tahina
- Koftas w/BBQ tomato & onion salad, spiced mango chutney & tahina
- Burger w/ lettuce, tomato, caramelised onion & garlic aioli

### Vegetarian

- Falafel, tahini, chilli relish, cucumber & tomato
- Eggplant Sabich, boiled egg, tomato & spiced mango tahina.
- Baked cauliflower & chickpeas stew
- Fish – spiced Moroccan fish and chickpeas

## Hot meals

- Lamb ragout with turmeric rice
- Beef sinia with couscous
- Chicken with Galil spice turmeric rice
- Moroccan spiced fish with couscous
- Green Falafel with chickpea & almond stew (V, VG)

## Standard salads

- Broccoli & green bean salad
- Green salad with cucumber, tomato & roasted seeds
- Broccoli & cauliflower coleslaw with smoked almonds
- Fruit platter

## Premium salads (GF options available\*)

- Turmeric rice, puy lentils, caramelised onion, spinach, currants & roast cauliflower (VG)
- Freekeh, roast pumpkin, caramelised onion, almonds, parsley, pomegranate, tahina dressing (VG)
- Burghul, chickpeas, roast cauliflower, zucchini, spring onion and parsley (VG)

Add your choice of protein @ \$4 pp

- Spiced lamb, BBQ chicken or falafel

\*Quinoa is substituted for grains for GF options

# ARK CATERING

All meals are individually packed until further notice

## Morning / Afternoon Tea Packages

- Select of 2 - \$6 pp
- Select of 3 - \$8 pp
- Select of 4 - \$10 pp
- or \$3 per piece

## Complete Lunch Pita Package

Simply let us know how many people to cater for and we will provide a variety of pita pockets.

**Package 1** **\$14pp**  
3 pita pockets  
Side salad or fruit platter

**Package 2** **\$16pp**  
3 pita pockets  
Side salad  
Fruit platter

OR

### Choose your own fillings

#### Minimum 5 units per filling

We serve 3 pita per person

Choose 2 fillings - \$13.50 pp (3 pitas)

Choose 3 fillings - \$14 pp

Choose 4 fillings - \$14.50 pp

OR

\$5 per pita, minimum 5 units per filling

## Hot Meals **\$14.50 pp**

Individual serves.

Minimum 5 servings per order

# Corporate Catering Menu Price list

## Standard Salads

Individual serves.

Minimum 5 servings per order

Main meal size **\$8.50**

Side salad size **\$5**

## Premium Salads

Individual serves.

Minimum 5 servings per order

Main meal size **\$11**

Side salad size **\$7**

## DRINKS

Individual juices 350ml **\$4**

Individual waters 600ml **\$3**

Disposable plates, forks & serviettes available  
(biodegradable) **\$2pp**

Please notify us in advance of any allergies

Gluten free options available

Also available: finger food menu, grazing  
tables & buffets for functions.

## ORDERING

Within 5km radius of Ark Catering -

Minimum \$75 per order

\$5 delivery fee

Beyond 5km radius of Ark Catering -

Minimum of \$100 per order

Delivery fee on application

**TO ORDER CALL 8658 4044**

**EMAIL CATERING@ARKCENTRE.COM.AU**

**ARKCATERING.COM.AU**



# EVENT SPACE HIRE

7 CATO STREET HAWTHORN EAST

## ARK Centre specialises in:

- Meetings & Conferences • Workshops & Seminars • Team Building & Corporate Wellness Activities
- Engagement Parties • Public Lectures • Communal Events (awards night, lectures, cocktail parties, launches etc.)
- Private Family / Communal Dinners

## Venue Features:

- Suitable for meetings of 5 people through to events for 300+ (capacity & density quotient restrictions dependent)
- Adaptable room configuration
- In-house catering
- Flat day rate
- Transparent per head costs for all meal service: coffee & tea, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, canapes / grazing menu, full dinner service
- Public transport accessible
- Accommodation in walking distance

All ARK Centre events and activities are undertaken with strict adherence to our Covid Safe plan and in line with all Government requirements.



**“The meeting spaces are very flexible, the host is accommodating and helpful and the food, prepared by Chef Dan, is the talk of the office long after the conference has finished! Highly recommend ARK Centre for functions of any kind.”**

**– Mignon Hondow, PA to Managing Director, Bunnings**

**BUNNINGS**

For venue layout and further information visit  
[www.thearkcentre.org.au/venue-hire/](http://www.thearkcentre.org.au/venue-hire/)

For venue hire enquiries contact Lisa via  
[communications@arkcentre.com.au](mailto:communications@arkcentre.com.au) or call 8658 4044

**Ark**  
Centre

# KEEP IN TOUCH

We have multiple channels for you to stay in touch with us and join in the ARK Centre conversation



## Weekly Newsletter

Each Thursday we email our newsletter with upcoming events and speakers, exciting Shabbat and Yom Tov programs, Rabbi Gabi's thought-provoking weekly message and any pertinent news from around the community. If you don't yet receive our newsletter and would like to, please contact the office at [office@arkcentre.com.au](mailto:office@arkcentre.com.au) or head to our website and sign up at the bottom of the home page.

## ARK Centre Website

[www.thearkcentre.org.au](http://www.thearkcentre.org.au)

Here you'll find a central repository of information. Find out about our approach to weddings, read about our B'Nei Mitzvah Program, learn about the team and now, you can also pay for your membership, catering orders or Pay it Forward donations via our secure portal. You can also see what events are coming up, find out about ARK Centre as a conference and event venue...and much more.

## ARK Catering Website

[www.arkcatering.com.au](http://www.arkcatering.com.au)

Whether it be a corporate lunch, a conference or a Shabbat meal you can view all the delicious menu items at our dedicated ARK Catering website. Go online to see what delicious morsels could be at your workplace for your next team lunch or event.

## Social Media

Keep up to date with what's happening, see some fabulous pictures from all kinds of fun adventures and look out for new menus!



@arkcentre1



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@gabi.kaltmann



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# PASTORAL CARE

## @ ARK CENTRE

Many of us are currently facing struggles that we've never faced before. We have been tested in ways we couldn't have imagined and we are slowly becoming aware of how this past year has affected us. Rabbi Gabi and the entire ARK Centre team are here to support you and your loved ones.

Rabbi Gabi is a compassionate listener with a genuine love for all the individuals and families in our community. He holds a Masters of Social Work, giving him the skills and empathy to see people without judgement and to offer support and practical guidance making him not just an active listener but an experienced and trustworthy confidante.

Rabbi Gabi has the enviable ability to balance his light-hearted and outgoing personality with the difficult side of life approaching our troubles with consideration and insight.

We encourage all our community members, whether you come to the Centre weekly, once a year or not at all, to get in touch with us if you or someone you know needs our support.

We offer support in a variety of ways and are adaptable and open to the needs of each individual.

During the past year we have assisted ARK Centre community members and the

broader community by providing meals to those who have taken ill, have lost a loved one, or just needed a delicious meal that they didn't have to cook! Due to the many generous donations to our Pay it Forward initiative, we are able to continue this vital aspect of our support offerings.

Rabbi Gabi has regularly spent time with many community members be it on walks around the neighbourhood breathing in the fresh air and talking through one's struggles, home visits to those that may have become isolated, a coffee break almost anywhere around Melbourne or friendly chats on the phone.

One of our most sacred priorities as your Community Centre, is that each and every person knows they have somewhere to come not just to celebrate the good times, but a team at your disposal when life's inevitable challenges come your way.

Should you need assistance in any way, or know someone who does, we encourage you to get in touch with us.

For all Pastoral Care enquiries please contact the office on 8658 4044 or via [office@arkcentre.com.au](mailto:office@arkcentre.com.au). Your enquiry will be received with compassion and any information you provide will be treated with the strictest confidence.



# VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers form an intricate and essential part of ARK Centre. They are the beating heart of our ARK Centre community and without them, we would not be where we are today.

ARK Centre is so multifaceted that having the extra hands to come in and share the load allows us to really hone in and focus on what makes up our community. It ensures that the events, programs, Chagim and day to day administrative activities continue keeping the centre successful.

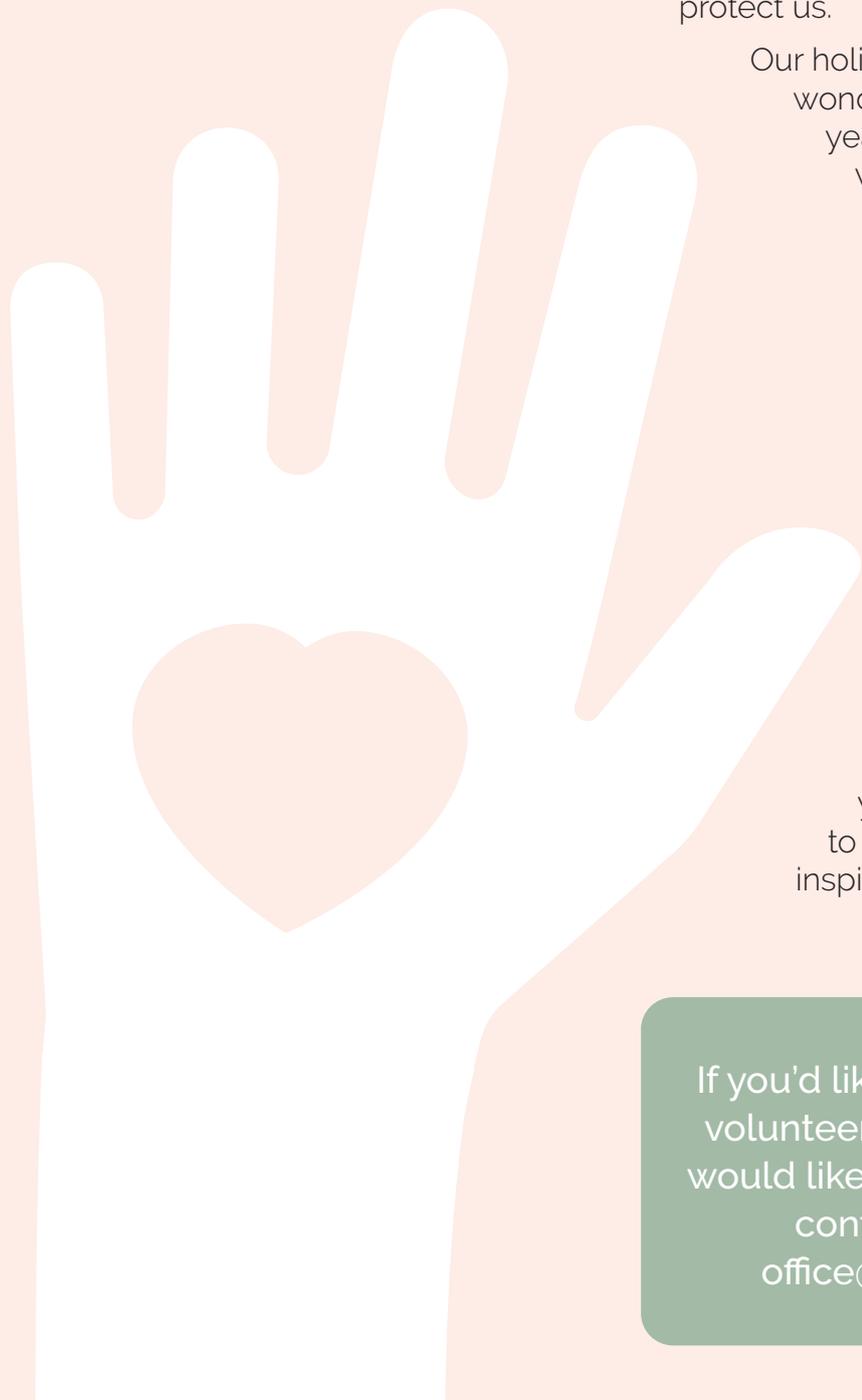
For much of the past year, we weren't even physically together yet our sense of community and connection with each other was palpable and our volunteers were integral in making that so.

There are so many facets of volunteering. Behind the scenes, our volunteers are involved in the day to day functioning of ARK Centre, they help with special projects, events and of course, keeping us safe.

At the drop of a hat, with only hours' notice, our group of CSG trained volunteers under the leadership of Theo Axarlis are there to protect us.

Our holiday deliveries have become a wonderful and uplifting part of our year. Each chag (festival), a list of volunteers drive from home to home dropping off a special something for you, be it Chanukah candles, Matzah or Rosh Hashanah boxes.

As ARK Centre begins to return to a sense of normality, and the familiar faces of our community are returning to the building, the sense of love and excitement is present. We deeply and sincerely thank each and every volunteer for being there, at our side this past year. And we look forward to many more exciting and inspiring times working together.



If you'd like to know more about volunteering opportunities and would like to get involved please contact the office via [office@arkcentre.com.au](mailto:office@arkcentre.com.au)

# OUT AND ABOUT WITH RABBI GABI



With Rabbi Mendel Kastel

As someone who feels strongly that the best way forward is to forge connections and find similarities, Rabbi Gabi spends much of his time developing and strengthening his relationships with members of the ARK Centre community and the broader Melbourne society. Here's a few highlights of some of where he has been and who he's been meeting...



With Moustafa Fahour



With Les Kausman OAM and students from Alkira College



With Mohamed Mohideen and Lord Mayor Sally Capp



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At Jewish Care with Vanessa Cohen



With Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau AC



With Acting Premier James Merlino and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence



With Fotis Kapetopoulos from Neos Kosmos Greek Newspaper



Representing the Jewish Community on a Multifath Panel for Monash Medical Students



Receiving a generous donation from Woolworths East Hawthorn



With Darren James at the MCG



With Troy Sivan

# SUPPORT ARK CENTRE



## ARK Centre Library Fund

Donations toward the development of our library and library-based activities are tax deductible.

Please consider any of these support opportunities:

[Chair for the Library - \\$250](#)

[Pillars of Light sponsorship - contact Rabbi Gabi to discuss sponsorship details](#)

[Publications and prayer books - please contact us to learn about our current projects](#)

## Pay It Forward

### Meals

Your contribution to our Pay it Forward initiative enables us to assist individuals and families who are struggling, in any number of ways, by providing a delicious hot meal.

[Meal for 2 people - \\$70](#)

[Meal for 4 people - \\$130](#)

Any contribution is gratefully received. To donate head to [www.thearkcentre.org.au](http://www.thearkcentre.org.au) and click the *Pay it Forward: Meals for Shabbat and Yom Tov* link in the blue box at the top of the page

### Membership

Your contribution goes to assisting families become, and stay, members of ARK Centre regardless of their financial circumstances.

To donate head to [www.thearkcentre.org.au](http://www.thearkcentre.org.au) and click the *Pay it Forward: Membership* link in the blue box at the top of the page.

## Yizkor Board

Commemorate a family member or loved one with a bespoke plaque on our beautiful Yizkor board.

[Cost per plaque is \\$600](#)



Direct Debit and Credit Card payments are available for all donations.

We love to recognise our supporters in a number of different ways. Please be in touch to discuss how your donation can be recognised at ARK Centre.

If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, please contact the office via [office@arkcentre.com.au](mailto:office@arkcentre.com.au)

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# OUR VILLAGE KITCHEN

## Did you know?

Since we began in early 2017...

we have held **224 cooking sessions**

engaged **3,993 volunteers**

provided **14,488 meals**

helped **21,812 individuals**

delivered over **1,570 pantry boxes**

It's wonderful to be back in the ARK kitchen! We are so grateful for the Ark Centre's ongoing support over the past few years, and feel extremely fortunate to be aligned with such a warm and inclusive community based organisation.

With renewed energy and a friendly smile we are so pleased that since February 2021 we've been able to resume volunteer cooking sessions. It has been truly wonderful to have our amazing team of volunteers back in the kitchen. Our volunteers are the backbone of OVK.

With all the changes that have been implemented since 2020 we have started 2021 with new COVID-Safe protocols in place to ensure our volunteers and OVK team feel safe in the kitchen as we cook together to help those struggling at this difficult time.

Many amazing Ark members have joined our cooking sessions, creating nutritious meals that are delivered to the doors of Jewish Care recipients. If you would be interested to learn more about Our Village Kitchen or join us for a cooking session, please visit our website.



## School program

Our Village Kitchen has been pleased to facilitate Year 9 Mount Scopus Students in the Ark kitchen.

The students are learning about programs that run within our community to help those in need. They have been actively involved in cooking sessions and are being guided to make meals for others in the spirit of OVK and giving back to the community.

Don't forget to follow OVK for more updates

 our village kitchen  ourvillagekitchen

# Something for you

To celebrate 4 years of Our Village Kitchen, we are excited to have launched our fabulous and stylish new OVK Recipe Organisers that is the perfect kitchen companion for anyone who loves to cook.

If you are a budding home chef and would love to have a tidy place to organise and store all your favourite recipes, we think you would love one of our Recipe Organisers - - it could be for you, a loved one or a practical and beautiful gift for any occasion.

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All profits go 100% to support our food relief programs

## Your ongoing support

We are so grateful and value the support of the community, not only those who have volunteered their time in the kitchen, but those that have donated money to keep OVK going.

Together we can make a real difference.

If you would like to make a donation to help, please contact [hello@ourvillagekitchen.com.au](mailto:hello@ourvillagekitchen.com.au) or visit our website to make your direct donation.

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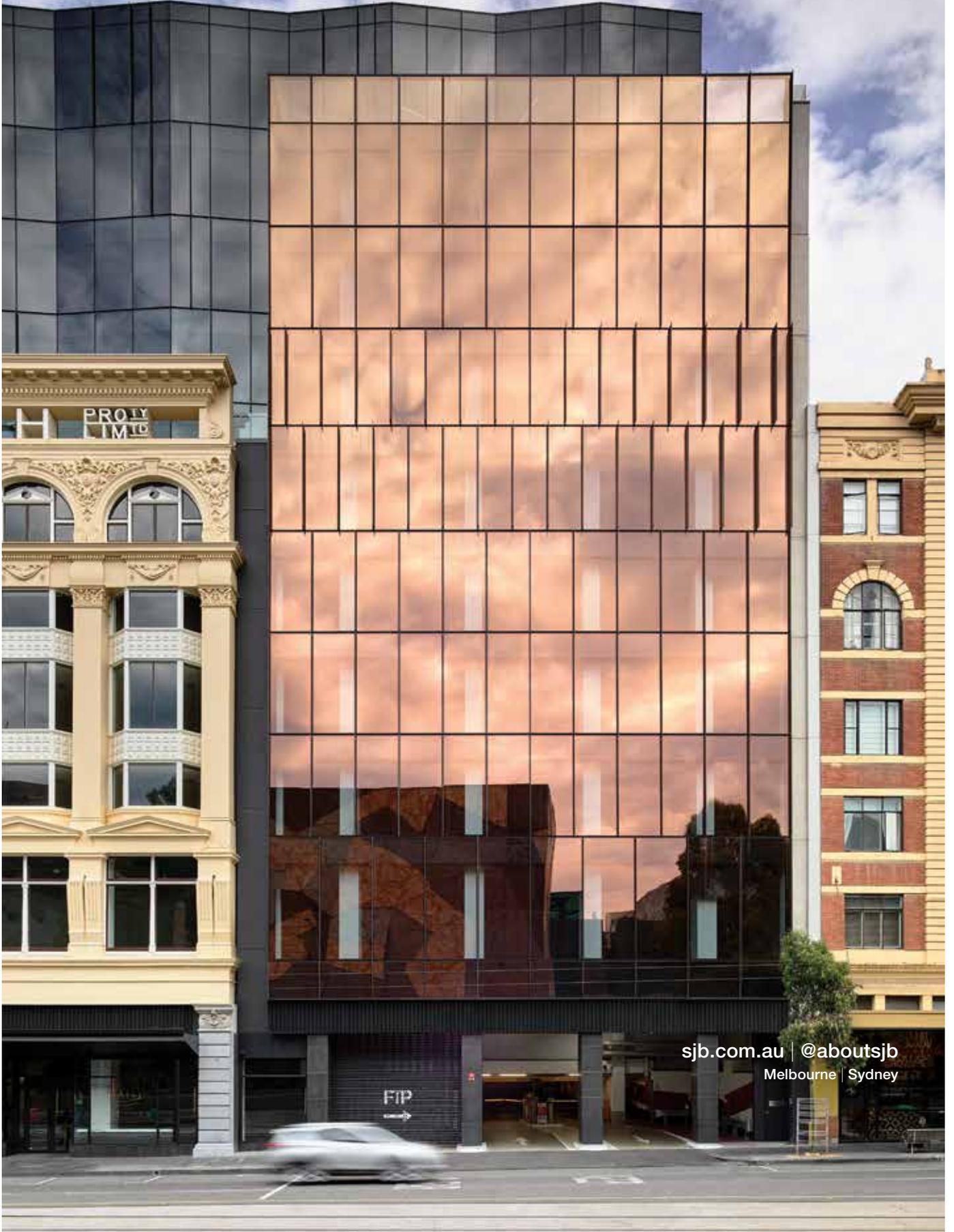
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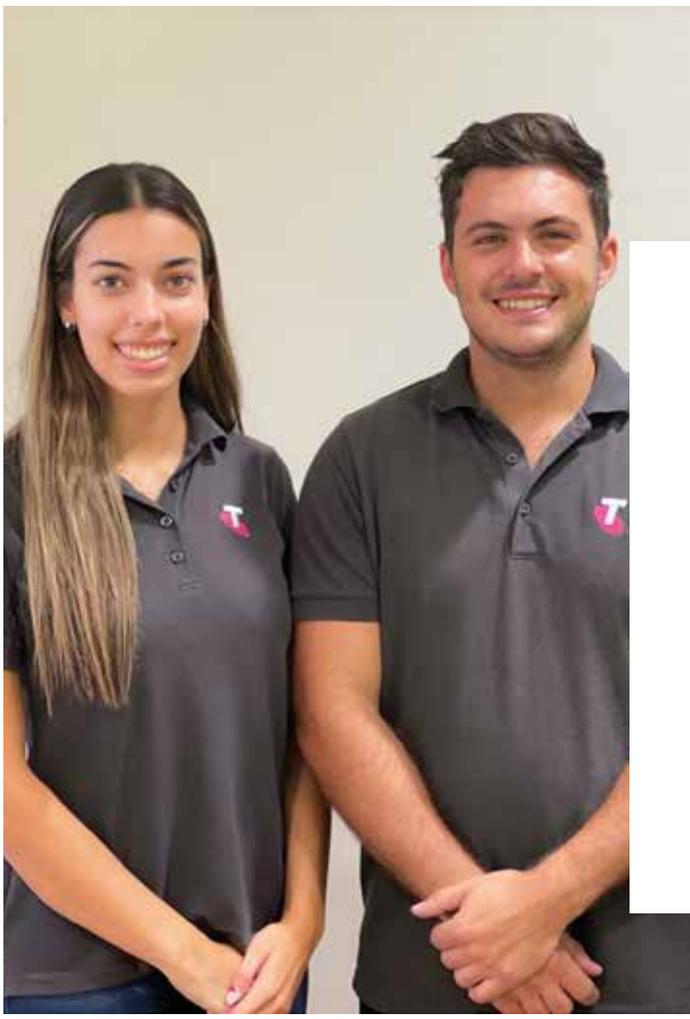


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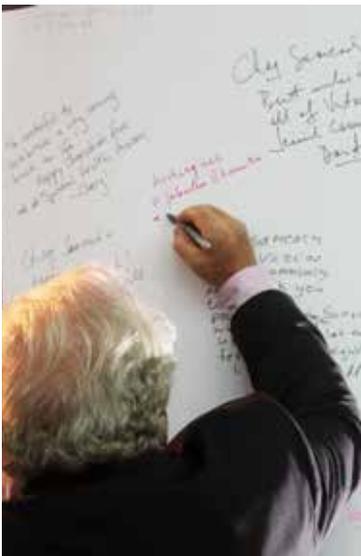
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To the entire ARK Centre community for all the love, support and compassion during such a difficult time.

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