

On behalf of the Maccabi Victoria Board and the Maccabi Victoria Sport Foundation, it is an honour and a privilege to welcome you all to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Maccabi organisation. What an absolutely amazing atmosphere in the room tonight.

The sell out tonight is not only a fabulous endorsement of our desire to celebrate our proud history, but recognition of the extraordinary involvement of Maccabi in the communal life of such a vast number of our families.

The current leadership of Maccabi is greatly heartened by the active involvement and passion of the next generation of our leaders, and if this night is any example, Maccabi will be in very capable hands for generations to come.

We can be a little blasé and take it for granted. But after 90 years of history, we can be so proud of what this community has achieved. We can celebrate and reflect on this with much satisfaction.

But now is the time to also look forward. To understand the world we live in and our responsibility to provide our future generations with stability and the best possible environment within which to grow and develop. We are the custodians of the present and the future. Every one of us in this room bears that responsibility. It is exciting.

It is time for Maccabi Victoria to step up, to aim high, to provide an environment where all our players and administrators can be the best that they can be.

- A culture of excellence.
- The best coaching programs and coaches available
- The best facilities
- Support for our volunteers
- Leadership programs for our youth
- Providing a pathway for all our members - no matter their ability.

The past 90 years has set the platform, laid the foundations. Now is the time to think big. To provide a Pathway to the future.

Shortly tonight we will launch our Pathways program and I urge you all to commit to playing your part in helping Maccabi become the sporting organisation of choice for every Jewish participant, no matter their ability or situation.

Since 2003, when the Maccabi Victoria Sport Foundation was established and under the direction of its Chairman Ian Davis, the Foundation has had an enormous impact on the organisation and the community. In particular the funding of the Leon Haskin Tennis Centre which has seen the re-birth of the tennis club which is now thriving. The establishment of the Helen Synman Coaching program and the wonderful impact the All Abilities program continues to have, as well as many other initiatives. None of these would have been possible without the Foundation

I would like to thank Ian Davis and the Maccabi Victoria Sport Foundation for their support and commitment to the organisation. This event and the Pathways program would not be possible without their hard work and dedication.

We are almost at the end of the 90th Anniversary celebrations and in addition to the thank you's expressed by Barry, I acknowledge the work of Jacquie Lerner and the Maccabi office team, the Maccabi Victoria Board and all the club administrators. Your work is tireless and valued.

I feel so privileged and honoured to be standing here tonight in my capacity as President of this organisation. As a migrant to Australia, I do not take for granted the rich history of our community and Maccabi. From Maccabiah to Carnivals to week to week sport, Maccabi is such an important part of my life as it is in the lives of so many here tonight.

Sports as a civic institution no longer sits on the periphery of Australian life, as a mere diversion. Today, it both reflects and shapes our culture and values. We are strong believers in the power of sports. For us, the first and most pressing question is: How do we ensure that Maccabi is and continues to be the first choice for our kids given the diverse lifestyle choices to which they are exposed.

That is our challenge. Thank you to everyone here tonight for your support in helping us rise to that challenge and we all can look forward to an exciting next 90 years for the Maccabi organisation.