



2019

Presidents Report





Brian Swersky - President:

Maccabi is proud to be the community leader in facilitating a healthy, active and sporting lifestyle for the Melbourne Jewish community. Every week thousands participate, at every level, through our 22 clubs and numerous programs.

I sincerely thank all the wonderful people who surround me and in particular the members of my Board, the Maccabi Victoria Sports Foundation Board, MAI Board, all the clubs and those Maccabi stalwarts who remain connected and are always available to help.

Over the last year a few special people have retired or cut back in their involvement and they must be acknowledged.

Ian Davis has been the Chairman of our Foundation since its inception in 2003. Ian has stepped down as Chairman but remains a Foundation Director. Ian has always been available to me to provide reasoned wise counsel for which I thank him.

Philip Sheezel has stepped down from the MAI Board and MacVic Foundation but remains involved in the Maccabi LIFE project. I first met Philip when he was setting up a Committee to establish the Member Protection Policy. Philip's passion for Maccabi is infectious and he gets things done. Numerous programs and events have resulted from ideas seeded by Philip or initiatives driven by him.

Russell Jaffe has stepped down as President of the Maccabi Victoria Sports Foundation but remains engaged with All Abilities, Hall of Fame and is currently driving our Archive project. Russell has been invaluable in helping me navigate the maze that is Maccabi and remains involved and always willing to help.

I acknowledge those Board members who have retired during the year and those that will retire at this meeting. Glen Kanevsky, Kate Perlstein, Mark Waters, Rochelle Rothfield, Anita Bartfeld all retire. I thank them for their passion and involvement.

Joining the Board are Caryn Kave, Sheiny New, and Sharon Roseman. A dynamic, diverse trio of strong women who will take us forward to new heights.

Dean Mohr, Joel Queit, Sam Strunin and Janine Baum remain on the Board. I thank you for your ongoing efforts and support. I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

I thank and appreciate the efforts of our dedicated staff and the thousands of people who volunteer their time every week.

Jacque Lerner is the heart and soul of Maccabi. We could not do it without you.

The key initiatives are covered in the specific portfolio reports but some highlights are:

Rationalisation and Nationalisation: Last year I reported that we were on the cusp of major changes as we moved towards becoming a truly national body. We have now combined many of the back office functions so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and better utilise our resources to create a more efficient and effective organisation that can meet our community's needs well into the future.

The appointment of Ryan O'Connor as Executive Director of MAI was the start of this process. Ryan now oversees the Maccabi office and as he becomes more familiar with the organisation he will take on the day to day management of some of our programs and will help us better meet the needs of our clubs.

Ryan is also driving an upgrade of our email and communication systems and database management.

Henry Jolson Pathways Program - The appointment of Martin Jona as Pathways Co-Ordinator has resulted in further substantial engagement with the Jewish schools for the first time in many years. Through our clubs we now provide sporting programs to Bialik, King David, Sholem Aleichem and Beth Rivkah in Athletics, Soccer, Futsal, Netball, Hockey and Golf. This has resulted in a direct pathway to our clubs and has seen the rebirth in particular of our Athletics club and increased membership in other clubs. Martin has also run two School Holiday Sports programs and also coaches in several sports. We are well down the track to start programs at Yavneh and Yeshiva.

The Jolson program also supported an event held by our Tennis club in conjunction with the Les Twentyman Foundation. Maccabi youth socialised with a Sudanese youth leadership group in a sharing of sport and culture. It is hoped that this will become an annual event with the intention to incorporate other sports.

Marketing – Under the guidance of Board member Sam Strunin the marketing profile, social media and quality of collateral material has been taken to a new level. Sam is also assisting a few of our clubs, MAI, NSW and WA State bodies so that we can have a consistent and high quality social media presence. I am extremely excited about our #maccabiproud campaign that will be launched in coming days.

The Club Development Grants Program continues to assist our clubs to deliver programs, upskill coaches, acquire equipment and provide fee relief. We have been able to meet all reasonable requests for help. This year, through our Foundation, we gave almost \$50,000 back to our clubs by way of grants and

applied for and received many smaller Government grants for our clubs.

Friends of Maccabi: Paul Fink and Josh Goldstat captivated the audience at our bi-annual Friends of Maccabi luncheon. It is important that we continue to facilitate these gatherings and retain the connection and comradery of those who once played and now have kids and grand children playing at a Maccabi clubs.

Archive Project: Initial funding from a grant has allowed us to set up a process to document, catalogue and store the enormous amount of memorabilia and historical documents and photos we hold. Yvonne Fayman, Russell Jaffe, Janine Baum and a dedicated team of volunteers are working to preserve and curate our history.

Revenue Raising: As a result of a change of dates our annual appeal will be held after this AGM. Once again we are using the Charidy platform. In anticipation I thank all those who donate to support Maccabi, whether it be financially or by helping out.

In particular I thank our members of the Foundation for their efforts in raising substantial funds for this appeal.

Women in Sport: This program continues to build momentum and we must celebrate the success of our women:

- Our girls U14 AFL team won a premiership in their first year.
- Chelsea Fisher, was awarded Coach of the Year by AJAX.
- Our Senior Women's Soccer team are playing in State League 1, the highest grade ever achieved by a Maccabi soccer team.
- For the first time in 10 years we have a women's Hockey team.
- We have gender balance on our Board and many of our clubs are working hard to get more women on their Boards.

Maccabi Australia: I continue to work closely with Jeff Sher and the MAI Board. I also attend regular phone-ins with the Presidents of NSW and WA which are facilitated by Jeff. I congratulate MAI, Barry Smorgon OAM, Sam Gamsu, Giselle Berlinski and Simone Cohen on their recent success in taking a team of 137 to Mexico City for the Pan Am games. I congratulate all participants as we celebrate the remarkable medal haul of 16 Gold, 20 Silver and 14 Bronze.

Junior Carnival: An extremely successful Junior Carnival was held in Sydney in January this year with over 350 attendees. We sent a team of 157 and owe a

special thank you to our Team Managers David Parasol and Erez Feinberg.

This year's Carnival is in Perth and our Carnival managers will be Erez Feinberg and Martin Jona. We look forward to holding Carnival in Melbourne in 2021.

Leadership Program and Youth Board: Our program continues this year ably managed by Rochelle Rothfield with the assistance of Peter Ernest. David Chester and Zac Winograd, two of the graduates from 2018 have been sitting on the Board as observers. David will now take on a more active role with All Abilities and Zac is working with Dean Mohr to set up a Youth Board.

Hall of Fame: A successful dinner was held for Hall of Fame inductees at the home of Ruth & Sam Parasol OAM. Thank you to Russell Jaffe and Mark Klaphish for their hard work. Mark has taken on the role of Chair of the Hall of Fame committee and is working towards an event for the next round of inductees in 2021. Thank you to Sam Parasol for everything he has done for Hall of Fame and generally for the organisation.

Clubs: Our clubs remain vibrant, financially sound and well managed. The major clubs continue to grow with facilities and resources remaining a constant challenge.

Clubs are at the core of what we do as a roof body. The Board strives to add value to, advocate for and represent the clubs at all times.

Unfortunately our Squash club has folded after 68 years and a magnificent history. Times change and the community's needs change and we have therefore started a new Futsal club and have also launched several Maccabi LIFE initiatives with the intention of elevating Maccabi to a thought leadership position in our community for Sport, Health & Wellbeing.

In the area of 'unstructured' sport we have held numerous events including the Rambam bike ride, the National Dementia Walk and the Screenagers movie to which over 400 people attended. We have also started social Women's basketball and a brand new sport called 'Catchball'.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful and valued supporters who have been so supportive of the Maccabi organisation. Scott Winton, Lowe Lippmann, Gandel Philanthropy, Bensons, JR/Group, Central Equity and Gurner - your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to recognise and thank affiliated and other organisations such as JCCV, ZV, Jewish Care, Hatzolah, Access, & CSG. Also the many other communal organisations we work with and of course the City of Glen Eira and our local State member David Southwick MP and Federal member Josh Burns MP.



Maccabi Victoria - President's Report cont.

I feel very proud to lead this incredible organisation, its affiliated clubs and the thousands of members, volunteers and their extended families.

With Maccabi Greetings



Brian Swersky
#MACCABI**PROUD**
President
Maccabi Victoria



maccabi **PROUD**
connecting our Jewish community through sport

"We know you are too!"



community

respect

teamwork

volunteerism