

## Blood Sweat & Tears for 90 Years Gala Dinner

On February 3rd a sell-out crowd of over 460 people joined us to celebrate 90 Years of Magen David Adom at our Gala Dinner at St Kilda Town Hall.

**John Searle**, Barrister and former Chairperson of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Equal Rights Commission, did an excellent job as MC, educating the crowd on the important work of Magen David Adom.



Our guest, **Alon Fridman**, CFO of MDA Israel, gave an insight into the importance of our 2020 project, raising funds to put defibrillators on the streets of Israel.



**Phillip Kingston**, community figure and auctioneer extraordinaire, passionately urged the audience to give meaningfully to our 2020 campaign. Based on the wonderful community response to the evening, he did a fabulous job.



Our Keynote Speaker was **Hillel Neuer**, **Executive Director of UN Watch**, a non-profit organisation dedicated to holding the UN accountable to its founding principles,



who spoke passionately about the challenges continually faced by Israel.

He also brought to light a myriad of other humanitarian issues faced by a range of countries, many of which are never brought to the world stage.

This event surpassed all expectations and set a fantastic tone for our 2020 campaign, helping us to provide defibrillators for public areas throughout Israel.

On Tuesday 4th February, **Hillel Neuer**, under the auspices of **MDA Australia**, addressed a private lunch at **Arnold Bloch Leibler**, co-hosted by **Zionist Federation of Australia** and **Australia Israel Jewish Affairs Council**. He powerfully highlighted the blatant hypocrisy of UN Human Rights Council.

That evening he delivered the **Australian Union of Jewish Students Sir Zelman Cowan Oration** to a sell-out crowd of more than 250 guests.

The next day, our guests Hillel Neuer and Alon Fridman travelled to Canberra with MDA Australia chairperson, **Glynis Lipson** and executive member **David Sherr**, where they met with **Mark Soffer**, Israeli Ambassador to Australia, and **Josh Burns**, Member for Macnamara and other MPs before sitting in on Question Time in Parliament.

**Andrew Bolt**, Sky News journalist, recorded a candid interview with Hillel Neuer that was broadcast on the Bolt Report that evening. This gave Mr Bolt an opportunity to bring to the attention to a national audience some of the issues faced by Israel, Hillel Neuer and UN Watch on a daily basis.

(Continued)



## We are most grateful to our Blood, Sweat & Tears Gala sponsors who made this all possible.

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- Gary Peer
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### THANK YOU to Retailers and Shules

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our associated retailers and service providers who have generously agreed to be a part of our Membership program and offered discounts and value added items to our members during 2020. Thank you also to all the Shules who have been a part of our fundraising campaigns during various Chagim.

Without our community support MDA would not be able to provide the high level of assistance to the people of Israel that we do.

These Melbourne retailers and Shules also continue, year in and year out, to regularly donate Tzedakah to MDA Australia.

**We are so grateful for your ongoing support.**

## MAGEN DAVID ADOM AUSTRALIA DONATION POINT THE SMARTER AND SAFER WAY TO DONATE TZEDAKAH!



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

The best way for our organisation to collect tzedakah in retail stores, shopping centres, restaurants and cafes.

The donation terminal (shown at right) provides MDA with the opportunity to accept donations electronically and securely using contactless card payments.

"NO SPARE CHANGE?  
NO PROBLEM, JUST TAP"



# Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone – anywhere

Magen David Adom Australia's 2020 Campaign was to place defibrillators on street corners throughout Israel!

**Immediate response is vital.** A victim's chance of survival dramatically decreases every minute without treatment. That's why public access defibrillators are so important.

They put lifesaving technology in the hands of the professionals but also, and more importantly, help bystanders save lives.

Through this initiative, Magen David Adom will ensure the public is equipped to help save lives – all the time and everywhere.

The GPS/communications technology available on these Defibrillators allows MDA Dispatch to:

- Remotely monitor continually updated information;
- Locate on a map and detect location changes;
- Receive alerts of any situation affecting viability such as battery & electrode status;
- View a dashboard with the status of all connected Defibrillators;
- Be alerted when a Defibrillator is in use;
- Send event data via Wi-Fi to emergency responders en route.

All the above facts and information are available remotely.

We are thrilled to announce that from our Blood, Sweat & Tears Gala dinner in February 2020, **TWELVE DEFIBRILLATORS** were purchased outright and are currently placed throughout Israel.

To purchase a street defibrillator with dedication plaque outright please contact (03) 92725633.



**BLOOD  
SWEAT & TEARS**  
*For 90 Years*



**You  
can make  
a difference**

Ordinary people are showing extraordinary generosity by leaving a gift in their will to **Magen David Adom Australia**.

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## A message from Glynis Lipson, Chairperson MDA Australia.

**It certainly has been a challenging year for all of us here in Australia, in Israel and around the world.**

After battling major bushfires around the country, the year started off on a sombre note but then February arrived and we were so privileged to host Executive Director from the UN Watch **Hillel Neuer** at our **Blood, Sweat & Tears for 90 Years Gala**. Looking back, we were extremely fortunate to have held our campaign opener before the world turned upside down.

**COVID-19** has affected us all in many ways and the recovery will take many years. Here in Victoria we have felt it the most, spending most of the year in some sort of lockdown having to battle a second wave unlike the rest of the country.

Unfortunately, Israel's battle continued also well into 2020 with their cases soaring past 8,000 a day putting immense pressure on their medical system and Magen David Adom.

Thanks to generous support from you, we have been able to ensure MDA has been able to replenish their PPE, medical supplies and fleet, to deal with the pandemic.

Whether it's rockets, terror attacks or a virus, the people of Israel forge ahead because they have the best trained, most technologically equipped Emergency Medical Organisation – **MAGEN DAVID ADOM**.

**They also have another powerful ally looking out for them: YOU.**

Because the need for vital medical supplies and emergency equipment is never-ending, **your donation makes a huge difference**.



Whatever you give, you will have the thanks of over 25,000 EMT's and paramedics, who have been Israel's front line against both terrorist attacks and the coronavirus pandemic, and of the 9.2 Million people who call Israel home.

### WHEN YOU ADD IT ALL UP, THE NUMBERS SAVE LIVES

<b>169</b>	Medical Emergency Stations operated by Magen David Adom throughout Israel
<b>74,865+</b>	Injured in road accidents evacuated by Magen David Adom
<b>650</b>	First-Responder Medicycles
<b>14+</b>	Resuscitations per day on average performed by Magen David Adom teams
<b>470+</b>	Volunteers from 22 different countries trained and worked in Magen David Adom stations
<b>1,200</b>	Ambulances deployed by Magen David Adom
<b>152,578+</b>	Civilians completing resuscitation courses to <b>SAVE LIVES</b>
<b>25,000+</b>	Volunteer EMT's and paramedics
<b>7,500+</b>	First -Responder volunteers deployed to an average of
<b>500+</b>	calls per month

These are just some of the reasons Magen David Adom is one of the world's best EMS organisation – but there is one critical number **13,765 Kilometres**.

That's how far away most of us live – Australians like you – whose support provides the equipment, training and technology that makes our LIFE-SAVING work possible. Your support can help increase our most important number – **LIVES SAVED**.

**Most importantly you have our thanks from Magen David Adom Australia and Magen David Adom Israel.**

We hope that 2021 will bring life back to some sort of normal, and we can meet again and continue to show our support and passion for Israel, together.

*Glynis Lipson, Chairperson, Magen David Adom Australia.*



**לשכת המנהל הכללי  
Director General Office**

## A message from Eli Bin, Director-General, MDA in Israel.

**Dear Members and Supporters of Magen David Adom Australia, I am both pleased and honoured to communicate with each and every one of you at this time.**



Regardless of where we may be living, the events of the last 10 months have caused massive dislocation in the lives of most of us and here in Israel the efforts of Magen David Adom have never before been as important and critically needed in safeguarding the residents of Israel.

Our resources here have been stretched to capacity, and in response to an urgent call we placed to all the Friends' Societies around the world, who support the efforts of Magen David Adom in Israel, we have received ongoing and much needed additional support that has and continues to save lives.

I particularly acknowledge with thanks the efforts of Glynis Lipson and her team in Melbourne who have generously channelled their fundraising efforts this year to underwrite the costs of a SUZUKI medi-cycle, 15 community defibrillators and an urgently needed regular ambulance, and also acknowledge the contribution to our ongoing operations with the provision of branded caps and ambulance blankets.

With the soon to be completed Marcus National Blood Centre in Ramla – believed to be the world's first underground facility of its kind – I also acknowledge MDA Australia's generosity in dedicating two rooms in this unique state of the art facility.

This year marks the 90th anniversary since the formal establishment of Magen David Adom in Israel, and our friends in Australia have continued to be loyal and dedicated supporters of what is truly Israel's only National Emergency Medical and Blood Services and the leading humanitarian organisation in providing lifesaving services during times of war, terrorist attacks, and for accidents and emergencies in peace-time.

*Eli Bin, Director-General, MDA in Israel.*

## Artist Sandra Morley

**For artist Sandra Morley, COVID-19 lockdown triggered her desire to spread colour and joy through creativity.**

It started with Sandra delivering Pesach art packs filled with colourful cardboard, scissors and glue sticks to her grandchildren and family friends to keep them busy whilst at home.

Then she began crafting stunning face mask embellishments, gorgeous postcards and now her beautiful charity butterflies known as 'Blumas'. These bright butterflies are hanging in Aged Care centres, homes and businesses throughout our community. 'Blumas' sold for \$36 each with all proceeds donated to Magen David Adom.

Combining her two passions of art and charity during such an uncertain time is Sandra's greatest pleasure.

**Sandra incredibly raised over \$5000 for MDA, a cause close to her heart.**

"Sandra spreads joy"

Please Donate To

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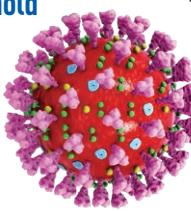
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## Antibodies may Hold the Key

**Antibodies taken from people who have recovered from COVID-19 could hold the key to helping new patients beat coronavirus.**

Avi Susskind (above) is one of the all-important donors who overcame COVID-19 and was well enough to donate plasma.



"It is a fantastic experience to know you can help out other people," he told ABC's 7.30. His plasma is rich with antibodies — a protein formed in the blood when a person recovers from a disease, which can help them fight off the infection if they are exposed to it in future.

"I like helping people without them knowing I am the one who has donated. I like doing things behind the scenes," he said.

James Daly, medical director of pathology services at Red Cross Lifeblood, says convalescent plasma is known to be effective in treating other infections.

"We don't have information about what is the best dose and what is the best timing of treatment, so using convalescent plasma in well-structured clinical trials will help answer some of those questions," he said.

In one of the trials, run by Monash University, researchers transfused the plasma into COVID-19 patients in intensive care.

"A vaccine is going to take time to come, and so in the meantime it is important we have a treatment for them while waiting for a vaccine," Charmaine Gittleson, CSL chief medical officer, said.

"The hope is the infection will resolve quicker and [the patient] won't then go on to develop a very devastating consequence of COVID-19, so those people hopefully will not be admitted to ICU or need to go onto ventilators."

**Australian Red Cross Lifeblood** is continuing to call on people who have recently recovered from COVID-19 to donate their plasma to help advance the clinical trials. Book your appointment today and mention "Red25 MDA"

## SHARE YOUR SIMCHA WITH MAGEN DAVID ADOM AUSTRALIA



All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible!

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# Schools & Aged Care

## Ambulance Tzedakah Boxes

Our new and highly anticipated ambulance tzedakah boxes proved to be an exceptionally hot commodity with over 1000 being delivered to schools in the first week.



This was a wonderful way to engage with schools while not being able to physically go in and speak to pupils.

We had planned to take our brand-new initiative the **MDA Teddy Bear Hospital** into schools and engage with day care and kindergarten children but obviously this was not to be.

The program has now been fine tuned with a step-by-step guide for teachers to run the program as it could be sometime before we can visit schools.

The program teaches children about MDA, works on fine and gross motor skills and helps quash any fears of doctors, ambulances and hospitals. The amount of thought and effort that has gone into the program has been a true labour of love and we cannot wait for it to be rolled out as intended in 2021.



We added a dedicated activity section to our website with fun and engaging activities. **MDA Kidz** will be regularly updated to include activities that are current and relevant.

**Stay tuned for our Chanukah activities – they will leave you spinning!**

## Bnei Mitzvah Programs

**We spoke to participants from various Bnei Mitzvah programs over Zoom.**

We wanted to provide them not only with knowledge of MDA and our 2020 Campaign but also a meaningful activity that was fun and that would become a keepsake.

Before each session students were given an activity pack

**Even in the most challenging of times there is always a reason to celebrate! Jesse and Josh Slade chose Magen David Adom for donations in honour of their Bar Mitzvahs which were held over Zoom in October.**

*"MDA helps out Israeli citizens in need, whether it be in times of medical emergencies or to provide joy and happiness for extremely ill individuals through the Wish Ambulance. The very impressive Blood Bank currently being built will be life changing for so many individuals. So many important and lifesaving projects for one organisation!"*

To share your Simcha with MDA please visit  
<https://www.magendavidadom.com.au/share-your-simcha/>



*Special thanks to Buddies ELC for supporting our Tzedakah program.*

with everything needed to design their own challah covers.

We have been busy planning and designing new activities and have already started locking in dates for 2021.

We are extremely grateful to the synagogues who helped promote Magen David Adom Australia by including MDA in their flyers, newsletters and on social media.

## Covid-19 and Aged Care

**Covid-19 was extremely hard on aged care residents, with centres being locked down almost completely.**

Sadly, this meant we were unable to do much in the field of Aged Care this year. We sent in sudoku worksheets to try to alleviate boredom and provide some external stimulation.

In 2021 we are hoping to be able to return to Aged Care and chat with the residents again, even if it is from a safe social distance. We have really missed our interaction with them.

## Double Simcha in times of COVID-19!



# Magen David Adom's Yochai Porat Overseas Volunteer Program

Become a certified MDA first responder and gain real experience on ambulances across Israel as part of Magen David Adom's Overseas Volunteer Program.

As an MDA volunteer, you partake in an intensive 60-hour first-aid training course that covers material ranging from bandaging wounds to CPR and mass casualty incidents.

The five weeks that follow provide an opportunity to bring your training experience to the next level.

From heart attacks to car accidents, you will work eight-hour shifts in the city of your choice and have the opportunity to put the skills you gained in training into actual use.

**Become an MDA first-responder and immerse yourself in the day-to-day Israeli lifestyle and culture all while saving lives.**

For more information please visit <https://www.magendavidadom.com.au/yochai-porat-overseas-volunteer-program/> or call (03) 9272 5633

**Due to COVID-19, in 2020 only participants who were already in Israel on a GAP year were able to participate in the Yochai Porat Overseas volunteer program.**

**Read about their experiences here...**



## Emma Luntz – May 2020

"Magen David Adom's Overseas Volunteer Program was truly an experience unlike no other; it's not often that one has the opportunity to be the first on a scene and help treat patients firsthand."



*Working side-by-side with Israelis in Jerusalem was a highlight itself, as was meeting such incredible people from all around the world. It's actually crazy to think that we were on the ambulances, responding to calls in real time in the most dynamic and diverse country.*

*Prior to MDA, I wouldn't exactly say I was accustomed to blood, yet quickly learned how to look past my own inhibitions therefore was able to approach cases with a holistic point of view. Learning from the most experienced medics and paramedics, I gained an appreciation for their ability to respond in a calm and dutiful manner whilst giving life-saving treatment; they were the most incredible mentors in all aspects."*

## Nechama Klajn – July 2020

*"Having only recently come out of lockdown and already experiencing the second wave of corona, the participants of IBC were very lucky to still have the MDA experience offered to us.*

*The 10 day training course flew by pretty quickly; every day we would have breakfast, class, lunch, class again and then dinner. Although some classes moved slower than others, each class had something to be learned from. We would improve our hebrew skills, practice CPR on life size dummies, learn more first aid skills and make new friends.*

*The training course very quickly became not just a learning experience, but a social one too – with new friends being made,*

*providing a breath of fresh air after 2 months of lockdown. The training course was ended with an exam which would decide if we were ready to join, and after all of us successfully passed, we headed back to Tel Aviv to begin the next few weeks as a part of the MDA program.*

*The reason I decided to join the MDA volunteer program is because MDA teaches you more than first aid – it teaches you responsibility, empathy and offers you the ability to see people at some of the lowest points of their life and be in a position to help them.*

*As I go on to these next few weeks volunteering within MDA, I very much look forward to the knowledge and personal growth I know I will gain from the experience".*



# Spotlight on MDA Volunteers

**Volunteers are the heart and soul of any organisation.**

**At Magen David Adom Australia, we rely heavily on our volunteers to support our work and ensure we are able to raise funds and support MDA in Israel.**

This year, we have missed our volunteers tremendously having had to put all our events and gatherings on hold.

We hope to be able to get back together very soon, but until then get to know some of our volunteers, **the life-blood of MDA.**

## Carla Sharp

**What year did you start volunteering for MDA Australia?**

I started in 2010.

**What made you get involved?**

My mother requested donations to MDA for her 80th birthday. At that time, I renewed an old friendship with Glynis and she suggested I might benefit from getting involved. And the rest, as they say, is history.

**What have you gained from volunteering for MDA?**

I've made several life-long friends. I've spent many hours in the company of wonderful, generous people who understand how important it is to support the people of Israel and continue the life-saving work of MDA. This has given me immense satisfaction and purpose.

**Favourite memory / highlight of your volunteering time with MDA?**

Being a part of the many successful functions MDA have hosted over recent years – our market events at the St Kilda Town Hall, the Dan Alon / Norman Swan event, hosting Hillel Neuer and several others.

But my favourite memory is frying 20kg of chips for Yom Haatzmaut and the satisfaction when every one of those chips was sold.



## Joe Saltzman

**What year did you start volunteering for MDA Australia?  
What made you get involved?**

I first became aware of MDA 60 years ago when I came to Melbourne to get married and settle here.

For the next very many years I was a member of an MDA group of pharmacists whose main endeavours were to organise and conduct an all-day bazaar in Coppin Hall in Punt Road once a year, very successful it was too.

Forward many years to post retirement years and having helped many times during peak annual appeal efforts.

I decided it was time to make a more committed effort and become an enthusiastic appeal worker.

Shortly after my wife's death, Glynis found work for me in the office and I became a volunteer helping with the banking and other office work.

**What have you gained from volunteering for MDA?**

Because MDA is concerned with Blood Bank and ambulance work in Israel, it means the work done by volunteers is of the utmost importance in the lives of the residents in Israel. This brings enormous satisfaction to us.

**Favourite memory / highlight of your volunteering time with MDA?**

I remind myself often of the memories of my trip to Israel in Oct 2018 with my partner Sadie attending IMDAC and being present at the discussions and planning by the delegates for future works of MDA.

All this gave me a great satisfaction. Long may they continue their work with success.

## Julia Caplan

**What year did you start volunteering for Magen David Adom Australia?**



I started volunteering in 2008 while I was completing the Duke of Edinburgh award.

**What made you get involved?**

I have a very close family connection with Glynis (Chairperson of MDA Victoria) who suggested that I come and volunteer at the MDA office to complete the required hours for the award.

I would attend every Wednesday after school and I enjoyed volunteering with Glynis so much that I continued volunteering for many years to come.

**What have you gained from volunteering for MDA?**

Throughout my experience and time with MDA, I have been President of Magen David Adom Teens (MDAT), Young Magen David Adom (YMDA) and currently on the board of Magen David Adom Australia.

I have volunteered in both MDA Australia raising money and MDA Israel, volunteering as a medic on ambulances.

I have gained many skills throughout my volunteering and specifically the importance of time management. Every Second counts, particularly when performing CPR and saving lives.

**Favourite memory/ highlight of your volunteering time with MDA?**

I have many favourite memories.

I loved attending the MDA conference in Israel with Glynis. It gave me a greater understanding of what the organisation around the world and in Israel are working towards and the common goal of raising money and saving lives.

I also loved attending the Macabbi Tel Aviv Soccer matches on numerous occasions with my Israeli mentor Ronen, as part of the ambulance team. We sat on the side of the field and ran out if there were any injuries during the game.

I was also lucky to attend the live show of Jerry Seinfeld in Israel as part of the ambulance team.

# Spotlight on MDA Volunteers

## David Sherr

### What year did you start volunteering for Magen David Adom Australia?

Around 2010.

### What made you get involved?

A keen desire to support in some small way, Israel's premier national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance, and blood bank service, that assists all, regardless of ethnicity, political or religious persuasion.

It's a truly internationally recognized humanitarian organisation of which I'm so very proud to be able to assist via the Friends of MDA Society in Australia.

### What have you gained from volunteering for MDA?

A sense of satisfaction in being able to assist the MDA cause in Israel as well as raise the profile of the Friends of MDA Society here in Australia.

### Favourite memory / highlight of your volunteering time with MDA?

Many favourite highlights come to mind, however two in particular will be long remembered. The first was being present at the official opening of the new MDA Jerusalem headquarters with the dedication of the William Bloomberg Centre.

The second, more recently being involved in the event that saw noted Geneva based advocate and the executive director of UN Watch, Hillel Neuer, agree to visit Melbourne. He was the key note speaker at a highly successful MDA communal event that aside from raising funds for the MDA in Israel initiative to provide defibrillators throughout major cities in Israel, also proved to be highly successful in further elevating the profile and activities of MDA Australia within our Melbourne community.



## Sadie Stolar

### What year did you start volunteering for MDA Australia?

I started volunteering for MDA in August 2009.

### What made you get involved?

I became involved purely by accident. I was feeling very down after losing my husband just six months earlier. I had worked in the family business since 1974 as a receptionist/secretary and I knew I was still capable of contributing to the Jewish Community.

But where and how was the big question. I had heard that MDA were looking for volunteers for a mail out they were doing.

I at first hesitated but then I thought "why not, what have I got to lose?". After a short drive to Beth Weizmann and clearing Security I went up to the 1st floor and not being shy I walked into the office and said I am here to help. I was met with a very warm welcome from co-president Glynis Lipson. The rest is history.

### What have you gained from volunteering for MDA?

I gained a lot working with the MDA team. Lots of hard work but also lots of fun and laughter in the office.

I have learnt many more skills and before I knew it I was on the Board. I have met some wonderful people and have attended many functions I get a great deal of satisfaction supporting the important work of MDA.

### Favourite memory / highlight of your volunteering time with MDA?

The highlight of my volunteering was going to Israel with my partner Joe and having the privilege of attending IMDAC and seeing for myself the important work they do.



## Magen David Adom Holiday/Celebration Dates 2021

HOLIDAY/CELEBRATION	DATES	MDA OFFICE
AUSTRALIA DAY	JAN TUE 26	CLOSED
PURIM	FEB FRI 26	OPEN
LABOUR DAY	MARCH MON 8	CLOSED
PESACH FIRST DAYS	MARCH SUN 28 & MON 29	CLOSED
GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL FRI 2	CLOSED
PESACH LAST DAYS	APRIL SAT 3 & SUN 4	NA
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS CLOCKS GO BACK	APRIL SUN 4	3AM TO 2AM
EASTER MONDAY	APRIL MON 5	CLOSED
YOM HA'SHOAH	APRIL THUR 8	OPEN
YOM HAZIKARON	APRIL WED 14	OPEN
YOM HA'ATZMAUT	APRIL THUR 15	OPEN
ANZAC DAY	APRIL SUN 25	NA
LAG B'OMER	APRIL FRI 30	OPEN

HOLIDAY/CELEBRATION	DATES	MDA OFFICE
SHAVUOT	MAY MON 17 & TUE 18	CLOSED
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY	JUNE MON 14	CLOSED
17th TAMMUZ	JUNE SUN 27	NA
TISHA B'AV	JULY SUN 18	NA
ROSH HASHANA	SEPT TUES 7 & WED 8	CLOSED
YOM KIPPUR	SEPT THUR 16	CLOSED
SUKKOT	SEPT TUES 21 & WED 22	CLOSED
GRAND FINAL HOLIDAY	SEPT FRI 24	CLOSED
SHEMINI ATZERET/ SIMCHAT TORAH	SEPT TUE 28 & WED 29	CLOSED
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS CLOCKS GO FORWARD	OCT SUN 3	3AM TO 4AM
MELBOURNE CUP DAY	NOV TUE 2	CLOSED
CHANUKAH	NOV MON 29 to DEC MON 6	OPEN

# Israel and the Covid-19 Pandemic 2019/2020

**After experiencing devastating bush fires along the east and southern coast of Australia we were once again caught completely unaware, as 2020 stormed in with a Pandemic like nothing any of us had ever seen or experienced.**

With Stage 3 lockdown during April and another more severe Stage 4 lockdown from August to October, the people of Melbourne were forced to live like never before.

With only essential stores open and a strict curfew in place throughout the Pandemic, the people of Victoria became isolated from the rest of Australia for well over 120 days.

## A timeline of COVID-19 in Australia and Israel appears below:

**DECEMBER 12, 2019** – First case of a mystery virus originating in Wuhan Province, China. Information not made public for many more weeks. Two weeks later Wuhan Health authorities confirm investigation of 27 cases of viral pneumonia after rumours spread on social media linking the outbreak to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

■ Word Health Organisation (WHO) alerts the world to a "cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause" in Wuhan.

**JANUARY 2020** – Australia confirmed its first case, a Chinese national who flew into Melbourne on January 19; three more cases identified in NSW. 1320 cases globally reported, 41 deaths.

■ WHO declares a global health emergency, the sixth time ever that such a declaration has occurred; Australia announces evacuation of vulnerable Australians trapped in China will be sent to Christmas Island.

**FEBRUARY 2020** – Australia denies entry to anyone who has transited through China (other than permanent Australian residents); evacuees begin to arrive and are quarantined for 14 days each. By February 14, COVID-19 surpasses the SARS outbreak with more than 40,000 being infected and over 1000 recorded deaths globally.

■ First case of novel COVID-19 diagnosed in Israel is a female passenger from Diamond Princess Cruise ship quarantined off the coast of Japan.



**MAY 2020** – Osem Nestlé Company and Dan Company together, and with the assistance of the IDF's Ground Forces Technology Unit helped MDA create two dedicated buses to safely and efficiently evacuate multiple COVID-19 patients.



**MARCH 2020** – MDA in Israel launches a digital COVID-19 questionnaire with guidelines within the My MDA app.

■ To meet the burden of callers, while adhering to the Israeli Ministry of Health's guidelines for the prevention of infection, additional MDA Emergency Call Centres are set up around the country. Hundreds of employees and volunteers enlist to answer calls at the National Dispatch Centre.

■ Australia begins "lockdown" procedures by limiting numbers at gatherings; international cruise ships will not be allowed to dock on Australian shores and social distancing is encouraged.

■ Victoria and WA declare a state of emergency. Australia records over 300 cases; worldwide share markets plunge; 170,000 confirmed cases are recorded globally. More than 150 countries are affected. Nearly 500 cases are recorded in Australia and international travel is banned – for the entire world!

■ First Israeli COVID-19 patient dies.  
■ MDA starts to collect plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients to treat those affected. One month later MDA teams open drive through testing complexes in cities with large Muslim populations for Ramadan.

■ Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR) completes a ground breaking scientific development, identifying an antibody that neutralizes the COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, making it the first lab in the world to do so.

**JUNE 2020** – The virtual home consult kit is developed by Tel HaShomer Medical Centre for use especially with people suspected of having COVID-19. Magen David Adom (MDA) builds dedicated software for managing a drive-through COVID-19 testing facility in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo).

**SEPTEMBER 2020** – After Israel records over 5000 daily cases consecutively, a nationwide lockdown is imposed on September 18, the country's second this year, marking the first time in the world a developed country has imposed a repeat closure to curb the pandemic.

**OCTOBER 23, 2020** – Israel: Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, MDA teams have sampled more than 2,111,000 people and during the second week of October MDA teams sampled 128,824. A variety of sites have been set up nationwide, while tests are taken in private homes, clinics, hospitals, nursing homes as part of the "Protecting Fathers and Mothers" project, educational institutions, and in MDA Drive and Test facilities.

■ MDA continues to test travellers who returned to Israel from abroad at a special stand in Ben Gurion airport.  
■ MDA blood services continue to collect plasma from those who have recovered from the Coronavirus for the treatment of severely ill patients and the production of a passive vaccine. To date, those who have recovered from Coronavirus have donated approximately 9,423 plasma units. 2,980 units have been given to 1,490 Coronavirus patients in moderate and severe condition and research for a vaccine continues!

**OCTOBER 28, 2020** – Australia: Finally the Victorian Stage 4 lockdown of Metropolitan Melbourne ends with retail and hospitality opening once more. 25km restrictions were finally lifted on 8 November, together with announcements regarding the reintegration of all beauty therapies and talk of opening borders with most Australian states and New Zealand. At the time of writing we are hopeful that many borders will open by the end of November.



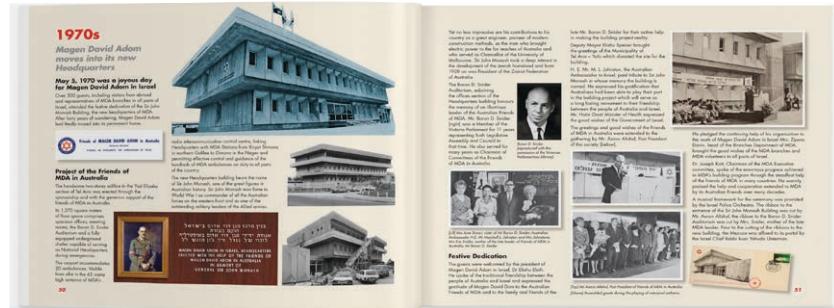
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