

Kristallnacht Commemoration, Sunday 12 November 2023

The 2023 commemoration was held at Carmel Primary School in the presence of the Governor, the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, with Principal Dr Julie Harris as host. In light of the current crisis in Israel, the formal commencement of proceedings was delayed for a reflection by Rabbi Daniel Lieberman on the situation. He noted the renewed global eruption of antisemitism and cited some local incidents before leading prayers for those who are suffering, and for peace.

Dr Harris then provided an introductory welcome, and the Governor led *The Prayer for Our Country*. The highlight of the occasion was a heartfelt address by Honorary Life Member Mrs Judith Arkwright, wife of Honorary Life Member Ken Arkwright OAM, of blessed memory. Judith Arkwright reflected on both the historical event of Kristallnacht, and Ken's own experience of it, with passion and in clear detail. Drawing from Ken's autobiography *Beyond Survival: A Holocaust Memoir*, Judith contrasted inhumane policies and behaviour with the humane actions of a few individuals.

The commemoration was further supported by two school choirs — Carmel and John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School — and reviews from five Carmel students relating to their Holocaust studies. These reviews, each concluding with "*Am Yisrael Chai!*" were presented with refreshing vigour. Carmel School Choir, accompanied by Michele Galanti, sang — with much feeling — *Vehi She'amda*, and *Eli Eli*. Instrumental renditions of *Prayer* (Ernest Bloch) by 'cellist Joshua Kane accompanied by David Hicks, and 'cello solo *Kaddish* (Maurice Ravel) supported the sombre tone of the commemoration.

Lighting of Memorial Candles, a two-minute silence, and a ritual symbolising reconciliation, were followed by the bringing forward and lighting of the Candle of Hope by Madeline of JSRACS and Naomi of Carmel. JSRACS Secondary Choir then gave a moving rendition of *I Believe* by Mark A. Miller under Mr Jason Kidd's direction.

The Exhortation was given by Fr Michael Moore SM, and Temple David's Rabbi Kim Ettlinger concluded the commemoration by leading all present in the recitation of the *Kaddish*, a uniting force. To close the occasion, the combined choirs sang Nurit Hirsch's *Oseh Shalom*, with the congregation enthusiastically joining in for the reprise.

Judith Schneider, Vice Chair, CCJWA
and
Mary J. Marshall, Hon. Secretary, CCJWA