



HEARTBEAT

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2022 – 2023

A message from Glynis Lipson, Chairperson Magen David Adom Australia

Attending the recent International Magen David Adom Conference (IMDAC) in Israel filled me with joy to be finally back, meeting participants from MDA Societies from around the world after the 2020 and 2021 conferences were cancelled due to COVID.

Emotions were mixed, from delight at being at the opening ceremony of the **Marcus National Blood Services Centre** in Ramla the first of its kind, a world-class building created to protect Israel's blood supply – to the spine-tingling response to the eerie sound of the Yom Hazikaron two minute siren. Standing silently in the middle of a major road in Tel Aviv as all the cars came to a complete stop, followed by the instantaneous outpouring of excitement of thousands of people celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, filled me with awe and pride. What an amazing country, and to be there at this special time was incredible!

What made the difference for me when I was in Israel, was knowing that not only was the IDF on stand-by should there be an incident, but Israel's second line of defence, **Magen David Adom**, is only a few minutes away. I knew a medicycle, an ambulance and the 30,000 volunteer paramedics, EMTs and medics on call would respond to any incident at a moment's notice. The men and women behind MDA are dedicated, passionate and fearless people.

My visit to Israel was full of highlights, but here are just a few:

Opening of the new Marcus National Blood Services Centre

Long time supporters of MDA Australia, **Andrew Rajcher, Anita Baker, Lyn & Jack Borowski, Morri & Judy Wolko and Effi Yaakobi** joined me at the inauguration ceremony of the new Marcus National Blood Services Centre in Ramla.

For more than 71 years, MDA has been responsible for the national blood supply of the State of Israel.



Israel's hospitals and the IDF depend on MDA's National Blood Services for the blood components needed to save the lives of citizens and soldiers each and every day. But it takes visionaries to dream big. Americans **Billi and Bernie Marcus** were such visionaries contributing US\$135 million to make this unique, state-of-the-art blood bank become a reality. In recognition of their unwavering support, the centre is named in their honour.

In November 2012, a rocket fell in the neighbourhood of Tel HaShomer Hospital, the home of Israel's Blood Centre, in Ramat Gan. While no one was injured, it nevertheless had a major impact on MDA. At that time the Blood Centre was out of reach of Hamas and Hezbollah rockets, however in recent years, as the capabilities of these terrorist groups have grown, the hospital is now well within striking distance.

When the Ramat Gan Blood Services Centre was built in the 1980's Israel's population was approximately 4.4 million, by 2012 the population had grown to 8 million, vastly increasing the demand for blood.

MDA needed to ensure Israel's strategic blood reserves were out of harm's way especially in times of war or natural disaster. This is absolutely critical as MDA provides 97% of the blood used by Israel's hospitals and all the blood used by the Israel Defence Forces. *(Continued)*



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It was an honour to meet **President Isaac Herzog, Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz** [above] and other dignitaries who attended the inauguration ceremony at the facility in Ramla.

Magen David Adom Australia is privileged to contribute to this historical project. The Marcus National Blood Services Centre is shielded against earthquake, cyber and rocket attack. When fully operational it will oversee the production, storage and treatment of all of Israel's blood supply, it will also house the Milk Bank, which provides breast milk to premature and seriously ill babies in Israel, including babies whose mothers are unable to breastfeed because they are in critical care themselves. The centre will also operate Israel's cord blood bank, essential for future medical research.

To all our donors who generously contributed to the centre and to everyone who helped make this lifesaving critical project possible, please accept my personal thank you.

Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Remembrance Day, fell during the conference. We attended an uplifting ceremony held at the Marcus National Blood Services Centre, attended by worldwide MDA representatives, MDA Israel personnel, dignitaries and MDA volunteers and workers from the Ayalon region.

The stories told by two families of how they lost their loved ones in terror attacks were very moving – their excruciating pain was palpable – and I don't think there was a dry eye in the auditorium. These family members had been Young MDA volunteers. There was a deep feeling of love and respect for their commitment to MDA who left this world well before their time. The overwhelming feeling in the room was one of unity in the fight to save lives.

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to join in national celebrations on the streets of Tel Aviv. This is a very special time of the year to be in Israel, encompassing the lows of Yom Hazikaron through to the highs of **Yom Ha'atzmaut!** Make sure you include a visit to Israel during the month of May on your "to do" list.

As Israel celebrated 74 years of Independence, with street performers, picnics and parties, MDA EMTs and paramedics were positioned at 322 festivity locations throughout the country, activating 131 Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) ambulances, 346 basic ambulances, 48 medicycles, 12 All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATV) and paramedic supervisor vehicles, to ensure the safety of all its civilians.

During the celebrations, MDA teams treated many patients while attending numerous emergency calls for help including a terror attack in Elad where seven victims needed treatment.

Responding to terror attacks

During the short time I was in Israel, there were two terrorist attacks which saw MDA teams, within seconds, respond, treat and transport victims to hospital.

What is remarkable is the Israeli spirit – even on busy Dizengoff Street, where one of the attacks had taken place only a few weeks earlier, Israelis were out in numbers having fun.

One of the most extraordinary events I attended, together with Anita Baker (MDA Volunteer), was a dinner in Jerusalem to mark the end of Ramadan, organised by the Manager of the Jerusalem Region, Ori Shacham. The dinner was held for Arab, Jewish and Muslim volunteers alike, who all work for MDA in the Jerusalem region.

Fadi Dekaidok, Head of the Volunteer Team in East Jerusalem, wrote ***"I would like to thank you for coming and participating in the Iftan Meal of the fast of Ramadan, I was very happy to host you and show you our activities and our volunteers"***.

To see the seamless interaction between the volunteers was heart-warming, listening to the different languages, eating Middle Eastern food, the emotions were overwhelming. Working together to SAVE LIVES in Israel is their common goal.

Thank you to all our supporters for helping make the dream of a cutting-edge, protected blood services centre a reality for the people of Israel.

Looking forward to going back to Israel in October 2023 to attend another important IMDAC.

Glynis Lipson, Chairperson, Magen David Adom Australia.



WHO RUNS THE WORLD? ... **GIRLS!**

The MDA Office is running very efficiently with a great team – Glynis Lipson, Chairperson; Emma Lipson, Office & Finance Manager; Rachel Pitt, Community Liaison & Education Coordinator; Olivia Benkel, Administration & Data Co-ordinator; and Carla Sharp, Community Liaison Officer (Aged Care) – and amazing, loyal, regular volunteers – Joe Saltzman, Sadie Stolar and Hilda Rosner.

Glynis, always enthusiastic and passionate, steers the ship while Emma keeps the team on course and Carla, who makes us laugh, were joined recently by Olivia, past Co-President of Young MDA, together with our other recent addition, Rachel, and the return of Emma, from maternity leave, bringing a whole new, young dimension to MDA Australia.

Joe, the rose among the thorns, who is passionate in his love and commitment to Israel and MDA, makes an outstanding contribution to maintaining a cheerful, productive work environment, while Sadie always

brightens the office in many ways and Hilda (the newest member of the volunteer team) keeps us on our toes with her attention to detail and years of experience within the Jewish community. **Thank you to Joe, Sadie and Hilda and all the volunteers that come in whenever asked to make phone calls and fill envelopes. MDA depends on you.**



We were amongst the first to send aid to war-torn Ukraine, sending staff to set up and run clinics on the borders, as well as later sending decommissioned ambulances to help rescue patients from within Ukraine itself. Many of those treated by MDA went on to make a full recovery, and picked up the pieces of their lives here in Israel.

MDA technology and innovation continues to capture the imagination of the world, and MDA staff have visited communities in many places to run the "First 7 Minutes" programme, teaching community resilience and how best to help in the event of an emergency.

On a personal level, I had the opportunity to visit Australia in late July and August, visiting schools and shuls in Melbourne and Perth, meeting with Jewish groups and Christian groups, and being welcomed by many supporters. During the time I was in Melbourne, Operation Breaking Dawn took place in Israel, with the country facing three days of rocket fire by terrorist organisations. While it was difficult to be away from home and my family at this time, it was heartening to see the support for Israel in general and Magen David Adom in particular across Australia. MDA paramedics, EMTs, logistics and blood centre staff were on high alert throughout the operation, but thankfully there were only a small number of injuries. It was truly an honour to represent MDA Israel, especially considering the fact that no visits had been possible for almost three years. Thank you to Glynis, Emma and the rest of the team who made my visit possible, welcomed me like a member of the family, and ensured that we could share MDA with a wide, warm and welcoming audience.

Many of Magen David Adom in Israel's activities are made possible by you – our friends and supporters. Magen David Adom Australia plays an important role in funding vehicles, equipment and other ongoing projects. Each and every one of you has played a vital part, and continues to do so, in saving lives in Israel.

Thank you for all you do, for your ongoing support, your donations, your encouragement of others to join this cause.

Thank you for saving lives every day in Israel.

Aryeh Myers, Head of Australia Desk
MDA Fundraising and International Relations Department

Dear Magen David Adom Australia staff, volunteers, supporters and friends,

Magen David Adom in Israel has faced another challenging year, but has shown once more why it is Israel's National Rescue Organisation, and a source of so much pride and recognition both at home and abroad.

The Covid pandemic that was still heavily present in our lives at the beginning of the year has finally shown signs that the threat is not as great as it was. Still, MDA teams have been at the forefront of the battle against the virus, whether that is being involved in testing, treating patients, or vaccinating a large number of the population. MDA ensured that the most vulnerable to Covid, those living in residential and nursing homes, all received their vaccinations in order to keep them safe.

We have, thanks to the generosity of our donors across the world, installed hundreds of public-access defibrillators that will save lives across the country.

New emergency rapid response vehicles have started to operate throughout Israel, often staffed by national service volunteers who dedicate two years of their lives to serving the people of Israel.

Magen David Adom in Israel provided medical cover for the 2022 Maccabiah Games, saving the life of an Australian athlete who collapsed in cardiac arrest, and was revived by an MDA EMT at the scene.

The new Marcus National Blood Services Centre was opened, and many visitors have since had the chance to tour the remarkable new strategic centre, that will provide and protect Israel's vital blood supplies. Donations for the centre came from across the globe, including from generous donors in Australia. Alongside the impressive ceremony, the first face-to-face IMDAC took place after a Covid-induced break.



SAVE THE DATE

7th February 2023

MDA in discussion with Associate Professor Dion Stub MBBS, PHD, FRACP

A/Prof. Dion Stub is an interventional cardiologist specialising in structural heart procedures. Operating in locations across Melbourne, he has performed thousands of cardiac procedures helping patients experience life to the fullest again.

Special Guests: **Eli Bin, Director General of Magen David Adom Israel & Alon Fridman, Chief Financial Officer of Magen David Adom Israel.** *(More details to follow)*



Operation Breaking Dawn took place from the 5th to the 7th of August 2022

In the days leading up to the conflict there were many warnings in Israel of imminent threat to Israel's residents and civilian population.

Magen David Adom raised its level of alert and **MDA Director General Eli Bin** instructed that all ambulances were to be fully crewed at all times. MDA's volunteers and employees rapidly answered the call for help.

Throughout the three day conflict, thousands of rockets were fired by Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists, leading to multiple Red Alert sirens across Israel.

The **Iron Dome missile defense system** targeted the vast majority of these rockets, ensuring that very few fell in populated areas. This meant that overall, there were



only a few physical injuries, with 47 people being treated and transported to hospital by MDA EMTs and Paramedics over the three days. Most of the injuries were mild to moderate, and the majority were caused by falls as people sought shelter from incoming missiles.

Magen David Adom was once more at the forefront of ensuring the safety, security and health of its staff, volunteers, and the population across Israel.

New Tech Collaboration Between MDA and Israel Police



Many calls are received each day by both dedicated dispatch centres, MDA on 101 and Israel Police on 100, that require a response from both services. Now, thanks to joint command and control systems, response times can be reduced, and lives can be saved even faster.

MDA's CIO Ido Rosenblat explains

"Up until today, any calls received by the police that required an MDA response too would involve another phone call by the police in order to update MDA on the details, and vice versa. Now, thanks to the new tech collaboration, the call will be received automatically in both dispatch centres, reducing response times, and still maintaining the unique response needs of each organisation."

Magen David Adom has in the past installed the command-and-control system developed by MDA in the Fire and Rescue Department, allowing faster and more efficient communication between the two services and a reduction in response times. The new technology allows for the sharing of information to happen in real time, and this technology will be added to the 102 dispatch centres of the Fire and Rescue Service too.

MDA Director General, Eli Bin: *"The unique collaboration between the Israeli Emergency Services will dramatically improve the arrival times of teams in the field, and thereby save more lives. Thanks to the new cooperation we will be able to work better together and provide a faster, more professional, and more efficient response to Israelis. I thank Israel Police for their professionalism and willingness to work together."*

Three Disasters, Three Scenes, and 1,200 Emergency Personnel

Magen David Adom joined an international multi-casualty drill that took place in November.

As part of the drill concluding the annual disaster workshop arranged by the **Madrid Municipality**, 1,200 emergency personnel, including staff from MDA alongside EMS crews from other countries such as **Great Britain, The Netherlands, Mauritania, and Norway** took part in the exercise.

Other participants included the city emergency and security services, several hospitals, military forces, the Spanish National Police, and the Civil Guard.

During the drill that lasted 70 minutes, Emergency crews were called to deal with scenarios including shootings, explosions and hostage situations in three different scenes: a hotel, a bus and a supermarket. 100 patients were evacuated to hospitals under police escort, with routes being cleared by the respective agencies, where hospital staff took over the treatment. 600 medical staff took part in the exercise, along with 60 ambulances, fire trucks, police cars, 3 helicopters, a plane, rescue dogs and attack dogs.



The exercise was preceded by a session arranged by **MDA and SAMUR Protection Civil Madrid**, within the European Union's **"No Fear"** project.

Chaim Rafalowski, Disaster Management Coordinator in MDA spoke during the session about the complexities of treating patients at scenes of disasters and terror attacks: *"Part of the aims of this exercise is to understand that in today's reality, emergency medical teams who arrive at these complex scenes are faced with a real life-threatening situation. We must prepare the teams to comprehend what they are facing, how to make educated decisions to ensure their safety and how to save lives while under threat – in the best way possible."*



At the end of the exercise, SAMUR Protection Civil and research manager **Dr. Ervigio Corral Torres** commented that *"Magen David Adom's team's professionalism is an example to teams from other countries, both in dealing with complex scenes and also with patient treatment."*

Visits to MDA Israel

In 2022 we were finally able to welcome back our supporters from MDA Australia to visit the world class facilities of MDA in Israel.

Donors from Australia are able to see first-hand the incredible work on the ground of MDA staff & volunteers, this year in particular our guests have been able to visit the newly built state of the art **Marcus National Blood Services Centre**.

Rachel Pitt, our Community Liaison officer was fortunate to be in Israel during the 21st Maccabiah games which took place in July 2022. Whilst watching her son Eiden take part in the boys junior basketball team Rachel was excited to see so many MDA volunteers at each game and around Israel.

"It was so special to see MDA out in action and doing what they do best". Pitt Family, July 2022



"My son and I had the privilege and honour to be taken behind the scenes as guests to the new MDA building in Ramla. Although it is not fully operational yet, we were able to see how important this will be for MDA on



many levels. It has taken many years to plan for this and a couple of years to build, (a little interruption due to Covid-19 but not majorly) this complex will be a game changer in all areas of MDA with a new wing specifically for donations of mothers milk to help nursing mothers feed their new born babies. Simply Amazing!"

Ronny & Benji Kowadlo, July 2022

"This amazing facility, like none other in the world, will secure Israel's vital blood supplies in the event of any man made or natural disaster. It also is the centre of Israel's Human Milk Bank and it's Cord Blood Bank. But, it's not enough to build this unique facility, funds are urgently needed to fully equip and operate it to its maximum capacity. Money is also needed to build an adjacent paramedic training and conference centre. MDA needs overseas support now more than ever."

Carla & Michael Sharp, September 2022



"Today I had the honour and privilege of having a tour of the soon to be completed MDA Marcus National Blood Services Centre. This state-of-the-art facility is in Ramla which is close enough



to the centre of Israel on land granted by the government. The building was built at a cost of US\$130m plus mainly from donated funds. It is situated at the crossroads of many highways as well as the rail line making it suitable for transporting bloods.

It is a three-storey building above ground and goes underground effectively 6 levels but each of the three levels is double height. At the lowest level is what is called the vault which houses emergency blood supplies for up to six days. This area is totally secure and theoretically can withstand any attack.

As well as housing blood and plasma supplies it also operates as a research facility at an advanced level and as a regular blood bank where people can come to donate blood.

It is a beautifully constructed building with approximately 400 workers. There is a second stage to the project where the head office of MDA will be housed. Hopefully the vault will never be used but it's there for our security." **Philip Zajac, September 2022**

"Our visit to the new MDA blood bank facility in Ramla was inspiring. We were met by Yoni who spent a couple of hours showing and explaining this world class blood collection, processing and distribution centre. It was cutting edge in all aspects including scale, efficiency, safety and redundancy. MDA has a lot to be proud of". **Bernice & Mannie Stub, October 2022**



If you would like to include Magen David Adom in your next trip to Israel please contact the office on (03) 9989 3655.



Aussie Maccabiah Soccer Player saved by MDA



In the midst of the Maccabiah Games in Israel in July, during a game against the Colombian team a player from the Australian Soccer team collapsed, thankfully Magen David Adom were there to save his life!

MDA team – emergency medical medics **Shoval Katzin** and **Yitzhak Peretz** noticed the commotion in the grass area and rushed towards the player where they noticed that he had suffered cardiac arrest. They responded immediately and dispatched an intensive care ambulance to the scene.

At the same time, Shoval and Yitzhak began to perform CPR using a portable defibrillator.

They gave the Australian player two electric shocks and thankfully his heart started beating again. When the ICU team arrived shortly after, paramedics **Israel Dahari**, **Orian Lukatz** and **Tomer Kohlberg** received word that the player had already regained consciousness.

Shortly after the event, the MDA team and the Australian player and his wife had an emotional reunion during which he presented them with official shirts of the Maccabiah Games.

The Australian said: *“I don’t remember what happened, but they told me minute by minute how I got to have my life for the second time in the middle of a soccer field. You brought me back to life and we will always be connected. The biggest thank you is to all of you, you are amazing and thank you very much.”*

MDA paramedic Orian Lukatz: *“I am so excited to see you here today standing on your feet. I remember the worry you had in the ICU that your family had almost lost you. And today, when you’re here in Israel with your wife, and the children at home in Australia are waiting for you – that’s what gives us, the paramedics who treated you, the strength to keep saving lives. I must mention to the Maccabiah management that even though the procedures did not require placing the MDA team on the field – they chose to invite us to medically secure the game, a decision that undoubtedly saved your life. We are all looking forward to meeting you at the next Maccabiah in 4 years on the field.”*



Magen David Adom Trivia Night 2022

Magen David Adom's famous Trivia Night finally happened on May 28th. After two years of COVID we finally had our first in-person event at St Kilda Shule. Over 150 guests enjoyed the evening with lots of fun and laughter.

Trivia master **John Slutzkin** kept the audience entertained with his array of interesting questions. Some rather unusual, but the audience rose to the challenge!

We thank all our sponsors, people and businesses that donated raffle prizes. Funds raised from the evening helped purchase urgently needed medical supplies.



From escaping war to becoming an MDA Aid provider!

Victoria Leshiner is a Ukrainian refugee who fled from Donetsk, Ukraine, and arrived in Israel with her two kids in April 2022. She left behind her husband who is still fighting in Ukraine.

Victoria wanted to find work and continue helping Ukrainian refugees. MDA personnel contacted her and offered her a job at the **Refugee Call Centre**, which works in cooperation with the Ministry of Welfare and JDC Israel.

We are proud to have her on board!



Early Learning Centres and Schools

With restrictions lifting after two years of lockdowns, it has been a busy and rewarding year visiting many Early Learning Centre's and Schools.

Purim was an exciting time when we visited **Chabad Malvern ELC**. Children were busy making very special MDA ambulance Ra'ashanim. They took their time, cutting, sticking, pasting and colouring and the highlight, no doubt, was the shaking of their own personalized Ra'ashanim.

MDA have also visited **Leibler Yavneh College, King David School, Sholem Aleichem College, Buddies Jasper Rd ELC and Gilly's** and introduced the **Teddy Bear Hospital** program. This program, aimed at two to five year old children, has been an absolute hit with all the children and their educators.

Over 400 students and their favourite teddy or soft toy have taken part in the program where they have actively participated in the checkup process, in a mock hospital acting as a paramedic, of a sick or injured teddy. After listening to a story about a hero team of an ambulance and paramedic, and learning that the number to phone in an emergency is 000, the children dressed as paramedics identified their teddy's symptoms and then took their teddy to triage for an examination. Children learnt how to weigh and measure, view an x-ray and how to administer an injection followed by bandaging. The children loved being part of it and each child was rewarded with their own MDA Teddy Bear Hospital Certificate.

We are extremely grateful to all the schools for welcoming us into their classrooms, we thank the children, parents and the school communities for supporting and raising money for Magen David Adom.

We look forward to being able to visit many other ELC's and schools. If you would like to book in a visit from an MDA representative, please email rachel@magendavidadom.com.au



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Annual Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Our Annual Bunnings Sausage Sizzle was once again held the weekend prior to Pesach at Bunnings Moorabbin, the sun was shining as we cooked over 800 sausages!

Thank you to the community for making the trip out to Bunnings to support MDA!

A special THANK YOU to **Continental Kosher Butchers** for providing the Kosher Sausages and especially to our incredible volunteers for giving their time.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2023!



800 SAUSAGES!

Magen David Adom Australia AGM

The 6th Annual General Meeting of Magen David Adom Australia was held on Sunday 7th of August with MDA Executive, Committee and Staff in attendance.

Aryeh Myers [right] from MDA Israel's International Relations & Fundraising Department was visiting from Israel and gave an in-depth report on MDA's activities over the last few years including the opening of the world class **Marcus National Blood Centre**, MDA's response to COVID and how MDA prepares to be on high alert in times of tension in Israel.



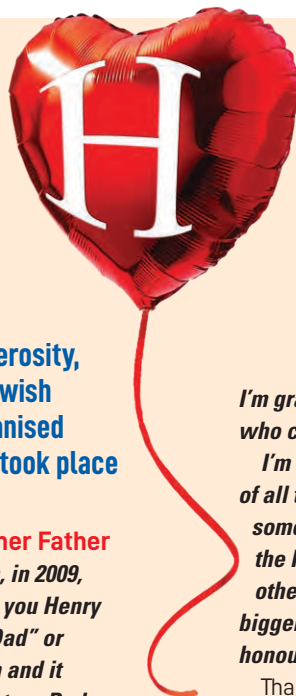
Big H and His Even Bigger Heart

Henry Malecki z"l, was the President of MDA Queensland for over 20 years and his passion for Israel, community development and philanthropy naturally radiated throughout this time.

Henry had great humour, kindness and generosity, which all contributed to the Queensland Jewish community. A memorable event Henry organised was the incredible 8th Day concert, which took place at the Gold Coast Arts Centre.

Excerpts from Sharon Malecki's eulogy for her Father

"When I moved to Melbourne, Dad's hometown, in 2009, I regularly met people who would exclaim – "are you Henry Malecki's daughter? I went to school with your Dad" or "I knew your Dad from the Scopus bus" and so on and it became apparent that all of those stories I thought my Dad embellished to make us laugh were in fact true.



I'm grateful to have met so many people who grew up with my Dad, who considered him a great friend, a brother.

I'm scared to list off the alphabet soup that is the list of acronyms of all the organisations Dad was involved in as I absolutely will miss some but whether it was UIA or Zionist Council or the Synagogue or the Friends of Hebrew University or Magen David Adom or myriad others, Dad was always innovating, collaborating, and striving for bigger, better outcomes for the current and future generations while honouring the past."

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to not only Magen David Adom but many organisations, you will be missed by all.

Yochai Porat Overseas Volunteer Program



JASON ANTMAN Melbourne, Australia

"I began my MDA volunteering period at the beginning of August and have quickly been exposed to a vast array of many different and rewarding experiences.



Every time I have stepped foot on the ambulances, I have immediately felt like not only a part of a team, but a vital role in it.

I have had the opportunity to work close up and hands on with patients as a first responder, feeling like I am making a genuine difference to people's lives.

In this photo, two of my friends and I are just beginning a night shift which is something new and exciting for all of us.

The MDA course has equipped me with skills that I will take with me after the volunteering period, giving me confidence to respond in times of crisis anywhere.

I have loved every minute of MDA and can't wait to continue volunteering!"



REUBEN ZAJAC Melbourne Overseas Volunteer Participant 2022

"After completing my MDA volunteering, I realised how lucky I am to have participated in such an amazing program.

The ability to give back to Israel and the Jewish people in such a tangible way really left a lasting impression on me.

Whether it was transporting a patient in the middle of the night or attending a trauma being able to assist people in the moment of need is extremely rewarding.

A memorable experience of mine was being on the intensive care ambulance and rushing to pick up a man from the street who was suffering from chest pains, the experience of being hands-on in these sorts of situations really gave me a great appreciation for the hard work that everyone does in saving lives."



MDA Holiday Program

MDA launched their very first holiday Program, the Teddy Bear Hospital program. Tickets sold out within days for two sessions over term 3 school holidays.

Our Community Liaison, **Rachel** ran the program along with two youth volunteers **Zara** and **Mikaela**.

22 enthusiastic children joined us for two hours where they were immersed in learning about Magen David Adom and the role of a paramedic.

Children dressed up in paramedic jackets and were engaged in learning about the triage process and what to do in an emergency.

Children brought along their much-loved teddies for weighing, measuring, bandaging and immunisation.

They mastered all this whilst learning about the important work Magen David Adom does here and in Israel.

We went on to make personalised Rosh Hashanah cards, decorate challah bags and the shrinky key chains were a hit with all the kids.

It was wonderful to see our office buzzing with the sounds and laughter of children.

What a busy and fun filled morning we had. Children went home with a bag full of goodies.

Stay tuned for our next holiday program.



Bnei Mitzvah Programs

Rachel our Community Liaison Co-Ordinator has been busy visiting students undertaking various Bar and Bat Mitzvah programs.

We have tailored a program that educates young adults on the important lifesaving work that MDA does here and in Israel.

The program is a fun and engaging workshop where students gain an insight into the life of a paramedic in Israel as well as an understanding of the extensive work MDA does worldwide.

The students learn the importance of **Tzedakah**, **Pikuach Nefesh** and **Tikkun Olam**.

Students then got creative designing challah bags and challah covers to be used and shared each shabbat.

The highlight is always the **MDA Trivia Quiz** which certainly sparks lots of healthy competition and students master all the answers.

It is wonderful to see how many young adults have chosen Magen David Adom for donations in honour of their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

We look forward to being part of many more Bnei Mitzvah programs in 2023.



Emmy Monash Aged Care Visit

Carla and **Rachel**, MDA staff members, were extremely fortunate to visit residents at Emmy Monash Aged Care in-between lockdowns in March 2022. They had a wonderful session talking to the residents and staff about the life saving work MDA does in Israel and abroad.

The presentation began with the historical background of MDA followed by videos about the lifesaving work of MDA and the daily activities of an MDA paramedic on the streets of Israel. The residents were totally engaged with the presentation and were particularly interested to hear about the incredible lifesaving work MDA is doing in Ukraine and the extraordinary new Marcus Blood Bank in Israel.

These uplifting stories brought much naches to the residents, they were particularly interested to hear about MDA's 'Wish Ambulance' program. It was delightful to meet face to face, engage in some wonderful conversations and see their smiles and hear their stories. Many residents were happy to talk about their personal experiences with MDA both in Australia and Israel.

Each resident received a gift pack containing a hand sanitizer, tzedakah box, pen, and notepad. A copy of the pictorial book, **Blood, Sweat & Tears For 90 Years of Magen David Adom 1930-2020**, was presented to the facility for inclusion in their library.

Residents were extremely grateful for the visit and the staff at Emmy Monash were warm and welcoming, and we look forward to returning.

MDA is looking forward to visiting many other Aged Care Residences in the near future to continue talking about the work MDA does as well as engaging the residents with creative art and craft activities such as DIY Challah Bags and Challah covers and testing their knowledge with our MDA fun-filled trivia quiz.

If you would like to book a visit from an MDA representative, please email info@magendavidadom.com.au

Thank you to our Retailers and Suppliers

MDA Australia once again thanks all our associated retailers and service providers for their ongoing generosity.

Each year these wonderful suppliers provide discounts and value added items to paid members of MDA Australia.

Community support is a cornerstone of the success of MDA Australia. Without Tzedakah being donated year in year out by our Shules, Schools, Aged Care homes and the community in general we would not be able to maintain our high level of support to Israel each and every year.

We thank you all for your ongoing support of the lifesaving work of Magen David Adom.

- Antique Silver Company
- Aroma Bakery
- Aviv Cakes
- Balacava Deli
- Buddies ELC Jasper Rd
- Caulfield Beit Ha'midrash
- Caulfield Hebrew Congregation
- Caulfield Natural Health Clinic
- Caulfield Park Lotto
- Continental Kosher Butcher
- Drumstick & Co
- Elsternwick Pharmacy
- Elsternwick Veterinary Clinic
- Elwood Shule
- Gilly's Creche
- Glicks Bakery
- Golds World of Judaica
- Haymisha Bakery
- IGA
- J & J Fruits
- JCCV
- Kosher Kingdom
- Kraus Foods
- Laffa Bar
- Leibler Yavneh College
- Machol Dancing Group
- Or Chadash
- Party Bazaar
- Regis
- Ruby's Gifts
- Shemesh
- Sholem Aleichem College
- Sinai College
- Sir John's Gift
- South African Shop
- Tattslotto Caulfield Park
- The King David School
- The Lower Limb Clinic
- UJEB
- Victoria Fruit Palace
- VIP Locksmith
- Xpose
- Yumi's Kosher Seafood



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Thank you to the following MDA supporters for choosing to share their simcha with MDA in 2022

- Chloe Marton
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- Sandra Mittelman
- Asher Friedman
- Jemma Pitt
- Ozzie Eckstein
- Sophie Sztaz
- Ranya Sendor
- Molly Samuels
- Alex & Dean Rzechta

Be a part of our lifesaving team by celebrating your Simcha with Magen David Adom in 2023

<https://www.magendavidadom.com.au/share-your-simcha/>



Some of our generous donors receiving their donation certificates.

[Above] Ozzie Eckstein

[Above Right] Ranya Sendor

[Right] Sandra Mittelman



Magen David Adom Holiday / Celebration Dates 2023

MDA HOLIDAY/CELEBRATION 2023	DATES	MDA OFFICE
NEW YEARS DAY	JAN SUN 1	CLOSED
NEW YEARS DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	JAN MON 2	CLOSED
MDA AUSTRALIA REOPENS	JAN MON 9	OPEN
AUSTRALIA DAY	JAN THUR 26	CLOSED
LABOUR DAY	MARCH MON 13	CLOSED
PURIM	MARCH TUES 7	OPEN
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS	APRIL SUN 2	3AM TO 2AM
PESACH	APRIL WED 5 - THUR 13	CLOSED
GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL FRI 7	CLOSED
EASTER MONDAY	APRIL MON 10	CLOSED
YOM HA'SHOAH	APRIL TUE 18	OPEN
YOM HA'ZIKARON	APRIL TUE 25	CLOSED
ANZAC DAY	APRIL TUE 25	CLOSED
YOM HA'ATZMAUT	APRIL WED 26	OPEN
LAG B'OMER	MAY TUE 9	OPEN
SHAVUOT	MAY THUR 25 - SAT 27	CLOSED

MDA HOLIDAY/CELEBRATION 2023	DATES	MDA OFFICE
KING'S BIRTHDAY	JUNE MON 12	CLOSED
MDA AUSTRALIA ANNUAL APPEAL	JUNE FRI 16 - FRI 30	
TISHA B'AV (FAST DAY)	JULY THURS 27	OPEN
ROSH HASHANA	SEPT FRI 15 - SUN 17	CLOSED
YOM KIPPUR (FAST DAY)	SEPT MON 25	CLOSED
SUKKOT	SEPT FRI 29 - OCT FRI 6	CLOSED
GRAND FINAL HOLIDAY	SEPT FRI 29	CLOSED
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	OCT SUN 2	2AM TO 3AM
SHEMINI ATZERET/SIMCHAT TORAH	OCT FRI 6 - SUN 8	CLOSED
MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND	NOV MON 6 - TUES 7	CLOSED
CHANUKAH	DEC THURS 7 - THURS 15	OPEN
MDA AUSTRALIA LAST DAY	DEC THURS 21	OPEN
CHRISTMAS DAY	DEC MON 25	CLOSED
BOXING DAY	DEC TUES 26	CLOSED
NEW YEARS DAY 2024	JAN MON 1	CLOSED



PLANNING A TRIP TO ISRAEL?



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