

Newsletter of Australian Friends of Magen David Adom Limited (NSW)



Modah Ani Lefanecha, Melech Chai VeKayam...

I gratefully thank you, Living and Eternal King, for you have returned my soul within me with compassion

Those of us privileged to attend either of our 2017 annual campaign events would have heard these signature words uttered with such sentiment and feeling by terrorist survivor and special guest speaker, Kay Wilson. These words not only express Kay's gratitude for being alive to share her story, but also reflect how Magen David Adom in Israel saves lives, day in and day out, with professionalism, self-sacrifice and respect.

The magic moment of the evening was the emotional reunion of the MDA Paramedic, Dror Eini, who saved Kay's life. However, there was even more to the story when Dror, above and beyond the call of duty, helped restore Kay's purpose for living by finding her pet dog who she lost during the attack, attended to its injuries and took it to his home to recuperate until Kay was ready to come home from hospital.

We were also so honoured to have former Australian Ambassador to Israel, Dave Sharma, speak with such authenticity and passion about Israel and his admiration of Magen David Adom.

I wish to thank all those who attended one of our communal events and for your generous support enabling us to dedicate more ambulances and medicycles to benefit to people of Israel. In particular, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Nora Goodridge and our Patron Robert Magid who, together with his wife Ruth, are presenting MDA Israel with an Ambulance. We express our appreciation to supporters such as Holocaust survivor, Mrs Greta Silvers, and to Mr Tony Mitchell for each dedicating a Medicycle in honour of their dear departed ones.

We were thrilled that this year we made a commitment to the younger members of our community by hosting a social event in the theme of a Tel Aviv Street Party as part of our 2017 Annual Campaign. Such an event provided a safe and responsible environment for the young and young at heart to socialise, enjoy Israeli street food and dance and party away all while showing their support of Magen David Adom and the State of Israel. Many thanks to Tamar Shifroni and Megan Bernitz, both Sydney locals, for sharing their brave and heart warming experiences while volunteering for MDA when they were in Israel. The 400 participants demonstrated to us and the community at large that there is a strong need to engage our next generation of supporters and to provide an event that is relevant and meaningful to them.

If you were unable to attend one of our campaign events this year or have not yet had the opportunity to



Dror Eini embraces Kay Wilson as she tells of the role he played in saving her life. Image in background is of Dror with Kay's beloved dog, Peanut.

express your solidarity with MDA's 1,850 paramedics and staff and its 13,000 volunteers, it is not too late to contribute to our 2017 appeal and we ask you to consider kindly doing so by completing the enclosed form.

At the local level, we are strategically focused on encouraging and developing the next generation of leaders to become involved in communal and charitable work and to have succession plans in place to ensure our growth, relevance and success in relation to how we engage with the community and involve them in our activities. To this extent, I am delighted to advise we have appointed new members to our Board who, in combination, provide us with an amazing skill set of communal and professional expertise across a broad demographic. I am delighted to introduce Nick Aronson, Nolan Goldstein, Jonathon Green and Cara-lee Schapiro as our new Board Members. I also welcome Gabi Cher, a 5th year medical student and former volunteer for MDA Israel as our Board Observer.

Our theme for our 2017 Annual Campaign was "Choose Life". At Rosh Hashanah time, we choose life through our prayers to be inscribed in the Book of Life. As proud members of the NSW Jewish Community, we also choose life through our ongoing support of Magen David Adom Israel's raison d'etre to save lives.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Australian Friends of Magen David Adom to wish you and your family, I'shanah tovah tikatevu vetechtamu - a sweet and happy year and may Hashem grant eternal peace and prosperity to our beloved Israel.

Annual Campaign Events - Choose Life

Our annual campaign events have once again received an overwhelming response and for this we are extremely grateful. Over 900 people attended our three events, culminating in our first Young MDA function. This event attracted over 430 young adults, many of whom have had little to no contact with our community.

We sincerely thank our campaign sponsors. Their generosity will allow us to maximise funds distributed to Magen David Adom Israel.

We were honoured that Kay Wilson was able to share her inspiring story of courage and how Magen David Adom and paramedic, Dror Eini, saved her life. It was also a pleasure to host Dave Sharma, former Australian Ambassador to Israel.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this year's campaign, raising funds to purchase fully equipped 4 wheel drive ambulances. These ambulances will allow paramedics to quickly reach trauma patients and victims of terror in rough terrain and those living in remote communities - Israel's modern day pioneers.

These young families are in desperate need of local emergency services and where every minute counts, faster response times mean only one thing, saving more lives.

If you have not yet donated and would like to make a Tax Deductible donation please call the office on (02) 9358 2521 or click on https://www.magendavidadom.org.au/donate



Roland Nagel with Hymie and Maureen Flekser

Hymie's connection with Magen David Adom goes back many years from when he was the Chairman of MDA South Africa from the early 1960s until the family's migration to Australia in 1985.

He also served on the International Committee of MDA, during which time he met many Israeli politicians and worldwide dignitaries. Magen David Adom was his life.

Main Campaign Function UNSW, Sunday August 13, 2017



Roland Nagel, Ido Golan Gutin, Melissa & Jonathon Green



Ido Golan Gutin, The Hon David Clarke MLC, Roland Nagel and Vic Alhadeff



Keith Bethlehem, Kay Wilson and Roland Nagel



Ido Golan Gutin, Jacquelyn & Ami Simon



Lynn & Steven Langman



Melissa McCurdie, Dave Sharma, Dror Eini and Ido Golan Gutin



Arieh Gould, Tony Ziegler and Melli Gould



Dave Sharma, Cr Sally Betts and Bob Magid



Mandy Chalmers, Roland Nagel and Danny Chalmers



Bob Magid, Margaret Nagel, Ruth Magid and Roland Nagel



LIFESAVER

President's Dinner, Royal Motor Yacht Club, Monday August 14, 2017



Bob Magid and Roland Nagel



Curtis Mann, Margaret Nagel, Kay Wilson and Barbara Mann



Moriah volunteers with Kay Wilsor



Derryn Tal, Sharon Naumberger, Yosi Tal and Rodney Naumberger



Greta Silvers, centre with Roland and Margaret Nagel

Greta, a child survivor has generously donated a Medicycle to Magen David Adom in memory of her family Mayer & Theresa Lazar and Sender Tabak who perished during the Holocaust. Greta was honoured at the function by Roland Nagel for her many years of support to MDA and for the wonderful donation of a Medicycle.



Ambassador Shmuel ben Shmuel, Sid & Barbara Cohen, Roland Nagel and Melanie Knep



Judy Lowy and Kay Wilso



Gerda & Dennis Maister and Roland Nage



Di Segal and Denise Meyerson



Eli Tal and Daphna Rosen Ta



Kay Wilson and Dave Sharma



Josh & Viola Bolot



Nora Goodridge, Kay Wilson and Roland Nagel



Paul Samer, Michelle Spiro and Gloria Goldstein



Kay Wilson, Richard Haber, Diane Burger

Young MDA – Tel Aviv Nights

Magen David Adom recently held our first Young MDA function, as part of our annual campaign events. Funds raised on the night will go towards the purchase of a new fully equipped First Responder Medicycle..

Young MDA Tel Aviv Nights attracted over 430 young Jewish adults, many of whom have had little to no contact with the Jewish community. It was an incredible evening and something that has not been achieved on this scale by any other Jewish organisation. Guests were treated to a mentalist show, Israeli street food, video streaming of Israel's latest artists and much more. It has definitely paved the way for similar events in the future.

According to our DJ band for the night, Sincopa Trio "The atmosphere was electric, no one wanted the night to end. We are involved in many different events for the Sydney Jewish community and your event managed to attract people that are usually quite disengaged from the community. It ignited a passion and energy from inside them, celebrating their Judaism, their connection with Israel and their support of Magen David Adom".



(top) and Tamar Shfroni (below)

















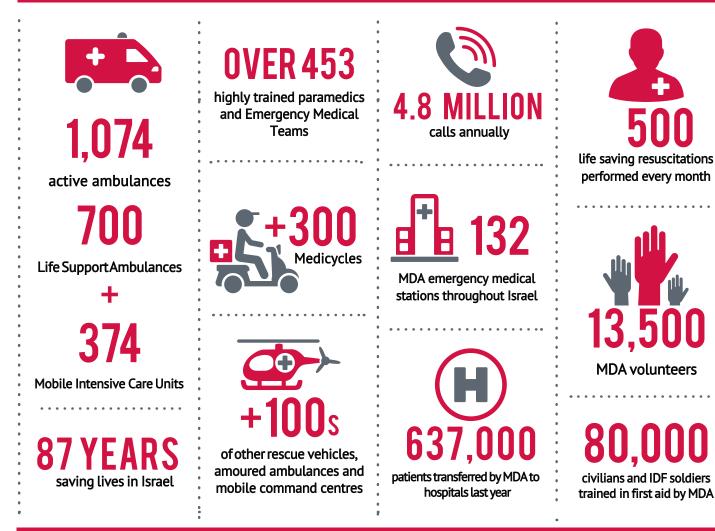




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MAGEN DAVID ADOM BY THE NUMBERS



MDA Israel consists of mainly volunteers and is heavily reliant on worldwide donations to continue its lifesaving work .

MDA NSW – Our People

BOARD

PresidentRoland NagelVice PresidentTony ZieglerHon SecretaryJosh BolotHon TreasurerPeter SheldonNick AronsonNolan GoldsteinJonathon GreenMark JosmanMelissa McCurdieCara-lee Schapiro

OFFICE STAFF

Chief Executive Officer Doron Lazarus Administration Tammy Zlattner Donor Relations & Bequests Tamara Lowbeer Events & Database Rivkah Lazarus

Board Observer Gabi Cher

Australian Friends of Magen David Adom Limited (NSW) PO Box 293 Edgecliff NSW 2027 Tel: (02) 9358 2521 Fax: (02) 9358 3893 Email admin@magendavidadom.org.au www.magendavidadom.org.au

New MDA Simcha Program – Wish Ambulance

Are you celebrating or attending a Simcha and prefer donations in lieu of gifts?

Magen David Adom is proud to be launching our new Simcha Program in support of the MDA Wish Ambulance.

When you decide to accept donations, or purchase an MDA certificate, then you will be directly supporting the Magen David Adom "Wish Ambulance".

The MDA Wish Ambulance fulfills the wishes of individuals with serious or terminal illnesses or who are not independently mobile.

A person's last wish holds special power and is very sentimental and personal. It can be a tremendous source of comfort and peace of mind. Last wishes are often an opportunity for a terminally ill patient to find a sense of meaning, excitement and reason to rejoice. A wish come true is not only important for the patient but also provides comfort to their family.

The Magen David Adom Wish Ambulance has fulfilled wishes to attend special simchas, family reunions, a child's graduation from the IDF and even visits to the Kotel for a final prayer.

The Wish Ambulance is provided free of charge, with a warm smile and a friendly hug, regardless of religion, race or nationality.



Last prayers at the Western Wall



To find out more about our Simcha Program and the Wish Ambulance please contact the MDA office on (02) 9358 2521 or www.magendavidadom.org.au..

Since the Pesach issue of the LIFESAVER the following people have been honoured in this special way.

BNEI MITZVAH

Ashton Bloch Amelie Cher Charlotte Fox Jason Hirsch Miri Leibman Neva Mahoun Charlotte Naar



On the occasion of Charlotte Naar's batmitzvah held at Central Synagogue, Charlotte nominated Magen David Adom as her desired charity.

FOR BIRTHDAYS

40th Shabi Shabtay Matthew Moshal

50th

Dan Katz **60th**

Basil Freedman Peter Ulmer

70th

Eli Behar Yvonne Berman Julian Cass Michael Cass Stanley Frank Lois Goodman Les Jacobson Laurie Jaye Clare Palan Cecile Smollen David Sonnabend Gary Vajda **75th**

Rosalie Klass Sheila Lazarus



Robert Gellert, Solicitor of Lang Gellert & Co, is a regular sponsor of MDA functions. He held his 80th birthday party earlier this year at Vaucluse House and requested his guests to give donations to MDA instead of gifts to the birthday boy.

80th

Ann Benda Bobby Cann Naomi Diamond Gerald Mallinick Arthur Resnick Hymie Sheinerman Mona Sheinerman Michael Sperber Susan Warhaftig Sam Rock

85th Leon Milch 90th

Paul Mendels Betty Strumpman Roy Woolf

91st Dr L Shubitz

92nd Bernard Ende

93rd Anita Zweig

100th Elizabeth Ziegler

Other Birthdays

Jacqui Gordon Mark Hertzberg Bob Lvoff Danny Taibel Susie Tornya Sarah Varejes Lulu Varejes Lahra Will Tony Zeigler

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LIFESAVFR

OTHER CERTIFICATES

Wedding

Monnis & Laych Deitz Mark & Rachel Landis Jessica & Michael Roth Nicci & Vincent Uno

Anniversaries

25th

Selwyn & Glenda Atlas

50th

Sheila & Melvin Posner David & Shlomit Reed

60th

Rebe & Julian Chodos Judy & Ivan Lorentz Miriam & Egon Sonnenschein Min & Julian Wesek 70th

Angel & Denise Mallach

In Honour and Appreciation

Carlos & Vivienne Beck Sophia Bolot Dr Nathan Cherny David & Stephanie Hilton Dina Leeds Lotzov Family **ORAH JWRP Program in** Israel Marion Seftel

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et hirehda

MDA Book Club



Front row(seated) from left to right: Diane Seeto, Debbie Warnock, Gina Stern, Renee Pinshaw Top Row (standing) from left to right: Wendy Cohen. Marion Tritsch, Jeanie Kitchener, Judy Doobov, Madeline Rosen

The MDA book Club continues to meet regularly on a Sunday nights every 6 weeks in members' homes. Participants contribute \$10 at each meeting which is donated to Magen David Adom.

New members are welcome. Please contact Jeanie Kitchener on 0409 363 232 if you are interested in books and in joining.

Requesting an MDA gift certificate or card couldn't be easier. You can

- Go online to www.magendavidadom.org.au
- Phone the MDA office 9358 2521
- Email admin@magendavidadom.org.au
- Post cheque to PO Box 293, Edgecliff NSW 2027

Please advise payment details - credit card (American Express, Mastercard or Visa), who is to be honoured (and the occasion) or remembered, a short message and where the certificate or card is to be sent.

Loewy Consulting Partners, Chartered Accountants are very excited in being appointed the auditors of Magen David Adom once again! They like to get involved with the Jewish Community, both locally and abroad, and believe this charity is a very worthwhile cause.

Loewy Consulting Partners are a well established Chartered Accountancy firm, situated in Darling Point, Sydney. They offer the traditional accounting, taxation and audit services, in addition to superannuation and estate planning, tax planning, management and advisory services. The firm has a wealth of experience in real estate, and uses this knowledge to help create wealth for their clients. The six partners at Loewy Consulting Partners collaborate with clients in an innovative, cost effective and constructive way to create further value and address relevant issues and opportunities.

If you would like to get in contact with them, please see their details to the right.



Loewy Consulting Partners Chartered Accountants 2a Mona Rd, Darling Point Sydney, 2027, Australia PO Box 704 EDGECLIFF NSW 2027

Telephone: +61 2 9362 3332 Facsimile: +61 2 9327 7880 Email: david@loewycp.com.au



Roman Garbuz David Glass

Mark Lindsay

Tom Loewy Josh Stein Anthony Su



Magen David Adom launches the e-Tzedakah box

No spare change? No problem, as the traditional tzedakah box or pushka has now entered the 21st century. Magen David Adom has recently launched the e-tzedakah box. MDA is one of the first charities in Australia, and the first of all Jewish charities worldwide, to begin using cashless donation points in retailers and shops. These new e-tzedakah boxes will address the decline in cash donations due to the shift towards cashless alternatives



Niv Barhon and Doron Lazarus with the new e-tzedakah box in Pita Mix, Rose Bay

like contactless cards, smartphones and watches. These Donation Points will allow our supporters without cash to donate to Magen David Adom with a simple tap.

The availability of volunteers is becoming more and more challenging and the collection of physical boxes can be very time consuming. We will continue to utilise the dedicated volunteers to collect the traditional boxes from homes and other locations but these devices will make collection that much easier. It will also give you a choice of how to donate.

The e-tzedakah box is fully electronic which reduces the opportunity for theft and it removes the barrier of 'no spare change'. The readers are fully secure and donations appear directly on your bank statement.

The units are portable and MDA has already received requests to have the boxes available for simchas. This way, guests can fulfil the mitzvah of tzedakah without the concern of the hosts handling the money. "Magen David Adom is proud to be at the forefront of innovative giving by providing greater choice for donors who wish to support our life saving work in Israel", Doron Lazarus, CEO Australian Friends of Magen David Adom.

For more information about e-tzedakah boxes and traditional coin boxes that need to be cleared, please contact Magen David Adom on (02) 9358 2521 or email admin@magendavidadom.org.au.

New "MY MDA" mobile app ready for Israeli kids first day of school to keep them safer

The new school year has just begun in Israel. With parents constantly concerned about their children using mobile devices appropriately amid the many apps and games available to them, MDA has introduced an app that could dramatically enhance their safety - the "My MDA" mobile app allows children to call MDA with a single click of a button without having to memorize MDA's 101 emergency number. At the same time the call is dispatched to MDA emergency teams, the child's precise location is automatically transferred to the dispatch center as well as to the team that is on the way to the scene. This enables MDA personnel to reach the child quickly and easily even in cases the child is upset and unable to explain where they are.

MDA also recommends to enter the child's medical record onto the app – this can include allergies, diseases, heart conditions or any other significant information. This way, MDA teams who will treat the child will be fully aware of his or her medical record even if the child is not aware of it. The app, which has already been downloaded by tens of thousands of Israelis and is available in several languages.



MDA Director General, Eli Bin said, "MDA constantly promotes technological innovation integrates new technologies into the MDA system, to save the lives of anyone, anywhere, anytime. I call on parents to make sure that the app is installed on each and every one of their children's mobile devices. The app will save their lives, in real time."



Visits to Magen David Adom Israel

The past few months have been busy for Ido Golan Gutin and the International Department of MDA Israel hosting NSW members, donors and friends to view and experience Magen David Adom facilities in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Visitors Jacqui Bakker, Christian Friends of MDA visited Israel with her husband, Onno. Jacqui commented, "It was a privilege to visit the William H Bloomberg Magen David Adom Jerusalem Station. We marveled at the vast number of screens with messages and numbers flashing, wondering how all could be sensibly ordered and a calm response to the caller provided. I was not fully aware of the outreach and greater impact MDA has on the lives of many it encounters. The sheer complexity and selflessness of providing medical assistance to all in need in potentially hostile environments is truly special."

Rabbi David and Mrs Vicky Rogut also visited the Bloomberg Station in Jerusalem and were overwhelmed saying it was "an unbelievable eye opener to note the advanced work of Magen David Adom in Israel, a true world leader."

After his visit to the National Medical Dispatch Centre in Tel Aviv, Phillip Cohen who is a St John Ambulance volunteer in Sydney wrote to say that he had a terrific and interesting meeting. "It was interesting to see the system differences between MDA and our local approach premised on more rapid response".

Our members, donors and supporters are encouraged to organise a free MDA tour during your next trip to Israel.

Whether you will be based in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or even Haifa this is an ideal opportunity to see for yourself how MDA operates and to have the chance to meet some paramedics and



Rabbi David and Vicky Rogut



Phillip Cohen and Debbi Tong



Rhett Kessler, centre, is shown the Jerusalen Station by Anat Rapaport



volunteers and hear their stories first hand?

Please phone Tamara Lowbeer on

9358 2521, in advance of your trip, to

set up a tour to fit in with your schedule.

Jacqui Bakker tries out Medicycle funded by MDA NSW



Vivien Gorney visited the Bloomberg Station in Jerusalem

First Aid Training

Thanks to the generosity of Agnes Matrai, many madrichimleaders, from Sydney's Zionist youth movements underwent First Aid training by Magen



Agnes Matrai

David Adom. This provided them with the vital first aid certification required for winter camps and beyond.

Other courses also conducted by MDA trainer Tim Cohen and his team were for members of Maccabi, staff of Masada and Moriah Colleges and several professional groups.

If you are interested in organising an accredited First Aid Course for your social or professional group, please contact Tim Cohen on 0417 401 828 for more information.

"First Aid training will give you the confidence to act in an emergency or medical situation" says Tim.











Vera Clarke 1923- 2015

Veronika, Vera, was born on November 11, 1923 in Budapest Hungary to Margit and Sandor Weisz. Her parents were very young when she was born and the marriage did not last. They divorced when Vera was 12 years old, a very difficult time for Vera. Vera was lucky to have loving maternal grandparents and a maternal uncle Imre who helped her through this difficult time in her childhood.

In 1944 when the Germans marched into Hungary, Vera's father was rounded up with the other men and taken to labour camps where he was subsequently shot.

In 1947 her mother married Laci Timar, a kind and loving man who treated Vera as his own child.

Despite her early family problems and acrimony, Vera was not bitter, displaying empathy for others, a trait which endeared her to many throughout her life.

Vera's dream of being a doctor was squashed when the Jewish laws were introduced in Hungary in 1938 restricting Jewish children from study.

At the age of 17, Vera met her future husband, George Czeizler at a dance at a local Synagogue. They were married three years later.

George had also wanted to study but instead was obliged to join his father's thriving cabinet making business in Budapest. Vera's uncle Imre helped Vera and her family survive the last year of the war after Germany occupied Hungary.

In 1948 Vera and George decided to leave Europe for Australia. Her mother and stepfather arrived the week before them. They worked diligently and, in her spare time, Vera went to a language school.

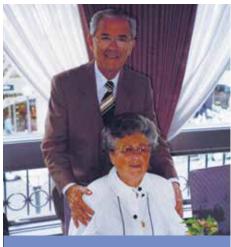
George started with cabinet making and taxi driving, and Vera learned to be a machinist in leather goods and later clothing.

George and Vera's marriage was a harmonious and loving one despite Vera not being able to have children.

In 1960 they opened a sandwich shop in Ashfield. George taught Vera how to cook as her mother had not had the patience to teach her. Vera filled the shop with her Hungarian cooking that drew in the Germans, Greeks, Hungarians and later the Asians. The business was very successful but required very long hours and hard work.

In 1974 they sold the business and Vera started work in a jewellery shop. George took on managerial positions and life became easier for them.

In 1970 they began to travel extensively. In their 17 trips they drove, sailed and flew the length and breadth of Australia and the world. Vera looked back on these times with delight and a sense of achievement. She loved nature and experiencing



George & Vera Clarke

new things. Ill health did not deter them. They lived life for each other and to the full.

Vera was devastated when George died in June 2003. She learned to drive and was always surrounded by friends.

In 2009 as her health deteriorated Vera moved to the Montefiore Home in Randwick where she held court with a multitude of friends old and new, family and staff. She was wise, empathic and upbeat to the end. Her memory intelligence and insights were profound.

Although she was plagued by ill health, she faced them head on with calm grace and an ability to take the most out of each day.

Vera passed away on March 12, 2015. She is sorely missed but not forgotten.

Written by Aana Pollak (her niece)



Vera's name will be perpetuated through her generous estate which will be used to establish an ongoing Advanced Driver Safety Program for Magen David Adom Israel's ambulance drivers. In the Emergency Medical field every second can mean the difference between life and death. MDA teams and ambulances often rush to patients having to manoeuvre through traffic at fast speeds in challenging conditions. As such, MDA's ambulances are often involved in accidents on the way to an emergency. The program, delivered via simulators aims to improve and better the driving skills of the ambulance driver whilst not endangering the public. It records errors and teaches how to correct them during real time driving. The program allows for different driving scenarios, snow, hazardous terrain, etc specific to Israel's roads.



David Samuel Ratner 1927 - 2016

David Ratner was born on 30 August 1927 in Sydney to Saul and Rose Ratner.

As a young man Dave travelled the world including spending many months touring Europe on a motor cycle. He was adventurous in his youth and travelled across Spain and Germany. I recall him telling me that he hitched a ride in and out of Berlin before the wall came down, on a transport. He was at the airport and spotted a friendly New Zealand pilot who let him stow away on the plane.

During his travels Dave spent some time in Israel on a Kibbutz in the north of the country. Again he had many interesting adventures there. He had a great affinity with Israel and often talked about his stay on the kibbutz.

On his return to Australia he worked as a draftsman and ended up working with his father and uncle in the family cabinet making business at Newtown, J Ratner and Co. This business was started by our grandfather Joseph Ratner in the early part of the last century. They made high quality furniture. Towards the latter half of the 1900's when Dave took a greater role in the business they made Queen Ann furniture as part of their range and supplied Sydney department stores.

He played squash until it became too much for him and had a wide circle of friends. He was a member of the Great Synagogue.

Dave was single and lived in his parents' family home at Glebe until his death on 6 August 2016.

He supported many charities during his life and was generous to them in his will. He lived very modestly and often said he wanted to make sure he left enough to the charities he provided for in his will.

Written by Owen Ratner



4 wheel drive ambulance

Thanks to David Ratner's generosity and foresight, a 4 x 4 ambulance has been purchased in his honour and will carry an inscription of acknowledgement on its door with a small yellow kangaroo showing Australian vehicle donations. These ambulances will allow paramedics to reach injured patients and trauma victims in rough terrain and those living in Israel's remote communities, such as the Galilee and Negev.

The population in these regions is growing, with more young families choosing to build their homes in Israel's north and south. The growth of these areas is vital to Israel's future security.

These families are in desperate need of local emergency services and where every minute counts, faster response times means only one thing. Saving more lives.

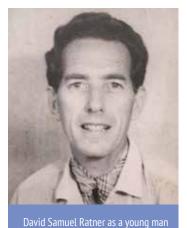


For a strictly confidential discussion, please call Tamara Lowbeer on 02 9358 2521 www.magendavidadom.org.au

The following generous Estates have been received and will be reported on in the Chanukah newsletter

- · John Rector
- · Steffa Rosenbaum
- Monty Marks





With thanks to our Corporate Sponsors 2017/2018

