



**New Zealand  
Friends of Israel  
Association, Inc.**



Honesty Integrity Commitment Vision Justice

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# **Annual Report**

**Year Ending 31 March 2013**

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## President's Report

This report covers the 12 month period ending 31 March 2013. We have had another eventful year.

### The Christchurch Rebuild

Many of our members are located in Christchurch and the longer term consequences of the disaster have had an ongoing effect on the Association. Amidst insurance claims, uncertainty over people's homes, traffic congestion and financial hardship, maintaining focus on the Association's goals and objectives has continued to be challenging for many of our members.

### Alternative Venues

Following feedback from our last members' survey we have been vigorously trying to find an alternative venue for our monthly meetings in Christchurch. Unfortunately the earthquake has meant that many clubrooms and community centres are awaiting repair or have been demolished. The remaining stock is consequently heavily booked. At one stage we thought we had secured suitable rooms at the Papanui Club but shortly after we had made the booking, a revised engineering report meant that most of their campus was condemned.

Driving at night has also become difficult as the city engineers have quite rightly scheduled their road, sewage other underground services repair work to begin in the evening. Unfortunately this means that detours can unexpectedly appear which may lead drivers into unfamiliar streets. Conscious that many of our members are elderly, we have moved the Christchurch meetings to Sunday afternoons.

### Events

We have had an interesting mix of events through the year. The following events were particular highlights:

#### Tibi Ram and Eva Lavi

Last year the Zionist Federation invited us to assist them with their Holocaust Survivor programme. This ambitious programme involves bringing a survivor from Israel to New Zealand each year on a speaking tour. We were humbled to be involved with this initiative. Much thanks must go to Heather Burgess and Kate Macpherson who were willing to shoulder the work and display their amazing organisational abilities. Hundreds of school children were able to benefit from a first hand account of the Holocaust.

#### Professor Ghilad Zuckermann

We were treated to a fascinating talk on how biblical and modern Hebrew were diverging. As a consequence the likelihood of misinterpreting the text was growing. Controversially this has led to a translation of the Tanakh into Modern Hebrew. He led us through a number of examples of how confusion can occur even in Genesis 1:1. I'm sure everyone who left that afternoon had an appreciation for original language study of the bible.

#### Kelvin Crombie

Kelvin gave a captivating talk on the geo-political aspects of World War II. For many WWII is often seen as several coincidental wars in Europe, North Africa, Russia, South East Asia and the Pacific. Kelvin showed us how they were all strategically linked together. More disturbingly he was able to show how Hitler intended to bring his "Final Solution" to the Middle East. We were honoured to have Sir Charles Upham's daughter attend this event.

## **HIT**

This is our second year as agents for Hosting Israeli Tourists (HIT) in Christchurch. It is a program that allows New Zealanders to host Israeli Tourists as they travel through New Zealand. In the aftermath of the February 2011 earthquake, Backpacker accommodation in Christchurch continues to be outstripped by demand.

Over this Summer, the program continued to be popular and during the peak period, all the hosts were full and a call for additional volunteers was again made to accommodate the excess. We are grateful to Rebecca for all her hard work in acting as our representative for HIT. Over [xx] travelers were enrolled up by [xx]% on last year. If you are able to take an Israeli traveller or two even for a night then I urge you to make yourself known to Rebecca Marchand.

## **Fundraising**

Our sausage sizzles have continued to be a fun time for members to get to know one another and to work side by side. We owe a debt of gratitude to Shirley Bunnings who have been great supporters in allowing us to book a series of sizzles many months in advance. This has been invaluable. During the 2012/2013 Summer we raised \$[xx]. Many thanks to Kate Macpherson and all the committee members for their wonderful assistance.

## **Interfaith Dialogue**

Many prejudices against Jews have arisen from a flawed view of Judaism. At the same time, many Christians have a renewed interest in rediscovering the Jewish roots of their faith and Jewish scholars are reclaiming Jesus as a Jew. For many years we had read of Interfaith Bible Studies that had worked wonderfully in dispelling myths commonly held about Judaism. With these thoughts in mind, we approached the Canterbury Hebrew Congregation with the idea of forming an Inter-Faith bible study. For various reasons, we have been unable to bring these meetings about.

Instead we have identified a course that assists attendees to learn more about first Century Judaism. This course is called Ha Yesod. Our calls for expressions of interest resulted in many responses and our first study group should be starting shortly.

## **Newsletter**

If been five years since we re-instituted our newsletter. Thanks again to everyone who has sent in compliments about the newsletter. Portraying Jewish affairs in as wider perspective as possible remains an important goal. It is not pleasant to be defined by the Middle Eastern conflict or even by racial prejudice. We have therefore ensured that there has been an emphasis on topics that highlight the humanity of the Jewish people. Food, spirituality and humour characterise all human beings. We hope that through there lenses you catch more than a glimpse of their humanity..

A couple of the most memorable articles include the article written in our [month] issue by a retired Saudi Navy Commander, [name], who lamented the waste of energy and resources on fighting Israel. In his opinion, their energies would have been better directed toward industry, fighting corruption and scientific discovery. The second article was by [name] in our [month] issue and gave a revealing perspective on French culture and how it colors its opinion of Jews. We hope you got us much pleasure from the newsletter as much as we did in compiling it. If you have any ideas for articles or heartening stories about Israel or Jews then please forward them to us.

## **The Internet**

The Internet has had a transformative influence on modern society. As a society we too have been exploring this technology as an aid to reaching our audiences and to benefit our members. Over 55% of our newsletters are sent by email. Our average daily visitor numbers to our website have risen by over 20%. Visitors can now use PayPal to make donations and pay membership fees on our website.

Members can find upcoming events, interesting articles, too many to include in our newsletter, about all things Jewish both in New Zealand and abroad on our site. Remember, if you ever lose your newsletter, go to [www.nzfoi.org](http://www.nzfoi.org). New posts are announced on Twitter and much of the material is mirrored on Facebook.

## Future Outlook

### Jewish Federation of New Zealand

The Jewish Federation of New Zealand, a new umbrella structure for the New Zealand Jewish community. The Federation's work involves promoting high quality Jewish education, providing assistance for communities too small to support a qualified Rabbi, administering a program to bring Jews back to Europe to learn of the Holocaust, taking schoolchildren to spend a semester or a year going to school in Israel as well as showing support for Israel. Through the Federation an opportunity arises for the different synagogues located around New Zealand to link arms to build dynamic, engaging and diverse opportunities for New Zealand's Jews. In a welcome sign of inclusiveness, there are plans for Affiliate organisations to join with the Federation in its work. NZFOI has applied to be an affiliate organisation. We look forward to engaging with the Jewish communities in New Zealand at a new level.

### Farewell to Shemi Tzur

Sadly Shemi will be ending his tenure as Ambassador of Israel to New Zealand in the second quarter of this year. During his tenure he should be proud of his diligent efforts to bring our nations and peoples together. Among his achievements, we note the historic visit of Reuven Rivlin, the Speaker of the Knesset and the highest ranking Israeli government official to visit New Zealand in many years and the establishment of a New Zealand Working Holiday Programme.

### Advocacy

We were deeply disappointed when New Zealand voted to support the Palestinian quest for formal recognition by the United Nations. All so that New Zealand could strengthen its bid to join the UN Security Council by distancing itself from the perception that it was a client state to the US. This episode has strengthened our view that NZFOI should renew its activities in this area.

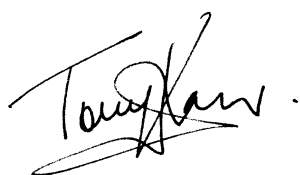
## Thanks

Much thanks must go to Barry Thompson our vice President for his ongoing support; Rebecca Marchand our Secretary for her faithful endeavours; John & Alison Clarke for their diligence on the accounts and their contributions as committee members, Glennis Lane for her diligent pursuit of building and operating a rich and informative library covering Jewish literature, culture and history; and Daniel Morgan our Committee Member for his generous gift of time and commitment. We also acknowledge the hard work of Susette MacLachlan who joined our committee in 2012 but has now moved to North America. I should also extend a special thanks to my wife, who has allowed me to attend to many NZFOI matters even though we have four children aged 9 years and under.

Of course, every society owes its existence to the support of its members. Thank you for your support. The ongoing strife between Arabs and Jews in Israel, the quickening rise of Anti-Semitism across the world, and even the desecration of Jewish graves here in New Zealand remind us that our work is vital.

Thank you

Tony Kan  
President  
NZFOI



## Financial Report

### Accounting Policies

The financial statements presented here are for the entity NZ Friends of Israel Association Incorporated (NZFOI), an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. NZ Friends of Israel Association Incorporated qualifies as an exempt entity under the Financial Reporting Act 1993. The Association is also a registered charity under the Charities Act 2005.

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on an historical cost basis have been used.

### Contingent liabilities

At balance date there are no known contingent liabilities. NZFOI has not granted any securities in respect of liabilities payable by any other party whatsoever.

**Table 1 Profit and Loss Statement**

Category Description	2011	2012	2013
<b>Income</b>			
Bank Interest	122.25	142.67	163.77
BBQ Sales	1,876.00	3,337.30	2,182.10
Chocolate Sales	440.00	0.00	50.00
Donation	340.35	2,170.50	335.00
Library	50.00	61.20	0.00
Membership Fees	575.00	640.00	1,210.00
Sales	78.00	375.00	0.00
Supper Donations	193.30	242.00	40.00
Calendar Sales		280.00	490.00
DVD Sales		60.00	0.00
Badges		80.00	0.00
Fundraiser		168.70	215.10
Concert/Speaker entry Fees		643.99	208.75
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,674.90</b>	<b>8,201.36</b>	<b>4894.72</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Bank Service Charges	7.50	2.50	0.00
BBQ Expenses	746.90	1676.44	1,029.39
Fundraiser		375.00	184.15
Chocolate	443.25	-	0.00
Demonstration-Cooking-Cards-etc	74.79	-	60.80
Gifts-Supper Supplies	164.61	129.80	39.20
Travel	321.50	706.00	368.95
Moriah College-Educational Aids	0.00	391.40	0.00
Library-Books/DVDs	132.79	94.98	134.49
News Letter	136.80	268.70	444.20
NZFOI Phonebook Listing	101.25	92.00	103.50
Office Supplies	38.66	86.60	151.38

Category Description	2011	2012	2013
Postage & Delivery	184.40	346.9	281.90
Rent & Rates	170.00	250.00	700.00
Advertising	60.00	90.76	117.50
NZFOI Badges			343.86
Register Direct (Web Page)	182.79	205.85	0.00
Carolina Moon Concert		625.99	0.00
Calendars		215.92	321.86
Jewish Community Donations		1025.00	119.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,765.24</b>	<b>6,583.84</b>	<b>4,400.18</b>
<b>Total Income less Expenses</b>	<b>909.66</b>	<b>1617.52</b>	<b>494.54</b>

**Table 2 Balance Sheet**

	2011	2012	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash & Bank Accounts			
Cheque Account	2,100.25	3,529.98	3,796.87
Rapid Saver Account	3,646.09	3,841.82	4,069.47
Cash	50.00	50.00	50.00
Account Receivable	-	-	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>5,796.34</b>	<b>7,421.80</b>	<b>7,916.34</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>5,796.34</b>	<b>7,421.80</b>	<b>7,916.34</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	34.50	42.40	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>34.50</b>	<b>42.40</b>	<b>-</b>
Equity	<b>5,761.84</b>	<b>7,379.40</b>	<b>7,916.34</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>5,761.84</b>	<b>7,421.80</b>	<b>7,916.34</b>

## Directory

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