

Courage To Care News



Patron: Professor David de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria

Each person can make a difference



Perspectives

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“Perspectives” In this edition, we’ve asked people who either have been “touched” by our program or contribute to our program, to give their “Perspective” on Courage To Care and it’s activities.

Outstanding Mornington – Langwarrin Exhibition 1st - 19th March 2010

by Dr Tony Weldon

Preparations for this very successful Exhibition commenced almost a year before, with a discussion with **Sarah Burns**, the Principal of Mornington Secondary College about the possibility of holding the Courage to Care Program at that school. Given that schools generally do not have spaces that remain unused for a period of two weeks, it is always a major commitment on the part of a school to offer their resources to us. It means a dislocation of their usual program and considerable extra planning on their part. The Principal herself, while welcoming the concept, still had to get the approval of the School Council.

We were given access for the two-week period that we were in Mornington to their Performing Arts Centre – a magnificent facility for our purposes. Students whose classes were usually held here, were directed to other rooms around the school.

In the fourth term of 2009, our volunteers **Viv & Alan Davis** commenced a promotional tour of the region, meeting with teachers from as many schools as possible within that region and explaining the Program to them. At the end of 2 weeks teachers had undertaken to bring well over 2000 students from Year 9 and above to the Program. This created a challenge in that we were unable to accommodate that number within the two-week period available to us at Mornington. With the generosity of **Tim Harper**, the Principal of the Elisabeth Murdoch College in Langwarrin, we were able to arrange to transfer the Exhibition to that venue for an additional week. The overwhelming response from both teachers and students alike at both venues was positive, reinforcing the value of our Program.

Our Official Opening was held on Tuesday 2nd. March and was extremely successful with over 100 attending. The evening featured a wonderful Keynote address by the renowned broadcaster **Rachael Kohn**, music played by students of the College and welcomes from the College Principal, **Sarah Burns** and **Cr David Gibb**, Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire. Courage To Care also presented awards to people who have donated generously to us, most notably **Daniel Etzion**, who had asked the guests at his Bar Mitzvah (Jewish Confirmation) celebration to donate to Courage to Care in lieu of gifts to himself! (Pictured above) Daniel Etzion receiving his award from Chairman Tony Weldon, together with his family.



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The Herald Sun Saturday, April 10

Courage counts

An exhibition examines the acts of those who helped people in times of terror, writes **Shaunagh O'Connor**

AS A PRESENTER at travelling exhibition *Courage to Care*, one Melbourne Holocaust survivor talks of those who helped him live to tell his tale.

The Jewish survivor tells of the Catholic family that took him in during World War II, exhibition co-ordinator Heidi Hayden says.

"He wasn't allowed to go to school because they were concerned that people would discover he was Jewish so they protected him, hid him and pretended he was a nephew staying with them and pretended he wasn't quite capable of going to school."

Such first-person stories from Melburnians are a key part of *Courage to Care*.

The goal is to educate Victorian students about the dangers of prejudice and discrimination, with the Holocaust of World War II as its centrepiece.

"The key message we want students to take away is, in the face of injustice, never be a bystander," Hayden says.

"There is always something you can do to help. Every act of kindness matters."

Student groups are led through the four-part exhibition, beginning with a DVD outlining the history of Nazism and the Holocaust.

"The question is raised, have we learnt our lesson? And the answer is obviously no because of Darfur, Rwanda and the number of genocides that have taken place since World War II," Hayden says.

"Students then listen to a survivor in front of them speak, and that brings history to life and the speaker is able to say, this is what happened to me and these are the people who helped."

"The survivors always have the message, if it wasn't for those who helped, I wouldn't be here."

"This is the last generation that will hear survivors speak because even those who went through the Holocaust as children are getting into their 70s."

After taking in the exhibition, students participate in a discussion in which they are encouraged to look at their immediate world, "and slowly it brings out the issue of bullying



Hope: the *Courage to Care* exhibition at Mornington Secondary College.

Picture: BEN SWINNERTON

and we link the exhibition to the roles of those in bullying," Hayden says.

Though the exhibition caters to a range of Victorian Essential Learning Standards, students are also touched on an individual level by the display that is run entirely by volunteers.

Feedback to the exhibition,

Hayden says, has come in the form of student artwork, poetry and a range of literature.

The exhibition aims to instil in students the courage to care for others. *Courage to Care* details a range of people recognised as "Righteous among the Nations" by the Israeli-based group Yad Vashem, which bestows the

honour on individuals, groups, towns and nations that courageously risked their safety to save Jews and others who were persecuted by the Nazis.

For *Courage to Care* exhibition dates and venues visit www.couragetocare.com.au/frameSet.asp

A New Facilitator's "Perspective"

Dr Philip Graves is a very new and very welcome facilitator in our Program. He's also one of the first non-Jewish facilitators to join our team. Here's his perspective of a new facilitator's role.

"Trained, nervous, eager to start, and keen to do a good job of a group discussion facilitator of Courage to Care. I'm eager to get the message across and honour the people who inspire us and the people whose suffering produced their actions.

Having been to the training sessions and read a little, I drove up to Horsham in July for my first session; spent several hours that evening going over my facilitation plan. In the end I needn't have worried. The exhibition, the survivor's story worked their magic. Knowing my anxiety two fellow volunteers sat in reassuringly. The students - year 11 from the local Catholic girls' college were great. A couple of good contributors pulled me through.

A new year, with more training, more inspiration. Exhibitions at Mornington and Langwarrin. 12 more groups. More inspiration from the opening in Mornington; five more survivors' stories; the opportunity to get to know more fellow volunteers. I felt my facilitator performance varied in quality. I rushed the first two, conversation dried up; worked out some remedial strategies; a couple of groups whose attention abilities challenged, but I felt better about these as I had to strive harder to achieve a good outcome for our message. Again most of the students were great, although most of the discussion was facilitator-student-facilitator rather than student-student. Many surprises: some serious ("I have my faith, I don't need this Jewish history"); some amusing (Me: "What does stereotype mean?" Response: "If your answer is as long as that word I'm not interested"); some revelations: one student from a Yugoslavian family and one from China who knew about the rape of Nanjing who were able to bring those backgrounds into the discussion; one girl revealed later that she was a grand daughter of a survivor.

Overall, the Courage To Care model works well (of course); the students are good and decent, but some are very reluctant to reveal their feelings. Some with life experiences which are surprisingly "different" (can an old guy with no knowledge of Facebook, MySpace, and YouTube talk of deficiencies in general knowledge?) and with reading abilities which are sometimes minimal. The volunteers and Holocaust survivors are a privilege to know and our message seems to sink in - mostly."



Family Donation



Pictured above, is **Rina Rabin** and the family of the late Yehuda Rabin, presenting the Hannukiah to Chairman Tony Weldon.

The late **Yehuda Rabin**, was a Holocaust Survivor. During the Holocaust he was hidden in the pig-sty of **Alexander Kupyzzinski** and his wife in Grodno Poland. In gratitude, he fashioned a metal Hannukiah (eight branch candlestick used during Chanukah, the eight day Festival of the Lights), for them, which he gave them after liberation.

After a successful career in Melbourne, he organised for an artistic, elegant modern version to be created. His wish prior to his passing was that this be presented to Courage To Care. And today, the Hannukiah (along with his story) is part of our Exhibition display.

Perspective of a Teacher

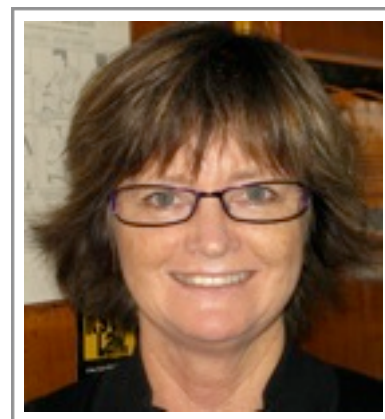
Helen Smalley is a teacher and also a Yad Vashem Scholarship recipient. Here's her "Perspective" on Courage To Care

As a teacher, I am always looking for opportunities to take our students out of the classroom to broaden their experience and understanding. The Courage to Care Exhibition has presented the perfect opportunity for me to do this.

Approximately five hundred students from my school have been to the Exhibition when it was held three years ago at Mentone Girls Secondary College and more recently at Mornington Secondary College and Elisabeth Murdoch College. Invariably, students are affected through this experience which is reflected in the depth of their discussions and in the written work that they subsequently produce. When wondering whether or not she would have the capacity to act as selflessly as the Righteous, one of my students wrote: 'Courage to Care definitely got me thinking. Am I really the person I thought I was?'

Much of what we do in a school is geared towards helping students develop their own moral compass and set of values. Our curriculum addresses the issues of bullying, human rights, justice and conflict. We try to engender acceptance of difference and compassion for each other. The Exhibition provides a powerful reference point from which we can pursue these issues with our students and help them confront the challenges within their own lives.

Helen Smalley
Teacher of History and English
Mount Erin College
Frankston



Perspective of a Student

Brittany Harvey is a student of **Helen Smalley's** at Mt Erin College. Here's what she has to say about our Program.

I first visited the Courage to Care Exhibition when I was in Year Nine. Looking back at that initial experience I can see myself as an immature and unaware teenager who was not able to take away the same message that I did three years later. While I found the Exhibition interesting, I wasn't able to absorb and acknowledge the deeper meaning within it. Over the past three years, it is as if I have gone on my own journey from ignorance to awareness. Only now can I honestly say that my eyes have been opened to the Courage to Care message and I can acknowledge that "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". The Courage to Care Exhibition has given me a valuable source of inspiration on which I can draw as a Year Twelve student and also as a School Captain. It has provided me with lessons and examples that I can share with my peers. I found my second visit to the Exhibition to be a deep and moving experience; one that conveyed a message I will always remember.

Brittany Harvey,
Student,
Mt Erin College





A Word from our Sponsor

The Multicultural Educational Unit of The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are one of the major Sponsors of Courage To Care. Manager, **Lynn Pickles** is an enthusiastic supporter of our activities. Here's her and her Department's "Perspective" of our Program.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, through the Multicultural Education Unit, has been supporting the Courage to Care travelling exhibition and educational program since 2003. During that time close to 20,000 Victorian students have participated in the program. Feedback from teachers consistently confirms the positive influence this program has had on students.

The vision of the Department is that 'every young Victorian thrives, learns and grows to enjoy a productive, rewarding and fulfilling life, while contributing to their local and global communities'.

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians signed by all Ministers of Education in 2009 has two goals:

- Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence, and
- All young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens.

Education for Global and Multicultural Citizenship – A Strategy for Victorian Government Schools 2009-2013 was developed by the Department and launched in 2009. The Strategy draws from and supports these goals and is currently being implemented in Victorian schools.

The Courage to Care program supports implementation of these goals and the Strategy. The program:

- enables schools to address overt, subtle and institutionalised racism, stereotyping and other forms of prejudice
- assists schools to build inclusive cultures
- builds the capacity of teachers to engage students in discussion around 'contentious' issues
- builds student resilience and provides the opportunity for students to reflect on and discuss the challenging issues such as racism, prejudice and other forms of bullying

<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/commrel/policy/multicultural-ed-strategy.pdf>

Along with parents and community, schools play an important role in the educational formation of our children and young people.

We have a shared responsibility to build the human and social capital that Australia needs for social cohesion as well as economic success. The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (the curriculum) provides the framework for students to be able to research, analyse and dissect issues across a range of topics. Also, to both contest various viewpoints and be comfortable with difference.

In a safe inclusive learning environment, the Courage to Care facilitators provide students with the opportunity to explore (often new) knowledge, discuss and relate this new learning to their own experiences. The personal stories of the Holocaust survivors are powerful. Engaging in discussion on issues of bullying, racism and prejudice is challenging. The approaches the facilitators present, strengthens students' capacity to stand up against the wrong doing they see and experience - to move from the position of bystander to someone actively enacting their values.

Lynn Pickles
 Manager Multicultural Education Unit
 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 96373549 Pickles.lynn.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

A Committee Member's Perspective

Our outstanding Committee are a very committed and dedicated team. We asked Committee Vice Chairman, **Iain Messer** for his perspective on Courage To care



C2C: “How did you become involved in Courage To Care?”

Iain: “My wife, Helen, became interested in Courage To Care many years ago when I was still in full-time work. She regularly extolled the virtues of the program and this piqued my interest. When I retired, I was able to get heavily involved in the program and as well as Committee Vice-Chairman, I’m also a regular Day Supervisor and Facilitator at exhibitions.”

C2C: “Do you have a family connection to the Holocaust?”

Iain: “I’m one of very few people involved in Courage To Care, whose family was not directly touched by the Holocaust. My family has been in Australia for 105 years (mother's side) and 85 years (father's side). Helen's parents both independently escaped from the Nazis in 1938 and came to Australia. The closest connection I have to the Holocaust is that Helen's grandfather was murdered by Nazis on “Kristallnacht” in 1938.”

(See Article below)

C2C: “So what is your perspective of the Program?”

Iain: “I don’t see the Holocaust as the focus of Courage To Care. It is only to be used as background material for the main messages of the exhibition which are that 'One person can make a difference' and 'Do not be a bystander'. I think we realise that we won’t get these messages through to all students who attend Courage To Care. But even if a large minority of them “get” our messages, we are satisfied. One of our great challenges is that limits of finance and volunteers' time mean that we cannot present the exhibition to far more students. We have only touched the surface of having non-Jewish people involved in spreading the universal teachings of Courage To Care and I would like to see an acceleration of this trend. I would also like to see, a bit further into the future, a franchising of Courage To Care to other States and countries.

As bullying and related problems become (unfortunately) more and more prevalent in our schools, it is important that programs like Courage To Care themselves become more prevalent to counteract these influences. The current Victorian State Government believes in Courage To Care. So do I!”

KRISTALLNACHT: The November 1938 Pogroms



Seventy-one years ago, on November 9–10, 1938, the Nazis staged vicious pogroms—state sanctioned, anti-Jewish riots—against the Jewish community of Germany. These came to be known as Kristallnacht (now commonly translated as “Night of Broken Glass”), a reference to the untold numbers of broken windows of synagogues, Jewish-owned stores, community centers, and homes plundered and destroyed during the pogroms. Encouraged by the Nazi regime, the rioters burned or destroyed 267 synagogues, vandalized or looted 7,500 Jewish businesses, and killed at least 91 Jewish people. They also damaged many Jewish cemeteries, hospitals, schools, and homes as police and fire brigades stood aside. Kristallnacht was a turning point in history. The pogroms marked an intensification of Nazi anti-Jewish policy that would culminate in the Holocaust—the systematic, state-sponsored murder of Jews.

Source: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC

Second Annual Meeting of Victorian and NSW Courage To Care Organisations

MAY 2010

Our thanks to Sonia Palmer, for her report on this important meeting.

Following last year's successful inaugural one day conference in Melbourne, the Victorian and NSW Committees as well as a large group, which included Holocaust survivors, volunteers, and facilitators, of Courage To Care, as well as Yad Vashem Scholars, met in Sydney on 25th and 26th April.

Over the two days, discussion and exchange of ideas took place, with the NSW delegation presenting their concept of their exhibition, which included a demonstration of their panels, showcases, DVD, guiding and simulated debriefing. Our NSW colleagues explained that they cater for a wider age group than Victoria. Our target demographic is years 9 - 11 (and some year 12), whereas NSW, cater for years 5 through to year 12.

NSW' guiding session took the form of a classroom lesson, with some excellent aids that the presenter designed. Her lesson was based on panels she chose.

Victoria's guiding session involves students independently reading different combinations of panels with guides offering any help needed. Because of our target demographic, we believe this to be more appropriate for older students.

Because the students in a facilitation group have read a different combination of panels, the (Victorian) facilitation discussion tends not to focus on individual panels but rather is a more general discussion.

On the second day, the keynote talk by **Dr Michael Abrahams Sprod** emphasised the power of the survivors' testimonies. Not only do their stories give colour and intimate details but only they can speak for the dead. Students find their testimonies to be the most compelling part of the Courage To Care exhibition. Furthermore, sometimes only they can explain certain evidence e.g., photos, films and personal items.

Eva Engel presented the Custodian Program - an attempt to retain the spirit of the survivor stories as they age and become incapacitated. Custodians are younger people who over time form an empathetic relationship with the survivor and who can hopefully give the survivor's story, maintaining its authenticity. Often survivors tell their custodians more than they tell their own children. We met three such pairs, who seemed to derive mutual benefit from the association.

NSW Curator **Lisa Corsi**, described steps taken to bring an exhibition to life.

We were shown NSW' web - casting, which enables the program to be presented from a central location to any school in the state. It is not seen as a replacement for the hands - on presentation, but as additional material. As we have experienced in Victoria, it may in particular have a place in presenting the survivor stories when they find it more difficult to travel.

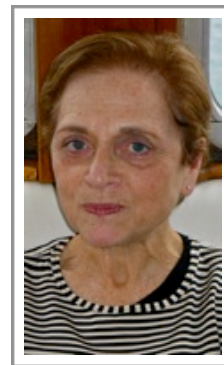
Our NSW colleagues shared a very detailed breakdown of the student evaluations of the program. It was noted that the depth of student responses depended on teacher encouragement.

Workshops were then held on a possible joint Adelaide initiative; what we had learned from each other and also a potential agenda for our next NSW/Victorian get together.

Finally we summed up and looked at "Where to from here"; "What we had learnt"; and "Any insights and future actions." In talking to other participants, I gathered a variety of viewpoints. It was a stimulating opportunity to compare and contrast both structure and content.

All who attended agreed that there is a huge potential benefit in sharing ideas and goodwill. The emphasis for the two days was on learning through experience. Respect was shown to the presenters by intelligent questions. It was a valuable exchange of experiences.

Our Sydney hosts were very friendly, hospitable and thoughtful hosts and all Victorian delegates felt the two days very worthwhile.



Ballarat Exhibition

We're looking forward with anticipation to our next Exhibition at the **Gold Museum** in Ballarat, where we return for the third time in the history of Courage to Care (Vic.). The Exhibition will run from May 24th to June 4th, including the opportunity to attend Shabbat (Sabbath) services at the historic Ballarat synagogue on Friday night 28th. and Saturday morning 29th May.



Diary Dates for 2010

Ballarat	EXHIBITION	
	Ballarat Gold Museum	24th May - 4th June 2010
	Bradshaw St, Golden Point	
	Official Opening	24th May at 7.30pm
	Ballarat Synagogue	
	Cnr Princes & Barkly Sts	
	Ballarat East	
	Services: -	
	Kabbalat Shabbat	Friday 28th July at 5.30pm
	Shabbat	Saturday 29th July at 9.30am
North Melbourne	EXHIBITION	
	North Melbourne Town Hall	12th - 23rd July 2010
	521 Queensberry St	
	Official Opening	12th July at 7.30pm
St Kilda	Jewish Museum Of Australia	26th July - 31st August 2010
	26 Alma Rd	
	St Kilda	
Balwyn/Kew	EXHIBITION	5th - 15th October 2010
	Venue to be advised	

Looking for a **Tax Deduction** before June 30th??

Courage To Care has Tax deductibility for all **Donations** from Individuals and Businesses. We also welcome donations from both Family, Philanthropic and Charitable Trusts. And we welcome Bequests in Wills.

As you will have read in the articles on previous pages, we're in great demand from many Victorian centres to stage our Exhibition. We don't charge any organisation to stage our Exhibition, relying on donations and funds from our sponsors. So if you or your business or Trust would like tax deductibility in this current financial year, please contact our Project Coordinator, **Heidi Hayden**.

Courage To Care (Vic) Inc.

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