



MAY 2022  
NEWSLETTER  
[jcas.org.au](http://jcas.org.au)

## News & features

President's Message  
Page 1

Meet our new Ambassador:  
Donna Cohen  
Page 2

A Chat with  
Rosalie Silverstein OAM  
Page 3

The Viewpoint: Psychology and  
Counselling  
PoshOpp Reworked: Posh Opp  
Shoppes' upcycling program  
Page 4

JCAS  
Who are we?  
Making a real difference.  
Page 5

A message to our supporters.  
Page 6

## President's Message

It is so pleasing that we have now emerged from 2 very difficult years during which, due to generous community support, JCAS has been able to continue our support of so many children with special needs wishing to attend in Jewish day schools and participate fully in school life.



This year particular attention is focused on our wonderful Posh Opp Shoppes which are now back in full swing under the extraordinary guidance of Rosalie Silverstein OAM and her team. We are proud to have partnered with Rotary Caulfield in advancing the cause of sustainability and promoting opportunity shops in the City of Glen Eira.

Look out for the exciting new initiatives at the Posh Opp Shoppes in coming months, such as our upstyling program named "Poshopp Reworked" and a forthcoming fashion parade. You can read more about these initiatives in this newsletter.

We are honoured to welcome Donna Cohen as a JCAS Ambassador. Donna has volunteered at the Posh Opp Shoppes for many years and we are very pleased that she has agreed to take on a more formal role with JCAS in promoting its mission of "Education, Inclusion and Belonging".

### DONATE NOW

Thank you again for your ongoing interest and support.

Warmest regards  
Trevor Cohen AM  
President  
Jewish Children's Aid Society Inc



# Meet Our New Ambassador - Donna Cohen

We are proud to announce that Donna Cohen has become a JCAS Ambassador.

In 1990, Donna was hit by a young driver after returning to her sister's home in Toorak following an outing with her niece. She defied her doctors' prediction that, best case scenario, she would live in a vegetative state and, with the help of her family, friends, a team of carers and years of rehabilitation she re-learned to walk, talk and live a meaningful life.

JCAS President Trevor Cohen said Donna's appointment as the first JCAS Ambassador is "fitting" given the "strength, resilience and determination" she has shown in tackling her challenges physically and mentally. "The aim of our organisation is to foster an inclusive and accessible environment in our day schools and Donna symbolises these goals".


Her appointment comes after more than 20 years of service as a volunteer at the Posh Opp Shoppe, which is one of JCAS' main fundraising avenues. Donna is also a regular on the speaking circuit, sharing her cautionary tale with high school students as they embark on the journey of becoming probationary drivers.

"JCAS touches nearly every classroom of every Jewish school ... in doing

so, it educates everybody in the class about the importance of acceptance and inclusion for all children," Donna said.

"I hope that by giving some sense of what it is like to have my challenges and how I have attained a real strength, happiness and meaning by finding my place in society, people might want to help others find their strength, happiness and meaning through inclusion and acceptance of children with extra needs".



  <i>Proudly Supporting</i>  <b>Jewish Children's Aid Society</b>        Level 7 616 St Kilda Road Melbourne Vic 3004	<b>Chartered Accountants &amp; Business Advisors</b>  <b>Partners</b> Joseph Franck Mark Saltzman Gideon Rathner Danny Lustig Joseph Kalb Daniel Franck Loren Datt   T: 3 9525 3777 F: 3 9537 1104 <a href="http://www.lowelippmann.com.au">www.lowelippmann.com.au</a>
---	---

Proud supporters of The Jewish Children Aid Society	
	
Commercial Real Estate Expertise. Sales, Leasing and Property Management. Visit <a href="http://allardshelton.com.au">allardshelton.com.au</a> or call 03 9654 3222.	
	

# A Chat with Rosalie Silverstein OAM

## How did you become involved in the Posh Opp Shoppe?

I was invited onto the Jewish Orphan's & Children's Aid Society (now JCAS) 28 years ago. The board was providing funds for integration aides for 45 children with special needs in Melbourne Jewish schools.

When I saw how necessary it was to make more funds available for these special children, I suggested the board provide me with a shop to sell second hand goods. Within three weeks the first store was bought at 1172 Glenhuntly Rd, Glenhuntly and in 12 weeks after

a lot of work, the shop was up and running. I stood there every day and people donated goods and before I knew it, I had fifteen volunteers. The store was extremely successful. This was how the Posh Opp Shoppe started.



Three years later we moved to a larger store on the corner of Grange Rd and Glenhuntly Rd which we still run today. This was a larger store which provided more space to sell a wider variety of goods including furniture.

Twelve years later we opened our newest store at 484 Glenhuntly Rd, Elsternwick which people really love and is very popular.

## How have opp shops changed over the years?

Opp Shops have become much more popular. More people need opp shops today. They are in more people's price range. Many people also prefer to buy second hand as it has a lesser impact on the environment. More people are environmentally aware.

## What was the most surprising item donated to the Posh Opp Shoppes?

We've had false teeth, marriage certificates and many family photos.

## What items can you never have enough of?

Good quality clothing, ornaments, art work, lamps, music systems and records.

## What's the best bargain going at the moment?

You can buy a pair of jeans for \$5, shirts for \$5, jumpers \$8 and dresses \$10.

## How can High Streets compete with online shopping?

We are an emporium offering a wide variety of goods at the one place. Many people who buy at our store are often surprised with what they purchased. It is often something they weren't expecting to buy.

It can be like a treasure hunt.

I think this creates a tactile interesting experience for customers which they wouldn't get online.

## Thanks for your time Rosalie. Any words in closing for the JCAS community?

It is such an amazing program helping so many special needs children. It's a program that everyone in the community should be very proud of. Any way that you can help or give in support of our program, please do so.



Come and visit Rosalie and the team at The Posh Opp Shoppe  
484 Glenhuntly Rd Elsternwick Tuesday to Friday 10am-4:30pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm.

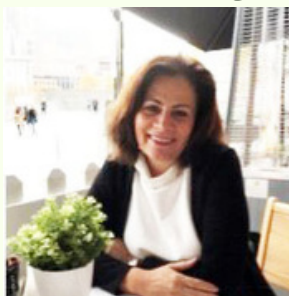
1226 Glenhuntly Rd Glenhuntly Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday  
10am-4:30pm.



# The Viewpoint: Psychology and Counselling

By Adele Ribnick, Psychologist

In the first time in the award's 62-year history, a person with a visible disability, Dylan Alcott – tennis champion, Paralympian and disability advocate – has been named the 2022 Australian of the Year. Dylan has spoken openly about his experiences growing up where he was subjected



to bullying and discrimination regarding his disability. In acknowledging being the recipient of the award, on 25 January 2022 Dylan tweeted: "Wow. I'm forever grateful. My purpose today and every day is to change perceptions so people with disability can live the lives they deserve to live".

Having worked as a psychologist for many years in both the government and independent school systems, I note that the care provided for students can sometimes fall through the gaps and that there can be a large deficit in the knowledge of how best to work with and support children and young people with disabilities. There is overwhelming evidence from research and thus consensus on the importance of schools providing an inclusive education and that is why additional funding is so important. Additional funding can be used to secure valuable resources to holistically support students with a disability. For example, funding may be used for integration aids / education support staff, speech and/or behavioural therapists, modifications to adapt the physical environment, educational tools and teaching resources.

Shortly after moving to Melbourne, I began working within the Jewish school system and attended a meeting arranged by JCAS. I soon learnt of the long history of JCAS (being one of the oldest running Jewish charities in Melbourne) and became acutely aware of the valuable impact that JCAS funding has had on young persons, particularly young persons with disabilities. This impact extends beyond the individual, it is also greatly beneficial for the friends, families and schools, and the broader social networks – their communities. It was at that first meeting that I was introduced to Sharon Goodhardt (JCAS Schools Coordinator) whom I subsequently relied on heavily for support, insight and guidance in navigating the application process for funding. Sharon was always readily available to answer any queries, talk through aspects of what supports may need to be in place and I always had great confidence in her professionalism and confidentiality.

JCAS funding has had an unparalleled impact in this space, and I am confident that it has made a marked and meaningful difference in the lives of many. This is thanks to the work of Sharon Goodhardt and the JCAS team, the work of volunteers and the JCAS sponsors.

**EDUCATION | INCLUSION | BELONGING**

## The Posh Opp Shoppes' new Upcycling Program:

**POSHOPP**  
*Reworked*

We are very excited about our new sewing room at our Glenhuntly store and our volunteer development program in fashion upcycling, called "Poshopp Reworked". We have paired 3 RMIT fashion design students / graduates (Lily Edney, Laura Feng and Sunjin Kim) with 3 mentors (Debbie Cohen, Jeanette Damen and Carmella Rauchberger) who work together to create one-of-a-kind special pieces. These garments will be sold later in the year.

This upcycling program was the brainchild of our social media volunteer, Alex Szuster, who has brought a wonderful energy to JCAS and has worked with JCAS board member Melody Curtis to create the "Poshopp Reworked" brand and find our talented design volunteers. Alex explains that upcycling is a process that transforms an item from our shop into something different and often not identifiable from the original piece. The designer may unravel threads, perhaps transform sheets or table cloths, change buttons, embroider, paint or repair goods to create unique and special pieces. Each garment is created with enthusiasm, craftsmanship and passion. Jeanette Damen, one of our mentors, could not resist the challenge and has joined our young designers in also creating beautiful pieces!

Debbie Cohen, another one of our mentors, is planning a fashion parade later in the year to showcase the achievements of the team. Importantly, this event will promote sustainability and also the inclusion of people with disabilities, a cause that is very important to JCAS. We are partnering with All Things Equal for catering and we will be including some talented models with disabilities and an inspiring address by JCAS' new Ambassador, Donna Cohen.

We are so pleased to have engaged with the Spotlight Foundation in this program, (Continued below)

## Who are we?

If you would like to find out more about who we are, please visit us at [JCAS](#)

Some FAQs about us:

**1. What is JCAS' mission?** Our mission is to support students with special needs to attend Melbourne Jewish day schools and to ensure that they can participate in mainstream classrooms and school life.

**2. Where does my donation go?** We fund the cost of teachers' assistants and aides which are not covered by government subsidies and other sources. We also provide emergency funding in exceptional circumstances; eg for education of a child requiring prolonged hospitalisation or time away from school due to illness.

**3. What percentage of funds raised go directly towards the cause?** 99%

**4. Who benefits from JCAS?** The children with special needs and their families. In addition, a whole generation of school children are also educated to embrace difference. We also run a training program for teachers' assistants supported by Gandel philanthropy, and supply ongoing training for the assistants which is important vocational training and can assist them in later job qualifications.

**5. What is the relationship between JCAS and the Posh Opp Shoppes?** We are the organisation that set up and runs the opportunity shops.

**6. How does JCAS raise funds?** JCAS raises funds from proceeds of the Posh Opp Shoppes and generous donations from supporters in the community.

**7. How much does a full-time teacher's assistant cost?** Upwards of \$45,000.

**8. How many children does JCAS assist?** Since our program began in 1990 we have assisted over 1000 children with disabilities. This year we are assisting 247 students across 11 Jewish day schools, who are supported by over 110 teachers' assistants.

**9. Doesn't the NDIS pay towards this?** No. The NDIS supports children out of school hours.

## The Posh Opp Shoppes' new Upcycling Program: Poshopp Reworked (continued)

who have provided us with sewing machines and other essential items. We have also partnered with Rotary Caulfield to advance the cause of sustainability and the promotion of opportunity shops in the City of Glen Eira. We are excited that they are making a film and have created a booklet which features our Posh Opp Shoppes and Poshopp Reworked.



Some of our enthusiastic interns:  
(l-r) Lily, Sunjin, Alex, Laura

## JCAS making a real difference



"JCAS plays a vital role in supporting Jewish education within our community. So many students have been able to thrive as a direct consequence of the generous support offered by JCAS to ensure that their academic, social and emotional needs are met. I am so grateful for JCAS's support in assisting our students to overcome obstacles in order to achieve to their potential."

**Marc Light, Principal, The King David School**

"Thank you JCAS for supporting us once again in the 2021 school year. It has been a difficult year, with many children finding their learning challenging because of neurodiverse difficulties. These difficulties were exacerbated by COVID. Your support assists us in helping these children to learn and function in the classroom and beyond. We cannot thank you enough for this support."

**Mrs Reichenberg, Head of Girls' Primary General Studies, Adass Israel School**

"Some of our students have been very fortunate to benefit from the additional funds that we received from JCAS. As an aide who has worked in the Jewish Day School system over the last 6 years, it has been amazing to see how the extra support has helped some of our students. Without this support, some students would not be able to be in a mainstream school."

**Deby Rubin-David, Aide, Leibler Yavneh College**

# A MESSAGE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all our loyal sponsors listed below, and to all of our other generous donors and supporters.

If you are interested in supporting our mission of “Education, Inclusion and Belonging” for children, there are many ways you can do this:

- make a tax-deductible donation to JCAS
- consider JCAS in lieu of gifts for your family’s bat or bar mitzvah and other simchas
- shop at the Posh Opp Shoppe, either in-store or online at our eBay and facebook stores. You’ll find great bargains and you’ll be supporting JCAS’ mission
- donate good quality items you no longer use to the Posh Opp Shoppe
- become a volunteer in the Posh Opp Shoppe, to assist Rosalie Silverstein OAM and her dedicated team

Now, more than ever, children with special needs and their families require our support so they can participate fully in school life and enjoy the opportunities every child deserves.

Please consider supporting JCAS.

<https://www.jcas.org.au/>

## THANK YOU HALLIE

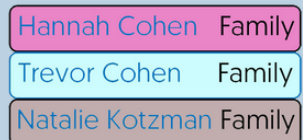
Bat Mitzvah girl, Hallie Cohen chose to support JCAS in honour of her special occasion.

Hallie is pictured with our new Ambassador, Donna Cohen and board member, Melody Curtis receiving a certificate in gratitude of her generosity.



## DONATE NOW

And a big thank you to all our loyal supporters listed below, and to our many generous donors.



Proud sponsors of  
Jewish Children's  
Aid Society

