



NOVEMBER 2021  
NEWSLETTER  
[jcas.org.au](http://jcas.org.au)

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## President's Message

The last two years have taken their toll on everyone, but especially children. In October, JCAS was pleased to announce a special payment of \$5,000 to each of the 11 Jewish day schools in Melbourne, to help our schools make sure that children have all the support they need as they return to the classroom. This is in addition to the significant support we have been able to provide to 247 students with special needs this year, to the tune of \$667,500.



At JCAS we are proud that we are able to support children with special needs and their families, and to carry on our important mission of "Education, Inclusion and Belonging" throughout the pandemic. This has been made possible by the generous support of our amazing donors, and the enormous work of our volunteer board members and our Schools Coordinator, Sharon Goodhardt.

We are very excited that the Posh Opp Shoppes are (again) back in full swing! Make sure you pay a visit and browse the many bargains on offer. If you have any quality goods and collectibles to donate, or if you are interested in volunteering in the shops, Rosalie Silverstein OAM and her dedicated team would love to hear from you. You can read more from Rosalie below.

We can only fulfil our important mission with your support. Please consider making a donation to JCAS. Your support will make the world of difference.

### DONATE NOW

Thank you again for your ongoing interest and support.

Warmest regards

Trevor Cohen AM  
President, Jewish Children's Aid Society Inc

## New Logos, Same Mission



We are excited to reveal our new logos!

For the JCAS logo, “Education, Inclusion and Belonging” for children underlie everything we do at JCAS, and our bright new logo encapsulates this.

The Posh Opp Shoppe logo is a modern and updated version of our old logo.

We hope you like them!

JCAS gratefully acknowledges Australian Jewish Funders and their Catchafire program which gave us access to a fabulous Canada based graphics design volunteer who created these logos.

## Extra mental health support for our schools

In October, JCAS was pleased to make a special payment of \$5,000 to each of the 11 Jewish day schools, to provide extra mental health support as children return to the classroom after another extended lockdown and period of home learning.

This special payment was in addition to the funding that JCAS already provides the schools, and it can be used by the schools in various ways to support mental health:

- To employ an accredited trainer to teach staff in school to recognise the early indicators of mental health issues in children and adults
- To increase the counselling support offered to students by a registered mental health professional
- A short course for students student on building resilience, increasing self esteem or managing social media

## JCAS Intern Program

by Demi Kapul

In an ever-competitive working world it can be increasingly difficult for our youth to be given a chance to shine. They are bursting with creativity, initiative, and intelligence but they need an avenue to showcase their talents. This is where JCAS comes in. A new Mentorship program has been created with several intern positions being highly sought after by youth seeking to gain valuable work experience. All the interns are very thankful to have been selected and, personally, I have found the internship to be a fun and meaningful experience that has helped me build my portfolio.



The newest initiative, 'Posh Opp Re-worked', gives a few lucky students the opportunity to gain industry experience in Up-cycling old clothing that will then be sold in the Posh Opp Shoppe as one-off creations. This initiative has been a dream come true for organiser Alex Szuster who explains “I have always wanted to join the fashion world and have my own business. So Posh Opp Re-worked has become my little baby project and given me the chance to develop these skills. Now we have three interns and four mentors and it's the start of something incredible”. We are also hoping to have a Merchandising mentor and intern soon. Melody Curtis (JCAS board member) said: “We are thrilled to be involved in this new initiative that will provide a great work experience program together with a social enterprise venture”



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

# What are we, if not family?

by Demi Kapul

Nothing is more important than family, and here at the **Posh Opp Shoppe** we are just that, family. The **Posh Opp Shoppe** was established to raise funds to pay for teachers' aides who assist children with special needs to integrate into mainstream Jewish day schools. Over 250 students and their families benefit every year from these funds.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers have become a true family united by their desire to help others through charity. Rosalie Silverstein OAM has run the Posh Opp Shoppe since it first opened 23 years ago. Having parents with strong philanthropic values, the importance of charity was instilled in Rosalie from a young age.

Our family is not complete without acknowledging the generous donors and shoppers who have provided unwavering support throughout the years. The **Posh Opp Shoppe** team still have plenty of love to share so why not come on down and join our ever-growing family? Have an adventure getting lost in the endless aisles of clothes, books, toys, shoes, bags, and so much more. Donate any goods you may have outgrown or are collecting dust in your homes. Make some new friends amongst fellow volunteers by helping price and sort and sell items. There are so many ways you can be involved as part of our family! Just click [here](#).



## POSH OPP SHOPPE

The Posh Opp Shoppes are  
back in full swing - again!

The Posh Opp Shoppe at  
484 Glenhuntly Rd Elsternwick is  
fully open and back to regular  
trading hours of Tuesday to

Friday

10am-4:30pm and

Saturday

10am-4pm.

The Glenhuntly store at  
1226 Glenhuntly Rd is also open,  
on

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and  
Saturday from  
10am-4:30pm.

Come in and visit Rosalie and the team! Amongst the bargains and collectibles, you'll find second-hand uniforms for Bialik and Mt Scopus at the Elsternwick store, and King David uniforms at the Glenhuntly store.

We would love to receive your donated items, especially any collectibles, jewellery, watches, cameras, brand name clothes, Xbox or Nintendo consoles and games, records, glass and any precious items. So if you have something sitting in your cupboards not being used, please consider the Posh Opp Shoppes: it could be sold to help kids with special needs.

To arrange pick up or if you have any queries, please contact the Elsternwick store (9528-1777) or Glenhuntly store (9572-2248).

For larger furniture items, please contact Jason directly on 0402 317020.





# 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.

# JCAS making a real difference



"Nothing I write can express fully the appreciation we have for JCAS and the work they do. For many children, having additional support in the classroom means that they have access to learning, enabling them to reach their potential academically, develop social skills and emotional well-being. The impact improves the wellbeing of children, their families, and their teachers." **(Parent and teacher, Leibler Yavneh College)**

"The amazing aide in my classroom is gentle natured, kind and dedicated. She reinforces previously taught strategies enabling my student to complete tasks more confidently. This has lowered his anxiety and his work output is of a higher standard due to the one on one support he is receiving."

**(Teacher, Leibler Yavneh College)**

"Working as a LSA at Bialik college has been one of my most rewarding experiences. Within a class of students, each have individual needs and requirements for them to best thrive. I, along with the support of therapists, parents and the College, have been able to help students give their best efforts; ultimately developing their best selves. JCAS's support is invaluable in ensuring each child has the opportunity to reach their potential and feel successful throughout their schooling. I am very grateful for the opportunity afforded by the College and JCAS's partnership and look forward to seeing their continual impact on the lives of many."

**(Current support aide – and former student of Bialik Student who received support from JCAS)**

"I am currently a support worker and integration aide, responsible for working with a 14-year-old boy who has Down Syndrome. The funding and support JCAS provides allows me to help the boy I work with succeed in his studies. He is able to learn at his own place and loves doing work. The support from JCAS has allowed me to provide proper educational support for the child and as a result, the student is able to achieve his full academic potential. The child has progressed a long way since the beginning of his learning experience at his current school. Initially, he would often run out of class and was unable to process information that was being taught to him. As a result of sufficient funding being provided, I have been able to develop and implement effective strategies to ensure that the child is learning to his fullest capacity."

**(Support Worker and Integration Aide, Cheder Levi Yitzchok)**

# THANK YOU

## Gandel Foundation: an enduring relationship

Gandel Foundation continued its wonderful support for JCAS in 2021, increasing its financial support in response to the impact that COVID-19 had on JCAS' usual fundraising activities.

Gandel Foundation is a longstanding supporter of JCAS' mission, having been instrumental in establishing the excellent training events JCAS conducts for teachers' assistants at our Jewish schools, where they have benefited from the opportunity to come together both face-to-face and online. For example, at our training day held at Bialik College in 2020 – our largest ever – 116 teachers' aides attended and enjoyed expert training and also the opportunity to interact, share experiences and develop new skills which are of lasting benefit for the attendees and for the children in their care.

As one aide reported: "Most importantly, a great number of us were able to come together and appreciate our roles and responsibilities, but also to realise that we are not alone." This is a view shared by many who have attended the JCAS training events, which have been made possible through the generous support of Gandel Foundation.

A big thank you to Gandel Foundation!

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

Please consider supporting JCAS.

DONATE NOW



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Telephone: (03) 9091 4999  
Suite 6, 115 Hawthorn Road Caulfield North Vic 3161

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