



ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ARZA AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT

It is with pleasure that I report on the activities of ARZA Australia to the Annual General Meeting for the 2019-20 year, being held on November 17, 2020.

I was delighted to be elected President of Australia's Progressive Zionist organization at its 2019 AGM, and at the same time also elected as Vice President of the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ.)

My predecessor, Steve Denenberg had devoted more than a decade to ARZA Australia both as President and CEO. He has continued as the Immediate Past President and been very active and supportive in that role. I thank him for all his support and assistance.

In building the new board, ARZA was fortunate that some experienced board members remained on the board providing expertise in financial reporting (thanks to Tony Leverton) and Membership list building (thanks to Philip Levy, who has also been a Vice President)). We were also fortunate to recruit some new and young members to the Board, with 40% now being under the age of 35 years. We are most fortunate that the Netzer Mazkir, Lior Kalisse has joined our board as an Ex Officio Member along with the Netzer Shaliach Sefi Shalam. It has been a pleasure working with them. They have joined Sue Silberberg, our other Vice President in forming a sub-committee to look at ARZA Australia's role in the community going forward. A new member of the board, Alex Knopoff from Adelaide took on the role of Secretary and has done a great job. Our thanks go to her.

As you probably know, ARZA Australia is the Zionist/political arm of the UPJ. At a planning weekend of the UPJ held in Sydney in February 2020, an agreement was made that moving forward, the UPJ, ARZA Australia and the Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors (ARC) would work together in mutual co-operation and communication. This was done to ensure that the Australian Progressive Movement as much as possible speaks in unison with one voice in support of Eretz Israel and our Jewish beliefs.

With the World Zionist Congress planned for October 2020, the Australian Progressive Movement hoped to maximize its voice in Israel in support of Pluralism and equality in the Jewish Democratic State. To this end ARZA Australia moved to

encourage all Progressive Jews to join as members to ensure the four mandates held by ARZA at the 2015 World Zionist Congress would be maintained.

ARZA successfully participated in the Area Election Committee and maintained the current number of WZC delegates, with a 30% increase in membership numbers making ARZA the largest Zionist organization in Australia. It was disappointing that the congress could not take place in person, but through the hard work of our world body, ARZENU, we were able to participate in the proceedings and a wonderful pre congress program provided by ARZENU. We now look forward to a gathering in Israel in 2021.

Through the tireless efforts of Philip Levy, our retiring male Vice President from Sydney, ARZA now has a comprehensive membership list. This means we can provide a weekly communication to all ARZA members and members of UPJ Congregations.

It is published in the UPJ News and Drash and emailed to ARZA members. It forms the basis of regular posts to the ARZA website, Facebook and Twitter. Statements on key issues such as annexation, normalisation with Arab States, gender equality, equality in Israel for the varying streams of Judaism and other issues are published, often jointly with the UPJ and ARC.

ARZA Australia has now established a sub- committee which is in the process of examining our role in the community going forward. With an increased membership and good relations with Zionist roof bodies, such as the Zionist Federation of Australia, State based Zionist organizations, our world roof body ARZENU, the World Union of Progressive Judaism and the World Zionist Organization, we look forward to broadening programs of interest to our members.

We welcome any suggestions from our members in relation to what you would like us to consider providing and how you view our current communications. Currently our work is only done by volunteers as we decided to put a moratorium on fees until next June because of hardships caused by Covid 19. However we are grateful to our partner, the UPJ for including our weekly communication in the UPJ News and Drash.

Finally, I thank the ARZA Australia Board, our members, the Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors of Australia and New Zealand and the Union for Progressive Judaism for your ongoing support, assistance and encouragement in the continued growth of ARZA Australia.

Helen Shardey

ARZA Australia President



ARZA HON. TREASURER'S REPORT 2019 – 2020

1. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the financial year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. I was honoured to be re-elected as ARZA's Honorary Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting on 8 November 2019.

2. BACKGROUND

ARZA Australia is a not-for-profit organisation, affiliated to the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) and the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA), that works to represent and promote the views and values of Progressive/Reform Jewish Zionists who want to help ensure that Israel lives in peace and security and that it is the democratic and egalitarian society described in its Declaration of Independence.

ARZA undertakes to use its best endeavours for the realisation of a full and free religious life for all Jews in the State of Israel. ARZA also works to strengthen the Progressive Movement in Israel, Australia and worldwide.

ARZA continually looks at expanding our membership numbers within Australia and, through our world parent body ARZENU, promoting Progressive Jewish values and ideals at the international level with the World Zionist Organisation - founded by Theodore Herzl in Basle, Switzerland in 1897.

The 38th World Zionist Congress was held on Tuesday 20 to Thursday 22 October 2020. ARZA representatives participated in this via online links.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of ARZA is open to any Jewish person who subscribes to the principles of Progressive Judaism. Membership may be gained in two ways: 1. direct application / renewal, and 2. application / renewal associated with annual congregational membership payments. The latter is our preferred approach. We are, of course, most appreciative of the continuing co-operation with synagogues who support us in this way.

Our membership as at November stands at 2,750.

4. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Result:

The Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2020 shows a net income for the year of \$34,339 (30 June 2019 – net income of \$6,717). This improvement came about primarily because of an increase in income of around \$23,000 from higher than expected affiliation fees received.

Income:

In my report last year I stated:

“It should be possible to continue to rebuild membership numbers, and this will be a priority for the incoming committee. The active support of the synagogues from the bimah, their newsletters and their membership invoicing systems are vital, as is the ongoing support from the UPJ and its Executive.”

I am pleased to report that significant improvement to our income came primarily from the extensive contacts with congregations which resulted in the collection of both membership fees for 2019/20 as well as some fees from the prior year. The variation in income across financial years highlighted the need for ARZA and congregations to review the management of both the membership rolls and income collection.

Philip Levy, our Vice-President, together with President Helen Shardey, spent many hours working with all congregations as well as our website consultant in ensuring that both the membership database was updated and agreement reached with synagogues on membership subscription collection.

Membership Fees:

In June 2020 the ARZA Executive approved the following resolution:

"The Executive support the decision by the President, arising from her discussions with the UPJ Co-Presidents, to agree to and announce the waiving of ARZA membership fees for the 2020/21 financial year - given the economic impact of Covid 19 and the need to finalise membership lists for the World Zionist Congress elections."

By these means, both administrative and policy, we were able to maximise and regularise ARZA's membership rolls and subscription collection for this year. Thank you to all who gave us so much support in upgrading our membership systems.

Of course, with the one-year waiver of membership fees comes an impact on our accumulated funds. For 2021 onwards the restoration of membership fees will be vital to assist our forward financial position.

Expenditure:

Our expenses for 2019/20 were reduced from the 2018/19 level (from \$23,473 to \$18,880).

Last year, wages (and oncosts) and grants were our two largest expenses items. Both were significantly reduced this year, when Bec Szabo ceased her one day a week employment with us in September 2019, and no grants were applied for or given, reflecting a cautious approach to our financial management. We are particularly grateful to Bec for her work over a period of 18 months with us from March 2018 and wish her every success for the future.

This year, our three largest expenses items were: website, advertising and marketing, and ZFA / WZC capitation fees.

Website costs represented regular updating by our consultant, Uptime Computer Services, of the existing website and Facebook page (including posting articles and videos) as well as compilation of and making significant improvements to the management of the membership roll.

Advertising and marketing activities were similar to last year, but with the addition of a contract with Symmetry Media in May 2020 who developed a social media engagement package for us – with particular reference to the need to ensure ARZA had as large a membership as possible for the (then) upcoming 38th World Zionist Congress.

Capitation fees for the ZFA / WZC membership rolls were an issue unique to this year, being the World Zionist Congress meeting and election year. The Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA) required Zionist groups seeking representation on Australia's voting strength at the World Zionist Congress (WZC) to make payments to cover an audit of submitted membership rolls. ARZA paid \$3,300. Following the submission of our membership roll, ZFA agreed to refund \$550 (the difference representing \$1 per ARZA member). Later, following concerns expressed by President Helen Shardey, as an audit did not take place, ZFA agreed to refund a further amount of \$1,809. Both amounts were received in the 2020/21 financial year.

Statement of Financial Position:

Our bank balance as at 30 June 2020 was \$110,631 (30 June 2019 – balance of \$74,699).

At the end of the financial year there was a Current Liability of \$1,758. This represented outstanding 2019/20 affiliation fees to the Victoria and New South Wales State Zionist Councils. These fees have since been paid. ARZA Executive were concerned about paying significant affiliation costs at both a federal and State level, and this is a matter that will be further considered during the coming financial year.

5. CONCLUSION

We have been most fortunate to obtain the services of Janet Henrie, President of Adelaide's Beit Shalom Synagogue, as financial assessor, and Debra Arnold CPA RCA (Director, Third Sector Management Solutions) as independent auditor of our accounts for this financial year. I am deeply indebted to both for their professionalism, patience and persistence in ensuring our financial activity is correctly reported. It is of significant help to us. Debra's report, together with the Statement of Financial Performance, is attached to these documents.

I take this opportunity to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to them for their technical support and sound advice. I am delighted to report that Debra Arnold is agreeable to being appointed ARZA Auditor, and Janet Henrie financial assessor for the financial year 2020/21.

I also take this opportunity to express my thanks to our President Helen Shardey, to Vice-President Philip Levy, former Hon Treasurer, and all my fellow Board members for their support, advice and guidance.



Tony Leverton
Hon. Treasurer

November 2020



ARZA AUSTRALIA INC
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

	2020 A\$	2019 A\$
INCOME		
Affiliation Fees	53,080	29,984
Donations	-	100
Interest	90	106
TOTAL INCOME	53,169	30,190
EXPENDITURES		
Accounting Fees	550	550
Administration	182	-
Advertising & Marketing	4,382	653
Affiliation Fees	2,363	1,629
Bank Fees	199	186
Consumer Affairs Fee	59	
Grants		7,000
Office Costs	165	210
Travel & Conferences	626	1,790
Wages and Oncosts	2,252	9,636
Website	4,751	1,819
ZFA / WZC Capitation Fee	3,300	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	18,830	23,473
NET SURPLUS(DEFICIT)	34,339	6,717

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	A\$	A\$
Accumulated Income at beginning of year	74,534	67,817
Accumulated Income at end of Year	108,873	74,534
CLOSING CASH AT BANK	110,631	74,699
less Accrued Expenses	1,758	165
TOTAL NET ASSETS	108,873	74,534

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of ARZA Australia Inc

I have audited the accompanying statement of income and expenditures of ARZA Australia Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management committee are responsible for the preparation and presentation of this statement. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of the statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement based on our audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of the statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Qualification

As the evidence available to me regarding income and expenditure was limited, my audit procedures with respect to cash receipts and disbursements had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the bank account records. I therefore am unable to express an opinion on whether the recorded income and expenditure of ARZA Australia Inc is complete.

Opinion

In my opinion, the statement of income and expenditures of ARZA Australia Inc referred to above, presents fairly, in all material respects the income and expenditures of ARZA Australia Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.



Debra Arnold CPA
Director
Registered Company Auditor # 45005

Date: 19 October 2020

INCOMING BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

President	Helen Shardey (Victoria)
Immediate Past President	Steve Denenberg (NSW)
Vice President	Sue Silberberg (Victoria)
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Leverton (Queensland)
Honorary Secretary	Alex Knopoff (SA)

Committee members:

Cassandra Barrett (Victoria)

Ex Oficio members:

Rabbi Nicole Roberts (President, Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors)

Rabbi Are Morgan (Vice President, Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors & ARZA Rabbinic Advisor)

Safi Shalam (Community Shaliach)

Lior Kalisse (Mazkir, Netzer Australia)



ARZA: REPORT ON THE MEMBERSHIP PROJECT
AGM 17 November 2020

A comprehensive and accurate membership list is vital for any organisation, in order to communicate to members and as a legal requirement. The majority of our members join through their synagogue memberships, and do it at the same time as they renew their annual synagogue fees. The synagogues collect both membership data and fees on behalf of ARZA and send it on to us. This is a most valuable service as we do not have the administrative resources or computer system to do it entirely by ourselves.

In January we decided to review these procedures to streamline them for both the synagogues and for ARZA. The result is a better process, agreed with the synagogues, and a more accurate and up to date membership list. We also took the opportunity to increase our numbers by offering free membership for a limited time of one year. This was effective in adding about 300 members. Synagogues will resume invoicing our fee of \$18 per person per year in the financial year starting 1 July 2021.

We now have a complete membership list, with a total of 2676 members. We will update this by getting a new list from each synagogue in October each year. We can also add members if they join by using our website during the year.

We collect our data from the synagogues and then outsource the subsequent consolidation to a professional service (Uptime Computer). The list is also used for the emails which we use to communicate with the majority of our members. A few do not use email and for those we rely on their looking at the website or by Facebook. In some cases we have to use surface mail.

The project was time consuming and detailed and we would like to express our thanks to our 10 participating synagogues for their patience and cooperation in this project. Their involvement has greatly added to ARZA's strength and communication with our members.

Philip Levy

NSW vice-president