



Executive Council of Australian Jewry

The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

MEDIA RELEASE

4 December 2006

ECAJ co-sponsors groundbreaking program for young Australian and New Zealand Jewish leaders

Grahame Leonard, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the peak body of the Australian Jewish community, has announced the outstanding success of a groundbreaking program for young Jewish leaders from Australia and New Zealand.

Leonard said:

“The brainchild of the ECAJ and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture in New York, this exciting four-day conference followed the proven model of the latter’s Nahum Goldmann Seminars.

Bringing together the best and brightest of tomorrow’s leaders of Australia’s and New Zealand’s Jewish communities, young people from Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Canberra and Auckland, the conference was fortunate to have Professor Steven Bayme, Director of Jewish Life at the American Jewish Committee, as its scholar in residence. Aply assisted by Yair Miller, Lynda Dave and Peta Jones Pellach, Professor Bayme led the enthusiastic participants through an in-depth examination of a wide range of issues affecting the contemporary Jewish world. These included such diverse subjects as ‘Achieving and Celebrating Jewish Distinctiveness’ and ‘The Next Generation’s Encounter with Israel and its Role and Responsibilities’.”

Conference convenor Yair Miller commented, “This is the only event in Australia where post-AUJS young leaders have had the opportunity to come together, study, network and look at the type of Jewish community we want for our future. We provided an all-encompassing Jewish environment, including a Shabbaton which was a significant bonding experience for the group.”

Leonard continued, “The young leaders’ conference was especially timed to coincide with the ECAJ’s Annual General Meeting and Conference, an important theme of which was the future of Australian Jewry. A major highlight for the ECAJ delegates and the Nahum Goldmann participants was a joint session entitled ‘Creating an Inclusive Jewish Community for Our Future’. This included workshops where the leaders of today and tomorrow undertook fruitful discussion resulting in a number of productive and practical suggestions for future activities and programs.”

Leonard concluded, “If the dynamism, dedication and constructive thinking of the past few days were any indication, the future of the Australian Jewish community is in very capable hands. The ECAJ is committed to building on this positive and uplifting experience”

Further information: Yair Miller 0410-662999

Socialising at the ECAJ Annual Conference

26th November 2006

