CREMORNE
SYNAGOGUE

The Bondi Tragedy
14th December 2025



Letters

From: **Louise Ritchard** lkritchard@gmail.com
Subject: Thinking of you and your community
Date: 17 December 2025 at 3:21 pm
To: info@cremornesynagogue.com

Dear Rabbi Mendel and your local congregation

I wanted to let you know that you are all in my thoughts. You are such valued and loved members of our community in the lower north shore.

I have reached out to the members of your community I know personally but I wanted to send you a message as well.

I am sure you are all grieving after the tragic and horrific events in Bondi and all personally affected. I just wanted to say how very sorry I am for you all - the pain, loss and fear. I send on my heartfelt condolences.

I know this isn't much but I hope that it helps just a tiny bit to know that you are in our thoughts and sending love to you all.

Please don't reply - focus on your community.

Louise

From: **Nicholas Dettmann** ndettmann@mac.com
Subject: The outrage at Bondi Beach last Sunday
Date: 17 December 2025 at 2:32 pm
To: info@cremornesynagogue.com

Rabbi Mendel Slavin
Cremorne Synagogue
12a Yeo Street
Neutral Bay
NSW 2089

Dear Rabi Mendel Slavin

I wish to extend my condolences to the Jewish community in Neutral Bay, and indeed to the entire Australian Jewish community, for the outrageous attack on those attending what should have remained a joyous celebration at Bondi Beach on Sunday.

I do so as a fellow member of the Neutral Bay community, and an atheist who sees much to admire in the Jewish religion as in many other religions.

I have underestimated the danger of rising anti-semitism to the Jewish community, and to the rest of the general Australian community of which Jewish people are an integral part. I regret that.

I wish to express my personal determination to stand with the Jewish community in Australia and elsewhere against intolerance and prejudice of all kinds, especially anti-semitism.

In a pluralistic society such as in Australia people hold a wide variety of opinions and beliefs. That is one of our strengths. However I am confident that the overwhelming majority of Australians and others living here feel as I do.

Events and policies from time to time such as our treatment of refugees, of Aboriginal people, of the disadvantaged, and of course Sunday's tragedy, sometimes challenge my belief in the basic decency of Australians. However the overwhelming public reaction of outrage, sympathy and support for the Jewish community has gone a long way to strengthen my belief.

With sympathy, goodwill and kindest personal regards

Sincerely

Nick Dettmann

Nicholas Dettmann
120 Wycombe Road
Neutral Bay NSW 2089
Australia

Postal address: PO Box 603
Neutral Bay NSW 2089 Australia

Phone: 0417 430 852
Email: ndettmann@mac.com

From: **Rashed, Moody** Moody.Rashed@afp.gov.au
Subject: Update: Operation Arques / Standing with your community [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: 17 December 2025 at 2:42 pm
To: info@cremornesynagogue.com
Cc: CLT-NSW CLT-NSW@afp.gov.au

OFFICIAL

Dear Bryan,

Thank you for taking the time today to show us around the synagogue. Although our attendance was brief, I wanted to let you know that you can reach out to us at any time and we'd be more than happy assist however we can.

I wanted to reach out personally to ensure you have the latest information and to reassure you of our absolute commitment to your safety.

Status of Investigation
As you may have seen, this incident has been declared a terrorist act. The Joint Counter Terrorism Team (JCTT) comprising the AFP, NSW Police, and ASIO has established Operation Arques to investigate this matter fully. We are deploying every available resource to ensure those responsible are held to account and to identify any further risks.

Security and Support
While NSW Police are leading the immediate on-ground response, the AFP is working lock-step with them. You will likely see a heightened police presence around synagogues, schools, and community hubs in the coming days. This is a precautionary measure to ensure your community feels safe to grieve and gather.

Contact
Please consider me your direct point of contact for any AFP related concerns or questions you may have in the coming days. Do not hesitate to call my mobile, day or night.

Support is available:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

We stand beside you.

Kind Regards,

MOODY RASHED
A/ SENIOR COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER
EASTERN COMMAND
Tel: +61 (0)2 51266129 Ext: 266129 Mob: +61 (0)461463428

AFP

The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

Brian,

On Sunday evening, we witnessed an unfathomable event at Bondi Beach.

On the first day of Chanukah, a celebration of bringing light into darkness, Bondi, Sydney and Australia experienced one of its darkest days.

To our Jewish friends: we stand with you. To all families and friends of those affected: I extend my condolences, prayers and love to you all. And to our first responders: thank you for your courage and care in these circumstances.

There'll be plenty to digest, learn from and act upon in coming weeks and months. For now, lots of you may be wondering how you can respond in a practical way to these horrific attacks on the Jewish-Australian community.

First, please reach out to any Jewish Australians you may know. Let them know you care and that you stand with them. An attack on Jewish Australians is an attack on us all.

For all of us, help is available if you need it.

NSW Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511
Lifeline: 13 11 14
13 Yarn: 13 92 76

In ordinary circumstances at this time of year, we would be organising our Christmas in the Piazza event. This year, we have made the decision to cancel this event.

Attached below is my November Wrap Up. It gives a quick wrap of what's been happening this past month.

Again, I send all of my love, prayers and condolences to the friends and families of those affected. And thank you to our police, ambulance service, and heroic Australians who assisted those in need.

'f you need anything from me or my office, please contact us at jerome@jeromelaxale.com.

Thank you.



Jerome Laxale MP
Federal Member for Bennelong

Cremorne & District Hebrew Congregation
A.B.N. 78 000 287 249
12A Yeo Street, Neutral Bay NSW 2089
Rabbi: Mendel Slavin | Tel: 0449 527 514 | rabbi@cremornesynagogue.com

Dear Neighbours and Friends,

We are deeply moved by the love you have shown us. The flowers, the cards, the messages, the calls, the quiet moments of care have encircled our community in compassion at a time of deep pain.

Most of the flowers have now been brought inside and placed in water so they can be preserved. People coming in to pray and connect stop, breathe in their scent and feel held. In the midst of grief, your kindness gives us real strength.

Many of you have asked what you can do to help. Thank G-d, while we are heartbroken and grieving, we are okay. But for the families of the victims, this tragedy is not a moment, it is their new reality.

A charity campaign has been established, with 100% of the funds going directly to these families. If you would like to help, please visit www.charidy.com/supportsydney or scan the QR code below. May your kindness return to you in every manner of goodness and blessing.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,

Rabbi Mendel Slavin
Cremorne Synagogue

ב"ה
ק"ק שערי צדק

CREMORNE SYNAGOGUE

A.B.N. 78 000 287 249
P.O. BOX 126, NEUTRAL BAY JUNCTION 2089
12A YEO STREET NEUTRAL BAY 2089
Rabbi Mendel Slavin
Telephone 0449 527 514
Email: rabbi@cremornesynagogue.com
Hon Secretary Hiram Doobov
Telephone 9427 2182
Email: info@cremornesynagogue.com

Dear Friends,

Our hearts are shattered in light of the tragic attack that took place this afternoon at Bondi Beach.

We are experiencing such darkness, which can only be fought with light. The fact that such darkness has manifested on the eve of Chanukah, our festival of light, calls us to redouble our efforts to bring more light to our world. Light your menorah this Chanukah in merit of a full recovery for our injured and for the aliyat haneshamah (elevation of soul) of our victims.

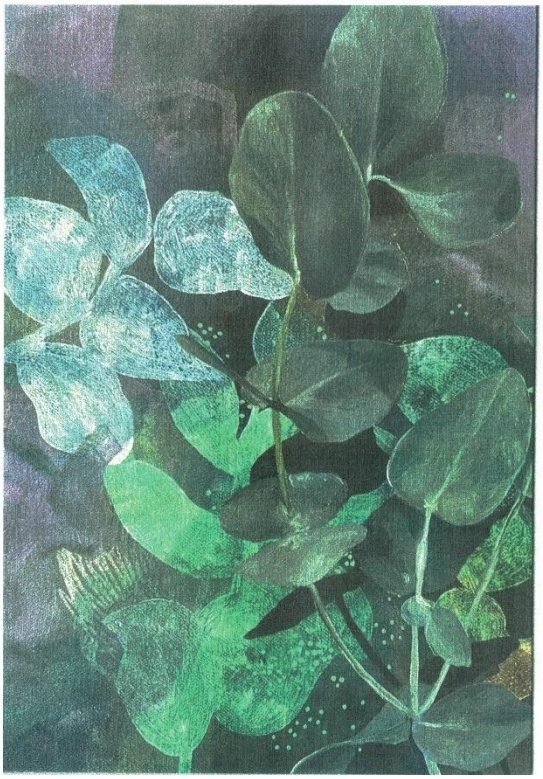
A little bit of light dispels a lot of darkness, and a lot of light dispels a huge amount of darkness. Let's add in light this Chanukah, with our menorahs, Torah study and Mitzvot.

As per instructions from CSG, the synagogue is closed for services right now and we have put our chanukah events on hold until further instruction.

May those injured have a complete and speedy recovery and may the families of the victims receive the comfort they need.

With prayers for good news and comfort,
Rabbi Mendel Slavin

Messages & Flowers

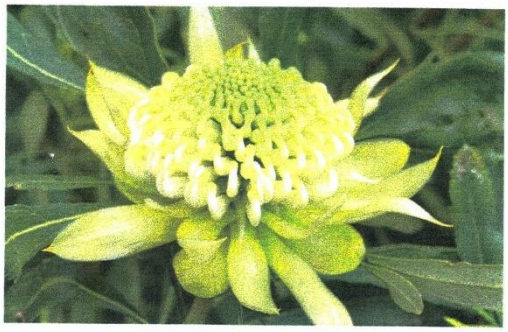


Praying for you and your Community - we are standing with you.

Much love from
the Emery family
(The Bridge Church Neutral Bay)

Dear Cremorne Synagogue
We just wanted to let you all know our heartfelt
love
prayers and
support
are with you at this time

Adele + Leigh
Balgowlah



I cannot even imagine what your community is feeling right now. Know that you are loved and defended by others here, today and for always. If there is anything I can help with by volunteering my time, please don't hesitate to call 0439 681 754

I keep you and every victim in my thoughts.

A. Kohnert



Sending love and prayers to you and your families.

♡ Kerry-Anne
Neutral Bay Uniting Church



WITH SYMPATHY

To all those who have lost loved ones in this recent tragedy, to their families and friends x and to their community who support them.
These flowers are a token of my love for you.
Remember, no matter what, you are not alone.
I as a Buddhist share your horror, shock and grief and stand with you.
I have listened to the wise words of your Rabbis and I am so moved by their wisdom, strength and courage.

As we end a year and start anew, may we all as a community take time to rest, rejuvinate and remember- that the way forward is in deep Peace, with loving hearts, for this is how light is shined into the world, our world, and all blessings come.

Remember, you are not alone.

With love, Sarah

Dec 2025



DEC 2025

Dear Rabbi &
Community,

I am so deeply sorry for the tragic loss, pain and fear brought to your people.
Our deepest condolences and prayers are for you at this time.

With love, peace and solidarity
- The Middleton Family
(Cremorne Neighbourhood)

to live in the
hearts of others
is not to die

— Voltaire.



To our dear Jewish neighbours,
My heart beats out the ~~[illegible]~~ horrific loss your community has suffered this week and the fear you feel at the rise of antisemitism in Australia. As a Mental Bay resident of 20 years I want you to know I stand in solidarity with you and I hope our political leaders is able to work much harder to stamp out antisemitism. I embrace all of you with love and kindness and I hope your community finally finds peace from now on. David Mallie

---

We stand by you in these
troubling times.
Sending our love and prayers
to you, your families and communities.
With all our love
The Murrays and The Woolleys



My deepest sympathies & condolences.

We mourn for you.
We grieve with you.
We stand with you.

We are so very sorry for your loss. We stand with you. Love will prevail ♡.





Our hearts are broken for your wonderful community - and for all of us. Sending love to you all and prayers to those injured and killed.

Our thoughts, prayers and support are with you all at this time.

From

All at Neutral Bay Community Centre.

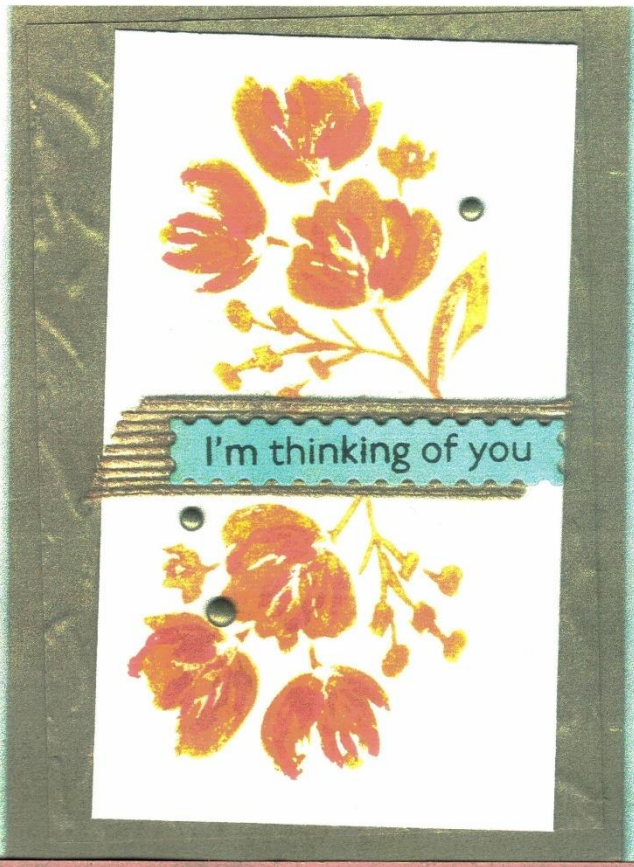


We are heartbroken and stand with you. Together, our collective light will overcome darkness.

– Kirsty, Peter, Jacob, and Tara - Mosman

We are so sorry that the world is so cruel. Our hearts are with the entire Jewish community here in Sydney and around the world. This must never happen again.

All our love, Shannon & Toby



Dear Jewish community,

We cannot imagine the heartache, pain and anger you are feeling post the horrific Bondi terrorist attack.

This is not our Australia.

We are devastated for each + every person in the Jewish community, and indeed all people who has lost loved ones, and those who will never recover from the trauma they witnessed directly or indirectly.

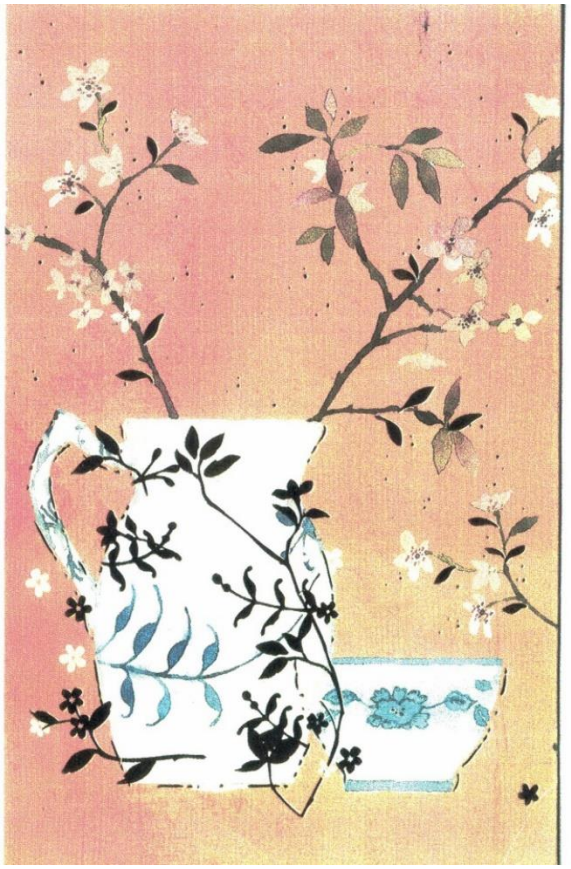
My husband and I are multi-generational Anglo Aussies. We love our country. We love the richness of our diverse country. We believe in a fair + just Australia.

We do not believe our Jewish community has been treated fairly + justly, and thus we stand up for change to preserve all that is good in Australia - especially our freedoms which we hold so close.

Please do not lose faith in Australia.

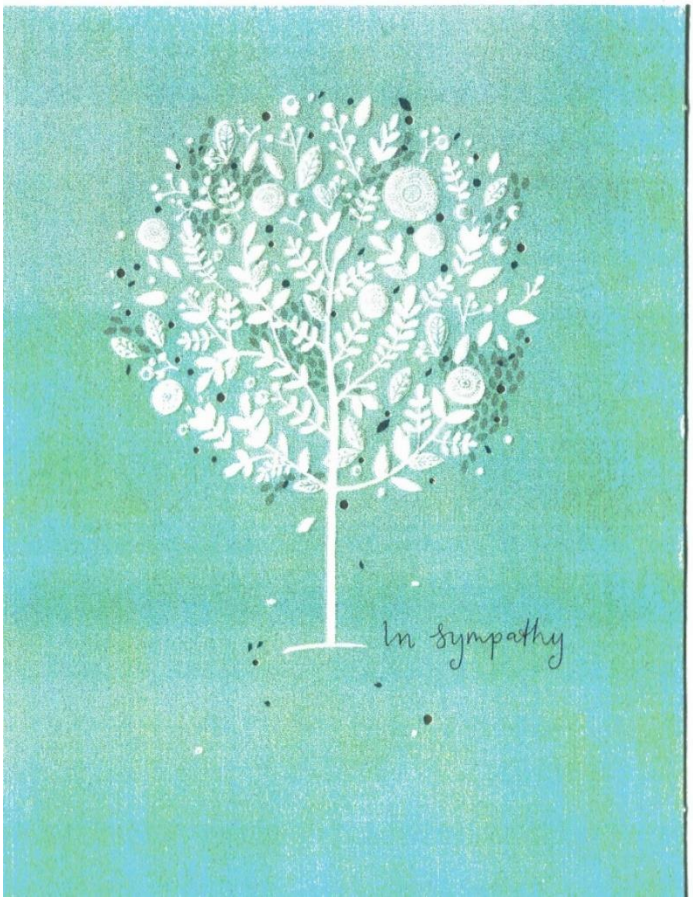
All our love,

Lisa + David Cammeray



I am so sorry to our Jewish community & to the whole of Australia. We all grieve with you.
This should not happen in this wonderful country.

love Joy & David
Lily.



To our neighbours and fellow Australians,

We are heartbroken for your loss.

We offer our love, solidarity and shared grief on this unthinkable morning.

So sorry for your loss.

You are not alone.

With love,

Rosie, Lee and Saskia

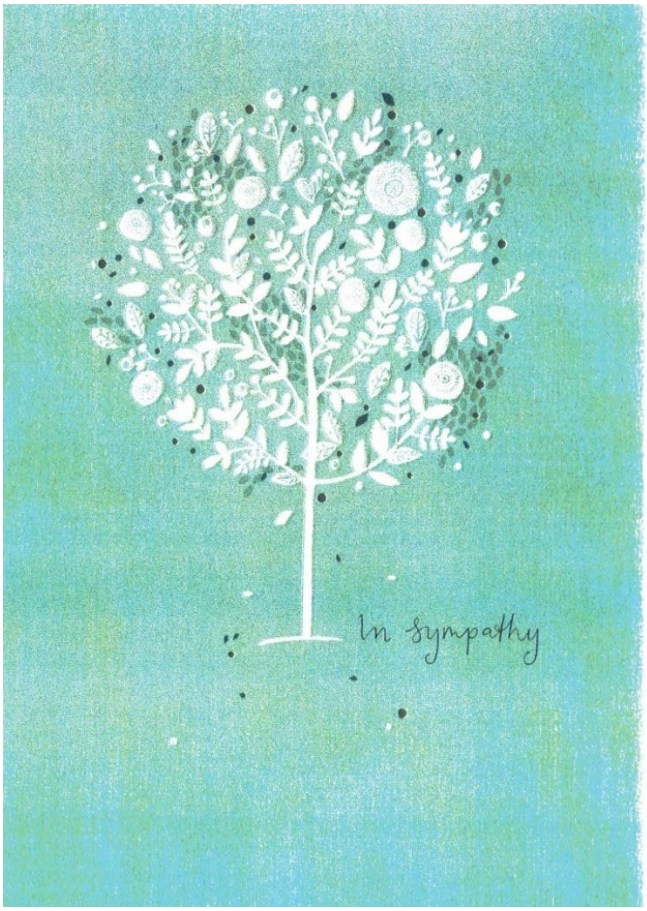


Dear Rabbi + Family

We feel your pain and we send our love and support.

May loving thoughts
help bring you comfort
at this sad time

Lots of love, Daniel Isaac
+ Rosa Klinger optometrists.



WE STAND WITH YOU
IN PEACE

so sorry for your loss

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

IKA & Mila

Dear Australians,

I cannot imagine your feelings on this day. My heart + soul, and those of many others, go to you all.

As an immigrant to this country my family moved here to enjoy an Australian life with Australian values.

Many races, cultures and religious people have done so too. We have all lived peacefully - until now.

Today is a day of mourning for so many reasons.

Firstly for your beautiful people peacefully + happily celebrating a special day on one of our country iconic shores, killed brutally by people fed on ignorance, and hate from their birth.

For the fraction of social cohesion - it's here and it is going to get worse

For the devastating consequences of this government to encourage people who do not share Australian values, who actively despise us, + who were admitted to basically bolster voting numbers.

And for the complete lack of consequence when something like this happens.

For all of this I mourn.

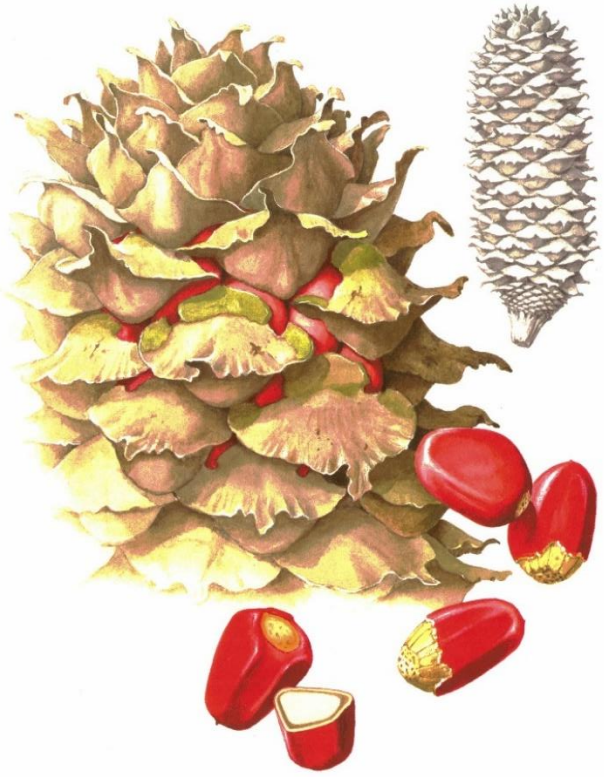
I hope your beautiful community can find solace in each other on this terrible terrible day P.T.O→

And I hope that Mr Albanese, Penny Wong + the government realise deep down in the pit of their stomachs that the cause of this monstrous act lies firmly on their doorstep.

Shame on them and shame on all of us for not standing up to the terrible ignorance in our country.

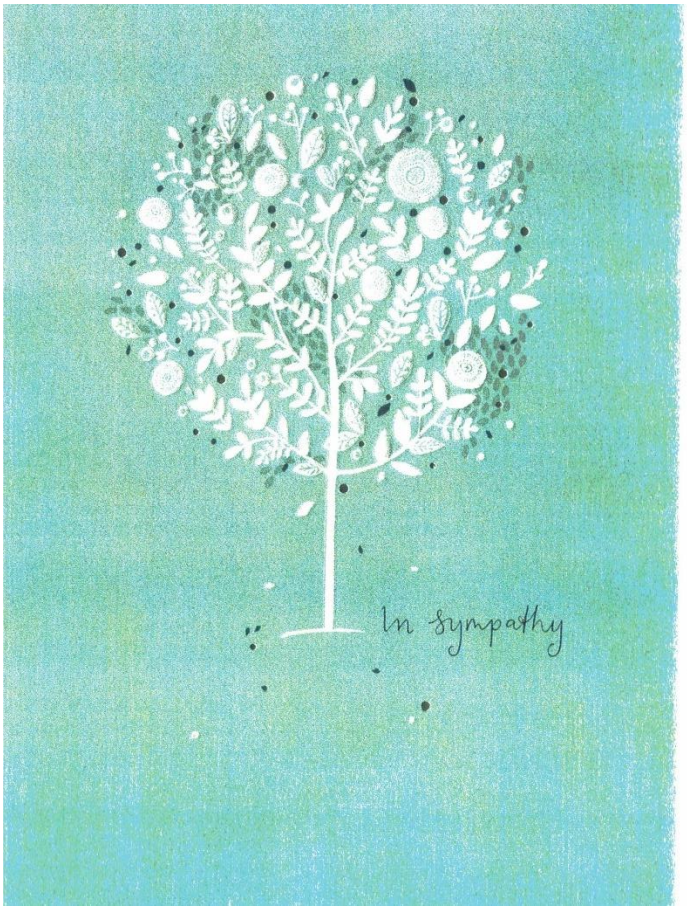
My thoughts are with you all -

a true Australian.



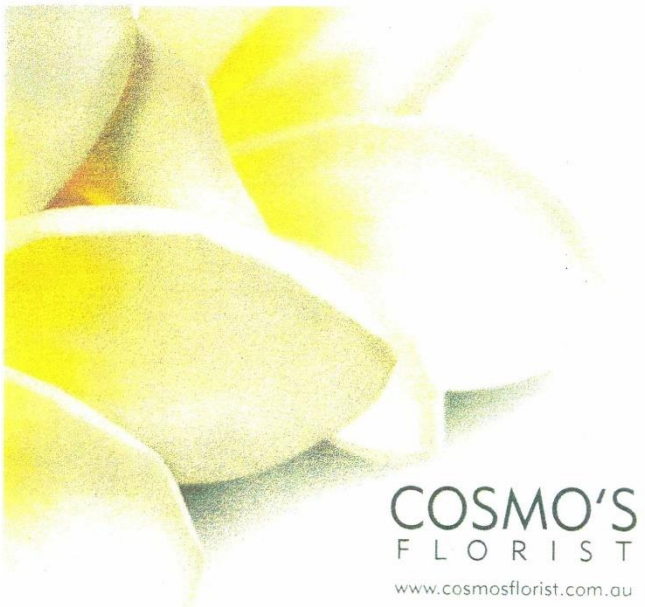
NOKOMIS PRESS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS SYDNEY



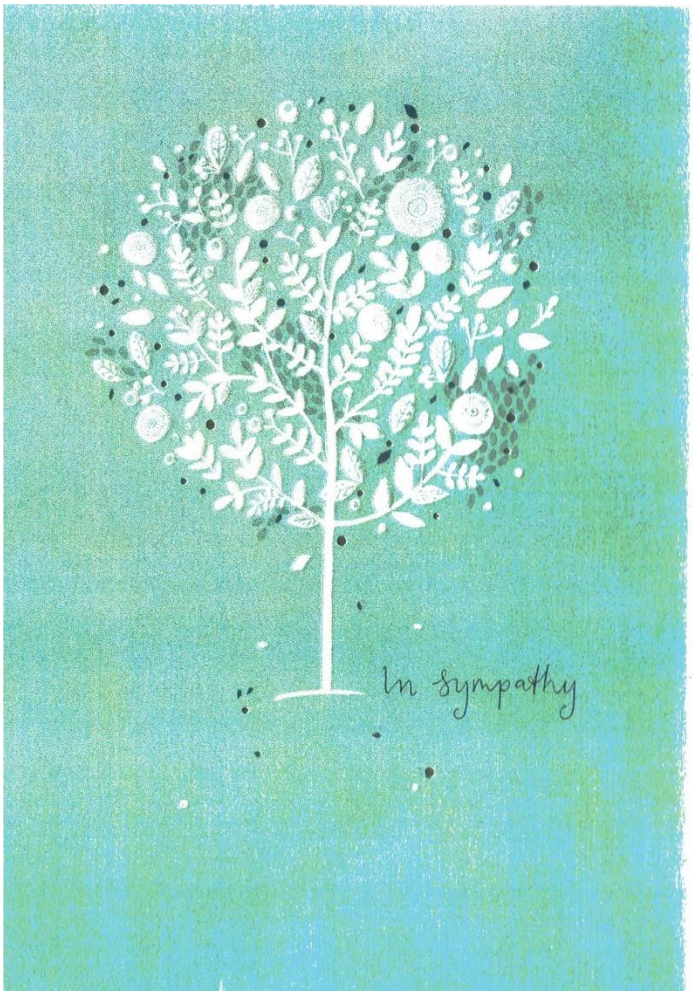
so sorry for your loss

We are so sorry for what has happened. We send our love and support and pray for the whole Jewish community

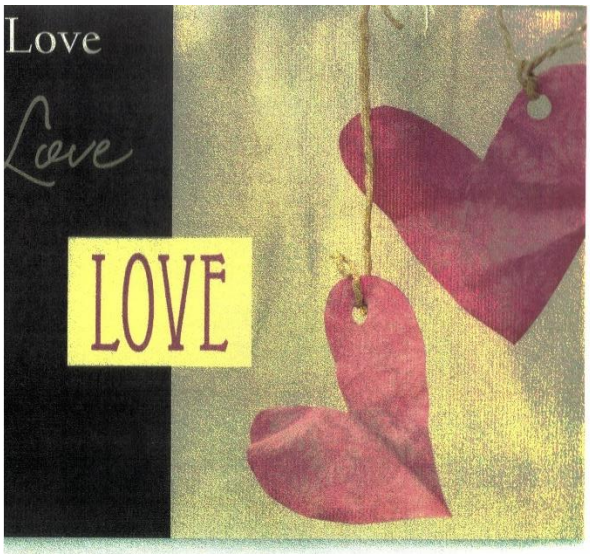


Our families want you to know we support

Those we know;
Those we knew;
And
Those we will Never know.



May the Lord bless
you and keep you,
May the Lord shine
His face upon you
so sorry for your loss
and be gracious
to you.
May the Lord lift up
His countenance to you
and give you peace.
Your in our prayers
Cam & Sarah.



Our politicians may have failed
you but we will not.
We will force change!

We stand with you, our Jewish
friends. Know that you are loved
& we grieve with you.

We are all Australians and wish to
live in peace without judgement & prejudice.

We will all work together to make
sure this doesn't happen again.

We are so sad that
you have lost
your loved ones
in this terrible
time

Please know that
our hearts, our love
& our prayers are
with you.

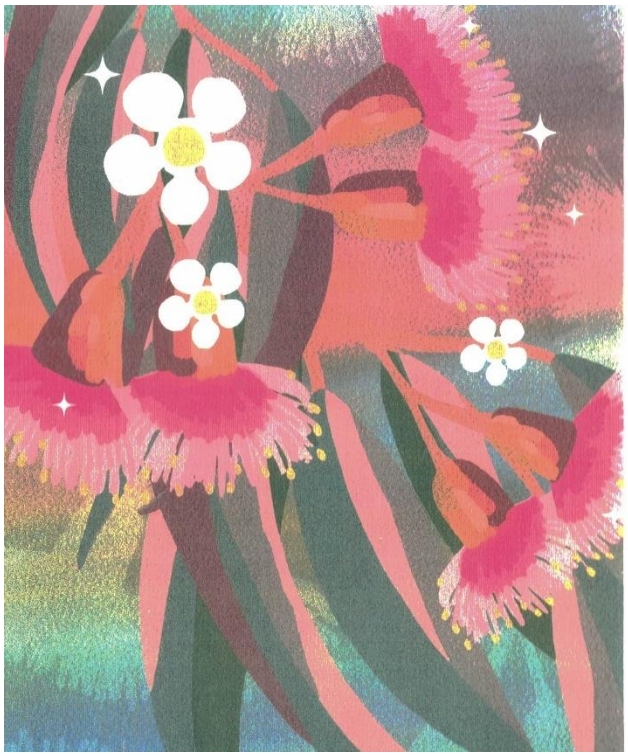
From neighbours
Lucy & George

x x





With Love and Solidarity
from your MUSLIM
neighbours.
Our hearts ache with yours....
Mariam xx



Dear Rabbi Slaven,

To our Neutral Bay Jewish Community.
We are saddened for you all and
the horrible events on Sunday night
at Bondi. And events previously
here and around the world.
Please know you are supported
by us. We stand with you always.
Am Yisrael Chai

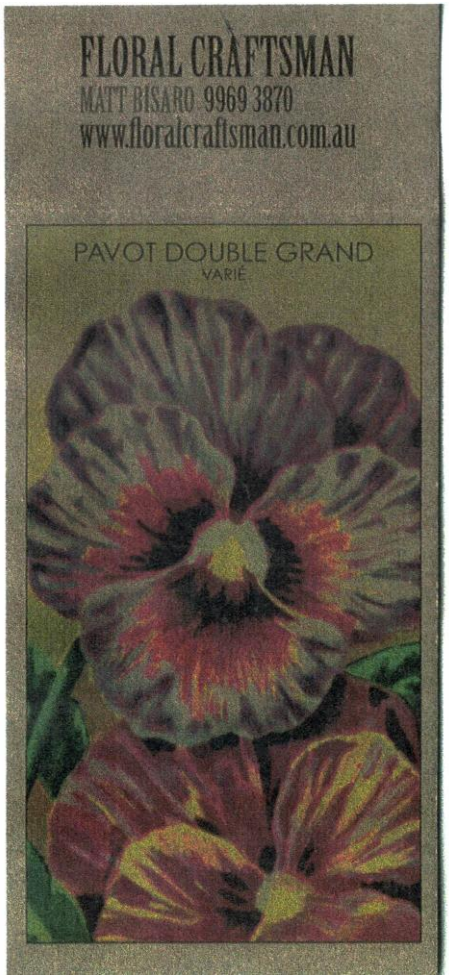
De-Anne & Bryan King.





♥PEACE

To our jewish neighbours,
our hearts are filled with sadness after the trajic events on the weekend.
We need you to know that we stand with you, we condemn any and all acts of violence towards your community.
We send all our Love and streng th.
The Bunn Famil



Sending all Jewish people our love and thoughts. We are with you
xxx

CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

Arrangements: Top up with water everyday

Bouquets: Cut 2cm off stems and place into vase of water

To everyone at The Central Bay Synagogue. We stand with you & are wrapping our arms around all in the Jewish community ~~or~~ in the wake of this unimgineable tragedy. We are heartbroken for you.

Love Malcolm, Alexandra, Poppy & Natasha Moir — Neutral Bay locals

P.J. Redouté (1759-1840) *Le Lis blanc*

God is our refuge and
Strength
an ever present help in
trouble.
Psalm 46

So do not fear for
I am with you;
Do not be dismayed
for I am your God.
I will strengthen you
and help you
I will hold you up with
my righteous
right hand
Isaiah 41:10

THE ART OF REDOUTÉ © 1992 GREEN WOOD

Even in the midst of
deepest sorrow and grief
that no words can
express
Flowers are a symbol of
Rembrance, Love, Life
and Hope
May it never happen again
Take these home to care
for love enjoy
Shabbat Shalom
Jenny xxx





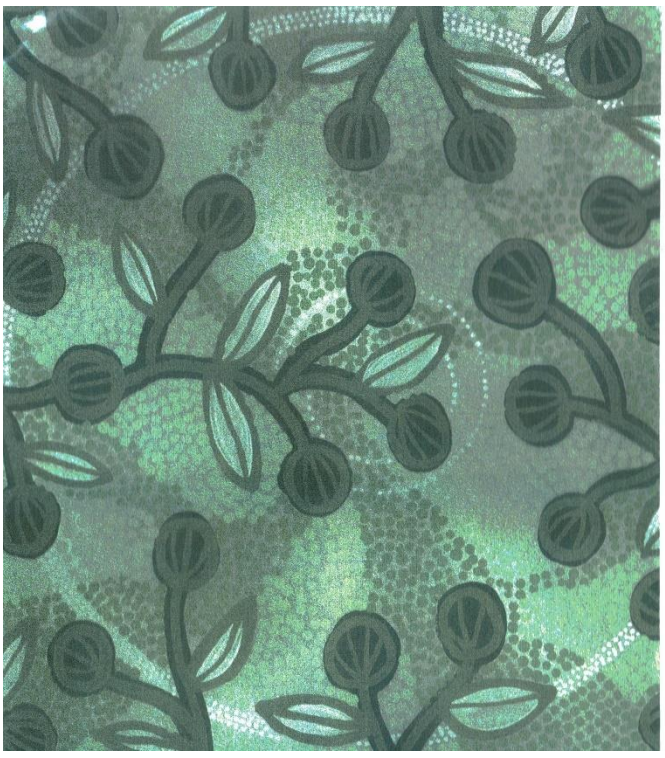
Our love to all the
Bondi victims and their
families and friends.
We give our condolences to
the Jewish community and
offer our support to them
as part of the Australian
people, today and forever
Hazel Clive & Stewart Preston

To the Jewish community,

I wanted to extend my deepest condolences for the horrific attack at Bondi. My heart aches for the loss of life and for the community must be feeling. May we all look for the light at this dark time.

With love & support,

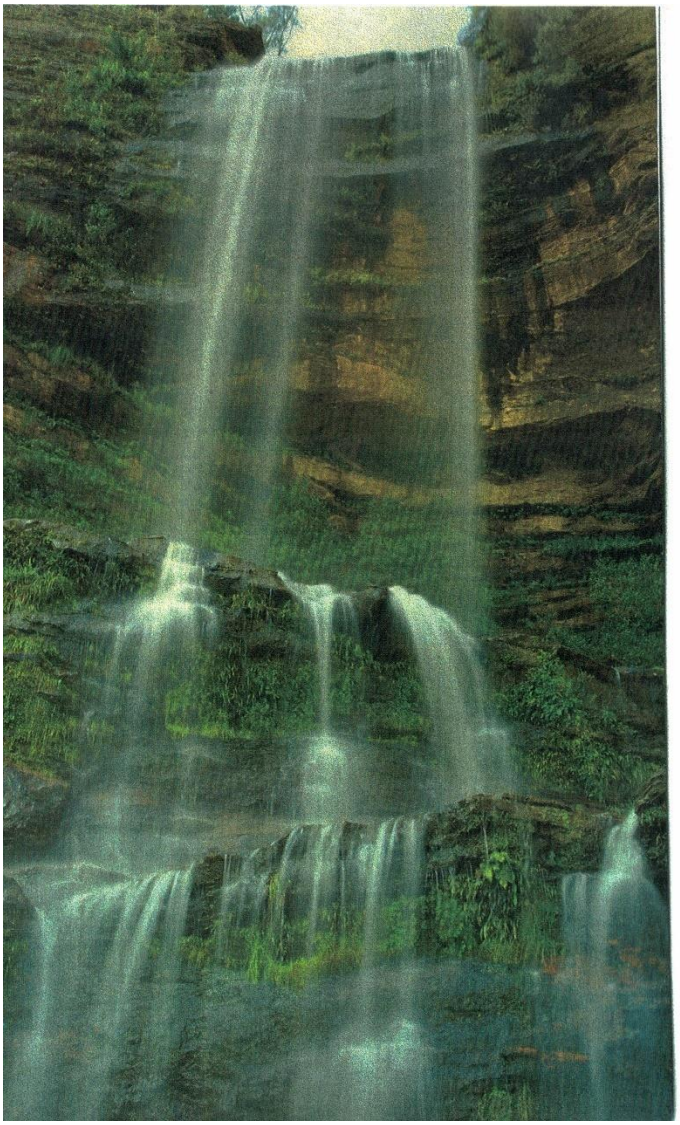
Milly Ansell x



My heart is with you and your community at this incredibly sad time.

I am with you.

Pam



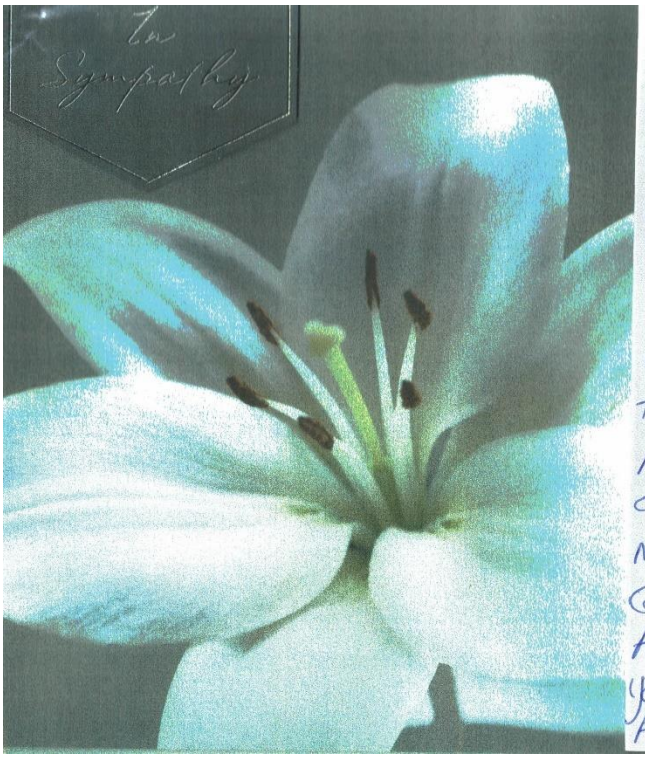
16 Dec. 2025

Dear Jewish
Neighbours,

As a Christian couple from Neutral Bay we want to let you know that we stand with you and are willing to stand up for you. We love you and love Israel and pray for God's Blessings on you and your homeland.

Hosanna,

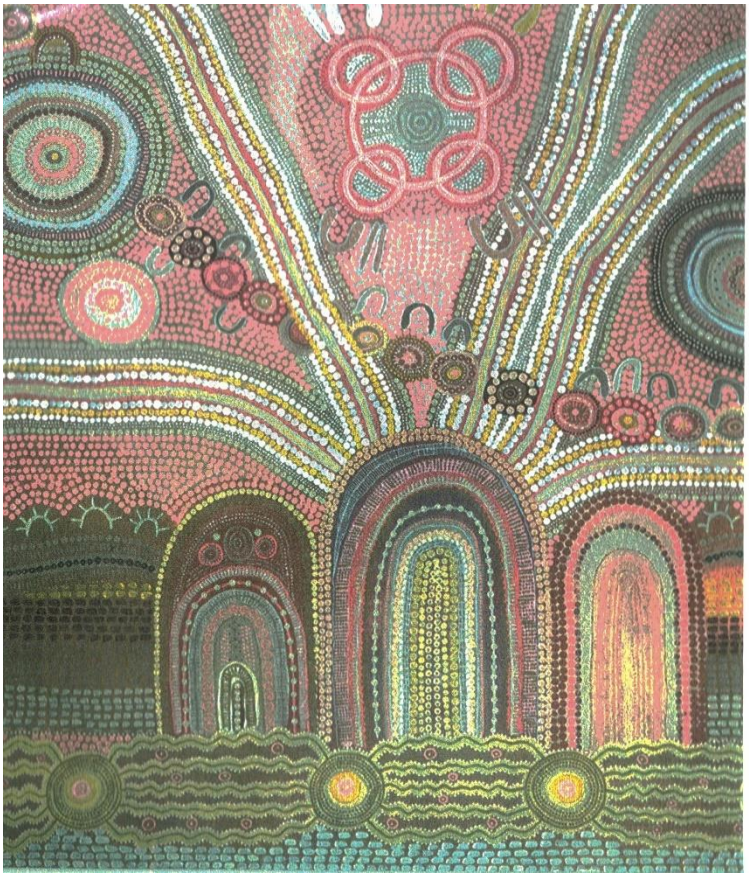
Bruno & Elizabeth



I love Australia, but I am so ashamed that the Albanese Government and radical left wing mainstream media has been complicit in the disgusting rise of anti-semitism in this country.

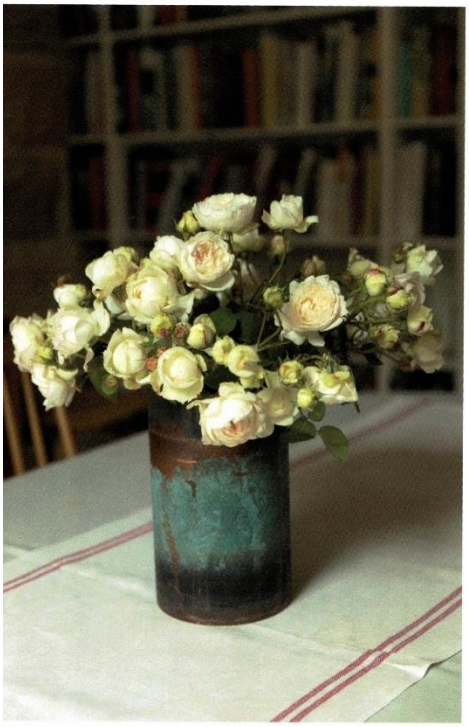
Thinking of You

What happened at Bondi yesterday was truly abhorrent. I am an Agnostic Australian that respects and appreciates our underlying Judea-Christian values. My heart is broken for the Jewish Community and all of moderate Australia. Stay strong and know you are deeply cared about by moderate Australians. With love & support. S. xx



I am
You are
We are Australian

My condolences



during this terrible time.
We are here for
you and want to help
support unity in our
community and the nation.
Sending you love,
prayers and support.

the Conrad-Jones family,
Mosman NSW

December 24,
2025

To all that attend the
Cremorne Synagogue and
to the broader Jewish
community of the
Lower North shore,

Please know that you
are in our hearts and
minds and that we
support you wholeheartedly



I walk past your Synagogue regularly and always see it as a place of peaceful worship. May that continue.

Dear members of the Jewish faith and community. My heart goes out to you at this very sad and tragic time. My profound condolences.

thinking of you

Wishing you peace healing and better healthy days ahead for 2016.
Best regards
Fyn (Priest)
a local resident



You don't stand alone....
My heartfelt sympathies
for your Community
♡



We STAND WITH
You ALL.

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES
FOR THE LOSS OF
INNOCENT LIVES AT
BONDI BEACH



YOU ARE, WE ARE
AUSTRALIAN

CHRISTINA (Neutral Bay Resident)
AUSTRALIAN

Mosman Living · Follow
9h ·

This is what true community spirit looks like. Neutral Bay Uniting Church and Cremorne Synagogue are on the same street - in this photo, Pastor Alex and Rabbi Mendel are seen embracing just one day after the terrorist incident at Bondi Beach.

Says Pastor Alex via Neutral Bay Uniting Church, "Had a very special moment today with Rabbi Mendel at Cremorne Synagogue. After people came to light a candle at the church, I decided to pass a note to the Cremorne Synagogue who is on the same street as us, showing our support and love. Wasn't expecting anyone to be there but how incredible that members of the Cremorne Congregation and Rabbi Mendel were out front (he only began his posting recently). He was so gracious and grateful and we committed that our two communities would support each other as good neighbours. Out of this tragedy may this be the beginning of a shared bond of devoted people of faith. May we continue to support our Jewish neighbours, friends and siblings in this difficult time."











