

Maccabi Victoria

2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Connecting our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing



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Maccabi Victoria Office Staff

GENERAL MANAGER | Shari Cohen

FINANCE OFFICER | Ruth Clare

PATHWAYS PROGRAM COORDINATOR | Martin Jona

MARKETING OFFICER | Daniella Levin

ADMIN OFFICER | Jenny Schulman

GRANTS OFFICER | Simone Grinberg

Honorary Solicitor

TISHER LINER FC LAW | Simon Abraham

Auditor

POSTAN, MILLER AND ASSOCIATES

Nicky Postan and Hilton Miller

Key Programs, Initiatives & Project Committees

Maccabi Victoria All Abilities

Maccabi Aquatics

Maccabi Archives Project

Club Development Funds

Events Committee

Friends of Maccabi

Governance Committee

Henry Jolson Pathways Program

Junior Carnival

Maccabi LIFE

Maccabi One / Property

Integrity / Member Protection Policy (MPP)

Maccabi Volunteer and Sports Awards

Maccabi Victoria Solomon Family Foundation Cup

100 Maccabi Moments Book Committee

The invaluable contribution of **Maccabi Victoria volunteers** credits us with one of the strongest sporting networks in Australia. Maccabi Victoria recognises and appreciates the significant contribution of volunteers in all facets of our organisation.



Strategy and Growth

We are committed to ensuring that Maccabi Victoria continues to connect the Jewish community through sport for many years to come. We recognise the importance of our role not only in facilitating sport, but in bringing together people from all corners of our community. Our Board has worked extensively on identifying our key strategic priorities and are focused on implementing them to ensure the ongoing sustainability of Maccabi Victoria.

Maccabi Victoria Co-Presidents

Milestones are like a time machine. They grant us the opportunity to revisit and reflect on the past, to celebrate the present, and to create a vision for the future. It has been an immense privilege for us to lead Maccabi Victoria through this momentous milestone of its centenary year.

In its 100th year, Maccabi Victoria proudly stands on strong foundations of governance, integrity, responsibility, safety, and above all, inclusion and diversity. These foundations have carried us to where we are today: thriving clubs connecting almost 4,000 athletes throughout the year, a range of sold-out programs and events bringing together both the Maccabi and broader sporting communities, and a continued commitment to connecting the Jewish community through sport. Our impact goes far beyond numbers. Over a century, Maccabi Victoria has become a pillar of Jewish life in our community. It has been the place where friendships are forged, where our community comes together across every generation, and where our children inherit a strong sense of identity, resilience, teamwork, and belonging.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

9 KEY PRIORITIES

Strategy and growth | Clubs and sport
Events and marketing | Finance
Diversity and inclusion | Membership
Legal, property and governance
Schools and community | Risk and safety



Sharon Roseman & Dean Mohr
Co-Presidents - Maccabi Victoria

Maccabi Australia President

Maccabi Australia continues to play a key role in strengthening Jewish life through sport, wellbeing and shared community experiences. With more than 10,000 members, 40,000 supporters and 56 clubs, our reach remains significant, and this year's national highlights included a well-attended Junior Carnival in Perth, Catchball and Pickleball tournaments across QLD, and the National Lawn Bowls Carnival drawing players from Australia and Israel. We also marked our centenary with legacy events and recognised outstanding contributors at the MAI National Awards. Our focus now is on growing engagement ahead of Melbourne Carnival 2026 and preparing for the rescheduled 2026 Maccabiah Games, while strengthening organisational sustainability, governance and leadership pathways that support long-term impact. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

With 10,000 members, 40,000 supporters and 56 clubs, Maccabi remains the largest grassroots Jewish organisation in Australia.

”

Rod Rosmarin

President - Maccabi Australia



Maccabi Victoria GM

100 years isn't an achievement that everyone can claim, and I am so proud to have been a part of Maccabi as we celebrate this milestone. Maccabi has spent the last century connecting the Jewish community through sport, and we continue to build and foster those connections year on year, not only within the Jewish community, but with the broader sporting community in Australia.

This year has seen clubs and programs develop and flourish, cementing the role of Maccabi in Victoria's Jewish community. Our focus on relevant strategic priorities, strong governance, responsible financial oversight, and continued development ensure that the Maccabi legacy will stay strong for many years to come. [Click here to read full report.](#)



The relationships built through Maccabi are second-to-none, and throughout this year we have heard from so many people whose lives have been transformed by their time with the organisation.

”

Shari Cohen

General Manager - Maccabi Victoria



Finance

As an organisation reliant on community and government funding, fiscal responsibility and financial sustainability are imperative. We recognise the importance of considered spending and generating revenue streams to ensure long-term sustainability and success. Access to hardship relief, supporting our clubs, and providing financially accessible community programs are key.

Treasurer

Report for Maccabi Victoria (“Mac Vic”) for the financial year ended 30 June 2025: Overall, Mac Vic made a small loss for the year. While this was not where we want to be there were still some improvements over the corresponding 12 months. Income was up due to the following: (i) donations (ii) sponsorship (iii) the Grand Final Breakfast and (iv) the growing Maccabi Aquatics distribution which has continued to be an excellent revenue source. Once again, we are delighted to receive funding and support from our Maccabi Foundation.

The cash balance at the end of the financial year has fallen year on year however at \$109,169 this still ensures that we have the sufficient liquidity to meet our obligations going forward.

As in previous years the All-Abilities Program and the Henry Jolson Pathways Program are included in the Mac Vic Financial Statements. All programs are funded primarily through grants from the Maccabi Foundation, private donors and State Government grants. We sincerely thank the generous supporters who donate to make these programs possible. [Click here to read the full report.](#)



Thank you to Nicky Postan from Postan Miller and Associates for her and her teams' services in relation to the audit of the financial statements.



CASH RESERVES

\$109,19 at year end



James Joseph

Treasurer - Maccabi Victoria



Foundation

The past 12 months have highlighted the vital role Maccabi plays in connecting our community and providing a safe, inclusive environment for Jewish athletes of all ages. In a challenging post-October 7th landscape, fundraising across the communal sector has remained difficult, with significant support continuing to flow to Israel as families rebuild their lives. We have been respectful of this reality, and chosen to access funding from Foundation reserves to meet the needs of our organisation over the past year. Many thanks therefore to our loyal and committed financial supporters and donors – without your continued support the Foundation could not be in the strong financial position we are in. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

The Foundations priority continues to ensure we can effectively support our national body, Maccabi Australia, together with our states, our programs and our clubs.

”

Dale Smorgon

Chairman - Maccabi Foundation



Hardship Relief

The Foundation in co-operation with the Cranbourne Country Club (CCC) ensures that financial support has been provided for our range of programs, but in particular our Hardship Relief Fund, ensuring no family is left behind in wanting play for a Maccabi affiliated club. Thanks to **Brad Wein, Mikki Silverman** and their committee for their continued vision and partnership. Through the past year 94 families were supported via this fund ensuring that no one in the Jewish community misses out on playing sport at Maccabi due to financial hardship.



Hardship Relief for Families in Need



94 Families have received over \$33,888 allowing them to partake in Junior Carnival, Athletics, Basketball, Junior Cricket, Netball, and Junior Soccer.

Legal, Property, and Governance

We are focused on securing a dedicated home for Maccabi Victoria, and exploring opportunities for additional and improved facilities for our clubs.

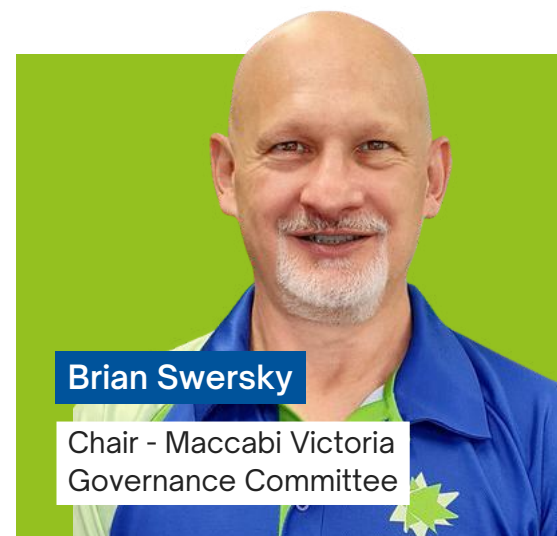
We recognise the need to support our clubs in legal and governance matters, and appreciate the efforts of Tisher Liner FC Law and the newly-formed Maccabi Victoria governance subcommittee.

Governance and Legal

Throughout the past year, Maccabi Victoria has placed strong emphasis on strengthening its governance framework to ensure the organisation continues to operate with integrity, transparency and alignment with our legal obligations and community expectations. The Governance Committee has been instrumental in ensuring ongoing compliance, updating policies in line with best practice, and supporting our affiliated clubs in meeting their governance responsibilities.

Key achievements have included a comprehensive review of governance policies and the provision of advice and practical support to clubs on constitutional and structural matters.

Looking ahead, the primary governance priority for 2026 will be the review and modernisation of all club constitutions to ensure consistency with Victorian legislation, the Maccabi national framework, and emerging standards in community sport governance. [Click here to read the full report.](#)



Brian Swersky

Chair - Maccabi Victoria
Governance Committee

Property

In 2025, Maccabi Victoria – via the Board and the Maccabi One Property Committee – continued its strategic pursuit of a permanent home for our 24 Clubs and members. While the challenge of consolidating all activities under one roof remains significant, we have made meaningful progress through partnerships, feasibility studies and engagement with key stakeholders.

Our approach remains focused on centralising Maccabi Victoria’s clubs’ activities in as few locations as possible to accommodate our diverse sporting and community needs.

Leadership Transition

In October, Tim Bursztyn stepped down as Chair of the Maccabi One Property Committee. Tim has chaired the Committee since it was established nearly four years ago and under his leadership, the Committee made significant strides in strategy, planning and relationship-building. We offer our sincere thanks to Tim for his dedication.

We are reviewing how the Committee functions and Maccabi Victoria’s property initiatives are pursued.

Looking Ahead

While a permanent home remains elusive, we feel that we have made significant strides toward achieving this goal in 2025 and look forward to making meaningful progress in 2026. Our focus for 2026 will be on:

1. Advancing Project Generation;
2. Resolving the Neerim Hub situation and trying to secure an opportunity for Maccabi Victoria whatever the outcome there (whether MFC homebase or basketball stadium); and
3. Engaging with Council on opportunities at Princes Park.

The commitment to securing a home for Maccabi Victoria remains unwavering.

[Click here for the full report.](#)



Key Initiatives & Progress

- Project Generation - Mount Scopus Relocation to Caulfield Racecourse
- Neerim Hub - Caulfield Racecourse
- Glen Eira Council



Jason Blankfield

Board + Property Committee
Member - Maccabi Victoria

Risk and Safety

Every athlete, member, staff, volunteer, official and coach who participates in Maccabi activities should be treated with respect and dignity, and this is reflected in our integrity policies and support offered to our clubs and members. Additionally, we work closely with CSG to ensure the physical security and minimisation of risk for all Maccabi activities. We recognise that we live in unprecedented times, and want to ensure that sport continues to be a safe space for the whole community.

Integrity

Over the past year, policies were overhauled, position descriptions re-written, club constitutions examined and refined, and processes aligned with best-practice standards in community sport. The National Integrity Officer, Yvonne Fayman, together with our State-based Integrity Officers, provided hands-on support for complex matters ranging from fair play and welfare issues to complaints involving bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, coach-player dynamics and safe billeting and transport for juniors. Revised integrity policies and processes are also already in place for the upcoming 2026 Carnival and Maccabiah. This framework will continue to be rolled out across States and Clubs to strengthen compliance, education and responsive issues management, ensuring our members participate safely, fairly and with dignity. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

Security

This year, we've implemented key security upgrades thanks to a State Government Victoria grant, and continue to work closely with CSG, whose support has been invaluable. Most recently, a detailed security plan has been developed with CSG for Carnival 2026, which is expected to welcome almost 600 participants.



Leanne Faraday Brash

Integrity Officer - Maccabi Victoria

Diversity and Inclusion

Maccabi recognises that its members come from all backgrounds, abilities and identities. Our goal is to enable all members of the Jewish community to participate in sport and active recreation; to ensure that Maccabi reflects the diversity of the communities in which we live; and to work towards supporting and developing staff, volunteers, board, clubs, programs and offerings which are inclusive of everyone.

Maccabi All Abilities

Maccabi Victoria's All Abilities program continues to connect people in the Jewish community living with a disability through sport. The program offers a range of opportunities to play, watch, and meet other people with a shared love of sport.

This year marks 20 years of Maccabi All Abilities – from a volunteer-driven basketball team in 2005, the program now encompasses a range of sports, and continues to evolve each year.

2025 saw the continuation of many favourites as well as some new sports. Participants had the opportunity to try Taekwondo for the first time – which was very well received – and revisit past favourites such as tenpin bowling and tennis. Many of our clubs are running or supporting All Abilities programs, and we hope to engage even more clubs in future. Basketball, soccer, and swimming programs continue weekly, and cricket and footy are enjoyed each year, with training and social events with the clubs.

As we move into 2026 we are in the process of conducting a strategic review of our All Abilities program to identify the community needs and ensure we continue to adapt, evolve, and grow. Headed by board member Dean Cohen, this review process will shape future programs, resourcing, and collaborations.



A big thank you to **Jordan Friede**, who led the All Abilities program in 2025 - we wish him well on his personal training journey!

Dean Cohen

Board member - Maccabi Victoria

Schools and Community

Through the Henry Jolson Pathways Program, we connect with the broader Jewish and wider sporting communities through sport. We continue to build engagement through programs like the Sport in Schools initiative, the Maccabi Cup, and collaborative events with multicultural and First Nations communities.

Pathways Interfaith

Maccabi's multicultural and interfaith program engages, educates, and builds bridges through a shared love of sport. The 'United in Play' initiative - Connecting Communities Through the Power of Play - supported by new funding from Sports Recreation Victoria (SRV) builds on the success of the Interfaith through Sport Unity Cup Concept, by expanding our focus to include basketball and soccer events, alongside AFL activities. The Program features games, cultural exchange, cuisine, skill clinics, educational sessions, lead-in activities, and unity teams.

In March 2025 over 30 junior teams from Jewish, Indigenous, Muslim, South Asian, African, and other multicultural backgrounds came together to partake in the 'Strike Gala' football day. Players aged 9 to 13 connected over social 5-a-side matches, Melbourne Victory-led skills sessions, and 'come & try' zones.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)



Special guest:
Mursal Sadot,
former Afghanistan
national women's
team football
player



Shoutout to the
United in Play committee
led by Jerome Jolson,
Rhonda Nussbaum,
and Simone Grinberg

Pathways in our Schools

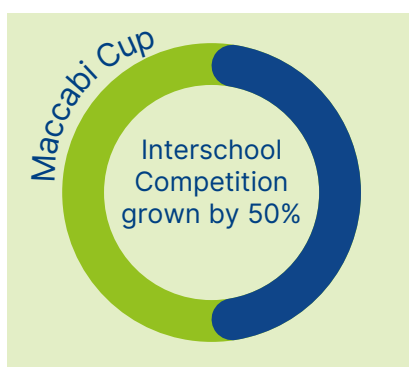
The Henry Jolson School Pathways Program bridges the gap between Maccabi Clubs and Jewish day schools, providing children from prep to year 12 with opportunities to participate in and learn new sports through subsidised specialised coaching.

Since February 2019, Program Coordinator Martin Jona has facilitated Pathways in schools. In 2025, students at 7 Jewish Schools have had the opportunity to play sports including AFL Football, Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Futsal, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Soccer, Table Tennis, and Tennis.

In 2025, interschool competitions were also delivered through the Pathways program. **The Solomon Family Foundation Maccabi Cup** was held across four editions in April, June, September and November, giving Jewish day schools the chance to compete in different sports and year levels from Year 4 to Year 9. This year's competitions featured tennis, basketball, netball and soccer.

[Click here to check out the 2025 editions.](#)

Each year the **Maccabi Spirit Sport Award** is presented to a graduating grade 6 student who embodies the Maccabi spirit of teamwork, participation, inclusion, fair play and sporting achievement. We look forward to presenting these awards in December to 7 very deserving students from our participating schools. Click here to check out the [Maccabi Spirit Awards for 2025](#) (more to come).



Pathways in Schools
662 sessions
11 sports
520 students
7 schools
That's an overall
growth of 11% on last
year



Martin Jona

Pathways Program Coordinator

Events and Marketing

We understand that connecting our community through sport happens not only on the field, but off-field as well. Engaging events and marketing bring together regular athletes, past players, and those who are involved in the broader Maccabi, Jewish, or sporting communities, and allow us to share exciting stories from our clubs and athletes.

100 Years

Maccabi Victoria marked its 100th year with a full calendar of centenary touches woven into every event and on the ground activity. From the Presidents Breakfast to the Grand Final Breakfast and everything in between, each occasion became a chance to honour a century of sport, community and connection. Our team has also been working on a hardcover book capturing 100 moments that shaped our story.

Friends of Maccabi

Friends of Maccabi host special events that bring together Maccabi alumni to maintain social connection. Over 100 members attended our June event with guest speaker - Olympian, Rhodes Scholar and CEO of Australian Athletics - Simon Hollingsworth. [Click here for photos.](#)

Grand Final Breakfast

A sold-out crowd at the 'G' for Maccabi's Grand Final Breakfast – with Tiffany Cherry leading an AFL panel of greats: Andrew Dillon, Andrew Bassat, Barry Carp, Eddie McGuire AM and Harry Sheezel. The event was a fitting tribute to Maccabi Victoria's century of uniting the Jewish community through sport and a reminder of the strength of Jewish involvement in Australian football. [Click here for photos.](#)



Thank you to:

- Friends of Maccabi committee
- Mac Vic events committee
- Board member Renee Alima
- Paul Platus (Vic) + Benji Einfeld (NSW)



Clubs & Sport

The backbone of Maccabi Victoria, our clubs connect more than 3000 community members across a wide range of sports. We value the countless hours contributed by those who train, play and volunteer, and remain focused on supporting and empowering them to ensure long-term strength and sustainability. A major pillar of this sporting landscape is Maccabi Junior Carnival, one of the most significant youth events in the Jewish community, bringing together hundreds of young people from across Australia and beyond for a week of sport, socials and community pride.

Junior Carnival

Carni is Maccabi's biggest annual event for children entering Years 7–10. In January, almost 300 Jewish youth from around Australia took part in Carnival in Perth, including 136 from Victoria.

Thank you to our team managers **Rachelle Goldenberg**, **Chantel Klein**, and **Belinda Hesse**.

Substantial representation: 46.6% of participants at 2025 Carni were Victorians

46.6%

Community connection: 22% of Vic participants did not belong to Maccabi clubs or attend a Jewish day school

22%

Junior Carnival 2026 will be held in Melbourne. With the theme of 'Where legends are born', Carni 2026 will be the largest Maccabi Junior Carnival since 2011 with almost 600 children registered. It will also have a true international flavour this time with representation from Israel and New Zealand alongside Victoria, NSW, Queensland and Western Australia.





Club Reports

This year has been a standout period for our clubs, with strong results, growing participation and a lift in activity across every corner of Maccabi Victoria. Our clubs continued to deliver full seasons of competition, skill development and community engagement. From junior pathways to senior milestones, each club has added its own achievements to a strong year for Maccabi Victoria sport.

20 SPORTS
250+ TEAMS
3000+ MEMBERS

GENDER DISTRIBUTION



AGE DISTRIBUTION



2025 MACCABI VICTORIA AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

PRESIDENTS' AWARD

For outstanding service as an individual to Maccabi Vic and Jewish sport

Angie + Adam Hoppe
Nicola Caras

Maccabi Pickleball Club

LEN BOGATIN AWARD

For outstanding contributions as an administrator to Maccabi Vic

Eytan Epstein

Maccabi AJAX Cricket Club

JACQUIE LERNER NEXT GEN VOLUNTEER AWARD

For dedication and leadership by a young volunteer at Maccabi Vic

Zev Aron

AJAX Senior Football Club



NEW! Maccabi Pickleball Club

Highlight:

Notable growth in female participation, with a steady increase in the number of women joining the club since inception.

[Click for the report](#)



59
members

115

members

Maccabi Athletics Club

Highlight:

Men's Div 4 XCR premiership win + 100 kids from 20 schools attended the 2025 Junior Track & Field Carnival.

[Click for the report](#)



Maccabi Basketball Club

Highlight:

One of Maccabi's largest clubs with over 700 members - 77 teams in 2025!

[Click for the report](#)



18%

Growth in
winter
membership
2024-2025



3

Teams in
Grand Finals

Maccabi AJAX Junior Cricket Club

Highlight:

82 children joined the Blasters program (5-8yrs) which is a record number for the Club.

[Click for the report](#)



Maccabi AJAX Senior Cricket Club

Highlight:

100-year anniversary event: VIC vs NSW match with special Joel Rembach Memorial match.

[Click for the report](#)

65

members

AJAX Junior Football Club

Highlight:

AJAX fielded 26 teams in 2025 and won its first-ever Division 1 U18 premiership.

[Click for the report](#)

33

**teams
this season**



AJAX Senior Football Club

Highlight:

2025 promotion to VAFA Premier B for 2026

[Click for the report](#)

243

players

**(biggest
season ever!)**

62

**dedicated
coaches and
committee
members**



Maccabi Football Club Caulfield

Highlight:

New programs in 2025: futsal, tiny/mini Strikers ages 2–4, Stingers elite pathway.

[Click for the report](#)

North Caulfield Maccabi Football Club

Highlight:

U10 juniors walked out as mascots in Round 11, strengthening pathway links.

[Click for the report](#)



**State
League 2
competition**



Maccabi Golf Club

Highlight:

Intergenerational Family Day & Heritage Weekend launched as well as a growing Next Gen division: 45 & under.

[Click for the report](#)

Age of the
Next Gen
championship
winner

12

Maccabi Hockey Club

Highlight:

Approx 250–300 spectators at Men's GF with Men's Metro 2 East taking home the premiership.

[Click for the report](#)

5

teams
this season



2

Life
Memberships
awarded



Maccabi AJAX Lawn Bowls Club

Highlight:

The 2025 QLD Carnival was one of the biggest on record, and even included an Israeli contingent.

[Click for the report](#)

265

registered
players

Maccabi AJAX Netball Club

Highlight:

Juniors: 7 finalists and 1 premiership (U15 Ravens)
Seniors: Emeralds took out the grand final.

[Click for the report](#)



AJAX Ski Club

Highlight:

The Australian Maccabi Jewish Snowsports Championship took place in July at Mt Buller with many Jewish schools in attendance.

[Click for more info](#)



124

**skiers and
snowboarders
at the Champs**



24

members

Maccabi Snooker Club

Highlight:

24 members competed in the Victorian Billiards & Snooker and RSL Snooker Associations.

[Click for more info](#)

12

members

Maccabi Squash & Racquetball Club

Highlight:

D Grade team through to 2025 Grand Final + Training program expanded.

[Click for the report](#)



Maccabi AJAX Swimming Club

Highlight:

English Channel crossing - Club Life Member Andrew Maver completed a 50km swim in 11 hours 30 minutes.

[Click for the report](#)



**Juniors
Masters
All Abilities**

4

**divisions this
pennant season**



Maccabi Table Tennis Club

Highlight:

The club competed in Divisions 1–4 across all 2025 seasons with Div 4 team making it to Semis in season 2.

[Click for the report](#)



Maccabi Tennis Club

Highlight:

The Club hosted its first Pride Round in June 2025, one of only five clubs in Victoria to do so.

[Click for the report](#)

131

members

Maccabi Toastmasters Club

Highlight:

The Club achieved Select Distinguished status in 2025.

[Click for the report](#)



**Focus on
continued
membership
growth**

**In the mix
for Finals**

Maccabi AJAX Water Polo Club

Highlight:

New player boom: more beginners joined this year than any previous season.

[Click for the report](#)



Thank You

GOVERNMENT

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Glen Eira Council

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TuvsDay Photography
Peter Haskin Photography

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Mark Gandur
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CHARITABLE TRUST

