

Those Were The Days

My name is David Hyman, I am the youngest son of four siblings by Manny and Becky Hyman. We all lived in Strathfield and were active members of Strathfield Hebrew Congregation. My mother was President of the Ladies Auxiliary for many years. I personally attended many youth get togethers when I was a teenager - at the old two story villa in Florence Street. I am the only one of this generation of Hymans left. But there are still members of each of the original Hyman family scattered around Sydney and other States of Aus. I now live with my wife, Patsy, on the Central Coast and we are now members of the Kadimah Jewish Congregation (Central Coast).

In addition to religious services, Strathfield War Memorial Hebrew Congregation (this is it's full name) boasted a Rabbi's residence, full-time Rabbi, Jewish School and Cheder, and of course held regular services every Shabbat, Jewish Festivals and Family Simchas.

My wife, Patsy, and I lived in the corner house exactly opposite the Shule and brought up three children there. We all have fond memories, although sometimes at seven a.m., when the incomparable Aaron Shaw (a holocaust survivor) would tap – er, I mean bang, on our bedroom windows to wake Alan, my son, and I, to make up a minyan, it scratched the surface a little bit. However that feeling dissipated when we were thanked for carrying out the mitzvah.

Alan and his sister Michelle both had their Bar/Batmitzvah's in Strathfield Shul and my family alone, held fourteen simchas. Not forgetting my two brothers, who had no less than seven children collectively, and my sister - three children, all of whom had all their simchas at Strathfield Shul. Adding the simchas up, the best figure I can come up with for the combined Hyman family is around sixty simchas – but with my failing memory, it is probably more than that.

This comparatively small suburban Synagogue played an important part in the lives of the members who shared a unique kinship for 'It' and each other. Regular Communal Simchas and social activities were invariably well attended. It is very sad that Strathfield War Memorial Synagogue, that also held well attended Anzac Day celebrations with a regular complement of members of the armed forces and with our own ex-patriots attending the ceremony every year, is now extinct.

Let it suffice to say that there are a lot of people who not only have fond memories, but have undoubtedly benefited from being members of Strathfield War Memorial Synagogue - 'A highly respected institution' - which will always bear very fond memories for many people.

David Hyman
March, 2014

Used to live at 21 Albyn Road (exactly opposite the synagogue)

“Those were the days- my friend .. I thought they'd never end....”