

Strathfield Synagogue

Our family arrived in Australia from Israel in mid 1955 and after a short stay in rented premises in Randwick we moved to our new home in Concord. My mother's cousin, Mrs Irma Levett and her husband Stan invited us to join Strathfield Synagogue and we remained members for many years.

My earliest recollection of the shule was the two storey old building with many restrictions as to where we could and could not go because it was considered to be old and rickety and may not be safe. That still left enough other rooms and of course the upstairs shule which was indeed very small. There was however never a problem getting a seat and it made for a very cosy service for other than the Yamim Noraim. For the High Holydays we gathered at the Strathfield Council hall down the road and every year was much the same as the one before. Rest breaks were always at the nearby home of the Goldman/Toister families which allowed us to relax before returning to shule.

I also remember the kindly Reverend Goran who taught me my Sidra and Haftara for my Bar Mitzva in 1958. The classes were enjoyable and thanks to his patience and my knowledge of Ivrit, the celebration was a pleasant experience.

My other memories are of attending the Shule and the grounds on Sunday afternoons on most weeks of the year. This was to attend Habonim group meetings which were the beginnings of many years of membership in first junior and then the senior ranks in the Eastern suburbs. Deep and lasting friendships were started there and most have continued until today. The Shule gardens were ideal for running around especially before the new building was built.

Sam Zweig
Sydney
February 27, 2014