

## TIMELINE BIALIK COLLEGE

**1942:** 973 Drummond Street, Carlton is purchased, and Bialik Hebrew School and Kindergarten officially opens.

**1962:** 6 Shakespeare Grove, Hawthorn is purchased, to be transformed into the new Bialik College.

**1966:** Dora Sukiert Memorial Kindergarten officially opens in the recently purchased neighbouring property 4 Shakespeare Grove.

**1969:** Bialik's first Year 7 class starts.

**1970:** Bialik College expands to offer the first two years of secondary education Years 7 and 8 coming to an arrangement with Mount Scopus to allow Bialik students entry from Year 9.

**1973:** Bialik is forced to cap new enrolments, as it does not have the facilities to accommodate the number of students who want to attend.

**1976:** Bialik College opens its Wantima campus. The new campus is home to students from Years 3 to 8.

**1978:** Bialik College realises that the distance of the Wantima campus is a major issue for the school community and it purchases the former Nubrick brickworks site on Auburn Road.

**1981:** Teaching begins at the Auburn Road campus.

**1983:** The second building is completed at Auburn Road, consisting of 10 classrooms, along with the gymnasium, assembly hall, indoor basketball court, showers, change rooms, music facilities and art room.

**1984-1985:** With mounting debt, Bialik faces closure or amalgamation with Mount Scopus College. The Bialik community rallies and raises \$1.2 million in a matter of months. Amalgamation plans are discarded and the school is saved.

**1990:** The first Year 12 class to graduate consists of eight students, out of a total school enrolment of 400 students.

**1994:** Bialik College purchases 3.1 acres of land on Tooronga Road adjacent to the Auburn Road campus.

**1996:** The Sam and Minnie Smorgon campus is completed. It includes a large multipurpose hall, music and drama teaching spaces, rehearsal space, tuition rooms and a VCE centre. It is officially opened on 27 October by the Hon. Peter Costello MP. The first 'League Tables' of Year 12 results are published and Bialik comes in first. Reluctantly, it is decided that the school can no longer afford to keep the Shakespeare Grove campus and it is sold.

**1999:** The new state-of-the-art Early Learning Centre is opened, inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. Enrolments at the College reach 1003 students, from three-year-old kindergarten through to Year 12.

**2012:** Bialik celebrates its 70th anniversary with an exhibition commemorating this milestone and the first official performance of the new school song 'Stepping Forth'.

**2015:** The primary school is rebuilt with new classrooms, shared spaces for all year levels and a play deck.

**2016:** Bialik comes first in the State for VCE results and wins more sports medals in the EISM championships than ever before in the history of the school.

**2017:** Bialik reflects on 75 years of educational excellence, having been in the top 5 schools in the State for 19 of the past 20 years. The College has waiting lists for enrolment in the Middle School.

# Reuniting to celebrate Bialik College's 75th Anniversary

## BIALIK COLLEGE

Bialik College alumni, past and present staff were given the opportunity to reunite at the Mega Reunion held recently as part of the College's Celebration Week.

Guests reminisced whilst exploring the school's Heritage Exhibition, enjoying the interactive displays and revelling in the incredible growth of Melbourne's first Jewish Day School, which opened its doors 75 years ago as a kindergarten in Drummond Street, Carlton. Since then, Bialik has flourished and grown to become home to more than 1000 students and their extended families. The College has a legacy of strong academic performance, being in the state's top five VCE schools for 19 of the past 20 years and in 2016, was first in the state of Victoria.

"Bialik is a community school dedicated to both excellence and menschlichkeit" says Principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner, who joined the school in 2012. "It is the school's family atmosphere and values and its inclusive ethos that respects diversity of Jewish identity whilst remaining strongly Zionist that continues to reflect the vision of its early founders."

