

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM WELCOMES RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENT VISITORS

27.10.15 The Sydney Jewish Museum has welcomed a record number of school students with 20,000 participating in Museum Education programs between January and October 2015.

This figure exceeds the previous year's record of 19,400 students and has continued a trend of successive growth in the Museum's High School and Primary School offering.

With six weeks left in the school term, Museum CEO, Norman Seligman expects figures to rise even further, predicting that 22,000 school students will have visited the Museum by the end of 2015.

Seligman said "This is a huge achievement for the Holocaust Survivors, volunteers, and staff members who have worked tirelessly to make our education offering a success. It is a real testament to the quality of the programs we run here and the expertise of our guides and educators."

Holocaust Survivor Olga Horak, joined Norman in presenting students from Mackellar Girls High School and Coffs Harbour High with a selection of literature for their school libraries. Hannah James from Mackellar was also presented with a gift in recognition of being the Museum's 20,000th student visitor.

2015 has been a stellar year for the Museum education program, which also saw record numbers of teachers attending its Professional Development Seminars.

The Museum's education programs are designed to address the Holocaust Education component of the newly developed National Curriculum, and play a vital role in the Museum's efforts to document and teach the history of the Holocaust.

Yotam Weiner, Education Manager at the Museum said "In August alone we had 80 high school and primary school teachers attend our two day training seminar. This is in addition to the 550 teachers from schools across Australia who have also trained at the Museum since 2013".

Yotam said "It is more important than ever that we explore the dangers of discrimination, intolerance and the absence of empathy. By studying Jewish history and the Holocaust specifically, we see how the choices made by individuals, organisations and governments can have devastating results."

The Sydney Jewish Museum was founded in 1992 by a number of Holocaust Survivors who wished to ensure that the Holocaust did not fade from memory and continued to act as a guide to future generations.

-END-