At the beginning of 1999, the Liberal-National coalition government led by Prime Minister John Howard was starting its second term in office, rejuvenated by its election victory the previous October. Key items on the government’s agenda were tax reform and, later in the year, a promised referendum on changing Australia from a constitutional monarchy to a republic. Tax reform, incorporating a goods-and-services tax, was passed in amended form, and the voters defeated the proposal for a republic because of division over how to select a president. But the major public-policy issue of the year was one that could not have been predicted: The tumultuous events in East Timor and the crisis they created for Australia’s relationship with its closest neighbor, Indonesia, dramatically tested the nation.

Australia took a prominent role in the lead-up to the UN-sponsored referendum of the East Timorese on their future, providing political and logistical support for the vote. Confronted by the shocking violence of the pro-Indonesian militias and their Indonesian army sponsors against the East Timorese after the vote, Australia persuaded both Indonesian president B. J. Habibie and the international community to agree to the introduction of an Australia-led international peacekeeping force. While earning the gratitude of the East Timorese, Australia’s actions were greeted coolly by some Asian nations like Malaysia, and with outright hostility by many Indonesians. The diplomatic fallout from the intervention took a high toll on the carefully cultivated Jakarta-Canberra relationship, and Australia’s ongoing commitment to the rebuilding of the newly independent East Timor required it to reassess its defense and foreign-aid priorities.

After three years of divisive and acrimonious debate, far-right populist Pauline Hanson and her controversy-riddled party, One Nation, faded into the political background during 1999. With Hanson herself no longer a member of Parliament, her party was beset by lack of direction, internal upheavals, disaffection, and humiliating losses in legal cases brought against it.

The Australian Electoral Commission found that One Nation’s senator-elect for Queensland, Heather Hill, had not undertaken proper steps to relinquish her British citizenship, and disqualified her from taking her seat. Also in Queensland, the state where the party was strongest, the 11 One Nation state representatives
elected in June 1998 were reduced to just five by April 1999, after internecine feuds led five to quit the party and another to leave the state parliament altogether. Then, a court upheld the challenge of a disaffected former One Nation candidate to the validity of the party's registration in Queensland (the party's appeal of the ruling subsequently failed). In the ensuing chaos, the five remaining MPs defected from the party at the end of the year, expressing dissatisfaction with the management of the party's finances. Widespread closings of local One Nation branches added to the sense that this party had entered terminal free-fall.

The country's National Multicultural Advisory Council, which included Dr. Colin Rubenstein, executive director of the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC), prepared a report for the government that recommended continuing and strengthening Australia's successful policies on multiculturalism. Prime Minister Howard endorsed the report on May 5. Subsequently, in December, the federal government cited this report when it released *A New Agenda for Multicultural Australia*, which announced the government's commitment to make multiculturalism relevant to all Australians, and to ensure that the social, cultural, and economic benefits of Australia's diversity were fully maximized in the national interest. The government also pledged to establish a broad-based Council for Multicultural Australia to advance the practical implementation of multicultural policy.

On September 9, in the midst of the appalling outbreak of violence against the East Timorese, the chairman and executive director of AIJAC wrote to Foreign Minister Alexander Downer imploring Australia to do everything possible to restore peace in East Timor. The American Jewish Committee, with encouragement from AIJAC—its Australian associate—wrote President Clinton to persuade Indonesia to allow the deployment of an international force.

**Israel and the Middle East**

The Australian government continued to maintain warm relations with Israel, expressing full support for a continuation of the Middle East peace process regardless of any change in the Israeli government. The opposition Australian Labor Party largely shared the same view. For some years that had been an Australia-Israel Parliamentary Friendship group consisting of MPS of all the major parties. This group coordinated a visit of selected Australian MPs to Israel in January 1999, led by its chairman, MP Christopher Pyne (Liberal). The year also saw the establishment of the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Palestine (a similar group had started earlier among New South Wales state MPs), the first Australian parliamentary friendship group created for a non-state.

Following the arrest in March of 13 Iranian Jews on spying charges, AIJAC and other Jewish organizations brought the issue to the attention of the foreign minister in the hope that strong Australian representations to the Iranian government might help secure their release. The Australian government joined other
Western countries in urging the Iranians to release the prisoners, and on nine occasions raised the issue in bilateral talks with the Iranian government. In September, Liberal MPs Christopher Pyne and Petro Georgiou, and Labor MPs Bernie Ripoll and Laurie Ferguson delivered speeches in the national Parliament in support of the Iranian Jews. The organized Jewish community also rallied to the cause of the Iranian Jews. On June 24, Dr. Rubenstein addressed a rally organized by Jewish high-school students on the steps of the Victorian Parliament House, and on July 1 the Jewish Community Council of Victoria held a solidarity rally at the Werdiger Hall, Melbourne, that was addressed by federal MPs Peter Nugent and Michael Danby.

Australia's record in the UN on Middle East issues was essentially positive, albeit somewhat tempered by its membership in the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), which occasionally obliged it to support General Assembly resolutions unsympathetic to Israel. Australia refused to support or to attend a UN conference convened in Geneva in July to discuss and recommend action regarding Israel's alleged noncompliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. Along with the U.S., Australia was one of the first nations to express its reservations. The issue of Israel's continuing exclusion from UN regional groups, and hence from the Security Council and other UN bodies, had concerned Australian Jewry for some time. On November 6 a joint AIJAC-American Jewish Committee leadership delegation met with Prime Minister Howard and received his assurance that Australia would back Israel's admission into WEOG, and thus make it eligible to participate in all UN activities.

A number of prominent Australians visited the Middle East during the year. Upon his return from a trip to Iran in March, Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister Tim Fischer said that he wanted to end "unfair stereotyping" of Iran, a country that, he claimed, was making "real progress" on terrorism and human rights. Mr. Fischer further stated Australia's opposition to continued economic sanctions against Iran. His remarks alarmed Jewish observers, who felt that Iran's recent record on international terrorism, human rights, and Israel did not justify such a favorable assessment. Mr. Fischer left the ministry later in the year.

Senator Aden Ridgeway (Democrat)—the second indigenous Australian ever elected to the federal Parliament—visited Israel in January as a member of the Australia-Israel Parliamentary Friendship delegation. He had long been interested in how Israel dealt with its social and cultural conflicts. On his return, Ridgeway pointed out similarities between Israel and Australia—the "deep spiritual connection to the land, the feeling of being exiled or dispossessed"—and expressed regret at the existing state of "cold peace" in the Middle East. Another MP to visit Israel was Con Sciacca, the parliamentary opposition's spokesman on immigration. He took inspiration from Israel's approach to immigration policy, saying: "They're using it in a way that is building the country enormously."

Responding to Ehud Barak's decisive election victory over Benjamin Netanyahu, leaders of the Australian Jewish community were quick to offer support
to Israel’s new prime minister. In Canberra, Foreign Minister Downer congratulated Barak on his victory.

Anti-Semitism and Extremism

In 1999, with bipartisan support, the Australian government launched an aggressive educational campaign to undo the damage done by the public debate over racism that had been going on since 1996. Nevertheless, the continuing high number of reports of racial harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions showed that the situation was still volatile.

For the 12 months ending September 30, 1999, the database of anti-Semitic activities compiled by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) recorded 280 incidents. While lower than the record-high number of 327 incidents over the previous 12 months, this was still the second highest number on record, and 23 percent more than the annual average over the previous nine years. In fact the combined number of incidents involving physical assault, property damage, and direct face-to-face harassment were at the highest level ever. The incidence of hate mail was at a rate almost 50 percent above the nine-year average, but the rate of threatening telephone calls was the lowest for any 12-month period. Reports were received of graffiti on Jewish institutions in areas frequented by Jewish community members, as well as specifically anti-Semitic graffiti in locations with no evident Jewish connections. Most disturbing were the graffiti that defaced the homes of Australian Jews.

During the year, hostile commentators continued their use of anti-Jewish stereotypes to justify their opposition to Israel in the Middle East debate. This often took the form of alleging analogies between Nazi treatment of the Jews and Israeli policies toward the Palestinians. There were no overtly anti-Semitic newspapers, radio stations, or television broadcasters in the mainstream Australian media. Nevertheless, there were occasional hostile statements by some commentators, and prejudiced remarks in letters-to-the-editor and on some call-in shows. Of particular concern was the anti-Israel bias of the government-funded ethnic SBS (Special Broadcasting Service) television, which carried a number of stories during the year that suggested that a Jewish state could not be democratic.

Anti-Semitic individuals and organizations greatly increased their presence on the Internet in 1999 through Australia-based newsgroups. Whenever issues related to Jews arose on these newsgroups—developments in the Middle East, matters concerning the xenophobic One Nation, or concerns about the continuity of the Jewish community—anti-Semites intervened with derogatory comments about Jews. There was a similar problem with Internet newsletters, which are sent to individuals with an interest in a specific subject. Since many of these were produced by people unable to judge the appropriateness of material submitted by others, anti-Semitic comments often found their way in.

As more and more members of the Jewish community, including Holocaust sur-
vivors, established e-mail accounts, reports of anti-Semitic and threatening e-mail—sent to individuals and to communal offices, or left in Internet guest books of Jewish organizations—escalated, making this form of communication a major method of harassing and threatening Jewish Australians. Anonymous re-mailing services allowed persons sending such e-mail to disguise their identities, and existing laws were not enforced against those who sent traceable messages.

An Internet site of particular concern was that of the Adelaide Institute, a small organization devoted to Holocaust denial run by Frederick Toben. Linked to other Holocaust-denial sites around the world, it put out material designed to influence media opinion, and sent unsolicited e-mail to Jews as a form of hate mail. (When the site was launched in 1996, Jeremy Jones, executive vice president of the ECAJ, had lodged a complaint with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission alleging that the site breached the Racial Hatred Act.) In February 1999, Toben commenced an overseas trip, which he described to a regional newspaper as a mission to challenge the German laws against Holocaust denial. While traveling, Toben continued to distribute anti-Semitic material through his Web site and to write letters to public officials denying the Holocaust. He and his supporters also mailed offensive material to a number of recipients, including Holocaust survivors. In Germany, Toben was arrested under the laws that he was planning to challenge. Despite his best efforts and those of his supporters, his arrest got little media attention and he did not become a martyr in the eyes of the Australian public, receiving support only from his associates at the Adelaide Institute and from English writer David Irving.

Sections of the Arabic media also produced anti-Semitic material. Nida‘ul Islam, available both as a magazine and on the Internet, published the extreme anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic views of several members of Australia’s Islamic community, as well as similar sentiments from overseas commentators, such as assertions that any peace accord with Zionists was a violation of “Allah’s Code,” and that “Jihad against the Jews” was an “Islamic tradition.” Similarly, the weekly Internet magazine Al-Moharer Al-Australi attacked international “Zionist control” and denied the Holocaust.

Extremist Groups

While the better-known Australian extremist groups tended to avoid open anti-Semitism, they maintained links with foreign extremist groups such as militia movements in the U.S., Christian Identity churches, the Lyndon LaRouche organization, various groups of conspiracy theorists, the Australian League of Rights, and others that promoted anti-Jewish mythology.

The Australian League of Rights—described by Australia’s Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as “undoubtedly the most influential and effective, as well as the best organized and most substantially financed, racist organization in Australia”—received occasional and largely negative publicity, as
the more mainstream parties were well aware that any hint of a link to the league was a political kiss of death. Though it claimed to stand apart from party politics and did not put forward candidates, the league had a "great white hope," former MP Graeme Campbell—who had addressed a series of league functions—and his Australia First Party. The league itself continued its program of lectures and seminars aimed at equipping "actionists" around Australia with information to combat their Zionist, socialist, and humanist enemies, and league material was regularly included in anti-Jewish mailings.

The Citizens Electoral Councils (CEC), based in a well-staffed office in suburban Melbourne, sent out mass mailings reflecting the views of Lyndon LaRouche—including bizarre anti-Semitic conspiracy theories—and particularly targeted Jewish and other antiracist organizations in Australia. The scale and impact of the CEC's operations, however, had declined since the publication of an extensive exposé in the *Australia/Israel Review* in 1996 that was then reported on national television. Nevertheless the CEC's annual report, lodged with the Australian Electoral Commission, indicated that, despite its negligible political profile, the group's high-pressure fund-raising techniques had brought in a remarkable amount of money.

Small neo-Nazi groups such as the Southern Cross Hammer Skinheads, the Australian National Socialist Movement, and White Australian Revolutionaries operated in all the major Australian cities, distributing racist pamphlets, placing abusive e-mail and phone calls, and engaging in intimidation, graffiti, and vandalism. The largest neo-Nazi group, National Action, based in Adelaide with a substantial cell in Melbourne, distributed a newsletter, maintained an Internet site, and, during the year, harassed the antiracist activists in Melbourne who forced the closure of the National Action store.

The deceptively named Australian Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) continued to advocate Holocaust denial. Virtually every public announcement from this "letterhead" organization was directed at protecting the "rights" of Holocaust deniers or others racists. John Bennett, its moving force, sat on the editorial advisory committee of the *Journal of Historical Review*, published by the Institute for Historical Review in California, the world's most famous Holocaust-denial organization. *Your Rights 1999* was the 25th annual edition of the handbook published by John Bennett for the ACLU. Through the years, the book had attacked multiculturalism and Asian immigration, promoted xenophobes and anti-Semites, and strongly criticized behavior attributed to the Jewish community. A particular campaign of the ACLU during 1999 was the portrayal of Holocaust denier Frederick Toben as a victim of suppression of free speech.

The reversals suffered by Australian imitators of the U.S. "militias" over the course of the previous three years continued during 1999. The militia subculture was hard hit by new, more restrictive gun-ownership legislation, the changeover in government from the socialists—who could easily be demonized by right-wing extremists—to a conservative coalition, and the rise of Pauline Hanson's
One Nation, which seemed to offer the militias' constituency a more mainstream way of "rescuing" Australia. Thus the violently extremist gun magazine Lock, Stock & Barrel was not published during 1999, although some copies of 1996 editions appeared on newsstands and at political meetings. Instead, under the continued editorship of the notorious Ron Owen, Lock, Stock & Barrel established an Internet site that carried the full address as well as a photograph of the home of Education Minister David Kemp. The resulting public outrage forced the temporary closing of the site and removal of the offending page.

**Holocaust-Related Matters**

War crimes remained an exceptionally emotional issue, both because the Australian Jewish community had the highest proportion of Holocaust survivors in any Jewish community outside Israel, and because Australia had considerable experience with similar tragedies, having taken in many refugees from such killing fields as Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia.

In April, the Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust was launched in Australia. Originally established and funded by Swiss corporations and the Swiss National Bank in 1997 as a humanitarian gesture to aid needy survivors of the Holocaust worldwide, the fund allocated US$2.5 million to Jewish survivors in Australia, to be distributed by a communal committee under the auspices of the ECAJ. Nina Bassat, ECAJ president, described the fund as "a welcome initiative for those who suffered under the Nazis and are today still bearing the repercussions of those years. It may help to alleviate some of the pain felt by survivors, especially those living in situations of need."

The issue of Nazi war criminals living in Australia remained on the public stage during 1999. Especially concerned about revelations that Nazi scientists had been allowed into Australia after World War II with the full knowledge and approval of the government, Jewish groups argued for a revived Special Investigations Unit (SIU) to look into such cases, and suggested that war criminals be deprived of citizenship and deported.

In July, the Lithuanian government submitted an official request for Australian assistance in its investigation of alleged Nazi war criminal Antanas Gudelis, who was living in Adelaide. Evidence, including new material unearthed by the Lithuanians and by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem, placed Gudelis in command of a Nazi auxiliary unit that operated in and around Kaunas and Kupiskis. Like two other accused war criminals living in Australia—Karlis Ozols and Konrad Kalejs (declared a war criminal by United States courts)—Gudelis had emigrated to Australia after World War II and had taken out citizenship. Because of an anomaly in the Citizenship Act that set a ten-year time limit for challenging a person's citizenship, none of the three could be stripped of citizenship even if there were proof that citizenship had been obtained by fraud. A change in the law in 1997 eliminated this limitation, but it was not made retroactive. In 1999
AIJAC submitted a proposal to the Australian Citizenship Council to denaturalize citizens implicated in war crimes, but the council's report reaffirmed the government's position against retrospectively lifting the ten-year limitation.

The continuing presence of Nazi war criminals in Australia received international publicity in November when the ABC television network in the United States ran a major story about it on its popular "20/20" program. The show helped revive interest in the continuing war-crimes debate in Australia, and the atrocities in East Timor also contributed to a greater public willingness to address the subject. In December, the War Crimes Act of 1945 was amended to eliminate exceptional evidentiary hurdles in war-crimes cases, where general extradition requirements had been met. This was expected to facilitate prosecution of the Gudelis case and others like it.

JEWSH COMMUNITY

Demography

The Australian Jewish community continued to grow through immigration, particularly from South Africa and the former Soviet Union. Estimates of the total number of Jews in the country ranged from 100,000 to 125,000, out of a total population of some 19 million. There were probably hundreds of thousands of other Australians who had some ancestral relationship with the Jewish community, largely due to the predominantly male Jewish immigration to Australia in the first century of colonization. More than half of all Jews in Australia were born overseas: South African-born Jews were the largest group, followed by natives of Poland, Russia, Hungary, and Germany. The losses attributable to aliyah and a low birthrate were more than made up by immigration. The Jewish community was still heavily concentrated in Melbourne and Sydney, with the Brisbane-Gold Coast area showing the fastest growth.

Census figures—which were approximate, since it was not compulsory to answer questions on religion—indicated that 15-20 percent of married Jewish women and men had non-Jewish partners in 1999, though anecdotal evidence suggested a considerably higher figure. Compared to members of other religions, Jewish Australians were more likely to marry and to do so at a later age, and they were less likely to cohabit without marriage. The Jewish community included an exceptionally high percentage of elderly members, placing a considerable burden on the community's welfare and service agencies.

There were 14,000-20,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union in Australia, most of them living in Sydney and Melbourne. Australia's Jewish community had received, per capita, more immigrants from the FSU than even Israel, at least double the proportion received by the U.S., and seven times the number that went to Canada. Integrating this community continued to be a major challenge, especially
since many of the new arrivals lacked Jewish literacy. Despite the assistance provided by the local communities, particularly on the arrival of these Jews in the country, communal leadership remained concerned that these newcomers were finding it easier to assimilate into Australian society than to integrate into its Jewish community.

Communal Affairs

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), continued under the presidency of Nina Bassat, while Ron Weiser remained as president of the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA). Mark Leibler was national chairman of the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) (he also headed the United Israel Appeal), and Dr. Colin Rubenstein was AIJAC's executive director. In August 1999, the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs (AIJA) became a division of AIJAC, and in that same month Adam Indikt, the editor of AIJAC's monthly journal, the *Review*, resigned after one year at the helm and five years as a senior researcher. Doctoral student and former contributing editor Tzvi Fleischer was appointed in his place. AIJAC continued its association with the American Jewish Committee, and, together with the AJC's Asia and Pacific Rim Institute, issued *Islam In Asia: Changing Political Realities*, which was launched at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Melbourne in November, and in Washington in December.

David Bernstein resigned as editor of the *Australian Jewish News* after the publishers removed a column he wrote in support of a cartoon that many readers found offensive. Deborah Stone was appointed editor of the Melbourne edition of the *Australian Jewish News*, while Vic Alhadeff remained the editor of the Sydney edition.

Maccabiah Tragedy

Nearly three years after the tragedy at the 15th Maccabiah Games in Israel, when a bridge collapsed killing four Australian athletes and injuring more than 70 others, the victims still had not been paid compensation. While the Israeli government's agreement to stand as the insurer of last resort was a welcome development, the question of compensation could not be finalized until the extent of the insurance companies' liability was established. The Israeli Knesset reestablished a committee of inquiry into the tragedy, and, by order of an Israeli court, a team of doctors was to visit Australia to examine those who suffered injuries. But Maccabi Australia resolved not to participate in the next Maccabiah unless all victims were compensated, safety procedures were professionally assured, and the entire organization of the Maccabiah underwent review. Maccabi Australia, which worked together with the ECAJ and the ZFA on these issues, also called for the resignations of the president and chairman of the Maccabi World Union, but did not make these preconditions for attending the next Maccabiah.
Interreligious Dialogue

Jewish-Christian dialogue continued. In New South Wales, the Association of Jewish Jurists and the St. Thomas More Centre cosponsored a seminar on the Catholic Church and the Shoah, which was addressed by Cardinal Edward Cassidy, the author of the Vatican document on this subject published in 1998. Papers were also presented by Rabbi Raymond Apple and Professor Colin Tatz. Governor-General Sir William Deane and a number of other dignitaries attended. A second major interreligious event was a seminar convened by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Committee on Ecumenism. It was designed to discuss, with other faith communities, the Catholic Church's plans for the year 2000. Rabbi Selwyn Franklin of Central Synagogue Sydney presented a paper there.

Education

More than half of all Jewish children aged 4–18—close to 70 percent of those aged 4–12—received full-time Jewish education in the 19 Jewish day schools in Australia. Spanning the religious spectrum, these schools continued to rank at the highest level for academic achievement. This reflected the community's major investment in the schools as a means of preserving Jewish continuity. Day-school enrollments continued to expand, despite ongoing concerns over high costs and the challenge to the community to find new sources of funding. In Melbourne alone there were over 5,500 children in Jewish day schools, and in Sydney one school had a waiting list of over 300.

Prime Minister Howard reassured the Jewish community that day schools had "an absolute guarantee that their right to exist and receive a reasonable level of government support, will continue," adding that tuition fees would be exempt from the new goods-and-services tax, as would the cost of any other activity included as part of the normal curriculum.

There was an increased emphasis on adult education via the Melton Program, which had nearly 500 students in Sydney and Melbourne. Short-term courses utilizing guest lecturers also proved popular. Top priorities for the future, according to Australian Jewish educators, were Jewish studies on the university level, and teacher education to provide quality faculty for the day schools.

Culture

Australian Jews played a significant role in the artistic and cultural life of the Australian community, with writers, artists, performers, and directors in every sphere of cultural endeavor. Examples in 1999 included: Jack Feldstein's play "A Small Suburban Crisis"; Neer Korn's book *Shades of Belonging: Conversations with Australian Jews*; Lily Brett's novel *Too Many Men*; Yossi Berger's *A Kind of Violence*; and Gabriel Kune's biography of John Saunders, *Nothing Is Impossi-
ble (which was launched by Prime Minister Howard). Inge Clendinnen (not Jewish) won the NSW Premier’s Prize for her book, *Reading the Holocaust*.

Apart from the extremely valuable contributions to Jewish cultural life made by the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne and the Sydney Jewish Museum—both of which were world-class institutions—the various Australian Jewish film festivals (Melbourne, Sydney, and now Canberra) and Jewish theater groups added immeasurably to the cultural life of the community. A rock extravaganza with a Holocaust theme, called “Kaddish,” was featured at the 1999 Melbourne International Festival of the Arts.

**Personalia**

The following members of the Jewish community received national honors: Brian Gaensler, astrophysicist, Young Australian of the Year; Harry Triguboff, businessman and communal benefactor, AO; Rodney Adler, insurance industry leader, AM; Lynne Davies, past president of the National Council of Jewish Women, AM; Dr. Gerhart Lowenthal, nuclear scientist and teacher, AM; Bernard Gold, sportsman and Maccabi life member, OAM; Alwynne Beryl Jona, communal worker, OAM; Harry Sebel, architect, OAM; and Professor A. G. Klein, scientist.

Australia and the Jewish community mourned the untimely death of Ron Castan AM QC, a brilliant lawyer, activist, and philanthropist, who passed away in Melbourne on October 21 at the age of 59 due to complications from an operation. Castan, widely recognized as one of the best legal minds in Australia, worked tirelessly on behalf of human rights, civil liberties, and communal tolerance both in Australia and abroad. A former director and editorial board member at AIJAC, Castan was best known to the wider community for his pioneering work on behalf of aboriginal rights. He helped establish the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service in 1972 and was a leading member of the legal team that, in the 1992 Mabo case, overturned the legal fiction that Australia had been *terra nullius* (unoccupied land) before white settlement. He also contributed significantly to drafting the proposed constitution of a newly independent East Timor.

Other notable members of the Jewish community to pass away during 1999 included: businessmen/industrialists Eric Smorgon and Sir Peter Abeles; David Aronson, labor lawyer; George Molnar, philosopher; Joe Rose, artist; Sam Goldbloom, political activist; and Sidney Sinclair, former president of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society.

**Colin L. Rubenstein**