

Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants Inc

BEIT HASHOAH בית השואה

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On behalf of the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Descendants, I am privileged to take part in the tribute to Eddie Jaku OAM z'l organised by March of The Living, Australia.

Eddie was a member of the Association since its inception and was Treasurer for 10 years during the period when the Sydney Jewish Museum was established. Of course, we always knew that his lovely wife, Flore, was the power behind the throne as far as the accounting issues were concerned. Eddie has always supported the Association and Life Membership was conferred upon him as a result of his very valuable contribution both to the Association and to the community in general.

I recall that even in the early days, Eddie would speak his mind but in a rather understated manner. He would, however, take part in the sometimes rather volatile Association board meetings although he would attempt to calm the atmosphere if the discussion became overly heated. Over the years he blossomed into the man we all knew who was willing to speak about his experiences and philosophy of life to anyone who asked. And he was always willing to give advice, even when it was not solicited.

Eddie and Flore occasionally lived in the same apartment block as my parents. Whenever we met them, we would be greeted with smiles and enthusiasm. We always felt welcome even when they were at the Montefiore Home. Nothing was ever too much as shown by an incident with our local Pharmacist in Abbotsford. Knowing that I am closely associated with the Sydney Jewish Museum, she asked us if we knew Eddie as she had asked him to sign some of his books for her book club. Of course, he was only too pleased to oblige however owing to covid restrictions she could not easily pick them up. As Margaret and I were able to go to the Home, we were able to deliver the books to the Pharmacist much to her delight and Eddie's relief.

It was Eddie's passion and obvious enjoyment imparting his story to others which endeared him to us and everyone who met him. His message is timeless, and his memory will live long in the world well beyond the Jewish people.

Dr George Foster
President