

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE FOR ROSH HASHANA 5779**

An age old saying says "Charity Begins at Home" ... which means that you should deal with the needs of people close to you before you start to help others who are far away. In a small community, like Brisbane, we have so many organisations within our Jewish religion. One Friday night at shul, I had a look around and almost all of the men in shul were made up of heads, or vice-heads, of various community boards. It is, on the one hand, tremendous that we have so many who are committed to giving of their time to look after organisations that see to the needs of so many. However, and these are only my thoughts, when YOUR shul, right here in the heart of Brisbane, is battling to make ends meet, surely, we should think of "charity begins at home" and assist the BHC first so that we can survive and be here for hundreds of years into the future.

Many thanks to the members of the board of management and to my vice president, David Paratz, for the support in the year. Well done to Michelle Solo, who will be taking over as treasurer and to Tony Gariano, our current treasurer for the countless hours of dedication to make the numbers crunch a little softer. Thank you to Rabbi Jaffe for a great year filled with bat and barmitzvahs, brit milahs, baby naming ceremonies and so many simchas.

On behalf of my wife, Janine, for allowing me the time and for her support in this role, we wish you chag sameach and have a sweet giving and forgiving year.

Janine joins with me in wishing a Shanah Tovah to you and your families

*Michael Arenson*  
*President*  
*Brisbane Hebrew Congregation*

