

## Danby family honours relatives lost in Shoah

TIMNA JACKS

FEDERAL Member for Melbourne Ports Michael Danby recently returned from a trip to Rostock in Germany with relatives spanning three generations, where they laid memorial plaques outside the home of his grandparents who perished in Auschwitz.

Danby's late grandfather, Bruno Danziger, was transported to Auschwitz on July 20, 1942.

His late grandmother Margarethe Danziger was in hiding with her sister in Berlin, but was discovered in early 1943 and transported to Auschwitz.

Together with his relatives, Danby laid small concrete blocks known as stolpersteine – from the German word meaning “stumbling block” – outside the home of Bruno and Margarethe Danziger, to commemorate their lives in pre-World War II Rostock.

Following the event, which was attended by Australia's Deputy Ambassador to Germany, Thomas Roth, Danby and his family went to the cemetery to recite Kaddish.

It is customary to install stolpersteine on pavements in towns, cities



Family members (from left) Ari Sherr, William Currie, Angela Currie and Michael Danby.

and villages across Europe and Russia in commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust.

Danby said the experience was “was difficult to place in words”.

“It's certainly not an occasion that engenders any sort of joy, only a morbid form of closure,” he said.

“It does, however, present an opportunity to create a reminder of the barbarity of the Nazi regime that reigned in that period of history and those who passed at their hands. A reminder that this never be repeated again.

“Having three generations present paying their respect added special significance to the ceremony.”

## Young leaders build bridges

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YOUNG leaders from different faith groups put their heads together to tackle the challenges of racism and anti-Semitism in Australia last week, in a bid to foster understanding and acceptance among ethnic groups in Victoria.

The sixth B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission (ADC) Multi-faith Future Leaders Program – coordinated by the ADC's development and project manager, Edna Lipson – was attended by 30 young adults from the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Baha'i, Buddhist, Aboriginal and atheist communities.

Interactive sessions over the three-day event, involved intensive discussions on the commonalities between religions and conflict resolution. Talks were facilitated by Jewish educators Frances Prince, Rabbi Shamir Caplan, Sharon Zisin, Esther Takac and Gabrielle Orosz.

Participants were encouraged to share their personal stories, focusing on their journeys to Australia and the role of religion in their lives. Several of the participants were asylum seekers from Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Aboriginal participant Leila Gurruwiwi, 26, said the camp was an experience she will “never forget”.

“Being around such a multicultural, multi-faith group was an absolute privilege and I hope to do



Multi-faith Future Leaders Program participants (from left) Lauren Mandel, Fadima Aden and Sahba Dehghani.

more with all the young people I've met during the year,” she said.

Jewish participant Andrew Schnapp, 22, said, “The purpose of the camp was not only to find the similarities between our faiths, but to discover and appreciate our differences.

“The willingness of the participants to engage with each other socially created a true pluralistic environment.”

Sahba Dehghani, 22, of the Baha'i faith, said, “A truly extraordinary environment was fostered; one in which all views and opinions were respected, all people were made to feel welcome, and a genuine search for truth was sparked.”

She said she couldn't wait to “embark on the process of learning

how to spread our new found friendship” to encourage others to engage in multi-faith dialogue.

ADC chairman Dr Dvir Abramovich said the “powerful program” is a “blessing to our community, bringing individuals together for far-reaching discussion and dialogue”.

“It builds bridges of understanding and reflects the ADC's tireless commitment to promoting a culture of respect for all and increased inter-religious communication.”

Upcoming activities for participants of the program will include visits to a synagogue, mosque, Sikh temple, Baha'i celebrations and various social welfare programs, such as feeding the homeless.

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to secure tickets to this event