

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF VICTORIA Inc. *Reg No A0042905Y*

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
1:00PM WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2009
AT CAULFIELD SHUL – 572 INKERMAN RD CAULFIELD**

1.0 PRESENT

Rabbi Klwugant (Chair); Rabbi Barber; Rabbi Boroda; Rabbi; Genende; Rabbi Glasman;
Rabbi Gorelik; Rabbi Greenbaum; Rabbi Gutnick; Rabbi Heilbrunn; Rabbi Riesenber;g
Rabbi Telsner; Rabbi Yurkowicz

APOLOGIES

R' Caplan; Rabbi Cohen; Rabbi Garfunkel; Rabbi CZ Groner; Rabbi M Gutnick;
Rabbi Levin; Rabbi Rubinfeld; Rabbi Sprung

IN ATTENDANCE

Rabbi E Belfer

Rabbi Telsner proposed a vote of Mazal Tov to Rabbis Yurkowicz, Levin and Rubinfeld on the engagements/marriage of their children. Rabbi Boroda invited all members to the Barmitzvah of his son to be held on Parshas Veyakhel-Pekudei.

2.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM DRAFT MINUTES

The Chairman noted that the Draft Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 21 January 2009 had been sent to all members. It was agreed that the Minutes were in order. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3.0 CORRESPONDENCE

[REDACTED]

4.0 SPECIAL BUSINESS

4.1 [REDACTED]

4.2 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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4.3 [REDACTED]

4.4 [REDACTED]

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 [REDACTED]

5.2 Abuse Issue

Rabbi Barber advised that after consulting with the President, he had met with a lawyer and Ms Mary Mass. He had also received advice on the matter from a Psychiatrist who was a member of his Shul. At the conclusion of his presentation Rabbi Barber suggested that a group of three rabbis approach the alleged abuser to express the RCV's concern over the allegations, and that the alleged abuser then be called to 'explain himself' at a session before select members of the Committee and general membership.

Rabbi Boroda expressed concern over the possibility of unjustified character assassination. Rabbi Genende expressed his frustration that that the abuser had escaped any accountability but was concerned by Rabbi Barber's recommendation, as legal counsel to the RCV had been against taking such action. Rabbi Heilbrunn commented that the Committee had given this particular matter a lot of time and attention and agreed with the sentiments expressed by Rabbi Genende.

After lively debate and discussion **it was agreed** that Rabbi Barber proceed with his suggestions subject to the approval of Mr Appel. Rabbi Kluwgant agreed to set up a meeting with Mr Appel to address this issue in the coming days.

5.3 [REDACTED]

5.4 [REDACTED]

6.0 NEXT MEETING

[REDACTED]

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF VICTORIA Inc. *Reg No A0042905Y***GEIRUT WORKSHOP
2009**

Rabbi Barber made a short presentation and advised that the Geirut Program had resumed, although there remained some issues to work out with the new Geirut Coordinator.

Rabbi Stollard's absence was noted.

Rabbi Belfer, who is the Registrar of the Beth Din then made a brief presentation noting the current statistics:

- Currently 27 candidates in the program
- 3 individuals converted over the past 12 months
- 4 individuals have dropped out of the program

Rabbi Belfer expressed concern regarding

- Issuing of certificates
- Inconsistencies around pronunciations

The Chairman thanked Rabbi Belfer for his efforts and asked him to prepare a written report to be distributed to all members.