

Sir Adolph Basser,  
343 Edgecliffe Road,  
EDGECLIFFE. N.S.W.

16th August, 1962.

Sir,

I take the liberty of writing to you with regard to a matter belonging to a field in which you are known to take great interest.

The matter I am referring to is a recent weighty development in the furtherance of Jewish education and concerns the conversion of the 20 year old and pioneering Bialik Sunday school into a primary day school.

The new school, under the name "Bialik College", will operate under the auspices of the State Zionist Council of Victoria and lay stress on Jewish studies, with particular reference to the teaching of Hebrew as a living language, as well as on general education and preparation for worthy citizenship of this country.

The College Council, which consists of prominent members of the Melbourne Jewish community, has in the last 3 years made strenuous efforts to realise this project and it is only a few months since it succeeded in acquiring a suitable building at 6 Shakespeare Grove Hawthorn, in an area which will allow it to cater for a large number of Jewish children. The College Council has also been successful in engaging a staff of first class teachers and the College will open in the coming school year.

Our Melbourne community has suffered for some time past from the lack of a sufficient number of primary day schools and Bialik College will serve as a major remedy; it is envisaged as being and remaining a primary school, but those who shall desire to continue their secondary education in a Jewish school will, upon finishing Bialik College, get priority of acceptance to Mt. Scopus College.

The setting up of a new day school raises innumerable problems which only those who take the education of our young generation to heart will fully appreciate.

It is felt by myself and my Council that the great interest which you have in Jewish education will extend to Bialik College also and that you will honour us with your support.

I realise that in a short letter I am not able to put before you all the details you may wish to know and in order to give you a full picture I respectfully request that you kindly grant an interview to a member of my Council. It so happens that the Chairman of Friends of Bialik College (a former President of the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand) Mr. Joseph Solvey, will be in Sydney between the 18th and 24th August and he would naturally be a most knowledgeable person for that purpose.

Considering the short time left Mr. Solvey will take the liberty of telephoning your Secretary at the beginning of next week with regard to such interview and will, understandably, fit in with any time convenient to you.

Trusting you will accede to my request,

I remain, Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

J. MERCER  
President, College Council.