

Media Statement

Jewish community welcomes new burial ground at Macquarie Park

A major expansion at one of Sydney's leading not-for-profit community owned cemeteries includes more than 1,000 new lawn and monumental grave sites for Sydney's Jewish community.

A special consecration service was attended by around 40 people at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium on 5 February. Guests included community members and representatives, Northern Cemeteries Chair Dr John Hewson AM, past president of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, David Knoll AM, and Community Relations Manager, Will Nemesh.

Macquarie Park cemetery has responded to a growing demand, given the significant portion of Jewish families living on the north shore wanting to bury loved ones and visit their grave sites without having to travel great distances.

Northern Cemeteries Chief Executive Officer Pauline Tritton says expanding the site's existing Jewish burial space has been a high priority.

"We are delighted to be able to offer this new area as we continually strive to serve and cater for all religious, ethnic and cultural requirements within our community," Mrs Tritton said.

The consecration ceremony was conducted by Rabbi Yoram Ulman, head of Sydney Beth Din, the Orthodox religious court.

It followed biblical tradition with the rabbi leading a walk along the newly allocated Jewish section perimeter seven times. Psalms were recited to link the ground to a spiritual purpose and a ram's horn (shofar) was blown.

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies Chief Executive Vic Alhadeff said his community commends Northern Cemeteries on extending its capacity, with the consecration ceremony establishing the area's physical demarcation.

"Jews are only permitted to be buried on ground which has been consecrated specifically and solely for Jewish burial," Mr Alhadeff explained.

"We commend Sydney Beth Din and Sydney Chevra Kadisha for their co-operation, as well as Rabbi Ulman for conducting the ceremony."