

Ancient Jewish texts brought back to life

Josh Reich
Massey School of Journalism

The idea of collecting facsimile editions of ancient texts may seem a little odd at first glance, but for Auckland man Peter Bruell it is as natural

terest was sparked when one of the congregation brought back from the UK a brochure advertising the company's reproduction of the Meah Berachot - a miniature prayer book.

He was so enthralled he purchased the facsimile of 100 blessings for his wife Claire on their wedding anniversary.

He has since purchased a copy of the Rothschild Haggadah for his son's 21st birthday, as well as the Perek Shirah (a hymn) and the recently released Megillat Esther, which celebrated the deliverance of Jews from evil.

Peter says despite costing in the thousands of dollars, the artistic effort that goes into each piece, as well as the designs presented, makes them a treasured possession.

"They are a joy to pick up every time I've got a spare minute."

Peter says it is enlightening to see how skilled people were 600 years ago.

"The quality of what they produced - it just blows you away."

He says the reproductions are created as close as possible to the original document.

Where gold or silver lettering has been used, the facsimiles will do the same, and where a page has food or wine stains, they will be added rather than an attempt be made to fill in the missing text or illustration.

Even pin holes that the original writer put in each page to keep the lines straight were added.

It is this attention to detail that keeps Peter coming back for more.

"Every time I get one I say this is it, this is my last one."

• More information:
www.facsimile-editions.com



(above) The Megillat Esther partially opened and (right) the Rothschild Miscellany, open at a page from the Haggadah. Note the reproduced food or wine stains.



HISTORY MADE AT KADIMAH



(l to r) Kathryn Cooper with new New Entrants students Mia Dobbe, Scarlett Jacques and Helena Danesh-Clough

By Debi Krawitz
Deputy principal

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new New Entrants class.

On 16 July 2007, three students Mia Dobbe, India Klink and Helena Danesh-Clough, entered their new classroom. Not only was it a new physical environment, but also a new teacher and a new initiative.

Two further students, Haven Qin and Hannah Flacks, will be joining the class soon and we hope to have a full class by the end of the year. New entrant classes are not new to New Zealand, they have been happening for many years, but it is new to Kadimah College. Children are eligible to join the class at age five - usually on their fifth birthday - but at Kadimah during the month they turn five. The New Entrant teacher, Kathryn Cooper, has a specialised degree in Early Years Teaching and is an enormous asset to our school.

Kadimah has always run a Preschool class catering for children who turned four by the end of March of that year. It also holds Kabbalat Shabbat classes on a Friday morning for three-year old children. With this new development the school will be

more flexible and can cater for children's individual needs.

If a child is not ready for formal learning (even though they may have turned five), they will be able to remain in Preschool until they are ready. Our two Preschool teachers, Bev Book and Heidi Szentes, are both teachers with many years experience in early childhood and know the many milestones to look for to see when a child is ready to move on to more formal learning. As soon as a child has moved onto the New Entrants class it frees up a space in Preschool.

When your child turns four, (no matter what time of the year), he/she will be able to join the Kadimah family.

We now have the best of both worlds - a place where children can learn and grow through play and a place where they can develop and explore through more formal learning. Our class sizes remain small and personal. We have excellent facilities and now have our very own Preschool playground with an adventure playground on site.

• Places are filling fast. If you wish to enrol, please contact Debi at debik@kadimah.school.nz or call the school office at 09-373-3072.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPTURE OF BEERSHEVA

On October 31, 2007 New Zealand and Australia will join Israel in commemorating the 90th anniversary of the capture of Beer Sheva by ANZAC soldiers.

All New Zealanders living in Israel - and those who may be in Israel at the time of this event - are invited to join the Israel New Zealand Friendship Association on a chartered bus journey to Beer Sheva.

The programme includes:

- Meet early and march through the old city of Beer Sheva
- Ceremony at War Graves Cemetery followed by

the Turkish Memorial.

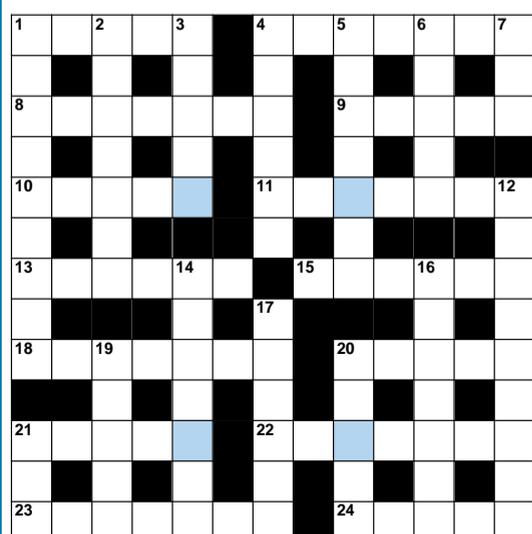
- Light Lunch hosted by Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors
- Group visit to the battle site of Tel Sheva which was defended by New Zealand troops
- March across the battle plain on or off horseback
- Concluding ceremony
- Evening film - "Youth Destiny of Britain"

• If you wish to join this historical event please register your interest by contacting INZFA at tamark11@zahav.net.il

Chronicle crossword

Nº 25

By David Tossman



ACROSS

- Shrink from a bitter quarrel about right (5)
- Where you might write a propane formula (2,5)
- A lion eats to rip off a circus performer (7)
- Where Peter Jackson directs an attack (5)
- Agree with difficulty to be keen (5)
- Assuage collapse, though there is a snag (7)
- A peculiar boy with a very good chance (4-2)
- Renounce using mixed nectar (6)
- A relative at a party in General Motors' realm (7)
- In favour of getting into one protective garment (5)
- Emotional tension caused by one type of consumer tax (5)
- Zionist leader becomes involved in nasty chores for a fast movement (7)
- Deserve to be upset and cut off (7)
- A hundred remaining in the split (5)

DOWN

- Far out: yours truly with a job producing a basic structure (9)
- Furious printers measure newspaper leader (7)
- Suspend a physician taking an English degree (5)
- It is silly to be us, to be blunt (6)
- Produced in abundance for the academic to utilise (7)
- Some of the Wairarapa's tastiest ravioli perhaps (5)
- Right to be upset with stuff and nonsense (3)
- Auntie got tiddly going to a restaurant (6,3)
- The senior citizen is sorted out about the end of April (7)
- Our area goes crazy seeing the southern lights several times (7)
- The morning is taken up being pleasantly occupied (6)
- Desert with upsetting information on Enid's first five (5)
- Unplanned publicity given to the first half of a game on ice (2,3)
- This fool gets by out of the abyss (3)

The letters in the coloured squares spell out the name of King David's great-grandmother.

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