

Australia Day Honours

Grahame Leonard

Monash University congratulates Mr **Grahame Leonard** (LLB 1995, BA(Hons) 1996) who was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day for service to the community as an executive member of a range of peak Jewish organisations.

Grahame is a Board Member of Monash University's Foundation for Jewish Studies, and lectures part time at the Monash Faculty of Law.

Judicial appointments

Supreme Court of Victoria

The Honourable **Justice Mark Weinberg** (BA 1970/LLB 1971), will join the Court of Appeal after nearly 10 years as a Federal Court Judge.

Justice Weinberg, who graduated from Monash Law School (LLB) in 1971 after completing a Bachelor of Arts in 1970, served as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island and is the former Dean of the University of Melbourne Law School. He is widely respected as one of Australia's best judges.

Supreme Court of Victoria

The Honourable **Justice James Judd** (BJuris 1972/LLB 1978) was appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Justice Judd was senior legal counsel assisting the Longford Royal Commission into the gas explosion in 1998. In the early 1990s he appeared for state government agencies in the WA Inc Royal Commission and in 2006 represented the Australian Wheat Board before Commissioner Terence Cole. He joined the Bar in 1981 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1996.

Water water everywhere

Fifth year Arts/Law student Anna Landau recently travelled to the Middle East to look at an issue close to home – water management. Her visit was made possible through the Monash Law Faculty internship program which has developed arrangements with 11 organisations – mostly international – to offer unique opportunities for law students at Monash. The Ecopeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East Internship is offered to one student each year who has the chance to work with the largest grassroots environmental organisation in the world.

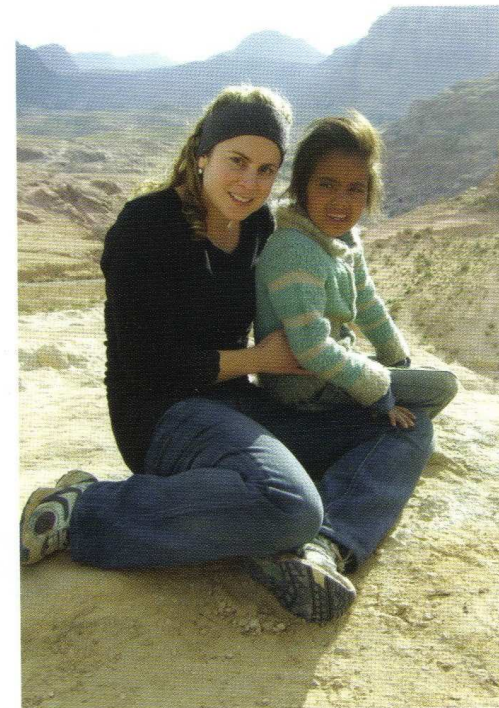
Joining forces with Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) – a non-government organisation dedicated to environmental cross-border issues between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories – Anna helped on a new water management initiative for the region.

Despite being one of the most water scarce areas on earth, the Middle East is home to the world's most sacred river, the Jordan River. Described as a thriving water source in the Bible, in reality it is closer to a polluted, raw sewage canal. The Dead Sea, the world's saltiest water body and an important tourist attraction for the area, is also facing dire implications and is dropping one metre each year, affecting the important tourism industry of the surrounding area.

Anna's role included writing a letter requesting a look at the possible breaches posed by the World Bank's plans alongside the Israeli and Jordanian governments to build a 200km water conduit bringing sea water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea.

The move, which means dredging the coral reefs and changing the composition of the waters of the Dead Sea itself, is believed to overlook vital alternatives, such as rejuvenating the Jordan River, the Dead Sea's natural fresh water source.

Anna also joined FoEME's international delegation from Kenya, Italy, Germany, England, the United States and Israel on a week-long tour through Jordan, Israel and the West Bank.



According to Anna, "Israel and the Middle East have been dealing with water scarcity issues for a long time now, and I believe there is much Australia can learn from this region's experiences – both good and bad. Water is precious, as we are well aware here in Australia. It is a resource everyone needs. The beauty of FoEME's work is that it is able to advance sustainable regional development and create peaceful dialogue and cooperation within the turbulent region."