

It's a great honour for me to speak about a certain lady who will soon be leaving our fair shores and making Aliyah to Melbourne, the birthplace of AFL Football. Go the Swannies!

Our Maxine Klarnet, fondly recognised as WIZO's treasure of a Treasurer will be moving shortly, although Maxine has lived there before she is no stranger to Melbourne. Born in Adelaide, she moved to Melbourne, where she wanted to have a more Jewish lifestyle, then to Sydney and now, like the proverbial boomerang, back to Melbourne.

It was only after her marriage and the birth of her son in Sydney that she fully embraced WIZO, with her good friend, Denny Govendir, they joined WIZO Golan and Maxine quickly become involved in the structure of the group and held various roles. This group eventually merged with WIZO Ayelet and due to Maxine's background in accounting, she become the treasurer of WIZO Ayelet at the same time that I was President of the group and our working partnership and friendship commenced. We were both asked to join WIZO's Executive Council and then

in 1992 when I was President of WIZO NSW, Maxine joined me, (thank goodness!) in the Treasurer role; in 1998 we took on the same leadership roles together for WIZO Australia. We were a double act and proudly held these roles for a combined total of 11 years.

Maxine was / is calm, clear thinking and always logical and was a great balance for me and the craziness that sometimes happens in leadership, she maintained a serious and humorous outlook on all matters and was so easy to work with. We always respected her wise counsel and after returning from World WIZO conferences in Israel, Maxine helped steer WIZO NSW and Australia onto successful new fundraising ventures, as she had a deep understanding of WIZO's vital role in Israeli society.

We are proud that Maxine has received many of WIZO's important awards and honours, including the Rebecca Seif Award and WIZO's Lifetime Achievement award and due to her compassion and generosity, WIZO's major donor pin.

Tonight, Maxine, we acknowledge and say a huge thank you for the contribution you have made and your solid dedication to WIZO. We wish you and Jack every happiness in this next stage of your lives. We will certainly miss you. So it is not good bye but Shalom and l'hitraot.