

# Council's 'Living Library' celebrates all of Waverley's diversity

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A YOUNG rabbi, a World War II serviceman and a Bondi lifeguard. They may come from different backgrounds and cultures, but they share one thing in common: they make up the rich tapestry of Waverley's diverse community.

They're set to share their stories with a group of local students in May, as part of Waverley Council's inaugural Living Library event.

The idea is simple. Instead of borrowing a book to read, students at Rose Bay Secondary College will listen to a personal account from a "living book".

Organised as part of Waverley's ongoing 150th anniversary celebra-

tions, the event aims to break down barriers between different cultures and celebrate diversity.

Yeshiva Centre's Rabbi Eli Feldman, who will speak at the Living Library, said it was a privilege to give an Orthodox Jewish perspective to both Jewish and non-Jewish students.

"It provides them with a bit more exposure," he said. "Born and bred in Bondi, I'm a proud Jew and Australian, and I'm going to talk to them about how they're not mutually exclusive."

Retired Jewish serviceman Harold Herman and Bondi lifeguard Bruce Hopkins, who regularly appears in Channel Ten's *Bondi Rescue*, are also expected to appear. Long-time Waverley residents Betty Ward and

Dina Franks, and newcomer Pearl Martin, who moved to the area from New Zealand, will also contribute to the event.

Jewish councillor Yvonne Coburn, who will open the event, said it was important to capture the stories of our seniors and record them for posterity.

"Younger members of our community will benefit enormously from having access to this information," she said.

She added that it was her late father, Felix Feuermann, who taught her the importance of books.

"He helped me recognise the fact that these books recorded and brought to life defining historical moments."