



Dr Howard Goldenberg - recipient of the Ron Castan Humanitarian Award 2013

Dr Howard Goldenberg is a writer, an outback doctor and a lapsed mohel (ritual circumciser). He is married with three children and a riot of grandchildren.

His published works include two books – *My Father's Compass, a memoir* (Hybrid, 2007) and of *Raft* (Hybrid, 2009), a nonfiction work that is an intimate and candid account of his work as a doctor in dozens of remote indigenous communities, over many years. Howard has written numerous opinion pieces in broadsheet newspapers and essays and stories in various print and online media.

Howard addresses many Jewish groups about indigenous welfare and his work within the community. As such, he contributes to a growing interest in indigenous issues and has inspired other people; particularly young people to work in this challenging area.

Howard's interest in the plight of refugees saw him take on work as a doctor at the Christmas Island Detention Centre.

Howard is an avid long distance runner and has been committed to raising money for a variety of causes through his passion. Over 30 years ago he established a fun run to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital to commemorate the life of a young patient who died of leukemia. He has raised funds for the Haemophilia Research Unit at the Boston Children's Hospital through sponsorship of the Boston Marathon he completed some years ago. Howard has run 36 full marathons.

While now retired from practice, Howard was once one of Melbourne's busiest mohels. Rather than charge, Howard requested donations to charity from the parents. Howard has given hours of his time each week over the years to prepare boys for their barmitzvahs, not just teaching them to read from the Torah but also to prepare them for active Jewish life. He teaches by example that to become a good and decent Jew is to be of service to the Jewish and wider community.

Over several decades Howard has been travelling to the outback to work in remote indigenous communities as a GP. His work involves helping those in impoverished communities where physical and mental health is considerably diminished. Despite the emotionally challenging work, he has regularly sought out these opportunities for work despite geographical remoteness, and the many challenges.

About the Ron Castan Humanitarian Award

The awards are named in honour of the late Ron Castan AM QC who made an enormous contribution to the Australian public in general and the indigenous community in particular. The Awards seek to recognize Jewish individuals who have attained excellence and renown in their chosen humanitarian fields and whose actions, in addition to their achievement, embody the characteristics of Ron Castan that include wisdom, empathy, a sharp intellect, and graciousness. The Young Humanitarian Award seeks to recognise an individual under the age of 30.

Ron was a distinguished barrister and human rights advocate who played a leading role in some of Australia's most significant legal cases, such as the Gove land rights case; the Franklin Dam case and most prominently; the Eddie Mabo case which overturned the doctrine of terra nullius (ie that Australia was "empty land") recognising Aboriginal Land Rights in Australian law for the first time.

For more information about Jewish Aid or the awards please contact Lillian Kline: lillian@jewishaid.org.au

