

New vision for chamber

GARETH NARUNSKY

HE has spent much of his business career in the field of eye care, now the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICC) NSW have put their faith in Charles Nightingale to execute their vision going forward.

Former head of corporate eye care for Specsavers Australia and New Zealand, Charles Nightingale began in the role of CEO of the chamber this week.

He told *The AJN* his commencement in the role comes after a 17-year association with the AICC.

“The first time I got introduced to the chamber was to actually give a vote of thanks to [former Telstra chair] Bob Mansfield at my first business lunch, which had about 500 people,” he said.

“I’d never come across a networking organisation like it in my life before. And over the various iterations of my business career I got back in touch with the AICC because it’s been terrific for establishing business relationships.

“So when the opportunity came up to apply for the CEO role it was a no-brainer.”

AICC NSW president Kim Jacobs said the organisation is “very excited” to have Nightingale on board as CEO, “especially given his background and experience in building businesses”,



New Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (NSW) CEO Charles Nightingale (left) with Indigenous entrepreneur Michael McLeod.

citing his work with Specsavers in particular.

“He helped build that business up substantially in Australia and has had a lot of exposure to corporate clients,” he said.

“Charles also is a very good strategic thinker, he has also been involved in the chamber for many years as a member, and knows a lot about the chamber and also what we’re about.

“The board is very comfortable and I think he can help grow the business to the next stage of where we want to take the chamber to.”

Jacobs also paid tribute to former

CEO Dave Schlessinger.

“Dave did a great job over the last four years. He consolidated the chamber and we’re very thankful to have had him with us over that period of time,” he said.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Nightingale immigrated to Australia 18 years ago.

He has held a variety of executive roles within eye care, pharmaceuticals and legal.

His three children attended Moriah College and wife Helen works as a teacher’s assistant at the college’s Mount Zion kindergarten.

Singing for peace

PHOEBE ROTH

ALTHOUGH they were unable to be part of last month’s AFL International Cup due to the hostilities taking place on their doorsteps, the renowned AFL Peace Team is continuing to spread messages of hope.

They have entered their team song, *Salaam* (meaning peace), into Sing For Spring – a national project to get communities singing together to help people in need.

The Peace Team, which is made up of Israeli and Palestinian players, first performed their rendition of the popular Israeli folk song a few years back. The video was put together in 2011.

Spearheaded by Jewish soprano and social entrepreneur Tania de

Jong AM, Sing for Spring is raising money for Creativity Australia’s With One Voice Program, which brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to sing.

Founder of the AFL peace team Tanya Oziel said the team came together not only through football, but through music as well. “Everywhere they went they would sing this song, they would light up a room,” Oziel told *The AJN*.

“Hopefully the peace team’s message will resonate and inspire people to give money to a great cause.”

To enter your own video, go to www.singforspring.com.

Watch the AFL peace team’s entry Available on the iPad app and e-paper edition



The AFL Peace Team, made up of Israeli and Palestinian players, sings *Salaam*.

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