

Find the right Israel program for you

A/JN STAFF

THE biggest Israel programs fair ever held in Australia will be in Melbourne on March 29 to showcase a wide range of gap year, study abroad, special interest, post-university and volunteer experiences for young adults aged 18-30.

The Shuk will provide attendees with the opportunity to meet program organisers, alumni and learn about possibilities for funding.

Zionist Federation of Australia president Dr Danny Lamm said the programs, which include internships with Google, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the *Jerusalem Post*, can provide invaluable experiences.

"Israel can provide the framework for further study, with access to courses unavailable anywhere else in the world and internship opportunities with some of Israel's most cutting-edge companies that will set your CV apart from the rest," Lamm said.

"You can give back as you reach out to others through a myriad of volunteering options or simply take time away to discover Israel, explore your interests and live like a local."



Unique Israel experience: the Budokan Martial Arts and Fitness program.

Israel program coordinator Sarit Braver encouraged people to come along on the day.

"For someone who has ever thought about going to Israel, be it on a short or long term program, The Shuk is a great opportunity to meet program organisers face-to-face, ask questions, hear from alumni and find out about the generous funding opportunities available," Braver said.

The Shuk will take place on Sunday March 29, 11am-1pm, at Beth Weizmann Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield. Enquiries: Sarit on (03) 9272 5584 or email israelprograms@zfa.com.au.

Investing in tech to beat BDS

ZOE KRON

JON Medved (pictured), CEO of one of the world's biggest crowdfunding equity platforms OurCrowd, is imploring the Jewish community to support Israel through investing in its technology companies.



Medved, one of Israel's most respected technology investors who is visiting Australia this week, told *The AJN* this is another way to bolster support for Israel, tackle the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign and strengthen the country.

"Just like through the years we've always built Israel by investing in its trees, in Israel bonds and in the UIA, which is critically important that we continue doing, but now we have to add a new dimension to our support for Israel, which is to get involved in this incredible innovation story," Medved said.

Hailing Israel's technology sector, Medved added, "We innovate, therefore we are. In Israel, we innovate or die, that's the bottom line. It's been that way since the beginning and that's why we are this start-up nation."

Through this mentality and through investing in Australia's burgeoning tech sector, his company is breaking down barriers and tackling BDS.



The ReWalk exoskeleton on show at a Zionist Council of Victoria event last year.

Photo: Peter Haskin

"The more we connect these two countries the more we show that people can both create money, create jobs and benefit humanity and solve big problems. Go boycott that! Boycott the fact that an Israeli platform is helping an Australian company get into the market and raise over a million dollars in investment for Australia," Medved explained.

Medved attributes Israel's success to a culture that celebrates risk and doesn't live in fear of failure, urging Australians to follow suit. "It starts with the entrepreneurs who need to ... understand that the worst thing that can happen to them is to fail. Big deal! Get over it! It's part of the game."

OurCrowd has been at the forefront of innovations emanating from

Israel, including ReWalk, the robotic exoskeleton that allows paraplegic people to walk, which he described as Israel's most inspiring invention.

"The reason why I'm so proud of that company is it is an investment that benefits profit, people and the planet," Medved said.

Medved added that he is delighted to be presenting at the Creative Innovation conference in Melbourne, spearheaded by Tania de Jong.

The Creative Innovation Conference 2015 is from March 23-25. For more information, visit www.ci2015.com.au.

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