



# REFLECTIONS ON SATURDAY MORNINGS IN ORRONG ROAD...

I will start with a confession. I enjoy coming to Kedem Shabbat services – I always have, but I have been aware that I have enjoyed them even more this year. There is something really different about them. There is no doubt that a big contribution is what I am going to call ‘the Ruth factor.’ Since she has taken on her role of being Kedem’s Jewish Life and Education Coordinator, as Zoe London beautifully captured it today, she has brought her joy and also her creativity and knowledge of our congregation.

I have really enjoyed different people contributing to different parts of the service, different generations or combinations of families and people contributing in innovative ways. Simon Starr getting us all to join him in rap versions of different prayers at a recent service was an absolute highlight. The energy in the room was fantastic.

I think the new venue has made a difference. The room is very open and has a lot of lovely light and its very healing looking out at the trees as we contemplate one of the excellent drashot that have been delivered by a range of members – Jim Cyngler honouring the contribution of indigenous women for NAIDOC week today, Alice Peer sharing her and others’ important work at the Jewish Holocaust Centre and then absolute highlights like Marg Visbord leyning for the first time ever today (what an inspiration) and the wonderful contribution of Asher Stanton as our new resident cantor and assistant service leader. When he spontaneously led us today in the Shema and Oseh Shalom, we shared a spiritual moment together that I think encapsulates everything that is special about Kedem.

And the singing – always the singing. Today I had the honour of sitting next to Devorah and in front of Marlo and with Libby leading us and of course Asher assisting – the harmonies were something to behold.

No one asked me to write this – I wanted to share my feelings with other members.

So, in case you haven’t come to shule for a while – check it out. There is something very special happening and it would be lovely to share it with you.

Deb Absler.