

Presentation to Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman on behalf of HRH
January 27th 2013

In 1913 the Cyclopedia of Western Australia said of the Jewish community ‘members of this small community ... are particularly prominent in the various charitable and philanthropic movements... they render services out of all proportion to their numbers and are never appealed to in vain...’

Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman epitomizes this Jewish commitment to community service. As a wireless operator and gunner in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, a recruiter for the Jewish Brigade, a scholar, a rabbi in South Africa, an educator, an author and a tireless builder of bridges between the Jewish and gentile communities he has been a force for good on five continents.

In Western Australia Dr Coleman oversaw the establishment of a new Synagogue, taught at the University of Western Australia, served on the senate of Murdoch University, was a member of the boards of Karrakatta and Pinarroo Valley Cemeteries and chaired the Perth Dental Hospital Board. As active Rotarian, a member of the British Legion, of the executive of the RSL and as patron of the WA branch of the Australian Family Association his contributions to the community are too numerous to list individually.

Rabbi Coleman’s involvement with the Principality of Hutt River dates back to 1973 when he participated in the opening of the Chapel of Nain, the Government Offices and Post Office. The following year he invited H.R.H. Prince Leonard to attend the opening of the new Synagogue of the Perth Hebrew Congregation. At the time the Principality was the object of active hostility on the part of the Australian government, these generous gestures took real courage.

On a personal level H. R. H. credits Rabbi Coleman with nurturing his interest in Gematra, which aided greatly in ensuring that Prince Leonard remained true to his course as a result of which he attained notable achievements in this area, many of these achievements he has been able to share with Rabbi and they are now for others to advance even further.

As the highest honor of the Principality H.R.H. does not bestow the Grand Cross of Hutt lightly. It is the mark of a man or woman who has performed truly exceptional services to the Sovereign, the Principality, the community and the world. HRH Prince Leonard has held his relationship with Rabbi Coleman in the highest of regard and it is with great pride and pleasure that, on behalf of H. R. H. Prince Leonard, I present the Grand Cross of Hutt to Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman.

Lt. Sir Richard Ananda Barton KOWL., RHRL
Envoy representing HRH Prince Leonard