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Survivors with courage to care in anti-bullying exhibition

Susan Pajor, Holocaust survivor John Gruschka, Annie Friedlander, David Eisenberg and Roger Beran look over the Courage to Care social justice and anti-bullying exhibition at Campsie Library.

Story appeared in: **Torch** | November 14th, 2016

FOR the past eight years, John Gruschka has being telling his harrowing story. Mr Gruschka, 92, is part of the Courage to Care social justice and anti-bullying exhibition at Campsie Library during November.

Courage to Care provides people of all ages with a chance to listen to living Holocaust survivors and their rescuers, as they talk about the roles of victims, perpetrators and innocent bystanders during World War II.

As a 15-year-old boy, Mr Gruschka escaped Czechoslovakia as the Nazis invaded.

"My mother was unable to leave because she had to care for my frail grandmother - her mother," Mr Gruschka said.

"When I said goodbye to her in 1939 as a young kid I never realised that I would never see her again."

Mr Gruschka later discovered that his mother was murdered in the infamous Polish death camp, Auschwitz, at the age of 52. Three years ago he made an emotional visit to the death camp.

"... n opportunity to come to terms with the fate of the European Jews, and
⬆ Site r," he said.

Mr Gruschka brought his family to Australia in 1960, and says talking about his experiences helps assure the Holocaust never happens again.

"I feel compelled to pass on my life story to younger generations," he said.

Courage to Care will also be honouring the contribution of local resident, Paniora Nukunuku, a youth worker who is committed to empowering young people.

After a life of hardship in New Zealand, Paniora and his family moved to area in 2003, and it is this background that inspired him to become a youth worker.