



Jane Lurie

Volunteer Guide

I grew up in Christchurch, New Zealand, where my family belonged to a small Jewish Community of 75 households, approx 250 people. I am a third generation New Zealander, since my parents and grandparents were born there.

After World War 2, new migrants came mostly from the UK, except for the few that came from Europe, most of whom settled in the North Island. This meant that the South Island wasn't exposed to foreigners and other cultures.

During my primary school years in the 1950s my fellow schoolmates couldn't understand what being Jewish was. They only knew and understood the New Testament and thought everyone went to Church and believed in Christmas. One of my biggest difficulties in Primary school was trying to cope and explain why I didn't attend Scripture Classes. There was no support and understanding from the schools or teachers during my Primary years. Fortunately I came from a close loving family which helped me through.

I am hoping that by being a Guide with Courage to Care I can help enlighten today's generation and they will see that a person who follows the Jewish faith or of any other different background is no different to them or anyone else.