

Keep the bridge as memorial to victims

Paul Nicolaou



It is often said time heals many wounds but time can also fade memories of things that must never be forgotten.

Sydney can't afford to forget the carnage at Bondi Beach on December 14 and the 15 innocent people who lost their lives.

And that's why we support retention of the footbridge from which the lethal violence was unleashed as a permanent memorial.

Ten years and more from now, the footbridge can serve as a reminder that, in 2025, Sydney, specifically our Jewish community, suffered a catastrophic terrorist attack.

It will also remind future generations that today's Sydneysiders vowed that such an attack must never be allowed to happen again.

In many ways, the footbridge has already become a memorial

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and a focal point for people wanting to understand the enormity of what happened.

With its history of persecution in other parts of the world – but never before Australia – the Jewish community is only too aware of the need for a permanent reminder of the evil of anti-Semitism.

Australian Jewish Historical Society chief executive Peter Philippsohn spoke for so many of us when he said the footbridge should stay so that people can learn from what happened.

Mr Philippsohn said: “There's no substitute for experiential learning.” He also said a menorah painted over one of the bullet holes has already made the footbridge a memorial.

There are some who might believe a low key memorial would be preferred to help Bondi Beach recover from such a traumatic event.

In fact, there is much to be said for emulating the conspicuous courage and resilience of the Jewish community.

In the weeks since the terrorist attack, people have been able to pause on the footbridge to appreciate what happened.

It simply underlines that the footbridge is the natural structure to serve as a permanent memorial to honour and remember those we lost.

Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney