



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Old Scholars'

NEWS

December 2012

Tevet 5773

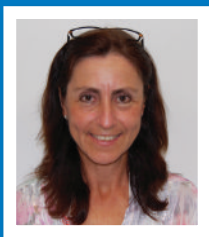
Vol 4 Issue 2

EMANUEL SCHOOL TURNS 30 IN 2013



Emanuel School Family, 1983

From the **Development Office**



Welcome to our end-of-year edition of this newsletter. We have come a long way since the first newsletter was published in August 2009, reconnecting with hundreds of our Old Scholars across the globe. In 2013 we will celebrate the School's 30th

anniversary and will be holding an Old Scholars' cocktail party on Sunday 17 March, to which you will all be invited. Many of our Alumni return to School from time to time, to talk to our students

about career opportunities, seek our students' help, assist in our wider Jewish community, coach sports teams or provide musical backup for our HSC Music performers, just to name a few reasons. We look forward to hearing your news and encourage you to pass this newsletter on to your peers who are not yet on our database. You can read past issues on www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au under "Publications".

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to an exciting 2013.

Sonia Newell, Development Officer



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
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EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels



From the Principal's Office

Dear Friends of Emanuel School,

Welcome to the newest members of the Emanuel Old Scholars' Association who have joined this auspicious group just in the past month. The 2012 Year 12 group certainly left a wonderful legacy to the School through their 'We are Emanuel' campaign and their cohesive, fun-loving, inspiring ways.

As we come rapidly to the end of the year, I'd like to tell you about some of the student initiatives this year in the area of social action, across the School. Volunteering and fundraising for those less privileged than us are ways of life here. Positive Psychology is the basis of our philosophy of student and staff wellbeing at the School. This philosophy shows us that one way to ensure a life of flourishing is through having a purposeful life, and giving one's time for the good of others.

One piece of evidence for this is the way in which all the Year 9 students have embraced the Duke of Edinburgh program this year. This involves them doing community service, among other activities, which they organise themselves. Another is an initiative of our 2012 Social Action *Madricha*, Aliza Waxman, who organised a comedy evening to raise money for Braveheart, an organisation that protects children at risk of violence. Just lately, our Year 10 students have been given the challenge of raising \$6,000 to pay for a water tank for Genna Radnan's Grandma Jenny's women's training centre in Kenya. Our two trips to the Northern Territory and Jilkminggan School near Mataranka this year have initiated fund-raising for laptops for the students there. Primary School students raise money for a range of charities, including sponsoring children through the PLAN program. This year, the students from K – 12 have raised over \$35,000 for a range of good causes.

Our students have also given their time to help out with a number of other programs. Some of them make a weekly trip to Eastern Respite, spending time and helping out with the disabled teenagers who use the centre after school and during the holidays. Last term, in collaboration with the Holdsworth Centre and Year 10, we had a program of regular visits to the School by young disabled people for afternoon activities, with a band of Emanuel students and teachers to help out. Earlier this year five of our Year 10 students collaborated with the SRC to raise funds to bring Ya, a young Cambodian boy, out to Australia for five weeks. This year our SRC and a group of students have been conversing with an entirely new SRC in Nepal at the Heartland Children's Academy in Kathmandu. The SRC there wanted some tips on running meetings, agendas, ways of operating and so on. Our students not only gave them advice, but also sent over a lot of gifts that they had made by hand.

The different initiatives are many and varied, as are our students, but they all have the common theme of striving to make a positive difference to others' lives.

I hope the end of the year goes well for all of you. Don't forget that 2013 is our 30th Anniversary and that we will be inviting all ex-students to a cocktail party in March at the School to help us celebrate this occasion.

Best wishes

Anne Hastings, Principal

Update from the Board

The School Board transitioned its leadership at the beginning of Term 4, when Grant McCorquodale was elected as the new President, with Shira Sebban as Vice-President and Abigail Goldberg as Chair.

They succeed outgoing President David Nathan and Vice-President Anthony Holman, whose youngest children are graduating from the School this year.

We thank both David and Anthony for their considerable contribution to the Board over the last ten years, during which time our student numbers, reputation and facilities have all grown considerably.

Grant, who will guide the School into its 30th year in 2013, holds a senior role with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and has already served a number of years on Emanuel's Board and Finance Committee.

We are looking forward to celebrating Emanuel's 30th anniversary with you in 2013. We are delighted to see so many former students now returning to enrol their children in our School.

2013 will also be our Capital Appeal year. We hope to be able to count on your support to raise funds for a much needed upgrade to our facilities for our students.

Plans for a new building, which will amalgamate and replace the two current temporary demountables, include eight classrooms, a visual arts precinct, a 200-seat tiered theatre and a learning and leadership centre. The outcome will also release new recreational space, so critical for our students.

We thank our Principal Anne Hastings and her staff for a strong and fulfilling year, offering unlimited support for, and dedication to our students

We are also grateful to all our inspirational volunteers, whose contribution makes such a difference to our students. We are so appreciative of the commitment they provide.

We wish you all a *Chag Sameach* and well-earned break and look forward to a wonderful 2013.

What is "Gesher", you ask?



Gesher is the Hebrew word for "bridge" and from that word and its connotations we developed *Gesher Community Connections* – it really is the figurative bridge between the School and the wider Emanuel community.

Through *Gesher* we connect with Old Scholars (Alumni), as well as Grandparents and Friends, both past and present. We also include external organisations that have an interest in our School under the *Gesher* umbrella.

You can read about *Gesher* news on the School website under 'Community'.

Staying in Touch

Births

- Annaleise and Justin Doobov ('90) – Jordan, born 9 October, brother to Micaela
- Eve Guerry ('98) and Toffee Foltyn – Matilda Molly Foltyn, born 15 July, sister to Lily
- Romy (Ginsberg) '02 and Grant Abrahamson – Zac, born 9 October (1)
- Keri Gaddin ('04) and Nathan Holloway ('04) – Jai Marley, born 27 October (2)



Engagements

- Luda Kroitor ('00) and Matt Wilson
- Jess Holloway ('01) and Adam Fisher (3)
- Aliza Pinkus ('01) and Daniel Harris
- Dina Madorsky ('04) and Gennadi Kutasevich (4)



Marriages

- Joel Haski ('90) and Helen Parish, on 25 September (5)
- Diana Borinski ('95) and Duncan Stewart, on 11 November (6)
- Alisa Newman ('01) and Sefeti (Jeff) Siale, on 23 September. Alisa says "we wanted to have a wedding that would include both of our traditions and cultures. My husband wore traditional Tongan dress for the ceremony. He also wore a kippah on his head. We got married under a chuppa that was made from traditional Tongan Tappa Cloth. During the wedding ceremony we had the Hebrew blessing for the wine and also a prayer in Tongan. Jeff did the breaking of the glass at the end of the ceremony. At the reception there was Hora dancing and Tongan dancing and the two cultures came together beautifully. We had the most incredible day! (7 & 8)
- Mandi Spero ('01) and Guy Binder, on 14 October (9)
- Robert Binder ('04) and Marcia Rodov, on 2 December (10)



Business ventures

- Jonathan Dorrell ('00) – owns *Club Sandwich*, 2 Jacques Avenue Bondi Beach, phone 02 9365 7250. Street café located off Hall Street, serving a variety of sandwiches and drinks.
- Jess Weiss ('09) has started her own personal training business, *Fit By Bit* – <http://www.fitbybit.com.au>, phone 0415 184 250.

Life after School

- Cara Black ('06) is working as an occupational therapist (OT) with *Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)*, a not-for-profit organisation committed to helping people on the autism spectrum achieve their potential. Cara is working with children up to the age of seven at home and in their schools. She loves being an OT and for her, working for ASPECT is her dream job!
- Sarah Herman ('09) has just finished her Arts degree at UNSW and will commence post-graduate Law next year.
- Nicola Kobilski ('09) is President of AUJS (Australian Union of Jewish Students) NSW.
- Charlotte Lewis ('09) is Ethnic Affairs Officer at UNSW in SRC.
- David Mintz ('09) is Treasurer of AUJS NSW.
- Jess Black ('10) is studying Contemporary Performance at the Australian Institute of Music (AIM), a course he is really enjoying. It is very practical and gives him good insights into the music industry. There are a number of other ex-Emanuel students studying at AIM including David Goldberg ('08), Ari Levi ('10), Ben Goldstein ('10) and Yoav Goldberg ('10).
- Gia Singer ('11) "After completing Year 12 last year, I immediately grabbed the opportunity to start chasing my dreams and fulfil many of the things I have always wanted to do. I chose not to take a gap year as I was keen to start my studies but I did travel over the summer break, doing a Contiki tour through Europe and to Vietnam. After returning I jumped straight into TAFE to undertake a Commercial Cookery Course Certificate III, to study a range of cooking to become a chef – something that I am very passionate about and am striving to do as a career. I was doing this full time at Ultimo Campus with a great range of students! Along with this I had picked up other recreational activities such as boxing regularly and meeting great friends in various community groups.



In September, I was offered and had an interview for a job as an apprentice chef at the *Sebel Pier One Hotel Restaurant* at the Rocks. I now work in the restaurant kitchen full time, gaining a vast amount of great experience with fantastic mentors and am very much enjoying it. I've had to change my full time TAFE studies to part time and move classes, but will still complete the Certificate whilst working and the experience of working within the industry is well worth it! It's been a productive, busy and great first year out of school!" (11 & 12)



Staying in Touch (continued)

News from abroad

- **Aliza Werner-Seidler**, who attended Emanuel School from Year K (1990) until the end of Year 9 (1999), graduated from UNSW with a PhD in Psychology earlier this year and now has a post-doctoral research position in Cambridge, UK. Her thesis was titled "Autobiographical Memory and the Affective Impact of Positive Memory Recall in Depressive Disorders" in which she tried to identify the role of memory in depression and to identify whether this information could be used to prevent the very high rate of relapse in depressive illness. Aliza also completed her Master of Clinical Psychology and is a clinical psychologist. A practical person, she likes to combine her research interests with her clinical work.

- **Alan Harca** ('03) writes "Eliza (Sevitt) and I currently live in New York City which we are loving. I have been over here for one year, fortunately working on some great projects. I am a Film/Commercial Director and making the move to the US was a great decision that I am pleased to have done.



I have been incredibly fortunate to work with some iconic brands on global campaigns for clients such as *Nike*, *Beck's*, *Sony*, *Vogue Magazine*, *Greygoose Vodka*, *Michael Jordan Brand*, *Volkswagen* & many more. It's been a fantastic year which has obviously opened numerous opportunities and it's great to be among the extensive talent here working with renowned celebrities, photographers and filmmakers. Not only has my commercial success been acknowledged but films I have worked on are currently circling the global festival market. I am very excited that the films are and have been screening in places such as *Cannes*, *Sundance*, *Toronto*, *Berlin* & *Telluride* to name a few. I have been commissioned to work on a feature film next year over in the UK (unfortunately I cannot say anymore about this due to disclosure agreements etc), but I am obviously very excited and pleased. In the last two years I have also produced numerous short films and commercials with my film agency in Australia, *JAI Films*. We are a boutique film agency working on Film/Commercial/Music Video and documentary content.

I am currently in the process of extending my visa here in the US by another three years, which is very exciting. I have gained

numerous representations over here with US film companies for which I am incredibly fortunate. I have in fact started my own film agency in New York which recently got approved. My overall intention for this was to do what they call *Co Productions* with my Australian company. It's truly exciting. My colleagues and I have four other feature films with screenplays written and ready to go. I have loved every minute working professionally here in the US. The creative approach to any client and project over here is something that I admire, from Brief to execution. The ability to work with clients such as *Nike* to only name one, has truly given me more insight to the world of global advertising. Seeing billboards of my commercials in Times Square and in Hollywood is truly something I cannot describe. I am incredibly pleased and proud of my work.

Eliza and I are now living in an apartment in the heart of the west village which we both love. It's amazing to also see her success here in America. She is truly remarkable and very talented working alongside many reputable clients. I cannot be happier for her. We are so lucky to have each other in this city that never sleeps. It's a city that opens many opportunities!

Eliza and I see ourselves here for a few more years and then possibly move to London to continue our careers."

- **Rachel Filler** ('05) is living in New York City. "I am teaching at a Montessori School, teaching creative arts to toddlers and pre-schoolers. I am also managing editor of *Moomah the Magazine*, an online magazine that provides "do-it-together" activities for parents and children to connect, art projects for children, hot-topic articles for parents and other adults, and more. Through the magazine I am also working with a non-profit organisation called *The Portrait Project* – an organisation that connects children throughout the world (from NYC to Haiti to Italy, etc.) through art."
- **Eliza Sevitt** ('07) says "living and working in New York this past year has probably been one of the most amazing experiences! After graduating with a BA in Media and Communications from UTS last year and after numerous trips to Europe/Africa/India I decided to apply for the J1 visa and make the move to NYC. New York City really is the city that never sleeps! Non-stop dining, drinking, music and theatre! I have been fortunate to live in two of the most incredible areas of New York. In the summer I was living in *Dumbo* – a waterfront apartment with a rooftop view of entire island of Manhattan. Two months ago **Alan (Harca)** and I moved to a gorgeous apartment in the West Village. This year I have been working at *Vs. Magazine* – a beautiful high-end fashion, art and culture magazine. I have been in charge of Public Relations and events at the magazine. The possibilities are endless in NYC and I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to co-ordinate events with talents including Liv Tyler, Helena Christensen, Erin Wasson and Josh Hartnett (including one during New York Fashion Week). I am planning on staying here for the moment – the city is just incredible!"

Can you help us?

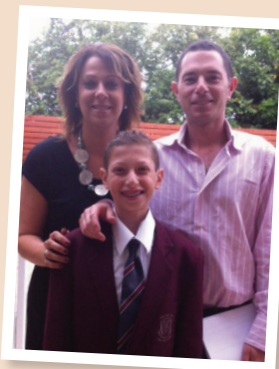
Do you have any old photographs, uniforms or any other memorabilia from your time at Emanuel School that you would be happy to lend us for the School's 30th Anniversary celebrations in 2013.

If the answer is yes, please contact Sonia on snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au



The Emanuel Family

Greg Dobrin (Class of 1990), with his wife Lisa and son Benjamin at the Year 6 Pathways ceremony on Friday evening, 7 December.



At this Year 6 Graduation, Gabriel Pallo, Head of Primary, had the opportunity to farewell the Year 6 students as they move on to High School. Benjamin will be the first child of an Old Scholar to enter High School here when he starts in Year 7 next year.

Greg says "It seems like only yesterday that I started Year 7 at Emanuel School. I remember that day in January 1985 so clearly, walking through (what is now) the Waxman Gate. The experience was as strange for me as it was for everyone else, as 1985 was when the school moved from its original location to the current campus in Randwick.

My son, Benjamin, started at Emanuel School in Year K, seven years ago, and I have dealt with being a dad with children at the school. I also have a daughter who is going into Year 4 next year. With my son starting High School next year, that is a whole new ball game. Whilst my first day of School is somewhat a distant memory, my first day of High School feels like yesterday, and I now have a son walking the same steps at the same School.

Benjamin's Year 6 Graduation on Friday 7 December and his Bar Mitzvah fast approaching makes me and my wife very proud of what he has become and what he is able to achieve in the future.

Benjamin has become part of Emanuel School's legacy and somewhat of a pioneer in its history. I am grateful to the School for continuing to provide current students (many who are now second generation) the opportunities for growth, education and development that I experienced here.

I know that the start of the next school year will be a real experience for both Benjamin and me."

FROM THE VAULT

In the last issue of Old Scholars News we published three old photos that we had discovered. We asked for your help in identifying the students in them and it didn't take very long for us to have the answers.



The guitarists: David Brook ('98), Joel Stein and Josh Revelman ('98).



Above left: Dean Vigdor ('00), Bree Lewis ('00), Leigh Golombick ('01) and Adam Coleman ('00).



Above right: Nicole Unger (Vasin) and Sarah Lambros (Ruvinsky), both from the Class of 1997 – watering plants they planted as part of an excursion.

The Class of 2002 Ten Year Reunion

On Sunday 23 September, a group of Old Scholars from the Class of 2002 gathered at the Clovelly Hotel to celebrate their ten year Reunion. Organised by Leon Elski, nearly 30 people from this year group attended, spending the afternoon reminiscing about their school days and what they have been up to for the past ten years! One member present at the reunion, Ari Shammay, will become a parent at the School next year when his son starts in Kornmehl Pre-school. Romy Abrahamson (Ginsberg) gave birth to her first child just two weeks after the reunion!



Our Youngest Old Scholars

Congratulations
& welcome to our
youngest members
of Emanuel School's
Old Scholars
Association:
The Class of 2012.



What are some of our Old Scholars doing now?

Adam Stern (Class of 2009)

What did you do after leaving school?

In 2010, I took the first six months to work (in a bakery) and went to Europe and Asia with four classmates (from the Class of '09) for the next six months.

Did you follow your field of study at the time?

I had already enrolled in a course for the following year, but I wanted to take some time off after the gruelling HSC experience. After considering several courses relating to music and sound engineering, I chose a relatively new course offered at UTS that was unique in that it combined these two fields.

What made you want to pursue study in Music after you left school?

I decided that if I went to university, I wanted to pursue something that I was interested in and passionate about.

When did you realise that Music was going to be a significant part of your life and a career direction?

In the final years of School, it was what I was spending much of my time doing. Whether it was playing in bands or learning how to record music, it was what I was most interested in and it made sense to continue my development in this area.

How do you think that your music learning at School has helped you in your adult musical life?

More than anything else, being at School allows you the opportunity to play music with other people and gives you the opportunity to be involved in groups that perhaps you wouldn't be in otherwise. Doing HSC Music, you're made to complete tasks that encourage you to compose and create music in a whole range of styles, so it means that



you're able to develop your understanding of a broad range of music and techniques. That has put me in a good position in other scenarios, like uni and playing gigs.

Speaking of live gigs, what have you been up to musically since leaving Emanuel?

I've played in several different bands. At the moment, I'm involved in a project called The Barefoot Band with several other Emanuel graduates. We've been playing around Sydney for six months or so at live music venues and are planning on recording early next year.

How did your music-making at Emanuel prepare you for your performances in the "real world"?

It put me at an advantage in terms of building connections that you can use after finishing school. Also, it provides invaluable experience in dealing with live performance and the technicalities of that, for example, the importance of live sound and proper rehearsals. Being forced to lug equipment around the Emanuel campus is a great preparation for having to bump-in gear at live venues.

What is your current occupation?

Currently, I'm teaching a range of bass guitar students at Emanuel School. This has been a fantastic experience that has taught me so much about the intricacies of my own instrument and the way people learn. Going from student to teacher over several years has given me the opportunity to experience the music learning world from the other side. Choosing to teach at Emanuel was an obvious path as I already knew how seriously the Music program is taken at the School.

What is your fondest memory of your time at school and why?

One of my fondest memories is playing bass in the band for *Oliver* [Editor's note: the High School Musical Production in 2008]. I loved being part of a really big production and it was one of the first times that I had to learn such an enormous amount of music. My Music teachers, Mr Majsay and Mr Burley, set the bar really high for all the students in the band. That, and playing alongside professional musicians, made for a really challenging musical experience, but one that was extremely rewarding. I followed this up with a 'guest appearance' in the band for '13: *The Musical*' in 2011.

Ari Shammay (Class of 2002)

What did you do after leaving school?

After school I studied Chemical Engineering at UNSW on a Co-op scholarship. During my time at university, I worked at a cement refinery in the Southern Highlands, a water treatment membrane manufacturer in Windsor, a petrol refinery in Kurnell and a sugar refinery in Melbourne. After university I started working full-time and very soon afterwards married my lovely wife Naomi. We have now had two cute little kids, Isaac (2010), who starts at Kornmehl Pre-school next year, and Nathan (2012).

Did you follow your field of study at the time?

Yes – I now work in engineering consultancy.

Have you done any overseas travel?

For how long and where did you travel/study?

During my university days I spent two months travelling around Canada and the US. I travel extensively for work now but most of it is domestic travel and I'm trying to cut back and spend more time with family.



Are you still in touch with your group of friends from school?

Yes, I see a number of my School friends quite regularly including Leora Mucsnik, Tami Gadir, Anna Gankin, Leon Elski, Shawn Glick and Nicole Adler, and catch up with others when they're back in the country.

What is your current occupation?

I'm currently a Senior Process Engineer working for a global engineering consulting firm, with about 7,000 others in the company. I specialise in water and wastewater treatment design.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I love spending time playing with my kids – that keeps me occupied in any idle moment.

Where do you want to be in ten years' time?

I'd like to take up more international travel when the kids are a bit older. I'd also like to cut down to maybe 3-4 days a week to spend more time with the family.

What is your fondest memory of your time at school and why?

My fondest memory is more of a feel of how we all came together in our final year. It was how we got to know each other a lot better, understood what drove

one another and could help each other out of tight spots. Towards the end of Year 12 we really felt like a family.

Georgia Snow (Class of 2004)

What did you do after leaving school?

After the post-HSC celebrations I went to Israel for a year on *Habonim Dror's shnat* program (along with a number of other friends from my year group at Emanuel). When I returned home, I started Media Arts and Communications (Journalism) at University of Technology Sydney.

Did you follow your field of study at the time?

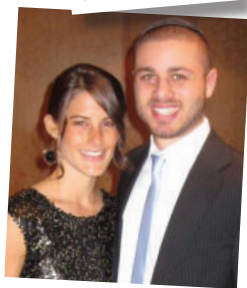
I had selected journalism by process of elimination and even as I was studying the course, teachers would say to me that I had too much empathy ("you care too much" was how one teacher put it) to be an objective reporter. I enjoyed the process of interviewing and meeting new people, finding out about interesting and important stories and coming up with creative ways of representing ideas, so even though I was pretty sure I was never going to be a journalist, I still stuck with it and finished the degree in 2009. I am now completing a Masters in Community Development at UNSW, which is much more suited to who I am, what I do and where I want to be in the future.

Have you done any other overseas travel?

I had the best time in 2010 when I went travelling with Danny Stern (High School sweetheart still going strong). We took six months off to explore Europe and Asia. Very special memories!

Are you still in touch with your group of friends from school?

My school friends are still my best friends and even with people moving overseas or travelling for long periods of time, we have still stayed in touch and remained close over the years. I consider myself really lucky to have such a tight-knit and supportive group of friends. It has been



amazing celebrating some big events together lately – wedding and baby season is starting! In fact, the photo I have sent through is from Daniel Krigstein's wedding in April this year.

What is your current occupation?

I am currently working at the Aurora Project (a not-for-profit organisation working in the Indigenous sector) as the National Co-ordinator for The Aspiration Initiative (TAI). TAI is all about increasing opportunities and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students so that they can realise their potential at school, university and beyond. My job has been to consult, research, develop and implement an academic enrichment program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander state school students. We started the pilot program in September 2011 with 30 Year 8 students in each of NSW, Victoria and WA, and it has been really exciting to watch it grow. We will work with and support the same group of students for the next five years of their life, until the end of their first year out of High School. The support offered includes academic camps (three a year during school holidays), tutoring and ongoing mentoring. It's the way we do things and how we run the program by embedding and embodying Aboriginal perspectives and knowledge into the camp's curriculum and program structure, which makes TAI unique, and I am learning from the students and my team every day.

What are your hobbies/interests?

Good company, good music, good food and being outdoors. Most mornings I am up at 5.45am and heading to Lyne Park, Rose Bay, to exercise and clear my head before the day begins.

Where do you want to be in ten years' time?

Ultimately I just want to be happy, healthy and surrounded by loved ones. I have been travelling and away from home a lot these past two years because of work so I hope to find that perfect balance between having a job I am passionate about but also having quality time for friends and family.

What is your fondest memory of your time at school and why?

No one memory comes to mind but I do miss the band practices and music performances (Roc Soc). It was easy to feel like a rock star on the Emanuel stage!

Have some news to share?... Send us the details and share it with your Old Scholars

Dina Madorsky (Class of 2004)

What did you do after leaving school?

I went on a fantastic holiday to Spain, France and Russia with my family. This holiday ended up being the last holiday we did as a whole family, which is quite sad but nice that we got to have such a wonderful opportunity to spend time together. During my holiday, I found out that I had landed myself a KPMG cadetship and a UTS co-op scholarship, of which I chose KPMG. From there I spent five and a half years in KPMG's Financial Services division as an auditor, while studying Commerce at UNSW. Upon reaching a senior accountant position, I was headhunted through LinkedIn by a company called Thales, an international defence contractor, into their Maritime & Aerospace Division, looking after the finances of fantastic naval related projects. In the second year of working for Thales, I was promoted into a fairly challenging aerospace environment, looking after the Australian helicopters' finances. These incredible experiences have been complemented with continual volunteering and community involvement, with a recent Directorship for the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA). To top all of this off, I have become a Chartered Accountant, doing my MBA (Executive) and am now working for Westpac, where I have recently taken up the position of Finance Manager in their Technology Investments Division.

Did you follow your field of study at the time?

Yes, I did the routine Commerce degree. However, the fields I'm currently in are more engineering, IT and arts-related, accounting being the main joining component.

Have you done any further overseas travel? How long for and where did you travel/study?

Since travelling with my family for the three months following the end of Year 12, I haven't stopped travelling the world, as barriers to doing business and studying overseas seem to be breaking down quite fast over the past few years for me. I've recently done a subject in the Recanti Business School, Tel Aviv, as part of doing my MBA, which was an amazing opportunity. Next year, I am planning to go to Germany to one of the business schools there for a couple of weeks.

Are you still in touch with your group of friends from school?

I am extremely lucky to have the most gorgeous group of friends from school! We have remained incredibly close, currently helping organise



each-others' weddings and enjoying seeing the ones with kids, watching them grow up. I don't think that there is anything that can ever break the incredible relationships that we have formed over the years. Even the guys from our grade whom I don't see that often, when our paths do cross, it is always great to see them.

What is your current occupation?

I have just started as a Finance Manager at Westpac, after two amazing years in Thales. I am also a Board Member, Treasury & Company

Secretary for NAVA, which has been a very interesting opportunity indeed to work in the Arts sector, where my real passion lies.

What are your hobbies/interests?

Oh, wow, where do I start? Travelling the world with my fiancé, which generally includes snowboarding and museums, going to the theatre (a lot!) and supporting the arts. I'm a philatelist and a serious bookworm, while at the same time, enjoying my martial arts and a bit of Latin dancing. At the moment I also have to include organising my wedding as part of my interests, as it just takes up that much of my time. I got engaged to Gennadi Kutasevich (Vaucluse High 1998) on 16 April 2012 on our seven year anniversary of being together. We've bought a place in Kingsford and are getting married on 2-3 August 2013 (yes it will be a two-day wedding with the ceremony before Shabbat on the Friday and the reception after Shabbat on Saturday night).

Where do you want to be in ten years' time?

Career wise, I'm going to quote my favourite artist Salvador Dali: "At eight years of age, I wanted to be a cook. At nine, I wanted to be Napoleon... and my ambitions only grew after that." In the end, it all depends on where life takes me. I definitely want to be married to my fiancé, whom I love very much and have a couple of kids with him. All the other things I'm a strong believer in karma and think that if you work hard, you'll get there.

What is your fondest memory of your time at school and why?

It has to be lunch times, when just sitting around either in the sun or in the common room, we just laughed and talked about complete nonsense, without a care in the world. I loved both the formals that we went to, where everyone was so beautiful and we had such a superb time as a group of friends! Funnily enough, the people with whom I hung out at the Year 12 formal night have remained my nearest and dearest friends through all this time.

What's your news?

If you have some news of a graduation, career achievement, birth, engagement, marriage, past or present activities or simply a fond memory from your school days, please get in touch with the School.

Please send an email to Sonia Newell at snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter and we look forward to your contributions in the future. Please email your contact details to snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au so we can add you to our mailing list.

We believe the information included is correct at the time of printing. Any errors are regretted.



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

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