



EMANUEL SCHOOL

# Old Scholars'

# NEWS

December 2011

Kislev 5772

Vol 3 Issue 2

Welcome to the latest edition of Emanuel School's Old Scholars newsletter – we hope you enjoy reading it and we look forward to hearing your news!



## Class of 2001 10 Year Reunion

After much planning by main organiser, Tara Shillan, the Class of 2001 celebrated their 10 year reunion at The Loft, King Street Wharf on 22 October. Over 30 students and past staff attended. School-coloured balloons and cupcakes adorned the venue, with plenty of finger food available. There was much reminiscing about school days and beyond as well as catching up with some who have recently returned from living overseas. This made it a really successful night.



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031  
[www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](http://www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels



## From the Principal's Office

Dear Friends of Emanuel School

This year has been one of change and consolidation, my second year in this wonderful community as Principal. We shine as a school through our students, and through you who have graduated as highly valued members of the community. Our students are the reason for our commitment to the School and to continuing to improve what we do to enhance their learning. Along with all of the singing, music making, debating, playing sport, public speaking, classroom learning and range of activities that our students have undertaken this year, there are a number of special programs of which we are particularly proud.

One initiative this year has been to enhance the authenticity of our education in and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage. We have developed a relationship, through an Eco-guide based in the Northern Territory, with a remote Aboriginal school at Jilkminggan. September and October of this year saw two groups of our students and teachers fly to Darwin to immerse themselves in Aboriginal culture and the landscape of the far north, and to visit the Jilkminggan students. As David Whitcombe, one of the teachers who led a group on tour, said: 'The educational magic occurred the next morning when we returned to Jilkminggan School. We split into three groups and shadowed local indigenous students for four hours in their classrooms. Hour by hour the students opened up to the Emanuel students as they literally worked together on maths, english, art and craft, games, dancing and story telling.'

Martin Seligman, who is one of the founders of positive education, says that the most effective way to build a life where one flourishes is through being purposeful and meaningful. This is established when one moves out of their comfort zone and works for the good of others. Emanuel students have a very strong sense of community service and this year we have been further increasing their opportunities to make a difference in their community. All Year 9 students participated in a community service program, where one afternoon per week they went to different venues to help out. Our students regularly work with the Eastern Respite group, helping with the disabled children, and other groups go to Our Big Kitchen each week and Montefiore Home to assist there.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and keeping in touch with Emanuel School. Best wishes for the holiday period.

Anne Hastings, Principal

## Update from the Board

- Enrolments remain strong and look promising for 2012.
- Together with the Principal Anne Hastings and her Executive, we have developed our go forward strategic plan which we have shared with our parent body.
- We have recently completed a Parent Survey and, with Mrs Hastings and the Executive, are currently analysing the resultant statistics/information.
- Our students continue to shine in multiple domains.
- We continue to support the enhancement of learning and teaching programs.
- We have endorsed the creation of new learning experiences for our students including the recent inaugural trip to an Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. We hope to find a donor to help enlarge the program in 2013 so that some of their students can join us at Emanuel just as we visited them.
- We are enthused about the year ahead.

## FROM THE VAULT

Do you have any old school photos that you would love to share? Please contact Sonia on 8383 7350 or [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au) to see about getting them in the next issue.

## What's your news?

Do you want to add or update your details on our Old Scholars' mailing list?

Do you have some news about yourself or another Old Scholar you would like to share?

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 complete this form and return it to the School at the address below, or send an email to Sonia Newell at [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

Name .....

Maiden Name (if applicable).....

Current Postal Address .....

Telephone (mobile preferred).....

Email .....

Year left Emanuel School ..... Highest Year attained at Emanuel School .....

Please attach your news and return to:  
Emanuel Old Scholars Association, Attention: Sonia Newell, PO Box 202 Randwick NSW 2031

# Staying in Touch

## Births

- Bella (Binder) '99 and Gray Negrine ('99) – Max Joseph, born 6 April 2011
- Justine Perl ('95) and Neil Meskin – Tyler Morris, born 20 June 2011
- Ilana and Daniel Moddel ('98) – Noah Eric, born 28 July 2011
- Michelle and Paul Masnick ('92) – Tabitha Summer, born 24 October 2011



## Engagements

- Robert Binder ('04) and Marcia Rodov

## Marriages

- Paul Hadida ('97) and Jaclyn Kaganov
- Michelle Drexler ('00) and Paul Levitt
- Nick Odze ('00) and Brooke Alley  
*(bottom)*
- Mishi Fox ('00) and Alex Linden
- Maya Greenberg ('01) and Jeremy Pollak
- Simonne Turner ('01) and Yoav Hammerman
- Cody Aaron ('05) and Fiona Gitelman *(top)*
- Sarah Krigstein ('05) and David Robuck *(middle)*
- Adrian Elterman ('06) and Sofia Slavinski



## Other news of interest:

- Allen Shubitz ('05) has been living in Sweden for the past 12 months and has just finished the first year of a three year degree in 'Human Rights' at Malmo University. He plays in a band *Sidetrack Stories* which has just released an album "*Sidetrack Stories No. 1.-EP*" available on iTunes. Allen sings and plays the guitar in the band, for which he writes all their songs. Check out [www.sidetrackstories.com](http://www.sidetrackstories.com)
- The Class of 2009 is well represented on Australian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), University of NSW Committee – Charlotte Lewis is Chairperson, Sarah Herman is a General Executive member and Nicola Kobilski is Social Director.
- Jonathan (Jonno) Baker ('08) was recently elected as *Rosh Chinuch* of the Zionist Youth Council (ZYC).
- Two Old Scholars, Shay Koren ('07) and Genna Radnan ('09) were recently acknowledged "for going beyond the call of duty to make a difference to other people's lives" as part of B'nai B'rith's Jewish Youth and Young Adult Achievement Awards. Shay won his award for his contribution to Australian society, young adult division. He used his love of music, the arts and social activism to establish *New Moon Blues*, a not-for-profit organisation that hosts a music night at the beginning of each Jewish month. Money raised is donated to various Australian organisations that focus on local, national and international initiatives. Genna was joint winner of the Sol Encel Social Justice Award. She has travelled to Kenya on a number of occasions and used money she had raised to build and furnish a kindergarten in the Karunga community, in south-east Kenya. Genna is now in the process of establishing a training centre in Kenya to empower and educate young girls and women.
- Jeremy Spinak ('00) is the keynote speaker at the High School Prize Giving this year.

# Visits to Emanuel by Old Scholars



# Emanuel Old Scholar Elected to Zionist Youth Council

Jonno Baker (Class of 2008) writes...

I have been to three schools in my life: Bellevue Hill Public School from Years K-6, Cranbrook School from Years 7-8 and Emanuel from Years 9-12. I can safely say that Emanuel School helped make those years the happiest of my life. I have also been part of *Netzer* since I was in Year 8 and that organisation led me to Emanuel School. I graduated in 2008 and went on *Shnat* with *Netzer* the following year.

I came back to a Jewish community that was more active than I had first thought. Soon after arriving home, I was elected *Rosh Machane* for the 2010 Winter Camp (which was a resounding success) and was then elected as the 2011 *Rosh Chinuch* (*Netzer's* Head of Education for NSW).

After a very successful year, I have been voted into the position of *Rosh Chinuch* of ZYC (Zionist Youth Council). ZYC acts as an umbrella organisation for all youth movements and serves as a middleman for Jewish youth, striving for the best of resources and representing them in the community.

My aims for next year can be summed up in one word: tolerance. Through

several inter-movement events, uniting Jews of different backgrounds and by setting up an inter-faith event for leaders of different youth groups, 'tolerance' can be within our grasp. What is important is exposure to others of different beliefs, both within a Jewish and multi-cultural context. It is within this framework that we can work towards communal tolerance as well as active participation in dialogue with different faiths.

What interests me about the young Jewish community is that they are organised, really organised! A good proportion of Jews would be amazed at the extent of Jewish communal organisation and I am sure that those outside the community would also be surprised. Our community is tiny, yet comparatively, our youth groups seem to be one of, if not the most, organised and united youth group community in Australia (based upon my research and studies at UNSW). I find this both astounding and exciting. Few parents may be aware that youth movements have a syllabus, most being thorough, detailed and surprisingly sophisticated, especially

when they are written by young adults aged about 20-21.

Jewish youth movements are entities that I'm passionate about for a reason. Studies show that those involved in youth movements are more likely to stay involved and active in the Jewish community after school. Through Jewish youth movements, kids have the opportunity to develop a greater sense of identity, improve social skills and develop opinions based on both formal and informal activities. Youth movements act as the cement for a strong Jewish community of the future and I am proud to be a facilitator.



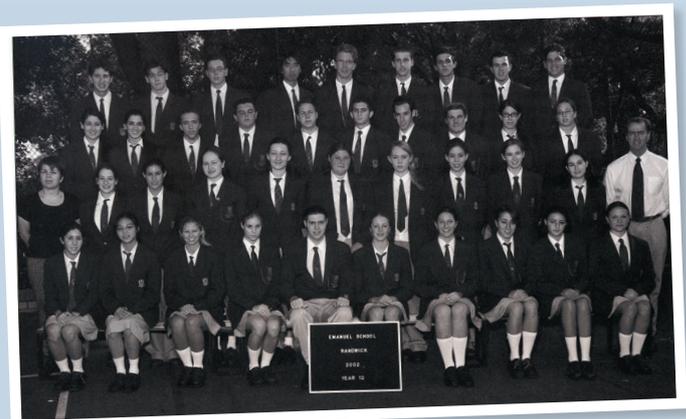
## Our latest Old Scholars



Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2011 – our latest Old Scholars.

## Is your Year due a Reunion?

Check out the back page for more details on upcoming reunions and how to help.



# What are some of our Old Scholars doing now?

## Greg Segal (Class of 1998)

### **What did you do after leaving school?**

I travelled with some friends to the US for three months and then started at UNSW doing a Commerce/Law degree

### **Did you follow your field of study at the time?**

Yes, I was not entirely sure what I wanted to do but had enough of a general idea to know it would be covered by the degree whether it be legal/accounting... however as it usually turns out I am not working in either of those fields currently!

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

Yes, I travelled on an AUJS Leadership Development program while at University over the summer holidays to Poland/Belarus/England and Israel.

After finishing University I travelled with my then girlfriend (now wife) on an Intrepid trip to China/Laos/Thailand and Vietnam for three months.

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

I am currently living in Brisbane so it's hard to keep in regular contact, however when I'm down in Sydney or they are in Brisbane we always try to catch up.

Actually just saw Andrew Dolnikov from my year, who was in Brisbane on business a couple of months ago. Earlier in the year, I also bought some amazing art from David Brook, who regularly has exhibitions and



is winning prizes for it. I was actually his first customer back in Year 12 when I bought something he did – so funny to still be buying his art some 13 years later! The first one I bought in 1998 was a steal compared to what his stuff goes for now. I also keep in touch with Josh Punin and Samantha Butt from my year.

### **What is your current occupation?**

I work in the Coal Department of Glencore (Commodity trading firm) in Brisbane.

### **What are your hobbies/interests?**

Not sure if I can still claim it as a hobby/interest considering I haven't played in a few years, but I like squash, just hard to find the time to play these days, as have more important and fulfilling interests like spending time with my young daughter and wife. Listening to and playing music is a constant though.

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

Still happily married, children, and plenty of time to spend with them.

### **What is your fondest memory of your time at Emanuel School and why?**

I have a lot of fond memories – Drama and English with Mr Morley and Mrs Robertson were always entertaining and a definite highlight, jamming in the Music room with Josh Punin at lunch (thanks Ms Lowe!); Primary assemblies in B41; the old tuck shop when Gaby ran it and wrestling with others in the queue to get served first; handball in the quadrangle and then later on in the alcoves of the main building. Most of my memories from School are fond because in essence you felt like you weren't a faceless student. Your opinion and presence mattered and you were working as a collective of students who were proud to be at Emanuel and to do the best by the School and ultimately for yourself. Good times!

## Nadine Ben-Mayor (Weinberger) Class of 1990

### **What did you do after leaving school?**

After finishing school I had strong hopes of singing professionally. The nagging voice in my head (and even louder voice of my parents) told me that I needed to have some form of qualification as a back-up, so I completed a Bachelor of Science at University of NSW, while working as a musician.

### **Did you follow your field of study at the time?**

I worked for 8 years at the NSW Cancer Council as Data Liaison Officer at the NSW Pap Test Register. I can't say I really followed my majors of Psychology and Philosophy but I guess there's a link of community health in there somewhere. I didn't work at the Cancer Council straight after graduation. I was pretty much doing music full time before then.

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

Yes and no. There are a couple of friends from school that I do see regularly. We were a small year of 27 kids. To be honest, I think by the end of school we had grown apart. In saying that, last year we had a reunion which was truly great fun. There is a special connection that you share with your old classmates, a past camaraderie.



### **What is your current occupation?**

I'm still a vocalist in my band *Escapade*, singing at weddings, bar mitzvahs and corporate functions. I'm also currently studying Interior Design.

### **What are your hobbies/interests?**

Spending time with my two girls and hubby (I'm sure that's the right answer!). My eldest daughter goes to Emanuel and my youngest will be starting next year. Bring on the tissues!

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

Aaah these sorts of question make me really uncomfortable. I can hear my husband laughing at me right now, as he knows how I squirm at long term goals. Setting them isn't my strong point. Professionally, I'd like to think that I'd be working in the field of Interior Design, while still singing at the odd gig. Obviously, still happily surrounded by my nearest and dearest.

### **How do you think back on your time at school?**

I actually think that I was really lucky to go to such an intimate school. I often think back and wonder if I'd be a musician now if I didn't have the encouragement and support that I had from the music teachers in particular back then. There were many opportunities for me to perform. Teachers constantly found competitions and musicals for me outside of the school environment that kept challenging me. My experience was really positive and I'm obviously hoping it'll be the same for my daughters.

Check out the Emanuel School Randwick Alumni Facebook page

## Daniel Krigstein (Class of 2004)

### **What did you do after leaving school?**

Enjoyed the long post-HSC summer – travelled the east coast up to Byron Bay, down to Melbourne etc and then enrolled at University of New South Wales in the following year (2005).

### **Did you follow your field of study at the time?**

Initially yes, I enrolled in a combined commerce/engineering degree (having studied a majority of sciences at School). Then changed midway through to commerce/psychology, and then finally changed once again to a straight commerce degree – so I ended up in a completely different field from where I started.

### **Have you done any overseas travel?**

### **How long for and where did you travel/study?**

While I never took a gap year in between school and university (much to my regret!), I have always been a traveller. Since school, I've spent a season snowboarding in Canada, travelled to Vietnam and Laos for a month, a number of week-long trips to New Zealand (also for the snow), a week in Fiji, two weeks in New York, and I now live in Los Angeles.

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

Of course! Colleagues and university friends come and go – it's the friends you make in school that will stick with you for the rest of your life. Surprisingly, a majority of our year stays in contact – when I was back in Sydney a good 20 or so classmates would see each other at



social events, birthdays etc. (and still do!). A handful of those I'm in close contact with and will be my groomsmen next year: Jesse Levy, Rob Simons, Tommy and Alan Biller, Guy Rob. I'm very fortunate that my fiancée, Jessica Gordon, is just as close with my classmates as I am, and a large number of my graduating class will be at the wedding in April.

### **What is your current occupation?**

Worldwide Market Intelligence Manager for Paramount Pictures. I started in Los Angeles in May this year, having been at Paramount in Australia since November 2010. In my role here, I work with the marketing and planning teams in each of the subsidiary territories and oversee their planning and forecasting processes at a broader market level.

### **What are your hobbies/interests?**

Snowboarding, mountain-biking – well, action sports in general. Travel! Off the beaten track...

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

Who knows! I've never been one to have the 5-year plan, let alone the 10-year plan. I would like to think though, that in 10 years I'll be travelling around the world, helping local communities set up and grow sustainable businesses.

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

The Inaugural Emanuel School Rugby team – led by the illustrious Dan Haesler! Your stereotypical underdog story... could not have been more fun. Nothing in particular as a standout win/game...it was the process and growth of us as a team that was memorable. Being the first team from Emanuel, our progress and success were driven by the teammates (with obvious direction from Dan Haesler), and the enthusiasm was infectious.

## Reunions planned for 2012

- Class of 1992 – 20 years
- Class of 1997 – 15 years
- Class of 2002 – 10 years
- Class of 2007 – 5 years

If you are a graduate from one of these years and would like to assist with organising your reunion, please contact [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto: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.



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