



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Old Scholars'

NEWS

July 2012

Tammuz 5772

Vol 4 Issue 1

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 2007



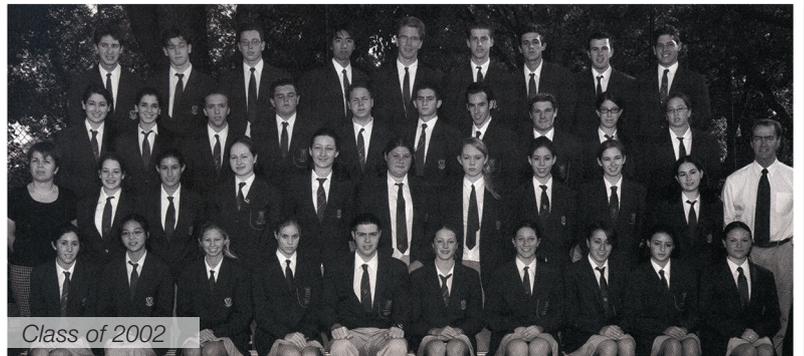
Is this you? See last page for more details.

Reunions planned for 2012

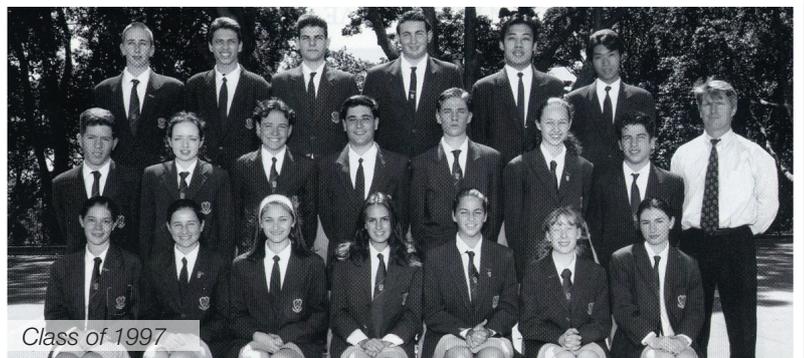
We are looking for one or two Old Scholars from the Class of 1992 to assist with your 20 year reunion.

- Class of 1997 15 year reunion – date TBC.
- Class of 2002 10 year reunion – Sunday 23 September 2012. See page 3 for details.

If you are from the Class of 2007 and would like to assist with your 5 year reunion, please contact Sonia Newell on snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au



Class of 2002



Class of 1997



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels



From the Principal's Office

Dear Friends of Emanuel School

It is amazing to think that half of 2012 is behind us – it has again been an exciting and fast-paced six months of learning for our students and teachers.

This year Emanuel School teachers have been working on building strategies for enhancing students' thinking in class, as the focus of our professional learning. As David Perkins in the book *Making Thinking Visible* says: 'in the complex, conflicted, and sometimes precarious world of today and tomorrow, the better people think about and with what they know, the more likely they will be able to make sense of the half conversations we all encounter. And the more prepared they will be to enter meaningfully into the whole conversation.' We had our very own two-day conference where we focused on why thinking is so important and ways we can ensure that students spend their time in class really engaging with their learning. Mark Church, who works with Harvard University, was our guest facilitator, expertly guiding us along this journey, which will be ongoing in the years to come.

Our Year 12 students have been wonderful leaders over the past 12 months, so often leading the students in prayers, singing and *ruach*. This has engendered a greater degree of involvement of the younger students in High School, who clearly respect and look up to these student leaders. A new group of leaders will begin their term of office early next term, so that our Year 12 students can concentrate fully on their Trial Examinations and preparing for the HSC in their last term of school. The Trial Examinations this year will be held at the Little Sisters of the Poor, in Market Street, since the Synagogue will be under renovations.

Next year will be our 30th anniversary and there will be a range of events and opportunities to celebrate this milestone. In March we plan an event for all of our Old Scholars here at the School, so that you can see the physical changes and hear about the initiatives and new directions that contribute to making Emanuel School the attractive and effective place of learning that it is for our students. We will advise you of the exact date later this year and do encourage you to come along and join in our celebrations.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and keeping in touch with Emanuel School.

Anne Hastings, Principal

Update from the Board

(excerpt from the President's Report 2011)

The School has maintained stable enrolments from Pre-school to Year 12. That said the Board remains more than alert to the economic challenges facing many of our families. We remain frugal in our approach and uncompromising in our retention of our talented staff.

The Federal Government Review of the school funding model was released earlier this year. The implication for the School and all independent schools is yet to be clarified.

The main focus of the Board is to ensure our Strategic Plan is being progressed including investing in enhancing our facilities to optimise the educational outcomes for our students.

The School's substantial building program is focused on bringing the facilities to a level that will make the learning environment an optimal one for students and teachers alike.

The next major project will be the replacement of the Primary School demountable building that abuts the new Kleinlehrer Family Science Centre with a new building which will simultaneously enable us to remove the demountables from the basketball courts, thereby increasing our open recreational space.

Anne Hastings continues to lead from the front. She has brought many strengths to her role and there is evidence that her strong commitment to academic excellence is serving the School well. We were delighted with our 2011 HSC results, with close to 40% of our students gaining ATARs of 90 or over and we approach the 2012 HSC results with much anticipation.

We are always pleased to see our former students contribute across the community, both in domestic and international endeavours. Your participation sets wonderful examples and role models for our students and we encourage you to share your progress with us.

Emanuel School is grateful to the JCA for its community leadership and the generous support it has provided Emanuel School over the years. This year Emanuel School again received tremendous support from the JCA.

We commend all individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to Emanuel School. They set a fine ongoing example to our students and are an invaluable part of the success of Emanuel School.

The Emanuel Family keeps growing

Some of our first Year 12 graduates Janice Narunsky, Katie Narunsky (Levenson) and Claudia Maman from the Class of 1989 with their children, who are now all students at Emanuel School.



Staying in Touch

Births

- Rebecca (Hardie) '92 and Derek Pal – Dylan Joel, born 8 March 2012
- Stacey and Greg Segal ('98) – Lila Annie, born 15 March 2012 (3)
- Kirsty and Ben Green ('99) – Maddison Rachel, born 15 March 2012
- Kim (Ruttenberg) '02 and Guy Klamer ('00) – Zoe Angel, born 20 March 2012 (2)
- Candice (Falkoff) '00 and Dean Weinbren – Max Jesse, born 20 April 2012
- Jocelyn and Jeremy Skolnik ('01) – Talia, born 24 April 2012 (1)
- Nicole (Ruttenberg) '99 and Daniel Unger – Amelia Belle, born 3 May 2012 (2)
- Naomi and Ari Shammay ('02) – Nathan Tobias, born 10 June 2012

Engagements

- Louise Glance ('01) and Jared Chiert
- Alisa Newman ('01) and Jeff Searlay
- Mandi Spero ('01) and Guy Binder
- Daniel Coleman ('02) and Beth Merfish
- Leon Elski ('02) and Michelle Zlatkis
- Avi Orski ('03) and Jessica Westerman (4)
- Keri Gaddin ('04) and Nathan Holloway ('04) (5)



Marriages

- Paul Hadida ('97) and Jaclyn Kaganov (6)
- Helen Dobrinsky ('00) and Ashley Huban
- Yael Abeshouse ('01) and Adam Westheimer
- Einav Leshetz ('01) and Mark Lovatt
- Nicole Mizrahi ('03) and Gavin Shapiro (7)
- Nathan Samuels ('03) and Lauren Baroukh (left in Year 10, 2001)
- Daniel Krigstein ('04) and Jessica Gordon (8)



News from abroad

- Daniel Coleman ('02): "Recently engaged (to Beth Merfish), I am currently living in Boulder, Colorado. Over the next few months, I will most likely be splitting time between the UK and the US, with a quick trip home to see my niece. I work for an advertising agency called Crispin Porter + Bogusky as an experiential / live media producer and travel from Boulder, Colorado to produce live events for all of our clients, Old Navy, Burger King, Jose Cuervo, Kraft Macaroni & Cheese, Under Armour and Domino's, to name a few. I have most recently been working out of our London office to help produce some live TV spots and stunts for one of our UK based clients."
- Avi Orski ('03): "I am a senior consultant working for Ernst and Young in their Performance Improvement team, with a specialty focus on the finance function and financial processes. I am currently based in New York City, working on a project for a large multi-national \$25 billion company. We are performing a large-scale transformation for the business, which has over 140,000 staff worldwide. I have been on this project for about one year and during that time, have travelled to Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, London and multiple major cities in the USA to run executive level workshops. Travelling the world for work is a unique and challenging experience, dealing with different cultures and languages, but on the flip side, I always try to fly in a few days early or leave a few days late and enjoy everything the country has to offer as a tourist."

CLASS OF 2002 10 YEAR REUNION

It was just a matter of time....

When: 3.00pm Sunday 23 September

Where: Clovelly Hotel

RSVP: Sunday 9 September

to leon.elski@enfold.com.au

Partners welcome.



What are some of our Old Scholars doing now?

Jeremy Spinak (Class of 2000) was Guest Speaker at 2011 High School Speech Night.

It is a real pleasure to be here today, thank you so much for inviting me. I know very often at speech nights you hear from accomplished professionals who have “made it” ... and their advice is very important. However, by that point some have forgotten the exciting, challenging and nerve-wracking period of their teenage years and early 20s. The very period you students are about to enter.

I, on the other hand, have just gone through that period, so I am hoping to give you some advice that I would like to have heard when I was sitting in your position as an Emanuel student 10-15 years ago. So, although I'm not an “elder statesman”, I do hope you will take on board what I'm about to say.

I attended Emanuel School between 1994 and 2000. My family has a long tradition here, as my sister was enrolled on the very first day the school opened. My brother soon joined her and from 1983 to 2000 there was at least one Spinak at Emanuel School. In more recent years, my younger cousins also enrolled at Emanuel and continued our family legacy.

After graduating in 2000 I completed a double degree in economics and international relations, studied international relations at Georgetown University in Washington D.C, worked on U.S. Senator John Kerry's presidential campaign in 2004, was a legislative aide to the U.S Senate Minority Leader and, on my return to Australia, worked as a political advisor to former treasurer Michael Costa for four years. In the last few years I moved to the private sector and today I am managing director of my own property advisory business. I am also a vice president of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and a director of the Sydney Alliance, a grouping of religious and community organisations.

As I tell you what I have done since leaving high school, I think back to one speech day when I was your age – about Year 8. That year, we had another former Emanuel student address us. I think his speech was called something like The Keys to Success. Every time he referred to his success he only named work-related achievements. We got a lecture on his HSC results, his uni results, his latest promotion. I left that evening thinking that to feel successful I had to get a high paying job and be able to afford very cool things.

However, what I have come to learn is that to feel “successful” you have to do more than what that former student had done. I believe that you can't feel successful unless you create a well-balanced life. It is all very well and good to slave away for a material goal – for money, for a title, for recognition – but if you do not bring your life along with you, you have not succeeded at all.

The best way to illustrate this is from a personal story. When I was at Emanuel I was obsessed with American politics. I was actually late to my 2 unit History HSC exam because it was on the same day as the 2000 U.S. presidential election.

Throughout high school all I wanted to do was work on Capitol Hill. I knew that the only way I could get there was to first get into the prestigious Georgetown University and then use that visa to apply for a job on Capitol Hill.



To get into Georgetown I worked my guts out. I stopped going out, I stopped hanging out with my friends, I became totally obsessed with my university marks. When I got to Georgetown, instead of the usual partying and socialising, I stalked Capitol Hill looking for an opening in a Senator's office. Finally, I was accepted into the office of the leader of the Democratic Party, at the time the most powerful Democrat in America.

One day, I was sitting in the Senator's Capitol Hill office and I realised something. I was lonely, I was homesick. I had not had any fun in a very long time.

I had ignored my friends, I had left a person I loved, I had given my family hell, and even though I had achieved my goal it had not brought happiness or a sense of success.

In essence, I had achieved but I had not succeeded! At that point I realised that if you do not bring your friends, your loved ones, people who are special to you, and a truly fulfilling life with you, then you are just achieving for the sake of it and it won't make you happy. I was at the very pinnacle of where I wanted to be but I felt very empty and alone.

So as you strive to achieve your goals, just remember to take everybody with you. Work on your relationships as hard as you work on your marks.

The second thing I have come to realise since leaving school is the importance of having interests. That is, having interests outside of work, grades and marks. The people I know who are the most dissatisfied with their lives are also the most boring and the reason that they are so boring is that they never pursued anything other than good grades and good jobs. They never read anything that inspired them, they never joined a cause that they believed in, they never tried to play an instrument, read a new book, go to new places or indulged in a pleasure. When they come home from work they don't know what to do with themselves.

I'm not even just saying this in some fluffy, feel-good way, I also believe that pursuing wider interests and being well-rounded will actually help your professional life.

For example: my interest in American politics has provided me with almost every opportunity I have had in my professional life. My interest gave me nothing more than pure enjoyment until second year uni, when I met then Premier Bob Carr. I knew that he also had a great love of American politics and that he ran a very exclusive society named the Chester A Arthur Society. All of a sudden, in the middle of our conversation Mr Carr started to quiz me about U.S presidential history. After I answered all his questions he invited me to the next meeting of his exclusive society. I gave his secretary my details and waited for 6 months, until one day I received an invitation in the mail. The event was to be held at the U.S Embassy in Canberra.

My parents dropped me at the embassy. I was surprised that the place wasn't teeming with people, in fact it was dead quiet. Not much of a party, I thought. I couldn't get in through the front door so I walked around the back where I saw that a door had been left ajar. Again, no one was around. I pushed the door open and walked down a long corridor that led into a large reception room and there sitting around a table, was the U.S ambassador to Australia Tom Schaffer, former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, former opposition leader and foreign minister Andrew Peacock, Bob Carr and his wife Helena. It seems I was nearly an hour early and had just gate-crashed a very private dinner. Luckily they were very nice and invited me to sit down.

Although I was super nervous, I began to realise that my years of study and interest had paid off. I was able to hold my own and I started to feel very confident. That night changed everything for me. Subsequently, Bob Carr wrote my reference to Georgetown. The ambassador also became a reference; I was able to secure my job with Michael Costa as a result of that evening and although I did not know it, two other of my future employers were there. When I went for job interviews later they remembered me from that night. Everything started for me from that moment and it all came about because I had pursued an interest for the purposes of sheer pleasure. So, you never know where your interests will take you, personally and professionally.

The third thing that I think will really give you a feeling of "success" is community work. The most fulfilling thing that I have done since I left high school is my volunteer work with the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

I initially became involved because after attending one of their functions I saw that literally only two people were under the age of 40. The rest were old. The Jewish community has been so successful for so long because our people have been willing to put up their hands and contribute towards community life. Looking around that room, it worried me that all of the volunteerism and energy that made us great was not transcending down the generations.

I really hope that you all think about how you can volunteer to make the Jewish community in Sydney even stronger and better than it already is. It's really easy to get involved and you will be continuing a great tradition.

I have found that pursuing a well balanced life through better relationships, new interests and community service also does something very important . . . it gives you a sense of perspective. I'm assuming you guys are very much like me, you go through periods where you doubt yourself and your self-confidence is very low. It happens to everyone. I found that when I was at school I was pinning my confidence and self esteem on my test results and marks. If I got a

B+ instead of an A my world would collapse. I would completely lose perspective. Today we sit around and laugh about how worked up we used to get about high school tests and I can promise you not one of us can remember our marks from that time.

My point isn't that you shouldn't study hard and try to do your best, you should, my point is that the world is not going to end if you have a setback. If you have strong relationships, outside interests and do community work, you are not basing your whole identity on your test results. It means you will have perspective.

It is hard to cultivate a well-balanced life and I certainly go through periods where work, money and grades come first and there is no time for relationships, interests or community work. But it is important to try and find room for those other three areas of life, I think they are the real keys to success.

Just a final note, you don't have to wait to enrich your life in such a way. I should have just paid more attention to the opportunities around me in high school. For instance, the peer support and community outreach programs, the plays, music, Jewish studies, meditation, sporting and volunteer opportunities. So do as much as you can, you have the opportunity to do it now.

You are very lucky that you are at a school that understands the difference between making a top student and a top person. Emanuel has always been and continues to be egalitarian, open, unpretentious. You can always tell who the Emanuel kids are in a room; they are the more accepting, and open to the outside world. They are less Insular and more humble. I couldn't have done the things I have done if I hadn't gone to Emanuel.

When I was writing this speech I was trying to think of a way of closing that could perfectly sum up what I am trying to say. Then I realised that the School had already done it for me a very long time ago. So my strong advice to all of you is to work hard on developing your mind, your spirit and being . . . because I have come to understand that they are the hallmarks of not only a successful career but a successful life.

Aliza Hofbauer (Denenberg) (Class of 2000)

What did you do after leaving school?

I went on *Shnat* (ten month program in Israel) with Netzer (youth movement) and then travelled around Europe for six weeks and spent six weeks with my family in London.

Did you follow your field of study at the time?

I started studying social work at UNSW after I returned from my trip.

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

I try to travel overseas most years.... I generally visit my family in London every couple of years, but the only other big overseas trip besides the one above was in 2008, when I travelled for nine months with my husband (then boyfriend) around South and Central America. We studied Spanish a bit and did some volunteering. It was an amazing experience!

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

Yes, Facebook makes being in touch a lot easier.... I only see a couple of them regularly though. One of my closest friends is someone from my group at school.



What is your current occupation?

I am working as the youth services coordinator for City of Sydney Council. This includes overseeing six drop-in centres in the City of Sydney area, which cater for 12-24 year olds.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I am currently training to compete in triathlons – this is a bit of a crazy phase I am going through, but I would say that swimming, running and cycling are my hobbies.

Eating out is also a hobby that I thoroughly

enjoy, and of course travelling! Visiting my husband's bar of course- *Shirt bar* in Wynyard!

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

I don't mind where I am, but I want to be healthy and happy – sounds like a cliché... I want to be doing a job that I enjoy and find challenging (like I am now) and living somewhere that I love (as I am now), which I imagine will be Bondi or somewhere near my family.

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

I think the whole of Year 11 and 12 was great! Our year had so much fun – we mucked around a lot, there was a lot of time spent outside the classroom and getting told off, probably a bit too much cheekiness (in more ways than one)... we had a lot of laughs and good times. Surprisingly, we managed to get our HSC as well.

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

Joel Haski (Class of 1990)

What did you do after leaving school?

After leaving school, I started my flight training at Cessnock in the Hunter Valley, I was also doing a Science degree at Newcastle University.

Did you follow your field of study at the time?

After first semester, I dropped out of university and continued my flight training at Sydney Aerobatic School (now Red Baron), where I gained my Commercial Pilot's License in 1994.

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

After training and working in aviation for ten years, I moved to London, UK, in January 2001. I worked in the film industry in an obscure job that involved remote camera systems. At first, I was helping a manufacturer of systems building systems in the famous Shepperton Studios. After less than a year, I started doing work on set, with my first job on *Harry Potter 1*. After that I worked on films and commercials all over Europe, including *James Bond – Die Another Day*, *Harry Potters 2,3,4* and a little of 5. One of my favourite jobs, however, was a *Goodyear Tyre* commercial that was filmed in Iceland for ten days. I also lived in Prague for three months, working on *Van Helsing* with Hugh Jackman and David Wenham. I returned to Sydney in December 2004.



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

Yes, I still talk to some of my old friends from school.

What is your current occupation?

When I returned from London, it was to start a contract flying an aerobatic aircraft for *Red Bull*. I then purchased *Red Baron* and *Sydney Aerobatic School* and still run those businesses as well as fly the *Red Bull* aircraft. I have also recently started flying a two seat jet that was used as an attack bomber during the Vietnam War. I fly adventure flights in that for the owners of *Combat Dragon*.

What are your hobbies/interests?

Since becoming a dad nearly two years ago, I have not had much time for hobbies or interests. However, I love the time I get with my daughter Layla. If I had the time, I would take up skydiving again, as well as pursue my love of motorbikes and tinkering.

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

In ten years' time, I would love to have a stable business that allows me not to work weekends (I have not had a weekend off in years). I guess I'm after what everyone else is – the perfect work-life balance. I love my flying, but I also love spending time with my family and would love to be doing more of both.

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

No one event springs to mind. My fondest memory of school was the diversity of my classmates – Jews, Christians, Sikhs and Asians. We had such diverse cultures all coming together in the classroom. Life is like that. I love to meet good people from different backgrounds and learn more about their cultures. I enjoyed the interaction with my teachers as well, certainly in my final years at school, I felt very relaxed with many of them.

Keri Gaddin (Class of 2004)

What did you do after leaving school?

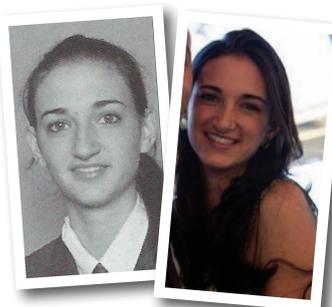
Immediately after leaving school, I began my hairdressing apprenticeship (as I had planned throughout high school). After a few months, I took a

trip to Israel to visit friends on *Shnat*, and what was meant to be a six week trip, turned out to be an eight month life-changing adventure. While I was overseas, I had the chance to volunteer in a variety of areas, and one day when returning to my auntie's house, she turned to me and said, "I don't think you are meant to be a hairdresser." On return, I studied Community Welfare Services at TAFE, to get a better idea of the humanities world and see what area I was truly suited to. I then pursued a degree in Nursing.

I love travelling!! As I mentioned earlier, my first bit of travel was to Israel and also included a taste of Europe. Throughout my studies, I was able to take a few short trips, mainly back to Israel, but there were also visits to Asia. Once I had completed my Nursing course, I went away for six months to Africa and South America. Here, my love (and some might say obsession) with Africa arose. I have since been back to Africa, more specifically Kenya, twice more – the latest trip was for six months.

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

Very much so.....a lot of people I have met along the way often say to me how lucky I am to have the group of friends I have, and I couldn't agree more. Our group of friends, both boys and girls (well I suppose now its men and women) still mainly consist of ex-Emanuel students.



What is your current occupation?

I am currently working in the two areas I love most – health and community development. I am working for Jewish Aid Australia, where I coordinate programs for Indigenous and Sudanese refugee communities. I also work at Sydney Children's Hospital once or twice a week.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I love music, so when anything involves music and dance, I am there!!! I also love being in nature, travel, reading...and the list goes on.

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

Hmmm I am never one to plan SO far ahead, but here goes... I will be married to Nathan Holloway (high school sweetheart), that is if we can get our act together and organise a wedding. We will have a couple of kiddies (we already have one on the way, due in November) and as a family, we will be doing plenty of travelling in Australia and abroad, doing wonderful (helpful) things, and who knows, maybe I will even have my own clinic?

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

My greatest memory of school is in Year 12, sitting in the common room, watching the boys' wrestling matches. I remember that this was the time when 'groups' dispersed and we all just became friends. There was SO much laughter, great conversations and really special friendships were made.

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 to see about getting them in the next issue.

Little Shop of Horrors



In the last week of Term 2, a cast of 55 Emanuel School actors, singers, dancers and musicians dazzled a packed audience for three nights of performances of Little Shop of Horrors at the Dame Joan Sutherland Centre, St Catherine's School, Waverley. This combined Drama and Music Department production represented more than eight months of dedicated rehearsal for the cast, band and production team, with the sold out performances receiving rave reviews from the audience which included many Old Scholars. Toby Evan ('06) was our in-house photographer on Opening Night whilst Michael Skolnik ('06) manned the bar before the show and again at interval.



From the Vault....

We have discovered some old pictures but do not know who the students are or what year they were taken. How good is your memory? Can you help us identify them?
 The front cover features a picture of male students playing guitar – do you recognise yourself or know who they are? We would love to know.
 Can you help out with the pictures below?



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

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

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



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EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels