

Emmanuel College

Fiat Lux

enriching lives since 1911

SUMMER 2019/2020

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
OF EMMANUEL COLLEGE
WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND



Celebrating our Young Alumni

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL COMMITMENT TO THE CHANGING COLLEGE COMMUNITY



This is my last Principal's message for *Fiat Lux* with my retirement at the end of November.

Between my previous service as Vice Principal (2009-2011) and my tenure as Principal (2018-2019), both Emmanuel College and the wider world have changed immeasurably. I would have to say that, for me, it is often difficult to navigate the complexities we confront. I don't think I am alone in this.

An aspect of positive change is the increasing focus on a customer culture within the College. All of us who work here are fully aware that there are many choices out there for student residential living, and we have to work hard to promote Emmanuel as the best transition environment for young people in Brisbane. This is firmly embedded in the College's *Strategic*

There are many choices for student residential living, and we have to work hard to promote Emmanuel as the best transition environment for young people.

Directions Statement 2018-2022. Many changes and innovations have been implemented to make the College more commercially focused and cost effective as we maintain our ongoing buffer of resources. As a not-for-profit, we ensure that every cent of revenue is returned to the student experience. One of the very positive indicators is that a remarkably high number of students are returning to Emmanuel in 2020 after their initial experience of College life. As one of our Council members recently said, "It is better to retain satisfied customers than to go constantly looking for new ones." Initiatives such as additional benefits and significantly reduced residence fees for third-year students are in place to recognise the contribution that more senior students can make in the College community.

The recruitment of new students is, of course, a highly valued element of College renewal. There are huge challenges facing rural and regional families, and we greatly appreciate the family loyalty and "word of mouth" referrals that have resulted in a positive outlook for incoming students. Drought has been crippling for many in rural Queensland and New South Wales in particular, and these areas are our traditional markets. Our hearts go out to those struggling to make ends meet in this debilitating climate environment. Please continue to enrol your students. With the assistance of many generous alumni and supporters, we offer up to \$500,000 in scholarships and bursaries each year to help students and their families.

I would like to pay sincere tribute to the Emmanuel staff who are always asking themselves how they can go the extra mile for the College and the students. They are kind, supportive and understanding of the young people we have in our care. Semester-time is 24/7 on a number of fronts. As I write, students are in the exam period and staff are very busy supporting our residents as they make their way to the end

of the 2019 academic year. As I move to my own finishing line, I am pleased to advise that Louise Hallo, our talented Deputy, will be Acting Principal until the Council appoints the new Principal. The process is well underway as *Fiat Lux* goes to press and there will be an announcement very soon regarding the new leader for the College.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Howell, Chairman of the Emmanuel College Council, for the faith he has shown in me and to thank all the Council members for the wonderful work they do pro bono for the College.

The Emmanuel family is staying strong, changing and adapting, and the part that everyone who is connected with the College — students, alumni, supporters, staff, Council, partners and friends — plays in this is greatly appreciated. The ongoing connections are what make Emmanuel special. Thank you from the bottom of our collective Emmanuel heart for your loyalty and commitment.

Dr Jane Thomson
Principal

Experience Scholarship

In a generous gesture characteristic of her commitment to students, Dr Jane Thomson has established a new scholarship. The Experience Scholarship is a \$2000 cash grant to help an existing Emmanuel College resident undertake a project relevant to their study and/or vocational interest, such as environmental issues, public or community service, intensive research or study in the arts or sciences, and professional development opportunities. Examples of activities funded by the scholarship include study abroad, short-term study tours, volunteering experiences, creative retreats, competitive sport meets and personal development courses. Students who show broad thinking, flexibility and innovation are encouraged to apply. Details of all the scholarships and bursaries offered by Emmanuel College are on our website – emmanuel.uq.edu.au/scholarships-bursaries.

CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG ALUMNI — DR JORDAN CORY

by **Michelle James**, Advancement and Communications Manager

Celebrating the achievements of our alumni and the contributions they are making to society is an important aspect of Emmanuel College's culture.

This is one of the reasons why the College community was so delighted that our nomination of Dr Jordan Cory (EMC 2011-14) for The University of Queensland's Distinguished Young Alumni Award was successful.

The award recognises and encourages Jordan's professional achievements, volunteer activities and leadership qualities in medicine, Indigenous health and gender equality.

It is also an inspiration for our students and other young alumni who can identify with their peers making their way in the world.

Currently undertaking her surgical residency at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and completing a global surgery short course at the University of Oxford, Jordan is passionate about health equity, particularly in improving access to emergency and essential surgical services across the globe. She also conducts research to improve surgical outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2018 she was awarded the coveted Poche Centre for Indigenous Health Fellowship. As a Kamilaroi woman with an understanding of health and its social determinants, Jordan contributes to the not-for-profit sector as a board director of Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, working to achieve a medical workforce reflective of the diversity and needs of Australian communities, and of Children's Ground, empowering Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory through early childhood education and community programs. Jordan also advocates for greater gender equality in the surgical profession and the wider community. Last year she represented the Medical Women's International Association at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

At the Courting the Greats awards ceremony held on 16 October 2019 in the magnificent Brisbane City Hall, Jordan acknowledged the education of generations for thousands of years before UQ was founded. "The strength of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will ensure this education continues within and outside UQ's sandstone walls for thousands of years more."

Accepting the award, Jordan said, "I feel incredibly humbled to be among such inspirational and established company. My first memory of UQ is in primary school, getting lost in the library while my mother was studying social work, and stumbling upon the anatomy text books. This is my first memory of the profound curiosity of the world around me, and it is something I've carried with me since. It was my mother Cheryl's emphasis on education throughout my life



Emmanuel College alumna Dr Jordan Cory (centre) receives her UQ Distinguished Young Alumni Award from UQ's Chancellor Peter Varghese AO (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Høj AC (right) | photo courtesy UQ and Bobby Rein Photography



Courting the Greats at Brisbane City Hall | photo courtesy UQ and Bobby Rein Photography

that has encouraged me to continue to nurture this curiosity. It has been my community and grandparents, particularly Julie, who gave me the support to dream my biggest dreams. And it was my family's lived experience that meant this curiosity in science and medicine found what feels now like the inevitable intersection in social equity."

"I'd also like to acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of the individuals in my journey, particularly at Emmanuel College and within UQ more broadly. It has been the generosity of others that has given me countless opportunities to explore that curiosity I found in that library all those years ago. Philanthropy, in particular, permits social initiatives that often seem too bold to be funded traditionally. But it is often these initiatives that are just bold enough to challenge our social fabric, including within higher education. It will continue to be the generosity and sincerity of others that ensures our future leaders within all of Australian societal structures — health, politics, law, finance, science and arts — become more responsive and reflective of our community's needs."

Dr Jordan Cory is a wonderful ambassador for the medical profession, Indigenous Australians, gender equality, The University of Queensland and Emmanuel College. We're proud that Emmanuel was able to support Jordan in her endeavours and wish her even more success for the future.



2019 SPORT REPORT

by **Liam Landrigan** and **Jessica Bennett**, Sports Convenors

Cross country champions

This year has been one to remember for sport at Emmanuel.

After the final whistle blew for the Inter-College Competition, Emmanuel finished in 3rd place overall in both the women's and men's competitions. Emmanuel women had premiership wins in water polo and cross country, eight top-three finishes, and some 85 competitors giving it their all for the College.

Over 100 Emmanuel men represented the College in ICC sporting competitions. In a truly remarkable show of consistency, our men's cross country and football (soccer) teams came first once again — our fifth and second consecutive premierships, respectively, in these sports.

Some new additions included taking on St Leo's in an exhibition game of rugby league and introducing an opens rugby camp at Emmanuel. At the camp, held during the semester break, we inaugurated the McCarthy-Sowerby Cup for the winner of the old boys versus current students rugby match. Emman old boys won by one try: 21-14. Thank you very much to alumni Dayton McCarthy, Mark Sowerby and all those who generously donate to our students in sport for their ongoing support.

Our annual Sports Awards Dinner took place in early October, and was a great celebration of all things sport for Emmanuel in 2019. With Mark Sowerby's help once again, we were privileged to have Chloë McCardel, one of the greatest ever open-water ultra-marathon swimmers, as guest speaker. Chloë,

who has swum the English Channel solo 31 times, delivered fascinating insights into how she is able to push her body to its full potential and spoke honestly about goal-setting and set-backs at the elite level.

Our annual Sports Awards Dinner was a great celebration of all things sport for Emmanuel in 2019.

We would like to also thank our coaches — current students, alumni and those from the wider Emmanuel community — for playing such a vital role in the College's sporting culture. A huge thank you, too, to those who supported our

sporting teams throughout year. Having people dressed in kilts and sashes or with blue paint covering their backs cheering you on really makes you want to score that extra goal.



2019 Sports Awards Dinner



Liam Landrigan and Jessica Bennett, 2019 Sports Convenors and Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, with champion ultra-marathon swimmer Chloë McCardel (centre), guest speaker at the Sports Awards Dinner



Emmanuel sports coaches



EMC men's football premiers



EMC women's water polo premiers

A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

by **Lateisha Stam**, Community Service Co-ordinator

An Emmanuel College student survey was held at the beginning of the year, revealing that, as a cohort, our main value is sustainability.

As a result, we started running sustainability forums where students openly discussed steps we could take to improve the overall sustainability of Emmanuel.

A number of initiatives involve food consumption and making changes in the College kitchen and dining hall. Emmanuel plans to purchase an ORCA for the kitchen. This system uses air, water and microbiology to turn food waste into environmentally safe waste-water. As well as reducing our contribution to landfill by three whole bins per day, this system helps the environment by getting garbage trucks off the road.

We have held two “meatless Mondays”, which is equivalent to one person not eating meat for two years. We no longer have single-serve condiment packs in the dining hall, nor do we have single-use plastic cups at suppers anymore. And we have wooden, rather than plastic, single-use cutlery at alternate dinners.

Students and staff have been diligently collecting bread tags for Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs, an organisation that collects bread tags Australia-wide and recycles them to raise funds to buy wheelchairs for the needy in South Africa.

Our student-run community garden has four beds where we can grow and eat whatever we like, mostly herbs and veggies, and it has been a great project (although Henderson wing obviously doesn't want to eat anything other than soil).

In August we ran our first EMC Sustainability Week focusing on food and textile waste, recycling, water and electricity use. We can all be more mindful of what we can do for a sustainable future. At Emmanuel, we're taking steps in the right direction.



Emmanuel College's student-run community garden

ALUMS JOIN THE COLLEGE COUNCIL

This year Emmanuel College welcomed three new alumni members to our board of governance. Emma Szczotko (EMC 2011-13), Nicholas Young (EMC 2009-11) and Julie Bennett (EMC 1983-85, née Allan) bring their experience and talents to the Council and we are grateful for the contribution they have made and will continue to make to the College community.

Emma Szczotko, BLaws(Hons) BA

Emma attended Emmanuel College from 2011 to 2013, serving on the Students' Club Committee and as a Wing Community Leader, and was awarded Collegian of the Year in 2013. She graduated from The University of Queensland in 2016 with a dual degree in Law(Hons) and Arts (Art History and French majors).

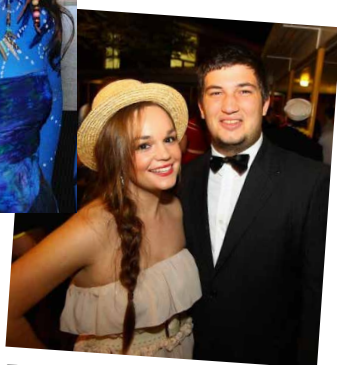
She works in governance and reporting at Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, combining her passion for the creative arts with her legal background and working closely with the Gallery's Board of Trustees. Previously, Emma worked as a solicitor at Herbert Smith Freehills and undertook a legal secondment to Queensland Treasury.

Emma has always keenly supported and volunteered with not-for-profit social justice organisations and is enthusiastic about fostering diversity and inclusion.

"Emmanuel is a vibrant, dynamic and endearing home that extends far beyond your years of residence. I joined the Council as I feel very strongly about encouraging diversity and inclusion at Emmanuel, particularly during a Blue Dog's formative College years which are so pivotal in shaping who we are, the people we share our lives with and what we stand for."



Emma Szczotko ready for Freshers Roam in 2011



Emma Szczotko and Nick Young 2011 EMC @ Home

Nicholas Young, BIntStudies

Nick attended Emmanuel College from 2009 to 2011 and graduated from Deakin University with a Bachelor of International Studies.

He has worked on strategic and operational procedures for organisations such as Red Frogs Australia, WA Electoral Commission and St John's Ambulance, and for not-for-profit community service providers in remote Australia. Nick is currently a Senior Strategy Officer and Principal Governance Officer with Public Safety Business Agency where he drives business improvement through the design and implementation of innovative and effective solutions.

"Emmanuel remains one of my favourite chapters of life. It provided support, connection and a lifetime of experiences, memories and friendships. Serving on the Council allows me to solve problems that sit close to my heart, and help to maintain the strong foundations of the College so that many more young adults are offered the same opportunities that I enjoyed."



(l-r) Nick Young, Mitch Roberts and Ash Willoughby after a rugby match in 2011



Emma Szczotko and Nick Young with Dr Jordan Cory (centre) at the 2019 UQ alumni awards

Julie Bennett, BCom CA ANZ

Julie attended Emmanuel College from 1983 to 1985 and graduated from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Commerce. She was the Emmanuel College Students' Club Treasurer and a student councillor on the Emmanuel College Council in 1985.

After graduating, Julie took up a graduate accountant's role with Horwath and Horwath Chartered Accountants. In 1988 she was recruited by Duesburys Chartered Accountants, which eventually merged with Deloitte. After many years with Deloitte, she went on to join a small firm of five staff in 1998. This firm, which has grown to a staff of 80, is now known as Pilot Partners and Julie is a Director in the Business Advisory Division.

Julie is married to Emmanuel alumnus Richard (EMC 1981-84) and they have three children, Sam, Jess and Matthew.

"Emmanuel College was where I met wonderful people and colourful characters and I made many lifelong friends. I have great memories of sports, College balls and just sitting around chatting — oh, and we did some study as well! Richard and I had many wonderful experiences at Emmanuel and we knew it would be of great benefit for our children to experience what we did during our university days (and so far they agree). I was asked to join the College Council by a friend I went through Emmanuel with. It's a great opportunity to give back to the College that has given me so much."



Julie and Richard Bennett's
1997 wedding in the
Emmanuel College chapel

Emmanuel "A-Root-Ch-Cha" at the
wedding reception in the dining hall



Matthew, Jess, Julie and Sam Bennett

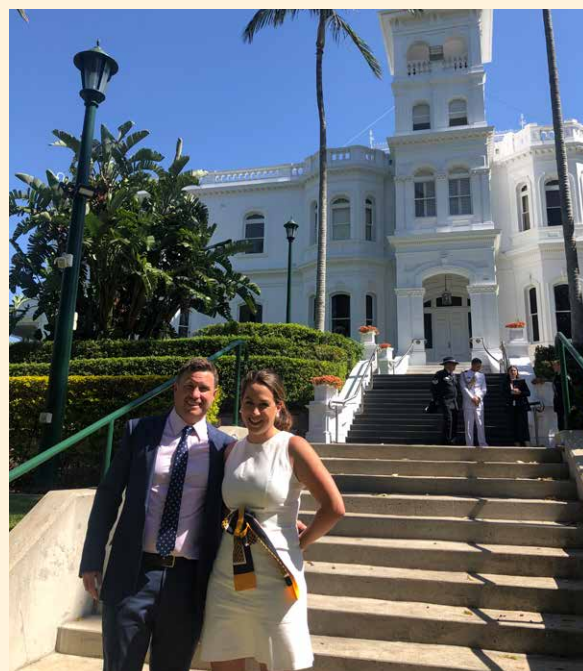
CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP FOR DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Emmanuel College Deputy Principal and Director of College Life Louise Hallo has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship for 2020.

Churchill Fellows are funded to travel internationally to expand their knowledge and experience for the benefit of Australian society. Louise will visit universities in America to investigate programs to support young people to develop healthy and safe strategies when engaging in sexual relationships.

Louise said, "I am honoured and humbled to receive a Churchill Fellowship. I look forward to fully embracing this opportunity next year to continue to improve the safety of our students and to help them build their knowledge and understanding. America is ahead of us in educating young people on developing healthy sexual experiences. I will be visiting a number of US universities to discuss the programs they are running, learn from their studies and experience, and bring this knowledge back to Australia to develop a program for our young people."

Congratulating Louise on her success, Emmanuel College Council Chairman Stephen Howell said, "The Churchill Fellowship is a wonderful achievement by Louise Hallo. Since commencing employment at Emmanuel, she has been an energetic force for positive change with her focus firmly on the wellbeing of our students."



Louise Hallo with husband John Hallo at Government House
Queensland for the Churchill Fellowship presentation ceremony



THE QUALITY OF MERCY

by **Michelle James**, Advancement and Communications Manager

Megan Ellis and the *Africa Mercy* in Port of Conakry, Guinea | © 2019 Mercy Ships - Shawn Thompson

As a child living in Papua New Guinea, Megan Ellis was enthralled by a television documentary about doctors and nurses using their skills to treat patients on a hospital ship.

She remembers thinking, “I want to do that”. Two decades later, the 25-year-old third-generation nurse (both grandma and mum chose the nursing profession) and Emmanuel College alum (EMC 2013-14) is preparing to embark on her second service trip volunteering as an operating room nurse on the *Africa Mercy* floating hospital in Port of Dakar, Senegal.

The *Africa Mercy* is a refurbished Danish rail ferry operated by Mercy Ships (mercyships.org.au), a global charity founded in 1978 that works in 70 countries providing healthcare services. With five operating rooms and an 80-bed ward, the hospital ship spends 10 months of each year docked along the African coast. It is staffed by over 400 volunteers, including surgeons, dentists, nurses, health care trainers, teachers, cooks, seamen and engineers. The clinicians give their expertise for free to treat thousands of people with dental and eye problems, cleft lips and palates, tumours, club feet and bowed legs, childbirth injuries, burns and many other conditions. The surgeons and medical volunteers on board also train local healthcare workers, contributing to the community long after Mercy Ships depart.

Megan’s first “tour of duty” was for six weeks while the *Africa Mercy* was docked in the West African nation of Guinea in January this year. “I worked in areas that I’d never been exposed to at home. Working in the larger Australian hospitals, such as PA and Royal Brisbane, you do become multi-skilled, but orthopaedics is my speciality. You don’t know what surgeries are happening until you arrive and I was there for the blocks of craniofacial and maxillofacial reconstruction surgery. Usually you are moved around to different areas, but once I’d worked with those surgeons for a couple of weeks, they asked me to stay working with them for the whole time. That was hugely complimentary, as I don’t do cranio and max-fax at home — it was a whole new area. I’ve never seen diseases and tumours like the ones I saw on Mercy Ships. I saw lives transformed.”

Living on the ship so closely with people from more than 40 different nations, the potential for making new friends and building professional relationships is enormous. “I’ve always enjoyed meeting new people and I’ve made quite a few friends who I know will be friends for life. A couple of the American girls I worked with have already been to Australia for a visit,” Megan said.

"I guess in a 'regular' work place, you don't tend to see your co-workers too much outside of work. With the surgeons, as well as spending 8 to 10 hours of surgery a day with them for six weeks, you see them at breakfast, in the pool, playing card games, which fosters professional respect and personal regard."

Megan adapted to life on the ship easily, not suffering from seasickness or feeling claustrophobic. "There's a bit of movement and the ship tilts, but it was fine. The top deck has a shipping container converted into a pool and they have exercise classes and tiny little gym. Also, Mercy Ships are mindful of mental health and offer onshore activities. There were 30 or so other Aussies on board and, thanks to other volunteers swapping shifts with us, a few of us were able to spend Australia Day on a little island off the mainland, playing cricket on the beach and eating lamingtons. With so many nationalities on board, we were able to repay the favour to other volunteers so they could have time off for their national celebrations, like Chinese New Year."

Serving on the Mercy Ships is an extraordinary commitment. Volunteers donate their time, pay for their travel costs and insurance, and contribute crew fees to pay for necessities such as food, fuel and medical supplies. At the time of the Guinea trip in January 2019, Megan was working at St Vincent's Private

Hospital in Toowoomba and was able to take her annual leave to volunteer. While she has recently been working at Goondiwindi Hospital on the Darling Downs, she has not accrued any leave, meaning this second service trip is quite a weighty financial commitment. Donations from people who want to help Megan and Mercy Ships make life-changing surgeries possible for those in need would be greatly appreciated. "I'll be on the ship in Senegal for two months, and I'm pretty excited to do

"I've never seen diseases and tumours like the ones I saw on Mercy Ships. I saw lives transformed."

craniofacial again and see the surgeons I worked with earlier this year. I'm also doing a surgery block in orthopaedics, my specialty area, and I'm excited to see how it's done

with minimal resources. It will definitely be different to at home. Because I'm now a Mercy Ships alumna, I'm looking forward to guiding new volunteers on this trip."

After serving in Senegal, Megan plans to explore her professional capacities and the world further. "After finishing on Mercy Ships next year, I'm moving to Oxford in England. I passed the UK nursing exams and am registered to work there. A nurse I was close with and one of the neurosurgeons from the *Africa Mercy* work at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and I'll be working there. So the connections made on Mercy Ships have set me on course for my next challenge."

Emmanuel College is supporting Megan's volunteer service on the *Africa Mercy* in Senegal. If you would like to help Megan and Mercy Ships deliver hope and healing, bringing world-class medical care to the poorest nations of the world, please donate through mercyships.org.au/giving/mercy-ship-megan-2.



Megan Ellis and Dr David Chong performing life-changing surgery | © 2019 Mercy Ships - Shawn Thompson



“FAST FASHION”: ARE YOUR CLOTHES COSTING THE EARTH?

by **Rosie Bensley**, second-year Bachelor of Journalism /
Bachelor of Arts student

The global fashion industry has changed at an overwhelming rate over the past 30 years.

While buying clothing was once occasional and need-based, you can now purchase a shirt with the change in your back pocket.

In an era of consumerism, fashion chains like Zara and H&M are capitalising on trends that come and go faster than you can say “climate change”. And while this “fast fashion” phenomenon may not be taking its toll on your wallet, the environment is paying the price.

The fashion industry is responsible for over 20% of global wastewater and 10% of global carbon emissions. Rivers that once flourished in countries like China and Bangladesh have been overrun by toxic wastewater, transforming them into biologically dead zones.

The effects aren’t only occurring overseas; the fast fashion industry is having enormous impacts right here in Australia. According to sustainability consultant and author of *Slow Clothing* Jane Milburn, the average Australian buys 27kg of clothing per year and disposes of 23kg, making us the second-largest consumers of textiles in the world. These masses of clothing end up in landfill, leading to a range of environmental

problems. Even washing cheap garments at home releases tiny microplastics that can make their way into our food and water supply.

While this all seems pretty gloomy, steps can still be taken towards a solution. Many resources are available that can help consumers make more ethical fashion choices. Baptist World Aid’s Behind the Barcode project (baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/2019-ethical-fashion-guide) is a leading example of this, placing accountability on fashion brands through a consumer-awareness campaign. The 2019 campaign rated 130 individual companies against criteria that included worker empowerment, environmental management, transparency and traceability.

If the fast fashion industry is going to change, it has to start from us. University students are a large proportion of the next generation and are not only involved in instigating change, but in educating others. Both The University of Queensland and Emmanuel College are taking the right steps towards a cleaner fashion industry, promoting awareness and action.



Emmanuel College Community Service Co-ordinator Lateisha Stam is an advocate for the benefits of shopping second-hand

Lateisha Stam, Emmanuel’s 2019 Community Service Co-ordinator, has been promoting sustainable practices among students. She has organised suitcase rummages and op-shop crawls with the goal of educating people on the effects of the textile industry and the benefits of shopping second-hand. Despite this, Lateisha emphasises that many students are still unaware of the extent of fast fashion, pointing out that “it may be falling into the same pool that the word ‘sustainability’ has, where people are more than happy to buy a metal straw and call themselves sustainable without considering where the materials are coming from, who is making them and the packaging that it comes in.”

Campaigns like Lateisha’s start a vital conversation about the effects of our consumer choices on the world around us, prompting people to think a little harder about heading to the checkout. British designer Vivienne Westwood famously said, “Buy less, choose well, make it last.” Try shopping second-hand and make sure you wear your clothes until they’re worn out; you can still look fabulous without costing the Earth.



UQ RUGBY TOUR: JACK IN JAPAN

by **Jack de Guingand** (EMC 2014-15), UQ Rugby Tour Captain

With sponsorship from Emmanuel College and the Blue Dog crest proudly on my back, in September I travelled to Japan with The University of Queensland Rugby Football Club to take on the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

I managed and captained the UQ Rugby Tour squad against three different Japanese rugby teams. We took three teams across: two men's 15s teams made up of players from premier grade down to sixth grade and a women's 7s team. From the pitch, to karting around streets of Tokyo, to the karaoke bar and back again, it was an amazing time.

We arrived in Sapporo on 17 September to stay at the beautiful town of Jozankei, best known for its relaxing onsen hot pools. Taking to the field a few days later, our top team enjoyed a solid win while our second team went down. The women's team also came up short against the very strong Hokkaido Diana team. The following day we made it to the spaceship-like Sapporo Dome to watch the Wallabies fight their way back in the second half against a very determined and destructive Fijian outfit.

We then flew to Tokyo and quickly became acquainted with the fast-paced train lines as we made our way to Keio University in Yokohama. Keio is the oldest private university in Japan and has a very proud rugby and university history. They showed a similar tenacity to the Japanese national team, known as the Brave Blossoms, as they accounted for all three of our teams before hosting us at their clubhouse where we enjoyed dinner and an exchange of playing kit.

Our final game saw us up early and travelling out to Tokyo's neighbouring province Saitama, where we took on Toyo University. The Toyo team edged past our second team before the women's then the men's top team won convincingly. Toyo University put on a fantastic feast as we watched the Brave Blossoms win their most memorable victory to date against the well-fancied

Irish team in the "Shizuoka Sensation". To share that historic moment with over fifty Japanese players and coaches was an absolute highlight of the tour. That day also marked the beginning of a fantastic new joint enterprise between The University of Queensland and Toyo University. We're hopeful that Emmanuel College will be able to host the Toyo exchange students in coming years.

A final highlight was the Wallabies versus Wales match held at Tokyo Stadium on 29 September. While the result was not what Aussie fans wanted, the atmosphere was electric and the Welsh were humble in victory — and great drinking companions through the night. While Australia bowed out of the cup early, the memories made on tour, with old and new rugby mates alike, keep me loving the game they play in heaven.





2019 Cultural Awards Dinner – Cultural Convenors Fit Malau-Aduli and William Chesmond (back row, centre) holding the ICC Cultural Cup

EMMANUEL'S CULTURAL CULTURE

by **Fit Malau-Aduli** and **William Chesmond**, Cultural Convenors

It's been another amazing cultural year and another ICC Cultural Cup victory for Emmanuel, finishing equal first with St John's College in the competition.

With a premiership in debating, a hard-earned third place in Choralfest and stellar second place in Bandfest, Emmanuel hit the ground running in semester one, placing us favourites for the cup early on.

Semester 2 started with flying colours (quite literally) with our gifted artists awarded first place in the ICC Art Show. Shortly after was the oratory public speaking competition, with the one and only William Fogg making a spirited effort and placing fifth to aid in our cultural standing.

Our annual Theatre Restaurant production was another smash hit, with a sold-out student-night show. Written by current student Islwyn Wilson, *Botanical Bother* — a whimsical and eccentric play riddled with numerous twists and turns — showcased the best acting and musical talents Emmanuel has to offer. Although our patience, resilience and will to live were significantly tested, Theatre Restaurant was hands down one

of the most rewarding cultural experiences to organise. We saw hidden talents, confidence and, most of all, friendships emerge out of so many different and unique people. Alongside ourselves as Cultural Convenors, second-year student Jessica Hossy played a pivotal role in organising and managing numerous aspects of the production and we extend our gratitude to Jess. A massive thanks and congratulations to all cast members; people on sound, lighting and backstage; set designers; College kitchen and admin staff; and everyone who bought a ticket in making the show a success.

All in all, this cultural year has been a time of laughter, love, stress, frustration and enjoyment — emotions which all contributed to our triumph. As convenors, it has made us immensely proud to work with and alongside our own cohort to put forward our best efforts in ensuring 2019 was a success in cultural events, and also in encouraging a friendly and welcoming culture.



ICC Art Show – Kelsie Youman, *Lost Years*



ICC Art Show – Donatella Coccetti, *Unchained*



Theatre Restaurant 2019 – *Botanical Bother*



Where are they now?

LUCINDA BOURKE

(EMC 2011-13, Students' Club President 2013)

After leaving Brisbane and briefly working in a law firm, I decided that I could still love the law and social justice and not be a lawyer! An exchange experience in Amsterdam had also given me a taste of forward-thinking social policy and how the law could be used to progress social change.

I was very excited to get a job as a Policy Advisor in the office of the New South Wales Attorney General. I never thought when I was at Emmanuel I would end up working in politics, though I guess being on the student exec in third year and bossing people around should have been a hint!

After a few years, I moved over to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women. As the Deputy Chief of Staff, I am the director of policy and strategy for our portfolio. My days are wildly varied and include meeting with organisations, charities and CEOs. When I am not in the depths of parliament, politics and the media, I visit hospitals and mental health inpatient units to meet with psychiatrists, nurses and patients to better understand how we can help. I am lucky to be in this job in a climate where people care about mental health. Our budget this year was \$2.2 billion, which is the highest it has ever been.

What do you remember most about College?

The balls, recoveries and big events were a highlight, but having 300+ friends living all together is my fondest memory. Whether lying around in the sun in the quad or chatting until 3am in someone's bedroom, the smaller moments over the years are the ones I cherish the most.

How did being part of the Emmanuel community shape your life?

Coming from Ballina and knowing not a single person in Brisbane, I had to learn how to meet people and establish friendships quickly. Emmanuel has such an inclusive culture — we had the reputation for being obsessed with each other for a reason! The culture of inclusion and giving things a red-hot go has really stuck with me. What I didn't realise at the time was that this was shaping me to be successful in my job now, as every week I have to meet many people. Establishing good relationships is crucial in politics, and to have a great social life!



(l-r) Tom D'Arcy, Lucinda Bourke and Maddie White at the Emmanuel Alums and Friends – Sydney Reunion, August 2019

If you had anything to say to your peers who attended College at the same time as you, what would it be?

I still see a lot of them now, so... beers this weekend? No, I would say that you guys, as a whole group, took me from being a teenager to a young adult with such optimism and fun — it's made me constantly have a glass-half-full view of the world. Thank you for cupping me, pranking me and putting catfish in the shower in Henderson block. All formative experiences.

WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATION



Exelby family baptism, December 2018: Michael Exelby (EMC 1997-98) and Lauren Exelby (EMC 1998-2000, née Radford) with baby Nicholas; Reverend (and Lauren's uncle) Ray Herrmann; Leigh Speis (1995-97, née Exelby) and Ross Speis with baby Lachie; Prue Perry (EMC 1999-2001, née Exelby) and Charlie Perry with baby Max

We're always delighted to welcome alumni back to Emmanuel, whether for an informal visit or a formal occasion such as a baptism, wedding or memorial service. We've been privileged to welcome the next generation to Emmanuel by way of alumni holding family baptisms in the chapel of their alma mater. Venue hire is complimentary for alumni holding special family events at Emmanuel College, and our catering packages offer quality food at reasonable prices. Please contact Events Manager Lyn Jackson by email conferences@emmanuel.uq.edu.au or telephone 07 3871 9100 for information.



Dr Ben Lawson at his PhD presentation ceremony

Vale

BEN LAWSON (EMC 1995-2001)

28.8.1976 – 23.6.2019



Ben at the 1997
Emmanuel At Home



Ben and his daughter
Grace



Ben and Sara's 2013 wedding

Emmanuel College alumnus Dr Ben Eric Lawson passed away suddenly in June aged 42. With a career spanning science research, public service and disability advocacy, he “left an extraordinary legacy of service and contribution,” said Spinal Life Australia colleague and advocacy mentor John Mayo.

Collegians may recall Ben as the boy from Drewe and Edmonds wings with the wicked sense of humour and a passion for the environment. He refused to let his degenerative condition Muscular Dystrophy (and associated wheelchair and ventilation equipment) get in the way of a good life, whether in education, work, recreation, travel or family time. He will be greatly missed by his wife Sara (EMC 1998-99, née Buchanan) and young daughter Grace, his parents Barry and Caroline Lawson, siblings Amy (EMC 1996-98) and Chris, and their extended families.

Ben's six and a half years at Emmanuel College held many fond memories. Photo albums are heavily populated by At Home dinners, Senior Common Room events, Edmonds flat get-togethers, togas, face paint and even blue hair! College mealtime conversations with Sara led them to start dating in October 1999. In a display of slow and steady wins the race, it was about 10 years before Ben proposed and then it took them until 2013 to marry.

Graduating from UQ with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Botany and Ecology, Ben delivered the Valedictorian speech in Mayne Hall in December 1999. He went on to complete postgraduate studies in Public Administration and Geographical Information Systems, and a PhD in Conservation Biology. His thesis, “The utility of site-based datasets and regional ecosystem mapping for biodiversity

conservation in the South-East Queensland Bioregion: past, present, future”, was accepted in 2007. Dr Lawson worked on policy reform in the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines, across vegetation management, land valuation and strategic land cropping. With passion, political savvy and good humour, he drove policy reforms and moderated stakeholder interests.

With a strong belief in community contribution and advocacy, Ben wrote countless letters to all levels of government on issues that were close to his heart or his area of study. He called out disability discrimination in all its forms, but always with a practical, solutions-focused outlook. This included taking Lang Park to the Disability Discrimination Tribunal to defend his right to attend a State of Origin game with 11 College mates *and sit together*. Ben volunteered on the boards of disability services organisations, including CODA and, more recently, Spinal Life Australia. He served for years in a voluntary support role for Queensland's preeminent science organisation, the Royal Society of Queensland, earning life membership which was conferred just before he passed away.

Fatherhood was a role Ben relished. Sara said that exploring the world through Grace's eyes and the world of play helped motivate him through times of difficult health. “Ben knew the simple things in life bring joy; he was always there for school pickup, going for a Friday milkshake, watching *Bluey* or supervising the neighbourhood kids riding scooters along the footpath.”

Ben's funeral at Emmanuel College was attended by some 240 people, including a dozen or so alumni. “We were met with warmth and hospitality at Emmanuel. We were able to have lengthy tributes

delivered by Ben's colleagues from advocacy, public policy and science without worrying about being ‘moved on’ by a strict room hire timetable. The College dining hall held memories of academic pursuits, plus jovial banter and camaraderie, which was meaningful to Ben and his life,” said Sara.

Family friend and founding member of Emmanuel's pipe band Bruce Grice led the funeral procession, playing “Going Home” by Mark Knopfler on his bagpipes. Pallbearers included two friends from College, Dr David Chambers and Dr Nicholas Hudson. Ben's long-term friend and the College's founding Pipe Major Andrew McCabe was with the band in Scotland at the time of the funeral. He took to a mountain top there and unleashed his pipes in a fitting farewell tribute.

FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY SPONSOR A TUTOR

Emmanuel College's reputation for academic excellence is in no small part due to our academic support program. The cornerstone of which is 80+ hours of tutorials each week ranging from Anatomy to Zoology.

Tutorials in Biology, Dentistry, Engineering, IT, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Music, Physiotherapy and Statistics are just some of the offerings.

At a time of expanding university class sizes, Emmanuel College tutors work with small groups of between two and six students to deepen their understanding of their university coursework. Compulsory tutorials for our first-year students set them up for success in their studies. The proof is in our students' academic results: this year, 65% achieved a GPA of 5 and above, and 30% achieved a GPA of 6 and above.

Many of Emmanuel's tutors are young alumni. Accounting and Economics tutor Liam Posselt, who completed his Bachelor of Business Management degree in 2018, said, "Emmanuel's tutes really helped me as an undergrad. Now that I'm working at Queensland Treasury as an analyst, I feel I can help Emmanuel's students with my knowledge and experience. And I really value the ongoing connection I have with the College."

As a not-for-profit, all revenue generated by Emmanuel is returned for the benefit of our students' education and wellbeing. Funding our tutorial program costs approximately \$170,000 per year. To continue offering this depth and breadth of academic support, we have initiated the Sponsor a Tutor philanthropic program.



Tutor Liam Posselt (EMC 2016-17) and students Christian Camuglia and James Heading

Donating to Sponsor a Tutor provides multiple levels of support: employing a tutor; helping Emmanuel's students in their studies; and supporting the College financially, which benefits the whole Emmanuel community.

David Graham (EMC 1962-64) is the first Emmanuel alumnus to donate to our new Sponsor a Tutor philanthropic program. As the founder of funds management firm DDH Graham Limited, David was keen to help Emmanuel's students studying Accounting and Economics by sponsoring a tutor in that field.

Currently studying for a Bachelor of Business Management, Emmanuel student Christian Camuglia is benefitting from our tutorials and from David Graham's generosity. "The tutorials that Emmanuel offers have provided me with the very best opportunity in succeeding in my first three years at university. Not only are they incredibly helpful, but they also provide a safety net for students who are struggling with the large study load that comes when they first start at university."

Alumni and friends who have achieved success in their careers and are considering supporting the College and our students are invited to make a tax-deductible donation to our Sponsor a Tutor philanthropic program. For more information, please contact Advancement and Communications Manager Michelle James, m.james@emmanuel.uq.edu.au or 07 3871 9342 or you can donate online to our academic support program through the website – emmanuel.uq.edu.au/supporting-emmanuel-donation.

Fiat Lux

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WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND

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Some of our donors wish to remain anonymous and we thank you, too, for your generous support.

front cover image: Emmanuel College alumna Dr Jordan Cory (centre), UQ Distinguished Young Alumni Award recipient, with Emmanuel College alumni and Council members Emma Szczotko and Nicholas Young | photo courtesy UQ and Bobby Rein Photography

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