The 2015 school year has drawn to a close. It was a significant milestone year for Emmaus College as we celebrated our relatively youthful 35 years as a school. The traditional whole school photograph, which is taken every five years, helped mark this anniversary.

The College is running at virtually full capacity with enrolments of around 1,265 students at the commencement of the 2015 school year.

Planning and approval, with tendering about to commence, for a new Learning Centre to replace the relocatables at Vermont South has been finalised.

Mr Tony Hirst
Current Principal, Emmaus College
Welcome to the new look Alumni newsletter, let us begin with thanking Michael Jones for his hard work and vision with the Emmaus Alumni work in the last 5 years. My name is Denise McCann, I have been a teacher at Emmaus for almost 30 years now. Barry Parnell and I will be working with the group in 2016. Looking forward to hearing from you all.

The Emmaus College Alumni Association is a group set up to help past students and staff members keep in touch. We will endeavour to produce a number of newsletters per year, help with contact information and the arrangement of reunions and celebrations. Please do not hesitate to contact us to help us out with stories regarding ex staff and students, if you know someone who needs to be mentioned in our newsletter contact me on the email address:

denise.mccann@emmaus.vic.edu.au.

Emmaus Memories!
Do you know these people? Are you one of these people?
Do you have any more great photos like these? Send me an email!
denise.mccann@emmaus.vic.edu.au
There were four sell-out performances of the College Production for 2015 ‘Beauty and the Beast’. In keeping with the very high standard of Emmaus productions, ‘Beauty and the Beast’ was nominated for a significant number of awards and won in the following categories:

**Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Awards**

Guild Award for Best Actress: *Olivia Cavallo (Year 12, 2015)*

Guild Award for Best Actor: *Samuel Rowe (Year 12, 2015)*

Guild Award for Best Supporting Actor: *Daniel Mellow (Year 12, 2015)*

**Lyrebird Awards**

Lyrebird Award for Commendation in a supporting role: *Victoria Deutscher (Year 12, 2015)*

Lyrebird Award for Best Supporting Actor *Nicholas Cremasco (Year 12, 2015)*

Lyrebird Award for Best Musical Direction *Tony Toppi (Year 12, 1999, Teacher 2005 - 2015)*

**Valedictorian Awards 2015**

*Excellence in Debating Award: Jack Allen*

*Performing Arts Award: Samuel Rowe*

*Christian Witness Award: Coen Baxter*

*Caltex All Rounder: Laura Placella*

*Keith Henry Award: Benjamin Woodbridge*

*ADF Long Tan Leadership Award: Patrick Hickey*

*Father Dillion Sports Award: Sophia Antidormi*

*Principal’s Award: Jack Allen*
Jack Allen worked tirelessly throughout his Year 11 and 12 years at Emmaus. Jack was on the debating team and represented Emmaus in a number of other public speaking competitions, including the Evatt competition (see below). Jack was also voted into the position of male school captain in his final year. In his own interesting style Jack discusses with us his plans for the future. He achieved an ATAR of 98.25.

Having been blessed with the serendipity of receiving the requisite ATAR, I eagerly look forward to commencing my double degree in Arts Law at Monash University in 2016. Drawing on the knowledge of and passion for the Indonesian language with which long-serving teacher Anne Dodgshun has endowed me, I hope to make Indonesian studies my arts major. Given the ever burgeoning strength and strategic importance of our nearest northern neighbour, I feel that such study would prove to be an invaluable asset should I fulfill a lifelong dream and enter politics or simply seek to advance myself in the cut-throat world of international commercial law. Thinking somewhat closer to home, I would also dearly love to one day specialise in Constitutional law and help formulate a Republic mode of Government in Australia. Whilst membership in the Young Liberals Future Leaders Programme AND the Australian Republican Movement is at times a difficult balancing act, I’d like to think I can assist in reconciling conservative constitutional obstinacy with the need for the reflection of liberal-democratic egalitarianism in our founding document and the consummation of national identity that such a shift would represent. But to quote the great Irish poet Oscar Wilde “only time, in its infinite wisdom, will tell of what the future holds...”

Emmaus College reached the National Finals of the Evatt Competition (a Model United Nations Security Council diplomacy competition for students in Years 9-12). Jack Allen and Bahareth Balamaheswaran progressed through various rounds, being one of five Victorian schools to progress to National Finals in November at Melbourne University. They were then one of a very small number of teams that progressed to very final round of the Nationals at Parliament House Melbourne. An amazing achievement.
After completing Year 12 in 2006 I commenced a Bachelor of Business with a major in accountancy at RMIT University and graduated in 2010.

In July 2011, after a number of unsuccessful job applications, I received a call advising that I was successful in the 2012 Graduate Program at the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Within the same week I received another call notifying of my success in getting an internship as part of the 2011 ‘Stepping into… Program’ at the ATO.

The Stepping into Program was an internship offered to university students with a disability. It was coordinated by the Australian Network on Disability and placements were with organisations and Government agencies who were members of the network.

I started the internship at the ATO in August 2011 working part-time until the end of the year before working full-time when I commenced the Graduate Program the following year. During this time, I had the opportunity of working in various areas within the ATO undertaking audits, reviews and considering objections. After finishing the Graduate Program in early 2013, I continued working as a permanent employee and joined an area where I still work full-time to this day.

My area consists of 2 teams that have national responsibility for assisting large superannuation funds to comply with their income tax obligations by working with them, their advisors and industry associations. The area also provides support to other areas within the ATO and to other Commonwealth agencies, such as Treasury, assisting in revenue collection estimates as well as being heavily involved in the development and implementation of legislation and policy in the superannuation space. My role typically involves working with colleagues on projects and compliance activities; investigating, researching, interpreting and evaluating information provided by large superannuation funds as well as applying relevant tax legislation.

In 2013, I was involved in promoting the Stepping into Program with my profile featuring in the July 2013 edition of ‘Diversity in Focus’. This was an external publication providing updates to people who provided support and services to people from a non-English speaking background, Indigenous Australians and people with a disability. Around this time, I also commenced my Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) qualification which I expect to complete next year.
Daniel Steen, Year 12, 2010

Daniel Steen finished Year 12 at Emmaus in 2010. He worked at a few jobs in Australia before he pursued his passion of basketball in Ohio, USA.

Daniel attends Lourdes University where he is studying Accounting and Marketing and plays for the College basketball team the Gray Wolves.

Daniel has also made his mark at the university with his cross country running setting records. He had to spend 6 months training only because he wasn’t able to play basketball due to a misunderstanding that Daniel had played professional basketball in Australia. He is now playing basketball and enjoying himself, although he says it is mentally and physically challenging for him as he arrived in America without knowing anyone and the time difference between Ohio and Australia is 15 hours, so communication with his family was hard.

He hopes to visit home in June or July this year as that is the summer break at university. His course will finish in 2017 and from there he hopes to come back to Melbourne and become a real estate agent.

Daniel Steen (Wantirna South, Australia/Emmaus H.S.) set a new school record for Lourdes University as the Gray Wolves opened their 2015 season on Friday night at the Back to the Nature Preserve Invitational held in Bluffton, Ohio.

Steen posted a time of 21:52 over six-kilometers to better the old school record by five seconds. Alex Barrientos had previously set the mark of 21:57 at the same race last season. Steen finished in 54th place overall to lead the Gray Wolves.
Phil Anderson, Year 12, 1987

I completed Year 12 (Technical stream) at Emmaus in 1987. I then attended Year 12, Mt Lilydale College in 1988 and completed my Group 1.

At the completion of my schooling I was unsure what I wanted to do but knew I had had a gut full of schooling so I knew I did not want to go to uni. In March 1989 I joined Victoria Police where I worked a range of general duties, investigations and covert surveillance.

I married in 1996 and we had three children. In 2007 I was selected for deployment to the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in East Timor. This gave me a taste for things a little different than the average policing.

I returned from East Timor in the end of 2008 to a failing marriage and was divorced about a year later. On return to my work as a team leader in surveillance it had lacked its lustre and I decided to join the AFP which I did in 2010.

I attended the AFP college in Canberra for a few months and graduated. From there I was sent directly to Serious and Organised Crime in the Melbourne office where I worked for 18 months. I then transferred to the International deployment group after once again being selected for deployment to the UN mission in East Timor. After another 15 months there the mission finished and I returned to Melbourne. I then worked in serious and organised crime and did a lot of travel around the country with work.

In 2013 I was selected for deployment to Solomon Islands were I stayed until November 2014. During this year I married my wife Yuli and we renovated our beautiful house in Bali. One month after returning from Solomon Islands I was deployed to PNG where I am working at present.
The Annual Board Dinner provides an opportunity to thank the Board and Committee members for their work throughout the year, and to acknowledge the staff with milestone Long Service years. We thank staff for their dedication and commitment to Emmaus College. Family and staff members also attended to celebrate the anniversaries with recipients.

This year we recognised:

- Patricia Gooding 15 years
- Grace Larzabal 15 years
- Julie Sykes 15 years
- Bernadette Taylor 15 years
- Damian Hess 10 years
- Sherwyn Rogers 10 years
- Helen Sirianni 10 years
- Wendy Wyngaard 10 years

Michael Jones was also recognised for his many years of voluntary work with the Emmaus College Alumni and coaching of sporting teams.
Over the years at Emmaus it is always sad to say farewell to staff members, who have been part of our community for a long time. Firstly Tony Toppi who was a student at Emmaus College from 1994 to 1999, and then became a staff member in the music and language faculty from 2004 to 2015. Tony is remembered for his enthusiasm and hard work in setting up a number of musical groups as well as Emmaus Musical Director and being an integral part of our liturgies, College Productions and Presentation Evenings. Tony is completing his PhD next year and will work as a classroom music teacher at Melbourne Girls Grammar. We will miss him and wish him luck.

Secondly, Mr Dominic DeSarro, our well loved and longstanding (30 years almost) Maths and Chemistry teacher has retired. Dom has decided to pack away his calculator and have a long earned rest from teaching. He has said he might come back to do some relief teaching in the future!
Building works and other news

The relocatables are being demolished and a brand new Language/VCAL/Counselling and Special Education area will be built. Building works will begin early January 2016 and completed early 2017.

Unfortunately, Mr Parnell’s garden will be lost in the building work.

The top oval, trees removed, new grass and drainage.
Keep an eye out for these current Emmaus students who have currently been achieving amazing things in their sporting fields

Michael Di Pasquale, Junior World Champion - Sporting Rifle

At the World Rimfire and Air Bench Federation World Championships, Michael won Bronze in two junior events and Gold in 50 metre International Sporting Rifle making him the Junior World Champion in that event. Michael also finished tenth in the world in the open age for the same event. In November Michael attended the Nationals in Sydney where he won three junior Gold and two Silver medals. This was the first of two qualifiers to make selection for the World Cup to be held in Slovenia in 2017. He currently holds two State records.

Godfrey Slattery, Cycling

This year, Godfrey once again competed in the National Road Cycling Championship. He won Bronze in the 15km individual time trial and Gold in the 67.5km men’s U17 road race the following day. Winning this year’s U17 National Championship for the second time made Godfrey the first rider to win this race in both years of an age group. At a national level in track cycling, Godfrey won Bronze in the scratch race and five Gold medals, notably breaking two Australian records in the team pursuit and individual pursuit.

‘and the winner is – Emmaus College’

EISM Division 2 Athletics

On 22 April Emmaus College competed in the Division 2 Athletics Carnival held at Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park. As we were being transported to the venue we had high hopes of a great finish knowing that we had put in the required preparation. All of our students participated with enthusiasm and showed tremendous sportsmanship towards other athletes. As the final relay came to a close, and the host Principal read out the place getters we were all very nervous. It was read, ‘and the winner is – Emmaus College’. We had come first and won the Division 2 Athletics Carnival!
Anthony Banks is now the Principal of Padua College. Padua College is a Catholic, co-educational secondary college situated on the Mornington Peninsula, a 1 - 1 ½ hour drive south of Melbourne. The College provides education to the children of families residing from Mt Eliza, across to Western Port and south to Portsea. Anthony spent 2015 as Principal of a Catholic college in Mildura.  Good Luck Anthony.

Abbey Henderson, teacher at Emmaus, 2004 to 2011 is now living in Kalgoolie, Western Australia. Abbey recently got married and is having a baby. Congratulations Abbey!

Beau McKee, (an Emmaus student who left in 2003) after years touring with the successful band “Closure in Moscow”, (where he joined other ex Emmaus students: Brad Kimber and Michael Barrett) has had success with his own recording studios.

A group of Emmaus teachers meet every month for lunch at local cafes, do you recognise any of these faces?