

## Living the dream

*Nathan Basha*

Life is like a race track, sure you might crash and burn but if you trust in your beliefs and passions you may just stay on the track.

The crashing and burning is a symbol of challenges you will have to face. It may not be easy to confront them but it will show everyone what you are worth. Show your emotional strength that you have and you will be proud, brave and courageous in the face of those challenges.

Believe in yourself and nothing is impossible to achieve.

My past makes me who I am. It's good to know the decisions I made throughout my life have finally come together and I am very proud of how my past has influenced me in becoming the man I am today.

"I am living the dream."

This is an inside look into my life as it is today. I work 3 days a week at Nova Radio Station and I'm just loving it. I audit Ancient History lectures at Macquarie University on Wednesdays and I do a Hospitality course at Tafe on Fridays. I dance, I go out socially and I live a very busy life.

I attended a mainstream private school from Year 7 to Year 12. I graduated last year in 2009. When I think about my time at high school, I reflect that I turned from a Peter Pan into a gentleman. Through my time at school, mixing with all the boys, I matured, I grew up...just like everyone else.

Like Peter Pan, I used to be mischievous and I chose to grow up because I didn't want to be a boy anymore. I wanted to be a man who controlled the direction of his life and took charge of that life.

There were times when I had attitude and I was a bit cocky. Like the time in Year 7 when I had a boy carry my school bag for me. I was pulled up by a Director of the school for not carrying my own bag. When I persisted with my attitude, the Headmaster stepped in and after a very short talk I begrudgingly carried my own bag from then on. As it turns out I was, after all, just one of the boys. I thank the Headmaster for always supporting me.

After my escapade of rebelliousness I eventually transformed into a gentleman, responsible, respected and valued. I learnt quickly to abide by the rules – well mostly.

The teachers were kind and the boys terrific. I participated in all the school had to offer. I went on the Year 7 and Year 8 camps as well as the Year 9 Challenge. I acted in school plays, did the spiritual retreat Kairos and the Arrupe Leadership course. I went on an Indigenous Immersion to Bathurst Island (which is 2 hours by boat from Darwin) where I completed some of my community service. I participated in all the athletics and swimming carnivals.

My Mum always wanted me to be a great swimmer. But I remember the day when she was doing her usual “You’ve got to go swimming routine”. I grabbed her by the shoulders, looked her straight in the eyes and I said, “That was your dream not mine, get over it.”

I never had to do another swimming lesson again.

I also remember the time when I started work experience. The school had organised 1 day a week at a large store. I’ve got to say, working in ladies underwear. Mum had other ideas.

She organised for me to work in the city 1 day a week at an accountancy firm. I did that for 18 months. They were awesome but I had plans of my own. I wanted to work with celebrities and suggested that I could work at Nova Radio Station with Merrick, Rosso and Kate Richie. Lucky for me, they said yes. I did 3 days a week Transition to Work\* in Term 4, 2009.

From the beginning of this year (2010), I started paid employment.

I love my life!

So far, I haven’t crashed and burned although I am on high speed and have a few sings.



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