

# Tait returns to the heartland

Masada's newly appointed college deputy principal and head of junior school **Martin Tait** talks about moving back to the city he loves and the school that feels like home.



"I was born in Sydney, and after setting up an international school in Singapore for two years and then heading a primary school in Bunbury, Western Australia, I felt like it was time for my family and me to

return to New South Wales," says Martin Tait, who led Masada College from 2004 to 2008.

"And of course, coming back to Masada felt just as comfortable as moving back to my hometown.

"I was obviously a bit nervous about starting again but it's been so great to be back. A warm, inclusive atmosphere can be felt throughout the school. I've always enjoyed learning about other cultures and religions, and I appreciate the good values that Judaism and general religious life promotes.

"Although my new role gives me the scope to focus on junior education as well as the strategic planning of the entire school, my heart will always be in the pastoral care of students, which focuses on the social, emotional and academic aspects of education.

"What really appeals to me about the Stephen Covey Leader in Me approach, which Masada incorporates and supports in the syllabus, is that it builds resilience in children - something that they'll need in today's world. And the opportunities that the college provides the students complements my "have-a-go" attitude.

"I encourage pupils to investigate, learn

and try, and to see the challenges and bumps that come up as a result as opportunities for growth, even when it's uncomfortable.

"Having had these few years away from home, outside of my personal boundaries, only enhanced my passion for teaching. Setting up a for-profit school in Singapore gave me exposure and connection to the business community. It also gave me a taste of the expat experience.

"I learnt how important connections are and how quickly a shared experience binds you to your new community. Ironically, my time spent in Bunbury, in regional Australia, exposed me to some quite progressive curriculum requirements, both digitally and with regard to professional learning outcomes, such as child protection protocols and mandatory reporting procedures - an aspect that I look forward to enhancing in my new tenure.

"Although teaching has become more complex over the years, especially with parents having more expectations for their children, the teachers and the school, I have always found it quite natural to connect with pupils.

"I think they recognise my genuine interest in their growth and development. That moment when you see it all "click" for a child as they suddenly understand a principle or discover their enthusiasm for a subject never gets old for me, and is something I know I can bank on seeing for many more years here at Masada College." *Visit [masada.nsw.edu.au](http://masada.nsw.edu.au)*