

apprenticeship with Ansett Australia. Leon contracted for a year in a variety of roles and locations, before returning to Melbourne to work for Virgin Blue (now Virgin Australia).

Over the next few years, Leon successfully completed sufficient Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) examinations and aircraft experience logs to be eligible for an Aircraft Type Training Course.

In 2008, Leon spent two months in Brisbane learning the workings of the Boeing 737, after which he was awarded his license on the aircraft. In 2010, Leon became a LAME with Virgin and has been continually working on improving his qualifications since.

Working in the airline industry, Leon has enjoyed ample opportunity to travel, venturing from South America to South East Asia, Russia to China via Mongolia, and Mexico to Morocco via Cuba.

Leon is involved with Muscular Dystrophy Australia and through ChallengeMD! has mountain biked from North to South Vietnam and trekked to over 4,169 meters in Nepal. Leon partnered with a long time travel friend and drove 15,000km from London to Mongolia in a Suzuki Jimny, and 4,000km from South to North India in a rickshaw, to raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy Australia and local Indian and Mongolian charities.

Leon's charitable work was recognised by Virgin Australia and, in 2012, he was nominated for Virgin's Stars of the Year awards. At a function in London with Sir Richard Branson, Leon was awarded runner-up in the Community Services Award.

Leon is a keen photographer and has enjoyed many published works. He has photographed some of the biggest Australian and international musical acts, the red carpet of the Logies and ARIA awards, and major boxing events.

Leon was involved in producing *My Diverse Australia*, a coffee table book of images of Australia, captured by Australian and international celebrities.



### **Luke Arnold – Class of 1998)**

*Director, Law and Justice Section – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Governance and Fragility Branch Development Policy Division)*

After completing Years 7–12 at Overnewton, Luke Arnold went on to study Arts and Law at the University of Melbourne. He then worked as a Lawyer at Minter Ellison in Melbourne, a Consultant to a United Nations agency in Jakarta and a Volunteer Researcher for The Nature Conservancy in Beijing, following which the British Government awarded him a scholarship to undertake his Master of Laws at the University of London.

He later joined Australia's federal public service and from 2012 to 2015 was posted as a diplomat to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. The highlights from his time there included helping Indonesia to run a smooth presidential election (to date the largest presidential election in world history), establish a public legal aid system, better manage the country's prison system and develop laws to empower people with disability.

Luke, his wife Leliana and their two sons, Theo and Yosef, are now back in Canberra. Luke is currently the Director for Law and Justice at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he focuses on assisting Australia's neighbours to reduce corruption and establish effective legal systems. He remembers fondly the education he received at Overnewton, particularly the way the school provided a caring and nurturing environment while encouraging him to be inquisitive, questioning and compassionate. Above all, he's grateful that Overnewton encouraged him to follow his dreams.