



# Brave boy faces healthy future

By Roderick Shaw

EMMANUEL Degeling beat cancer at the age of one.

Emmanuel (Manny), who lives in Mulgoa and turns two in February, was diagnosed with liver cancer just before his first birthday.

"We were devastated," his mother, Sharon Degeling, said. "I'd been worried about him for some time, but we didn't expect that."

Dad Jacob Degeling said they were told that at least his prognosis was good.

"The type of cancer Manny had has a good success rate of being cured, so we felt positive," Mr Degeling said.

Their son underwent chemotherapy and had half of his liver removed.

"The liver is the only organ that regenerates, so we didn't worry," Mr Degeling said. "Manny handled his chemo really well; he wasn't sick and he didn't lose his hair."

Mrs Degeling said Manny was treated in hospital every second week.

"Manny's last chemo was in May and in June he was scanned; there was no cancer," she said. "He has monthly blood tests to see how he's going."

His parents said the NSW Cancer Council also provided help.

"Assistance is available, if your kids have cancer, but I didn't know about it until I joined the Cancer Council," Mrs Degeling said. "I'm now on the council's Relay for Life committee for Penrith, promoting healthy lifestyles to beat cancer."

Her husband said it was such a relief to look at Emmanuel and realise what he had beaten.

"I feel upset when I think what he had to go through, but he's such a healthy little boy now," he said.

His wife said it had been the hardest year of their lives.

"But we've so much to be grateful for; we're really blessed," Mrs Degeling said.

"Occasionally we get a flash of what has happened, look at him, and my heart melts."

**NSW Cancer Council: 9334 1900 or Helpline: 13 11 20.**



Melting moments: Emmanuel (Manny) Degeling, with his parents, Jacob and Sharon, will shortly celebrate his second birthday and his first one free of cancer. Picture: Gary Warrick