



# Hobart College

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## AN INTERNATIONAL VIEW

A HIGHLY successful program for international students operates at Hobart College.

And one of the many participants Yi Chen says she has enjoyed her time living and studying in Hobart, where she uses the name Lea.

"This year is my second year at Hobart College and I have had a wonderful time here," Lea said.

"When I arrived here I was so scared of speaking English and was very shy and quiet.

"I was very worried about my English but I am lucky because there were really good opportunities for me to improve it."

Lea said while there weren't many Chinese students at the college she lived with a caring local family that made a real difference.

"We are really good friends.

"We talk a lot, play together and study together.

"This has improved my English skills and I feel I am still improving."

Lea said she loved Hobart College.



**COSMOPOLITAN:** Hobart College students Daphne Tan, left, Ling Tiong, Yi (Lea) Chen and Janet Jung.

"Our school is awesome. "It is quite different from China.

"We have a wide variety of courses to choose from including photography, psychology and video study.

"Most of the local students have part-time jobs and they earn their pocket money.

"While I don't have a job I do try to help others. I plan to take on a part-time volunteer job during the holidays which I

think is a really good chance to repay society."

Lea said Australia had not been too much of a culture shock.

"I feel quite comfortable and safe around Australians.

"Most people here are nice, kind, talkative and helpful.

"Hobart is not a busy city. "It is quiet and natural and its people are lovely.

"I think Hobart is a really good place to study."

## Robert's winning ways



**Robert Hortle**

HOBART College student Robert Hortle has won the senior-secondary section of the National Dorothea McKellar Poetry Competition for 2006.

Robert's poem was inspired by his childhood in Tonga. The island he lived on (Lifuka) had two very different coastal regions — the West Coast and the eastern Liku (wild) coast.

On the Liku coast there were a lot of graves. Graves in Tonga are different from those in Australia and are often huge mounds with banners, streamers, flags and pictures on them.

The coast itself was forbidding. It had volcanic cliffs, a protected inner reef and then the ocean.

Robert has always been passionate about writing, reading and music and is a talented saxophonist.

He's hoping to pursue a career in journalism or law, but his dream is to be a well-known musician.

Robert said he had always been able to turn to his family and friends for constructive criticism and his mantra is "to be a rock and not to roll".

## Tristan's tenacious approach

TRISTAN Sell has attended Hobart College for the past two years.

Tristan has had cerebral palsy since birth and uses an electric wheelchair when travelling long distances and a walking stick for every-day movement.

He completed a study this year that examined how humans perceive and judge each other.

Tristan decided to undertake the study because he often feels he is the recipient of unequal treatment.

"It is not uncommon for example for shop assistants to speak to my mother or my father and

ignore me even if I am the one making the purchase," Tristan said.

Tristan decided to conduct an investigation into the ways disabled people were perceived differently to able bodied people.

He undertook surveys, conducted interviews and used an able-bodied friend in a wheelchair.

His findings suggest:

- People with a disability see themselves as normal so why can't society?;

- There are still negative views about people with disabilities; and

- People with disabili-

ties are still spoken to differently as if they are "deaf and dumb".

Despite the findings, Tristan feels society is undergoing a slow change through better integration and education for all.

"During my time at Hobart College, I have found the college to be extremely accommodating towards all people with disabilities.

"They have done all they can to fix any underlying issues."

Tristan is hoping to complete a combined degree in Business/Arts at the University of Tasmania.

## Role change provides unique opportunity

HOBART College students recently changed roles with their teachers as part of a plan to re-introduce teachers to exam preparation techniques.

One of the college's highly motivated and respected teachers Dawn Cripps encouraged 10 students to prepare and teach techniques that are considered valuable when preparing for exams.

The idea was that the teachers would then pass on this valuable information to students so they could perform to the best of their ability during their end of year exams.

The students focused on relaxation methods, the study environment, speed reading, learning preferences and physical needs.

The group agreed that monotonous lectures are an ineffective way of teaching so the students decided to get the teachers to participate.

One student asked the teachers to complete a quiz which allowed them to identify their own person learning preferences.

Another guided them through a series of stretches to relieve neck, back and shoulder strains.

To end the lesson, the teachers were asked to reflect on the emotions associated with exam days.

Overall, the session was a valuable lesson for both the teachers and students and it is hoped the role reversals will benefit both parties in the future.

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