

**Speech delivered by NICOLA KWONG
2007 State Senior Winner**

I feel very privileged to be here today to talk about what has inspired me to create this poster to promote harmony day. I feel very lucky to study at Randwick Girls high, a state school where there are students from over 70 different ethnic backgrounds. Every 2 years our school has a big Harmony Day Celebration, where all students come to school in their national costumes and bring along a dish of their traditional food to share. Through these activities all of us gain a stronger sense of community and understanding of different cultures.

Each week there are many poster competition advertisements pinned up outside the art staffroom, but I chose to enter this harmony day poster competition because it taps into my daily experiences at school.

My main message in the poster was to “Embrace Diversity”. My poster shows children dressed in their national costumes hand in hand showing their enjoyment of Australia’s cultural diversity.

I also wanted to show how our fellow aborigines’ culture plays a very important role in our society and so I integrated aboriginal dot paintings into the Australian flag and land. The Australian coat of arms holds the flags from different countries together, symbolizing our nation’s unity.

Creating this poster has further increased my appreciation of Australia’s Cultural diversity and I really would like to thank the B’Nai Brith Anti Defamation commission, The Chinese Australian Forum of NSW and the City of Sydney and all the organizations and individuals that have contributed.

I believe we can live in harmony and celebrate difference.