



# International Student Program Newsletter

Newsletter 2

CRICOS No 00608A DETE

Term 2 2013

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## TESOL/ESL Help

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## Contact Us

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Published once per term

你好 (lí-hó) - singular / 您好 (lín-hó) – plural in Taiwanese Hokkien. Hokkien dialect of Min Nan as spoken by about 70% of the population of Taiwan. Te-Wei (Felice) An is our Taiwanese student in Year 12.

This term and next are the two crucial terms for Felice as a Year 12 student. Filippo Capurso is our other Year 12 student. Unfortunately, he returns home to Italy at the end of this Semester. He has told me that he wants to return to Australia to study at university here.

## Students

Riko from Japan, who is here on a Tokyo Government Scholarship, went with her Cavendish Road friend Charlotte Penfold's Aunt's Dairy Cottage at Lake Baroon. Here is the article she wrote about her experiences.

On 3 May, I went to Wittacork Dairy Cottage farm, which my friend's aunt owns. I stayed there for 2 nights. We got up early on Saturday morning and fed the goats, baby cows and pigs. I gave milk to the baby cows many times. Some of them are not good at drinking milk, but they tried hard and I was moved with emotion. I felt like a mother. I touched the goats; they were so fluffy and gentle. I even touched their horns! I have never touched a goat's horn before, it was hard and strong. The most surprising animal was the pig. The pigs were huge and made funny noises that I had never heard before. We usually gave them half an apple, but they also ate a whole watermelon! I experienced many new things and I really appreciated my friend and her family.



## Birthdays this Term

Two birthdays were celebrated over the Easter holidays and only another two for the term.

- 1 April – Nhi Truong
- 6 April – Nabeel Didi
- 17 May – Filippo Capurso (who turned 18)
- 30 May – Mrs Huxley

Newsletters will be published 4 times per year – once a term.

## Grammar Lessons

Mrs Sneddon has been providing ESL help for our international students. I know that sometimes you would like the students to remain in class but the students gain so much from their sessions.

Mrs Sneddon has requested copies of assessment/assignment task sheets to enable her to help provide the students with more meaningful help. Please either email me with the task sheet or inform me where to find it on the student drive.

If you have any concerns with any of the students please contact me on [mmass2@eq.edu.au](mailto:mmass2@eq.edu.au) or extension 709.

## Students Next Term

At the end of June, we say goodbye to Filippo. We do have three young Italian boys coming in July.

Fabio, Riccardo and Luca – all are going into Year 11.

## Block Exams

The Year 11 and 12 students are currently undergoing block exams. During this time students only need to come to school to sit for their exams. Each student has been given access to a copy of the exam timetable.

The students are allowed to use a paper dictionary in exam and are entitled to an extra 10 minutes per hour of exam.

## Homestay News from Lesley

***My student spends most of his/her time in their bedroom with the door closed. Is that normal?***

Sometimes students have a difficult time adjusting to the change of culture. They may need time out by themselves. Attempting to speak English at school and then English at home may be exhausting for them. However, if your student spends an excessive time in their room and is not interacting at all with the family then it is important that you contact either Miss Masselos or me.

Lesley will be working in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. If you need to contact her please either come and see her or send her an email on [lhuxl6@eq.edu.au](mailto:lhuxl6@eq.edu.au).

## Cultural Differences

### TAIWAN

Population **23.31 million**



**Size:** 35,980 sq km

**Flag:** Taiwan's flag was adopted on 28/10/1928. It is also known as the "white sun in the blue sky". The blue represents democracy; red represents nationalism and the white represents livelihood. The 12 rays of the white sun

represent the 12 months of the year and the 12 Chinese hours.

**Location:** Eastern Asia, islands bordering the East China Sea, Philippine Sea, South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, north of the Philippines, off the south eastern coast of China.

**Climate:** tropical and humid because the Tropic of Cancer splits the island. It has both tropical and subtropical weather.

**People:** Originally populated by indigenous tribes that spoke various Austronesian languages, which are related to Malay, Tagalog, and Indonesian. Today the remaining tribes make up only about 2% of the populations, while the 98% are considered ethnically Han Chinese. The ethnically Han Chinese are further split into Taiwanese, who make up about 84% of the population and whose culture is derived from people who migrated during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, as well as mainlanders, who make up about 14% of the population and whose families fled to Taiwan from the mainland after the communist takeover in China in 1949. Among the Taiwanese group, Hoklo (Minnan) speakers form the majority, which is approximately 70% of the population, while the remaining 14% are largely Hakka speakers.

**Religion:** The main religions of Taiwan are Buddhism, Confucian and Taoist making up 93% of the population. Christianity accounts for 4.5% and other religions make up the remaining 2.5%

### Interesting Facts

- ⊗ Never give a clock or umbrella as a gift. These have connotations of death.
- ⊗ Taiwan has the lowest birth rate in the world.

- ⊗ The number 4 is unlucky because it sounds like the word for death in Chinese
- ⊗ To alert the residents that it is trash time many garbage trucks play Beethoven music.
- ⊗ Taiwan is just a little bigger than Belgium.
- ⊗ The plum blossom is the national flower.
- ⊗ Baseball is the national sport
- ⊗ Convenience stores are very popular with more than 9,100 stores. It is suspected that Taiwan has the highest density of convenience stores per person in the world.
- ⊗ When Taiwan competes in the Olympics, it does not use its own flag and they have to call themselves Chinese Taipei.
- ⊗ Taipei is the capital of Taiwan.
- ⊗ Taiwan has the first woman ever to win a world Nobel Peace Prize.
- ⊗ In 2001, Ang Lee's film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* was filmed on the island.
- ⊗ The island was given the name "Formosa", meaning beautiful, by the Portuguese in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when they first laid eyes on it.
- ⊗ Taiwan has the highest mountain in all of south East Asia – Jade Mountain.
- ⊗ Never point with your finger – use an open hand.

再見 (chài-kiàn)

Until next term!

