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Media Release

Scholarship win attracts future engineer to water industry

A passion for maths, science and computer graphics has paid dividends for West Launceston's Kaitlin Langdon, who has been awarded the 2008 Steve Balcombe Hobart Water Scholarship.

Nineteen-year-old Kaitlin is the eighth young Tasmanian to win the opportunity to work in the state's water sector while undertaking engineering studies at the University of Tasmania (UTAS).

The scholarship also gives Kaitlin financial assistance throughout the duration of her degree.

She follows seven other young Tasmanians who have joined Hobart Water's workforce.

According to Hobart Water, the scholarship provides a vital tool to nurture and develop future leaders in the water industry, with past scholarship winners gaining employment with Hobart Water upon completion of their degree.

"With a greater need for engineers in the future, it is important that we encourage potential students into these areas to ensure a sustainable workforce," Hobart Water's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Christine Mucha said.

"The practical experience which scholarship winners gain at Hobart Water whilst completing their degree is invaluable to them when they enter the workforce," Dr Mucha said. "At Hobart Water students are able to work on real projects and put the theory they have learnt at university into practice."

"Kaitlin has exceptional problem solving skills which she gained from participating in the 'Future Problem Solving Program' where her team placed third nationally. These skills are what are needed to tackle the water shortage problem mainland Australia is currently facing," Dr Mucha said.

According to Kaitlin, who completed her studies at Launceston College, winning the Steve Balcombe Scholarship means she will be able to fully focus on her degree.

"Winning this scholarship means I will have financial assistance. I will be able to put all my energy into achieving the best results."

"I have a particular interest in Civil Engineering as it fits really well with my interest in maths, science and computer graphics. I also think it will challenge me both academically and personally, now and in the future," Kaitlin said.

The scholarship is in honour of Hobart Water's former chair, Steve Balcombe.

Mr Balcombe was an engineering graduate of UTAS and had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors in Tasmania before his premature death in March 2001. He played a key role in the development of many Tasmanian industries including forestry, agriculture and paper-making and was the inaugural chair of Hobart Water.

Hobart Water is the bulk water supplier of drinking water to the eight Councils of southern Tasmania.

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For further information please contact Hobart Water's Marketing and Community Relations Manager, **Tiziana Botti** on **6233 2230** or **0409 421 080**.