



VoRTCS Connect – March 2014

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Save this date: Monday 24 March at 6.30pm

It's our first VoRTCS Social Evening for 2014 and will be combined with our Annual General Meeting.

We are thrilled to host a very special guest speaker who'll also be addressing some very topical matters on the night.

There will be plenty of refreshments and discussion as the night begins with a presentation by **Mark Gillespie** from the Refugee Action Collective speaking about:

- Asylum Seeker Myths
- Asylum Seeker Offshore Processing
- Asylum Seekers onshore - the Brisbane Detention Centre
- Q&A

Then it's on to the AGM when we elect a new committee executive: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.

While each of these roles has committee responsibilities, we've found that, apart from the President's role, these are quite light. So, each position also looks after a key area of VoRTCS activity, liaising regularly with our administrative officer, Bianca Nisbet.

The work is always interesting and ideally suited to those who wish to bring their organisational skills to helping run VoRTCS. (The following article gives more details.)

We do appreciate that some of you may want to attend but find it conflicts with your tutoring. If so, you may want to give some thought to discussing it with your family as it is probably our most important meeting of the year.

To ensure we cater for everybody on the evening, **please RSVP to Bianca Nisbet** at bianca.nisbet@svdpqld.org.au. The event will be at Vinnies offices, 10 Merivale Street, South Brisbane. Street parking is available in the area.

**Monday 25
March,
6:30pm,
Vinnies
offices:
combined
VoRTCS
Social
Evening and
Annual
General
Meeting.**

Message from Ian Tanner, VoRTCS' Outgoing President

The Annual General Meeting this month (Monday, March 24), is when VoRTCS elects its President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and we are now seeking nominations.

The President provides overall leadership together with the Vinnies Manager (Carolyn Sauvage).

The Vice President will also be responsible for overseeing the Tutoring and working closely with Bianca, our Vinnies staff member who runs the program.

The Secretary will continue to lead a small volunteer Communications team as well as take the Committee secretary role.

And the Treasurer oversees the expenditure and may also cover other roles this year.

It's also the time when VoRTCS seeks expressions of interest from others who'd like to help run the organisation. Key areas include Training, Communications and Online Presence, Tutor Support, Community Engagement and Funding.

These are not elected positions and the new Committee will be looking to set up the best teams across all areas. It may be that some current team members will nominate for elected positions, leaving openings for new team members. And we know that several of the elected Committee members are moving on this year, so there is good opportunity for you to join and help VoRTCS thrive.

One of the strengths of VoRTCS in 2013, has been a great admin team centred around Bianca, and it's likely that 2014 Committee work will involve working closely with this admin team.

So if this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in this year, we'd love to hear from you in the next 2 weeks to discuss possibilities. The best way is to email me (president@refugeetutoring.org) so that we can talk with you further about the possibilities.

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you on March 24.

Ian Tanner
President

VoRTCS wins the vote

Great news! VoRTCS recently won the *Local Matters* December competition at **Grill'd West End**.



Every month, Grill'd donates \$500 to local groups and asks their customers to decide who the money goes to.

VoRTCS reps Bianca Nisbet and Caitlyn Perkins were thrilled to accept the first place award and \$300 donation. Thanks West End for your support.

Speech Pathology Clinic for ESL students

Every day we use language to learn, sort out problems, talk with others and get jobs. Good communication skills help children do these everyday tasks and achieve better.

BUT... It can be hard to identify the speech, language and communication difficulties of children who have English as a second language. Is it just a problem with English or is it a problem learning in any language?

That's one of the things a new Speech Pathology Student Clinic for ESL Children and Young People aims to resolve.

If you think this may be relevant to a member of a family you tutor, please read the 3 attached documents and contact: Kathrynfe@hotmail.com Ph 0402 147 049 or Carmen Tang at Carmen.Tang@health.qld.gov.au or 3310 9444.

You'll need to be fast as the clinic begins this week.

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING AN ESL COURSE?

If so, please contact us now as we are calling for Expressions of Interest from current VoRTCS tutors who would like to receive more information about an upcoming ESL Workshop on the Saturday 10 May (9:30am-12:30pm).

We do have limited places so it will be first in. The topic of the course is yet to be decided and those who are placed on the list will be notified first. Please send your Expression of Interest to bianca.nisbet@svidpql.org.au.

Tutor Reporting begins in April

Many tutors have asked when we'll have a regular reporting

program in place, so we're pleased to advise that tutor surveys and progression feedback reports will now be scheduled for each April and October.

The aim is to constantly improve our program and deliver the training and communication you need - and measure how well we're doing.

We'll also continue with the Annual Database Update which happens each June.

All tutors will need to complete the surveys and, as a team, complete the Annual Database Update. All information and forms will be sent via email, so please ensure any changes to your email address are provided to VoRTCS.

If you have questions, please contact Staff on 3010 1069 or tutoring.vortcs@svdpqld.org.au.

Feedback

We would love to hear your feedback and ideas for stories in future editions. Please email publications@refugeetutoring.org

Also, if any of your team is not getting this newsletter, please ask them to contact us so we can add their name to the list.

Please visit our website at www.vinnies.org.au & www.refugeetutoring.org
Donate to our cause [click here](#).