



## VoRTCS Connect – April 2014

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### March Tutor Social Evening & AGM a big success

Our first get-together for the year drew a great crowd of 64 VoRTCS volunteers. The big attraction of the evening was Mark Gillespie from the Refugee Action Collective, speaking about current issues and myths surrounding refugees in Australia.



That was followed by the Annual General Meeting where a new executive team was elected. **Marion McMahon**, who joined the committee last year as a non-elected member to run our tutor training program, is the new President. She replaces Ian Tanner, who gave four highly committed years to the role.

**Rachael Taylor** was elected Vice President; **Lauren Barea** will be the new Secretary and **Kathleen Ferrero** joins as Treasurer.

Kay members from the Communications, Fundraising and Tutoring Operations teams have again volunteered their time and these names will be advised in the next newsletter.

Congratulations and welcome to the VoRTCS Committee!

### Quick Links

- [Our Website](#)
- [Donate Now](#)
- [Facebook](#)

### HAVE YOU JOINED US ON Facebook?

Our Facebook page is continuously growing! Please [click here](#) and Like our page to

### More Burgers for Bucks

Great news! We've been accepted to participate in the April *Grill'd Local Matters* donation program, this time at



keep up-to-date with daily news and facts.

the **Camp Hill** store.

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

When customers buy a burger, they receive a token to put into one of 3 jars representing different groups. Whoever has the most tokens at the end of the month receives \$300. The other two groups receive \$100 each.

VoRTCS won the December vote at the West End store and we're hoping to repeat that success this month.

To do your bit to help our cause, spread the word and head on down to **Grill'd, located at Samuel Village, Cnr Boundary Road & Samuel Street, Camp Hill.**

### **Save this date: Tuesday 13 May**

If you're a volunteer (who isn't?) and you love a good trivia night (who doesn't?), then mark the evening of Tuesday 13 May in your calendar.

To mark National Volunteers Week 2014, VoRTCS and Vinnies Youth Program are organising a fundraiser trivia night. Both start time and venue are yet to be announced, but it will be reasonably central and after business hours.

This will be a great social evening with the opportunity to meet new people, see some familiar faces, catch up with those you may only know through email and stimulate your brain.

The Youth Program believes they can count on about 50 attendees, so let's do our best to at least match that number.

We'll be sending out more information about the evening within the next couple of weeks, so please look out for an email on this topic.

If you're already keen to attend, please email Bianca Nisbet [bianca.nisbet@svidpqlld.org.au](mailto:bianca.nisbet@svidpqlld.org.au) so that we can start building our numbers.

### **New Tutor Survey begins this Friday**

This Friday, all tutors will receive an email with details and forms relating to the first of our new twice-yearly tutor surveys, which were flagged in a recent newsletter.

The survey is compulsory but will take only 5 - 10 minutes to complete. The aim is to assess how the tutoring for your family is progressing and where VoRTCS can provide better assistance.

Please keep an eye out for your email and complete it as soon as possible this month. If you don't receive the email, please contact [bianca.nisbet@vortcsqld.org.au](mailto:bianca.nisbet@vortcsqld.org.au)

## **VoRTCS Youth Camp now in the planning!**

Following the great interest and feedback received in January when we offered a number of places in the holiday camp run by Vinnies Youth Program, we are thrilled to announce that VoRTCS will run its own Youth Camp during the September school holidays.

The camp will run over a Friday, Saturday and Sunday and will be open to tutors and young people in the families they tutor. Precise age groups have yet to be determined, as have the final date and location, although the camp will definitely be held within the greater Brisbane region.

This will be a fabulous opportunity for young people to socialise with their peers from across the city and enjoy a great recreational break.

Although VoRTCS will run the camp, all the planning and organisation will be done in partnership with Vinnies Youth Department who have all the necessary skills and

experience in this area.

We'll be sending you more information as details are firmed up, but you may want to begin thinking about this opportunity for your family.



## **Something fresh for your tutoring session**

Our librarian, Rosemary Haworth, has come up with a range of resources from our library at Vinnies HQ that you can access to bring something fresh to your weekly sessions. Please see the attached for all the details.

## **What is your most important possession?**

If you had to quickly flee both your home and country, what one possession would you make sure to take with you? For one man, it was 2 plastic bottles; for a blind woman, it was a stick.

They and others are featured in a wonderful photographic

project supported by the [UN Refugee Agency](#) where refugees pose with the one thing they couldn't let go of when fleeing their homes. Follow this link:

<http://petapixel.com/2013/03/21/portraits-of-refugees-posing-with-their-most-valued-possessions/>

### **Feedback and Contact Updates**

Please send your feedback and ideas for stories in future editions to: [publications@refugeetutoring.org](mailto: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. And, do ensure that your own contact details are current.

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