



**VoRTCS Connect**

**April, 2015**

## **VoRTCS Tutor Survey, April 2015**

### **Your opinion matters!**

We've revised last year's survey and attached the VoRTCS Tutor Survey for April 2015 for your team's consultation. Each team is required to submit one survey response. However, individual tutors are encouraged to submit an additional survey if desired. The survey will be open for the whole month of April for your vital feedback. All surveys must be completed by **10pm, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

For your convenience, the survey is accessible through:

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VortcsApril2015>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/VoRTCS>)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey, please don't hesitate to contact Bianca on 3010 1069 or [bianca.nisbet@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:bianca.nisbet@svdpqld.org.au)

Thank you for your participation as it is only through your help and comments that we can provide better support to you, your volunteer team and VoRTCS Family.

If you're interested, please contact Bianca. :-)

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## **Multicultural Community Picnic**

### **What an amazing day**

Our first community picnic was a huge success. We would love to thanks the Daisy Hill Conference, St Edward's School, all the volunteers, families and community members who attended on the day.

Lots of fun was had by all. We played soccer, cricket, had fun with face painting and some colouring in. We has a donation of 40 giant chocolate Easter bunnies for the kids and 'big kids' to enjoy. It was wonderful to see all of those there connecting and conversing with each other.

We can't wait for the next one!



## VoRTCS' Burger Appreciation Night @ Grill'd West End

### Tutor Social Evening with a tasty difference...

On Monday 23 March, roughly 20 eager volunteers converged on Grill'd in West End to help support the Local Matters campaign. It was a really wonderful evening with volunteers swapping tutor stories and some handy tips and tricks. Everyone ordered a burger and placed a token in the VoRTCS jar. In the end, we came second and proudly received \$100 fundraising towards the program.



## Deception Bay Community Youth Programs LUMINOUS Lantern Parade

### Expand your knowledge!!

Hi all,

We have our second Certificate III in Retail for the year commencing on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The course being provided is free for young people aged 15-25, not enrolled at school, not receiving Centrelink and do not hold a Certificate III or higher. Pick-ups are possible for those in the local area (Deception Bay, Narangba, Rothwell, North Lakes, Morayfield, Caboolture, Kippa - Ring, Scarborough). Alternatively for those further away they could catch the train to Narangba station and be picked up from there. As part of attending the course we provide basic lunch daily also. Feel free to share the poster and information with your networks.

#### The details of the course are:

- Options will see participants gain a Certificate III in Retail, with opportunities for industry experience
- Participants will take part in a range of job preparation and life skills workshops
- Throughout the program participants will undertake intensive case management support to identify and transition into further employment and / or training
- The accredited training component of the program runs for 5 weeks (4 days per week, 10 - 4:30pm) starting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of May and finishing on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of June.
- Ongoing employment and training support will continue until August 2015

If young people are interested contact Veronica [veronica@dbcyp.org.au](mailto:veronica@dbcyp.org.au) or Ime Lia-Norris [Imeleta@dbcyp.org.au](mailto:Imeleta@dbcyp.org.au) with your basic details - name and contact phone number. Any other information

### Welcoming New Queenslanders

During Queensland Week, more than 12,000 Queenslanders from all walks of life welcome our newest Queenslanders with MDA's LUMINOUS Lantern Parade and concert at Southbank Parklands. It begins with a colourful walk from the Cultural Forecourt, joining the parade of captivating lanterns. It winds its way through Southbank Parklands in a dazzling display of light before entering the Courier Mail Piazza for a free concert filled with world music and dancing.

**5.30pm**  
**Friday 5 June 2015**  
**Cultural Forecourt**  
**South Bank Parklands**  
**(Near the Wheel of Brisbane)**

This year VoRTCS will have a lantern to represent the program and the greater St Vincent de Paul organisation. This will be a first for VoRTCS and it's sure to be an exciting time.

Come along and bring your friends and family but most importantly, be sure to tell your tutor family about the Lantern Parade.



that is relevant to the referral can be included and is appreciated. Alternatively we are contactable on 3204 0277.

## Recipe of the Month

### Yakhanit Batata

Lebanese Potato and Beef Stew is a common traditional dish that is served with a side of rice.

#### Ingredients

- 5 lbs of Beef Stew Meat, cubed
- 3lbs Potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 head of fresh garlic, crushed or minced
- 1 medium onion, minced
- 5 table spoons of ghee or butter
- 2-3 teaspoons of tomato paste
- 1 cup of coriander leaves finely chopped (preferably green)
- 5 teaspoon of salt
- a dash of Lebanese 7-Spices (or allspice)
- Warm Water
- A side of rice

#### Instructions

1. In a deep cooking pot, saute/fry the meat in the ghee/butter on medium heat with a bit of salt for about 8-10 minutes or until medium-well cooked.
2. Add the garlic, onions, coriander leaves, 7-spices and the remaining salt to the beef and saute well together for another 3-4 minutes.
3. Add about 6-7 cups of warm water (watch out for the steam), bring to a boil, cover and let simmer/cook on low heat for 2 to 2.5 hours.
4. Meanwhile, bake the cubed potatoes in the oven for about 30 minutes at 370 degrees, then add them to the simmering meat half-way through its cooking time.
5. During the last 30 minutes of cooking, add the tomato paste, stir well, then let simmer for the remaining time.
6. Serve hot with a side of rice.

See more at:

<http://www.mamaslebanesekitchen.com/meats/lebanese-potato-beef-stew/#sthash.raxTkSd3.dpuf>



## We came by boat...

### How refugees changed Australian business

Huy Truong remembers water coming over the bow. The small fishing boat carrying him and 40 other Vietnamese people - one of whom was a newborn baby - tried repeatedly to cross the tropical, cyclone-prone stretch of water separating them from Australia. It was 1978 and he was just seven.

"On three occasions we tried to cross the Arafura Sea to Darwin and each time the boat just took in too much water," Truong says. "The captain made the decision to turn the boat around and go back to the calmer waters."

Tan Le, who set out from Vietnam three years later, also remembers the water. There were five days and nights of the bow dipping in the waves and a constant fear of discovery.

"If you think there is any other chance of surviving in a reasonable, meaningful way, you wouldn't choose such a difficult path and venture into the unknown," says Le of the journey she made, aged four, with her mother and three-year-old sister.

Settled in Australia as a refugee, boat-person Truong went on 21 years later to found gifting site [wishlist.com.au](http://wishlist.com.au) with his wife Cathy and two sisters. They sold it to Qantas last year and he is now a private equity investor. Le, the 1998 Young Australian of the Year, is now the co-founder of Emotiv, [a producer of headsets that read brain signals](#) and facial movements to control technology, whether computer games or apps.

Both worry that the country's current harsh treatment of asylum-seekers is denying the next generation of seaborne people the same opportunities that created success for them and Australia.

To read on, visit:

[http://www.brw.com.au/p/business/we\\_came\\_by\\_boat\\_how\\_refugees\\_changed\\_pHm96uKvMaQT2B2NFCdcRJ](http://www.brw.com.au/p/business/we_came_by_boat_how_refugees_changed_pHm96uKvMaQT2B2NFCdcRJ)

## Tutor Library

### Need some inspiration?

Whilst the VoRTCS library is out of action, we have put together some more online



## Save the Date!

### Don't miss out



Exciting events taking place that VoRTCS will be involved in.

**Monday 11 - Friday 17 May** - National Volunteer Week 2015

**Friday 5 June** - Lantern Parade, Southbank Parklands

**Sunday 21 June** - World Refugee Day Festival 2015

**Sunday 26 July** - Multicultural Community Picnic, TBA

**Sunday 6 September** - Bridge to Brisbane 2015

**Sunday 13 September** - Multicultural Community Picnic, TBA

**Sunday 22 November** - End of Year Volunteer Celebration 4-6pm

resources in the documents attached that might come in handy.

Also we encourage all volunteers to visit your local Brisbane City Council library as they carry many of the same or in some cases a more extensive range of resources.

## VoRTCS Resource Guides

### Your Ultimate Tutoring Resource

Many of our VoRTCS families need assistance in areas outside of just English tutoring. Check out our VoRTCS Resource Guides which are accessible via our 'Links' tab at [www.refugeetutoring.org](http://www.refugeetutoring.org).

## You're important to us!

*This newsletter is created 'for you - by you'*

We want to hear your feedback and any ideas for future stories. Send your thoughts to [info.vortcs@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:info.vortcs@svdpqld.org.au).



If you know any volunteers not receiving this newsletter please let us know as they're missing out on all the info!

## HAVE YOU JOINED US...

### On Facebook and Instagram

Our **Facebook** page is continuously growing! Please [click here](#) and Like our page to keep up-to-date with daily news and facts.

Also follow us on **Instagram** using [@vortcs](#)

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](#).



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
QUEENSLAND

*good works*