



VoRTCS Connect – July 2013

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Team VoRTCS sets the pace in lead up to 'Bridge to Brisbane'

Training is underway for Team VORTCS' participation in the 'Bridge to Brisbane' fun run on Sunday 1 September 2013. Get involved by sponsoring the team or joining us for the 5km or 10km event (runners and walkers welcome). Funds raised will go directly to running our program to help ensure we can continue help refugees most in need in our community.

How to get involved:

You can sponsor the VORTCS team at our [Everyday Hero](#) fundraising website. Or register to join our team and help raise money for VoRTCS - search team name VORTCS, or team number 27776 (10km) and 29684 (5km) on the [Brisbane to Brisbane Registration](#) website.

The 10 km starts 6am at Murarrie and the 5km starts 9.40am at Hamilton. **Cost:** 5km - \$35 or 10 km - \$40. For more information visit www.bridgetobrisbane.com.au or call 1300 55 55 77.

Quick Links

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

VoRTCS spirit shines at Rio Tinto Volunteer Expo

VORTCS was one of a wide range of not-for-profit organisations participating in Rio Tinto's recent Volunteer Expo held during National Volunteer Week.

The event, held at the company's Brisbane city office, was attended by more than 100 employees interested in volunteering with various causes to help the wider community.

HAVE YOU JOINED US ON Facebook?

Rio Tinto employees Adam Hearne and Julie Barnett, who are also VORTCS volunteers, represented VORTCS at the expo and were encouraged by attendee's interest in refugee tutoring.

Facebook is now up and running and continuously

growing. Please [click here](#) and Like our page to keep upto date with daily news and facts.

"Many employees expressed a genuine interest in helping refugees and were excited by the opportunity to connect and get involved with an organisation that makes a real difference to people's lives," said Julie.

"Information flyers were provided to interested people so they could follow up and register for the scheduled training sessions."

Event organiser and Rio Tinto Alcan employee Emma Boddington-Stubbs explained there is no doubt that not-for-profits need financial support, but sometimes, people want to do more. And time is one of the greatest gifts.

Does your workplace have a similar program?

Many companies support their employees' involvement with charities and not-for-profit organisations through workplace giving programs and volunteering expos. They are an excellent way for us to promote the work of VORTCS, raise funds and recruit more volunteers. If you have story like this to share, please send it to us. If you know of an event at your workplace to promote VORTCS, please let us know if we can help. Just email the details to bianca.nisbet@SVDPqld.org.au

Spread the word about tutoring

If you love tutoring your refugee family, please spread the word to your own family and friends! As demand continues to exceed the supply of available tutors across Brisbane, we need to increase the number of volunteers who participate in this rewarding experience.

As part of National Student Volunteer Week, which is an initiative of Volunteering Queensland, VoRTCS will have information stalls at two upcoming university expos. QUT will hold an event on Thursday 8 August from 11am to 1.30pm and the UQ expo will be on Wednesday, 7 August from 11am to 2pm.

VoRTCS is hoping to attract students who are interested in learning new skills and giving back to the community. Many students have the desire to volunteer but may not know what organisations are out there and how they can get involved. It is hoped the expos will increase awareness of the role VoRTCS has in helping refugees to lead full and rewarding lives in Brisbane.

If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a tutor, please direct them to <http://www.refugeetutoring.org/register-to-attend-training.php> The next information sessions will be held in August

Volunteers bring smiles to kids' faces

VoRTCS brought smiles to the faces of hundreds of children and their families at the World Refugee Day Community Festival in Annerley, on Sunday 23 June.

More than 350 children visited the VoRTCS Kid's Activity Tent to paint face masks in the shape of butterflies, monkeys, cats and dogs. VoRTCS volunteers pitched in to help on the day, getting their hands covered with paint and glue in the flurry of creativity.

VoRTCS also set up a stall to hand out information about our program and to encourage Festival-goers to consider tutoring.

The day was a great success, with thousands attending the festival.

Visitors included families tutored by our own VoRTCS tutors.

The festivities started with a moving citizenship ceremony in the morning, and other highlights included music and dancing, a smorgasboard of foods from around the globe, arts and crafts and family activities such as camel rides and a mini petting zoo.

New Tutoring Resource coming

VoRTCS will launch a valuable new Resource Guide for Tutors, which will be available through the library and our website next month.

The Guide lists and briefly explains the many services and resources that can be sourced by tutors to help them in their work with refugee families.

The information is conveniently sorted along the 14 functional tutoring areas. It covers emergency services, transport, income, consumer affairs, utilities, accommodation, financial, government and voting, community services, health, legal, education, personal growth and resources and publications.

There is also an abbreviated Useful Contact and Information List. Tutors can use this as a handy reference when they need to respond promptly to issues to help their family.

Stay tuned for more information about how and when you can access the Guide.

The difference you make...

As many tutors get little feedback about their work, we thought you'd like to hear what one of our family referrers

had to say recently:

" I think the regular weekly commitment enables families to feel supported at a deeper level than tutors may recognise... just the regular commitment of tutors being willing to visit (client) at home means that this is the first time the family has been able to access any ongoing English language development. (Client) has explained that she is really benefitting from the English tutoring and today for the first time we were able to have a long telephone conversation without the need of an interpreter. I think (client's) confidence and verbal skills have greatly increased .

"I say this just so you know that what you are offering is very important even if at times it seems you have not done to quote you " a lot of actual English tutoring".

Introducing Bianca

You've probably all heard of Bianca Nisbet, but you may know little more. Bianca is VoRTCS' Program Officer, based in Vinnies' South Brisbane offices. It's Bianca's role to keep our daily operations running, liaising with referrers and the VoRTCS Committee, keeping daily communication flowing, matching tutors and families and a host of vital administrative duties. Starting next month, Bianca will be contributing to this newsletter with quick updates, tips, and requests. You can also ask her questions that you'd like to see answered in the newsletter.

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/vortcs-refugee-tutoring-qld
Donate to our cause [click here](#).