



VoRTCS Connect – August 2014

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[Zonta Advancement Grant](#)

The Zonta Club of Brisbane are offering four grants of \$1000 each to help improve the status of women. One grant is specifically for a woman from a migrant or refugee background. Please see the attached document for more information.

[Refugee's rise to SA Governor an inspiration](#)

Refugee's rise to SA Governor an inspiration

From Vietnamese refugee to South Australia's Governor, the achievements of Hieu Van Le remind us of the important contribution refugees make to Australian life.

[The lives of VoRTCS Volunteers!](#)

His story is a wonderful incentive to us as tutors, as we help our refugee families achieve their goals and look towards a better future.

[Freedom Seeker: Roots, Rock, Reggae for Refugees](#)

Mr Le, 60, will take up the position of Governor from September 2 this year, capping many years of outstanding service to the community since he fled war-torn Vietnam, in 1977. He arrived by boat in Darwin with his wife Lan and about 40 other people.

[Making use of the online catalogue - VoRTCS Library](#)

[You're Important to Us!](#)

Mr Le, who has two sons Don and Kim, said that he was deeply honoured, and at the same time, extremely humbled to be appointed to the position of Governor. "As a young 'boat people' refugee, I arrived here 36 years ago with nothing but an invisible suitcase filled with dreams," he told media, at the announcement of his appointment.

Save the Date:

"To be bestowed with the greatest honour and the privilege of holding the vice-regal office is absolutely beyond my wildest dream. This appointment, however, says much more about our society than about me - it sends a powerful message affirming our inclusive and egalitarian society."

[Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run, Sunday 7 Sep, Brisbane CBD.](#)

After arriving from Vietnam, Mr Le embraced education in his new home, receiving an economics and accountancy degree and MBA.

[VoRTCS Kids Camp! Saturday 20 - Monday 22 Sep, Warrawee.](#)

He is chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and has been Lieutenant Governor of South Australia since 2007.

[End of year tutor celebration](#)

He is also a patron and member of more than 30 community organisations. The University of Adelaide and Flinders University have both awarded Mr Le honorary doctorates for service to society.

[December, details TBA.](#)

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HAVE YOU JOINED US ON Facebook?

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



The lives of VoRTCS Volunteers!

Every month, we're going to try and feature a different VoRTCS volunteer to share a the many things that make this community wonderful. You will find an attachment to this email which is an **About Me! survey**. Please fill this out and send it back to Bianca so we can feature you one month!!! If you would like to write a little bit more at the end of the survey, we would thoroughly appreciate it.

This month we have decided to feature **Abdul**. He is on work experience at the moment with VoRTCS in the office.

Hi Everyone!

My name is Abdulkadir. I am a student studying a diploma of Community Services and Counselling in Australia at Salisbury campus. Due to the nature of the course, I must competently complete 240 hours of work experience. I have chosen to do my work experience with the St Vincent DePaul Society, in particular, VoRTEX.

VoRTEX aligns with what I want to achieve in a work experience program and helping refugees to settle in Australia, integrate within society and understand the culture is something I feel passionately about.

I have experience working with refugees and helping them to integrate with society as I worked casually as a Cultural Support Worker at the Multicultural Development Association (another branch of St Vincent DePaul). VoRTEX is the best for my work placement hours as I believe I am going to achieve the most out of my work experience program.

I enjoy volunteering with VoRTCS as I feel I have already gained valuable knowledge in administration processes which is fantastic for me, and I appreciate the friendly and ever helpful Bianca for teaching me.

Kind Regards.
Abdulkadir

Freedom Seeker: Roots, Rock, Reggae for Refugees

Freedom Seeker is an afternoon of music, conversation and community.

Where: The New Globe, Fortitude Valley.
When: 3 -8pm, Sunday 14th September, 2014.
Tickets: \$20/ \$15 concession.

All proceeds go to advocacy and support for refugees: Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS) and Refugee Action Collective (RAC).

Bands to be announced soon. Find us on Facebook for more information. (Freedom Seeker).



Caitlyn Perkins talking about the Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run on 96.5fm Family Radio

Caitlyn: For the Bridge to Brisbane this year, I'm running for refugees for an organisation called VoRTCS, which is a special branch of St Vincent DePaul. We provide support for more than 100 families with a refugee background in the greater Brisbane area

Presenter: Why did you decide to do this?

Caitlyn: Well last year I actually ran alongside the person I tutor and earlier this year I was elected as the community engagement leader for our program on a volunteer basis. This makes it my responsibility to get our little community of volunteers and families together to build a bit more of a community within our program.

Presenter: So many people get involved with this. I was talking to one of the fire fighters that run in a group of about 50. They'll be running in full fire fighters gear. Are you going to be running in anything similar? In a costume or just regular running gear?

Caitlyn: I think just regular running gear. I work for a sports nutrition company, so hopefully they'll donate a few singlets for the girls and guys. That'll be the extent of it I think.

Presenter: So it's important not just to take part in the actual Bridge to Brisbane but to also raise awareness?

Caitlyn: Definitely. I just read before that there is now more than 52 million refugees world wide, which is just a shocking number. Many of them are settled in Australia and into Brisbane so it's really good to support those people and help them integrate into society and becomes little 'Aussie's'.

Presenter: If people would like to join in on the run and would like more information on supporting you, how do they do so?

Caitlyn: I have an Everyday Hero's page, which is part of Bridge to Brisbane, so

you can log onto there and see where my target is. I'm hoping to raise \$3000 to have a community get-together with our volunteers and the tutors. We haven't been able to do that for a few years now. <https://b2b2014.everydayhero.com/au/caitlyn>

Presenter: Well Caitlyn, thanks for joining us and best of luck in the event and with all of your fundraising.

Caitlyn: Thanks so much!

Date:

Sunday September 7, 2014

10km Event: \$45

Blue & Red Elite Runners 6:10am

Green Runners 6:15am

Yellow Joggers 6:40am

Grey Walkers 7:00am

5km Event: \$35

9:40am



Making use of the online catalogue - VoRTCS Library

Just a few more hints about our online catalogue

<http://vortcs.svdp.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/index.php>

- You can do a standard [advanced search] search using title, subject, author etc or easy mode [accessed via a button on top right side]
- Using the standard search allows you to read notes about the resource
- As well you can do a website search for topics using the search boxes. This link is found on the top right hand side of the home page. You can return to the vortcs catalogue by clicking on library search in the same area

Online picture Dictionaries

Besides picture dictionaries in our resource collection, mentioned in an earlier

newsletter you can make use of some online dictionaries for vocabulary practice, downloading for making flashcards and games etc., and for those who use iPads or tablets - you could access them during a session to give students visual representations.

Some picture dictionaries on line:

- The Visual Dictionary: <http://visual.merriam-webster.com/>
- The Internet Picture Dictionary: <http://www.pdictionary.com/>
- Photographic Dictionary: <http://photographicdictionary.com>
- Online Picture Dictionary: <http://www.esolhelp.com/online-picture-dictionary.html>

Teaching refugees with pre or non literate background

This book focuses on teaching pre-literate ESL learners at the beginning stages of their literacy development. It includes practical tips, techniques, games, activities and strategies for teaching speaking, listening, reading and writing. It advocates a meaning-based approach to teaching and learning. It is available as a pdf file from this website:

<https://www.tacomacomunityhouse.org/page.aspx?hid=1407#Making%20it%20Real:%20Teaching%20Pre-literate%20Adult%20Refugee%20Students>

There are a number of downloadable files on this page, just scroll down
We are also adding a printed copy of this file to our resource collection and will be available for loan soon.

Flashcard ideas

Finally there are many sites for downloading pre-designed flashcards for use with families:

Here are a few

- <http://englishlanguage.org.nz/picture-resources>
- <http://www.eslflashcards.com/>
- <http://www.mes-english.com/flashcards.php>

We would appreciate hearing about any great online resources that you have found so we can spread the news!



Library Resources

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.

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



Please visit our website at www.vinnies.org.au & www.refugeetutoring.org
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