



VoRTCS Connect – October 2014

Table of Contents

October Social Evening/Refresher Training

Come along to our VoRTCS Social Evening for some refresher training and some fun. It will be a chance for you to hear from some amazing guest speakers, meet some of your fellow volunteers and share insights as to what works well for you and your family. Some light refreshments will be served. Interested?

Monday 27 October 2014

Location: Merivale Street Offices

6:30pm - 7:30pm - Refresher training and Video launch

7:30pm - 8:30pm - Social evening

RSVP: bianca.nisbet@svdpqld.org.au by Wednesday 22 October

[October Social Evening/Refresher Training](#)
[Desperately Seeking Asylum Walk Together 2014](#)
[VoRTCS Volunteer Workshop Bridge to Brisbane Results](#)
[VoRTCS Kids Camp Wrap Up Personal Stories You're Important to Us!](#)



Save the Date:

Tutor Social Evening & Refresher Training

Monday 27 Oct,
6:30-8:30pm at
Merivale Street.

Desperately Seeking Asylum

Are you busy this Friday Night??

The Lawyers' Information Network Inc. (LiNK) and the International Commission of Jurists (Qld) jointly invite you to a public information evening forum considering recent

[VoRTCS](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Workshop](#)

Saturday 1 Nov,

9:30am-

12:30pm at

Merivale Street.

developments and possible future directions in Australian refugee and asylum seeker law and policy.

Queensland Supreme Courts Complex

5.30pm - 7.00pm

Friday 10 October 2014

Banco Court,

George Street, Brisbane

[End of year tutor](#)

[celebration](#)

Monday 15 Dec,

6-8pm at

Merivale Street.

Featuring:

Julian Burnside QC

- Prominent Barrister and Refugee advocate

- Author of Watching Brief: Reflections on human rights, law & justice

Professor Penelope Mathew

- Dean, Griffith Law School

- Adviser, Australian Human Rights Commission: Human Rights Standards for Immigration Detention

Quick Links

Walk Together 2014

"Common People, Common Dreams"

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Facebook](#)

Walk Together takes place on Saturday 25 October.

In cities and regional centres all over Australia, you're invited to join this celebration of diversity and present a picture to our leaders and media of the Australia that is possible. An Australia that recognises in its public debate, media conversation and legislation that we are all common people with common dreams. Equally deserving of freedom, fairness, opportunity to contribute, welcome and belonging. We are common people with common dreams.

HAVE YOU JOINED US ON Facebook?

Join us at 1pm Saturday 25 October in your city.

<http://walktogether.welcometoaustralia.org.au/>

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



VoRTCS Volunteer Workshop

Donna, from Experience Wellbeing (www.experience-wellbeing.com), will present basic

teaching approaches and techniques that you can use when working with your VoRTCS family member.

The workshop will be structured around your questions and areas of interest with topics possibly including goal setting, rapport/building relationships, learning styles, lesson planning, problem solving, reward systems and behaviour management.

When: **Saturday 1st November** 9:30am-12:30pm

Where: VoRTCS Merivale Street training room

RSVP: to Bianca at bianca.nisbet@svdpqld.org.au before Friday 24 October.

If you have any question or would like to find out more contact Bianca on 3010 1069.



**Take note of 'Save the Date' events at the top (left column) of the newsletter, we have many exciting events coming up before the end of the year!*

Bridge to Brisbane Results

This year VoRTCS managed to raise \$1700 from the Bridge to Brisbane fun run thanks to the huge efforts of Caitlin and Sally in our Committee. The fundraised tirelessly and as a result, VoRTCS will be able to put this money towards some of the upcoming events we have planned.

Thank you to all of those volunteers who donated money to the girls and a massive thank you to Sally and Caitlin. This would not have been possible without you.



VoRTCS Kids Camp Wrap Up

From Saturday the 20th until Monday the 22nd October, VoRTCS held the kids camp, which turned out to be a roaring success.

The weekend saw 40 children and 30 volunteers attend. Numerous activities were enjoyed by all including water sports, orienteering, plus a talent show on Sunday night, which was a hit.

All of the children interacted really well with one another and it was beautiful to see. We can't thank everyone who helped to put this weekend together, especially the volunteers. This simply would not have been possible without you and we know the kids loved it..... some didn't want to leave!



Personal Stories

Aduc's Story

The civil war in Sudan compelled Aduc Barec to flee to neighbouring Ethiopia with her husband and two young children in the early 1990s. The family travelled on foot with a group of young boys orphaned by the civil war, one of many such groups who would later become known as the "Lost Boys of Sudan".

"It was a big challenge leaving Sudan to go to Ethiopia. We walked to Ethiopia and it took us a month. It was difficult as it was a new area, very hard. We went with Lost Boys. There was [sic] about 300, 400 who lost their parents and they missed their parents. They couldn't cope and the weather was bad and no good food. It took a while for UNHCR to find us."

Aduc remained in Ethiopia for six years before political instability again placed her family in danger and they were forced to flee back to the Sudanese border. They were eventually found by UNHCR and moved to a refugee camp in Kenya.

"It was a very hard life. I can't imagine it now but it was a very tough life...It was very scary. So hot and windy and a lot of dust. You don't know what's going to happen to your future and [my] kids' future. The kids needed education and so did we. There were a lot of insecurities."

It would be another five years before UNHCR secured resettlement for Aduc and her family. She arrived in Australia in 1997

"The people were really very nice. The day we came it was raining and a man named Mark from St Vincent De Paul came to pick us up. They helped us a lot and taught us everything...We don't forget them and are still in contact sometimes."

Aduc lives in Gosford with her husband and children, who now number six. She works as a nurse in a retirement village and as a casual interpreter.

"I was a nurse in Sudan and I kept doing that when I went to the refugee camp at a clinic and I was giving medication away. So I continued here and now have Certificate III and want to do Certificate IV...It's good to help people, remind[s] me of back home where I took care of the Lost Boys."

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/pro-ind/abarec.php>



Refugee Council of Australia

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
Donate to our cause [click here](#).