



Volunteer Tutor Scheme

August 2019 Newsletter

Morning teas and workshops for tutors

Wednesday 28 August, 6pm-8pm:

Documentary 'Constance on the Edge': the sequel to 'I'll Call Australia Home'.

Meet for discussion and supper.

Melbourne Polytechnic, 77 St Georges Road, Preston

Elaine Forde Theatrette, Building F, Room 104

Register [here](#)

Enquiries: elspethcollie@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au

Wednesday 28 August, 10am-12 noon: *Supporting a learner with digital literacy.*

Community Hub

Limited places.

Enquiries essential: elspethcollie@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au

Tuesday 3 September, 10.30am-12 noon: *Morning Tea.*

Meet at Coffee Hit, in The Glen Shopping Centre, Lower Ground Floor near JB HiFi, Glen Waverley.

We'll buy you a coffee. Come and meet other tutors, share your good news stories, and learn about new hot-off-the-press tutoring resources.

No need to book.

Tuesday 10 September, 6pm-8pm *'Giving feedback to learners'.*

Bendigo Library, 259 Hargreaves Street, Activity Room.

Enquiries essential: Sandra Volk sandravolk@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au

Workshop and supper.

Friday 13 September, 10.30am-12 noon: *Morning tea*

Zelena Cafe, 152 Main Street, Croydon.

We'll buy you a coffee. Come and meet other tutors, share your good news stories, and learn about new hot-off-the-press tutoring resources.

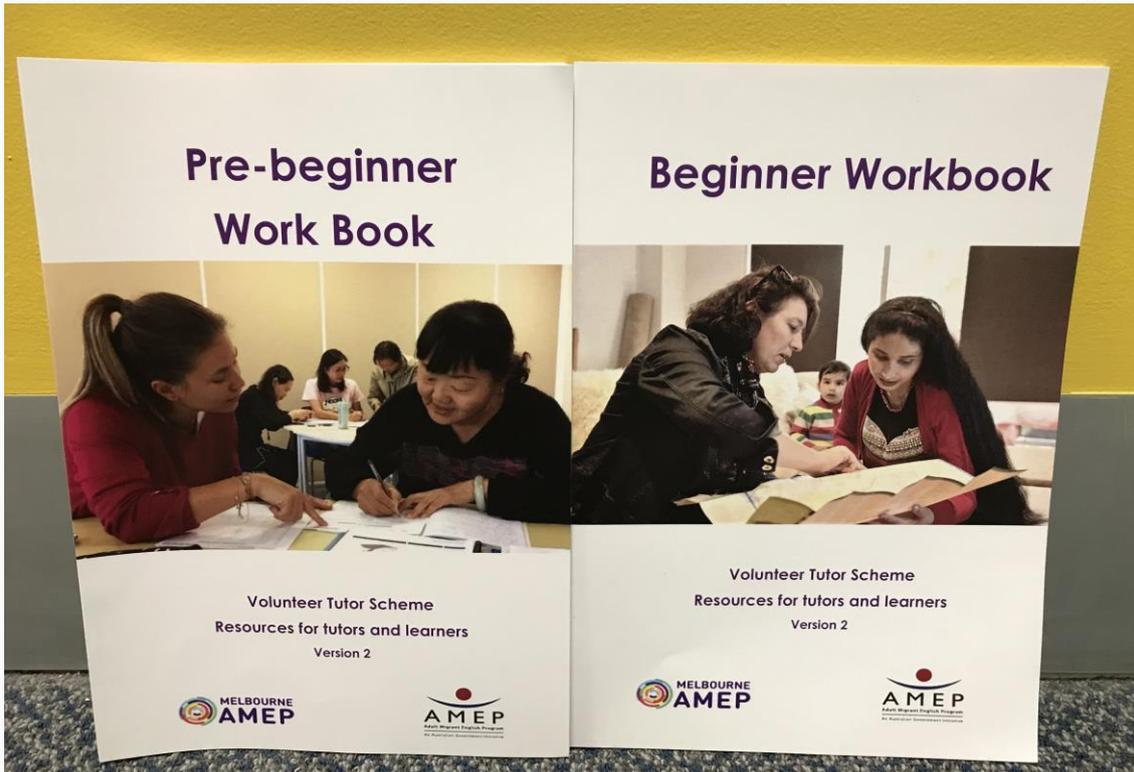
No need to book.



New tutors

During Term 2, tutors were trained at ten different sites around Melbourne and Bendigo. Many of these tutors have now been matched with AMEP learners. Some are meeting in community hubs in the north-west; others meet on campuses at Preston or Prahran for conversation practice in Homework Clubs.

Some tutors are involved in pilot programs to meet learners' needs in two specific areas. One is to assist AMEP learners in an English for work course. The other is to offer tutor support for AMEP learners needing to learn English to negotiate the childcare system in Australia.



Resources for tutors

Click on the button below for electronic copies of the Pre-beginner and the Beginner Workbooks for tutors. These workbooks were written for volunteer tutors to use with learners. They contain speaking, writing and reading activities, games, and picture prompts for conversations around settlement issues. A third workbook for learners with more proficient English language is currently being written.

[Pre-beginner Workbook](#)

[Beginner Workbook](#)



Meet Taylor

Taylor studied for a Bachelor of Design (Multimedia Systems) at the RMIT campus in Vietnam. She then worked for over five years in events management in Saigon.

In March this year, Taylor moved to Melbourne to join her husband.

To get involved in the community, Taylor studied high level English language as an AMEP student at Preston Melbourne Polytechnic. One day on campus, she saw a poster advertising the VTS, and so she trained to become a volunteer tutor herself. She volunteers in order to help others, but also to help herself gain experience and build networks.

In June, Taylor undertook a six-week internship in the VTS office to gain some local work experience. All this time she was still studying Level 3 AMEP classes in the mornings! office three days per week. As a Volunteer Tutor Support Officer, her responsibilities include arranging student-tutor matches, answering email enquiries, and organising events.

At the end of July, Taylor was offered employment at the VTS



Keeping track of your learner's progress

Please send in a Tutor Activity Record (TAR form) after the **FIRST** visit with your student, and from then on before the end of each month. You can click the button below which will take you directly to the TAR form.

Note that there is now a question which asks **where** the tutoring is taking place.

TARS are critical to keep track of your learner's progress and ensure that we can continue to support you in your role.

[Tutor Activity Record](#)



Homework Clubs in Term 3

If you are waiting to be matched, or have additional availability for tutoring this term, feel free to join one of our Tuesday lunchtime groups at Preston and Prahran Melbourne Polytechnic. Homework Clubs are a great way to meet other learners and tutors on campus, as well as gain ideas and skills for future tutoring.

Telephone: (03) 9269 1514

Email: amepvts@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au

Going Back to Basic

being able to attend AMEP classes and having to rely on school children to improve your English language skills. Confronting some of Australia's newest migrants and

ome with limited social support, many new arrivals find themselves completely reliant on their younger children to teach them English language.

AMEP (Adult Migrant English program) through the VTS Scheme offers such a service through their many committed local volunteers.

Such kind and generous volunteers, Heathmont couple

have given newly arrived Australians the confidence to find their own way in the local community is what it's all about', says John.

For John and Kay, it's clear they thoroughly enjoy their work with the AMEP. Between them, the Heathmont couple are helping newly arrived refugees. Each week they commit to helping to improve their English, settle into their local community and gain a sense of life in Australia.

John's work with migrants and refugees but didn't know where volunteer work was available. She was looking for a creative way other than simply donating money, Kay found out about tutoring through her local church and was interested in the program. Through the Australian Federal Government, the AMEP is funded and newly arrived Australians feel welcome. A free English program is provided by the Australian Federal Government, the AMEP is a great way to promote social and economic inclusion for newly arrived

John is this crucial link between getting a grasp of the English language and successfully integrating into the Australian community. It is these interactions with the wider community and giving newly arrived Australians the tools and confidence to find their own way in Australia, which allows students to thrive. 'Confidence and support' is often the biggest barrier for students being able to find their way in Australia. Volunteers often provide this crucial support for students who cannot attend classes due to family commitments or poor health. John enjoys helping learners and says

Each student's background and story is as unique as those who volunteer. Volunteers in the program come from a diverse mix of life experiences: students to retirees, ex-teachers to marketing consultants and everything in between. John was a technical trainer and Kay worked as a school chaplain and student counsellor.

There is no one background or experience which makes someone suitable for the program but rather you need patience, a desire to help and be able to have a laugh or two along the way. The program builds a sense of community and exposes you to a mix of people from very different backgrounds and cultures, both amongst fellow volunteers and amongst students.

There is plenty of support too, with Kay and John both agreeing that training was 'excellent' and they 'highly recommend the program'. They particularly found the tutoring resources beneficial giving them ideas and activities on so many topics. Kay says if they have any issues it's simply a matter of picking up the phone and speaking to a VTS office

The AMEP are always welcoming new volunteers. Currently there is an urgent need for Volunteer Tutors in Croydon and surrounding suburbs. Many refugee families from Myanmar ethnic groups live in the area and the women are struggling to attend AMEP classes due to carer duties.

No experience or qualifications are required, full training and resources are provided and a small commitment of 1-2 hours per week is needed.

If anyone from the parish would like to become part of the program or find out more, information sessions are now being run in Croydon. Call 03 9269 1514, email amepvts@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au or you can register online at melbourneamep.com.au/volunteer



Share your 'Good news' stories!

Has your student reached some significant milestone? Have you taken a break from tutoring and are keen to start up again? Or would you like to work with one more student? We would love to hear from you!

Feel like talking to one of the VTS team about how your tutoring is going?

Elsbeth Collie is the VTS Trainer Coordinator. Contact her with enquiries, resources, strategies and activities for tutoring. She works part-time (Monday - Thursday).

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Email us