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# evolve

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

## RGIT RECOVERS FROM FLOODING

RGIT Australia was forced to close from Monday 3 June until Monday 1st July after unprecedented rainfall caused burst water mains and severe flooding of the RGIT building and businesses on both sides.

On Friday 31 May, the Melbourne Central Business District received its heaviest June rainfall on record – 48.6mm of rain in just 24 hours. The previous record was for 44.2mm in 1904.

It took some time to determine the extent of the damage. Emergency crews and a team of tradespeople were assembled and worked 7 days a week throughout the month assessing and repairing the damage. Australian building regulations are rigorous and the testing required after the disaster was extensive to ensure the occupational health and safety of students and staff.

RGIT located space in another building and began offering classes to ELICOS and Hospitality students in the last week of June.

RGIT would like to thank you, our students, for your understanding and patience during this difficult time. We apologise sincerely for the inconvenience caused by the incident. Our staff worked tirelessly all last month time to resume Institute operations as soon as possible. We understand it has been a testing time for you. Staff are now back on board and ready to respond to your queries.

We wish you a productive and enjoyable Term 3.

## Herald Sun Melbourne Career Expo 2013 : FREE TICKET

Find out about the Melbourne and national job market first hand at the Herald Sun Melbourne Career Expo which runs from Friday 16 August and Sunday 18 August. The expo has around 25,000 people attend over the three days and employers are keen to make contact with fresh new talent. They are so keen in fact, that the Expo organiser offers free student entry. We like that!

Exhibitors include many employers who offer career advice and employment opportunities.

**Where:** Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Clarendon St, Southbank

**Cost:** For you, nothing. Just download your E-ticket and take it along. Make sure it's not too crumpled so they can scan it.

More information: [www.careerexpo.com.au](http://www.careerexpo.com.au)



## RGIT News

### ANSWERING YOUR CONCERNS



#### QUALIFICATION ASSURED:

As you are aware, our contingency plan post-flooding has been to condense three weeks of missed classes into the two-week term break (Mon 1 July – Fri 12 July). Where this has not been possible, for example, where the quality of the course would be compromised, RGIT will add extra classes after the two-week break to enable students to complete units disrupted as a result of the flooding.

Thank you all for your flexibility and willingness to work with us to achieve the best possible outcome for your studies.

Please be assured that as long as you attend all classes offered for your study unit in that two-week period, and successfully complete the assessment tasks for Term 2, you are on track to receive your full qualification.

#### ASSESSMENT:

All assessments that were due by the end of Term 2 are now due by the end of the two-week break (Friday 12 July). If you have any concerns about your ability to submit tasks on time, please contact your trainer and coordinator **before** the end of the two-week break. You may then apply for "special consideration", which grants a one-week extension to complete assignments.

#### REFUNDS:

Please be assured that RGIT Australia is following the ESOS Act and National Code requirements to offer refunds when requested (formally, in writing) due to our inability to offer course content during the three-week period from 3 June to 22 June when the school was shut down.

#### VISA DIFFICULTIES:

We can certainly extend your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) if required in order to extend your period of study. Please note that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship is also able to extend student visas, should this be required, to enable you to extend your CoE. Please visit Student Services on Level 2 if you have any queries.

#### UNABLE TO ATTEND CONTINGENCY CLASSES:

Naturally, those students who are unable to attend the make-up (contingency) classes offered during the two-week holiday period, should contact their course coordinator, so that other arrangements can be put in place to enable students to complete their courses.

### ORIENTATION WEEK



We'd like to wish a very warm welcome to our new students.

If you attend Orientation Day with Sunny Mali, our Student Administration and Services Manager, no doubt your head will explode with all that new information. To recap, here are some key things you need to know.

#### STUDENT SERVICES:

Is on Level 2. Our staff is there to help you with personal problems, student activities, attendance issues, accommodation assistance and all study-related issues.

#### STUDENT HANDBOOK:

If you missed Orientation, visit Student Services. Ask for an

"Orientation Bag". This contains your Student Handbook, which covers important conditions of your course, and information about Melbourne.

#### STUDENT RESOURCE ROOM:

Is on Level 8. This is a good place to relax with other students, have lunch, do photocopying or printing, or use our free wi-fi internet. It has great city views! Student-trainer meetings are held here too.

#### IMPORTANT STUFF – YOUR PROGRESS

Now that you've made a commitment to us, we want to make a commitment to you – we want you to do really well at RGIT.

We care about providing top quality education, which is why we ask you to participate 100% in your course so that we can help you achieve the best result. Please, help us to help you.

- Be here when you are required to be here
- Hand work in that is complete
- Hand work in on time

#### UNSATISFACTORY COURSE POLICY

Government regulations require all international students (except ELICOS students, who are monitored on attendance only) to make satisfactory course progress which means **you must pass at least 50% of units each term**. If you do not make satisfactory progress, RGIT will contact you and request you meet with your trainer to begin an intervention strategy. The intervention strategy is there to help you pass your failed units and to ensure that you meet your student visa conditions.

**If you fail 50% or more units in two consecutive study periods in the same course, RGIT is required to report you to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) for unsatisfactory progress.**

To avoid being reported, please ensure that you pass all units and, if the school requests you participate in an intervention strategy, please do so.

**Reassessment administration fees:** You must pay a reassessment administration fee if the following applies.

- You have attended less than 50% of scheduled classes for a unit, OR
- You did not complete assessments within the term in which they were offered.

**Reassessment fees:** \$20 per assessment; \$100 per practical assessment (Hospitality courses only).

To avoid paying reassessment administration fees, just come to class and submit all assessments on time. The choice is yours, and we know you will choose well.

**Remember, if you are having difficulties, ask Student Services for advice before it affects your progress.**

## WHAT'S ON in Melbourne

### Meet Other Students



The City of Melbourne likes to welcome all international students and make sure you feel as 'at home' as possible here. Did you know there are about 36,000 international students living in Melbourne?

Australians are generally a friendly bunch, but it really helps to meet other students who are experiencing the same things as you.

On Saturday 3 August, Melbourne's Lord Mayor is hosting a welcome event for international students, so go along, make some new friends and enjoy the activities, cultural arts and performances.

**When** : Saturday 3 August 2013  
**Time** : 2 to 5pm  
**Where** : City Square, 44-86 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
**Facebook** : [www.facebook.com/melbourneinternationalstudents](http://www.facebook.com/melbourneinternationalstudents)  
**For more information, email** : [gary.lee@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:gary.lee@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### Pedal Power!



Melbourne Bike Share (MBS) is a great way to travel around Melbourne for international students. The central business district has an excellent network of bicycle lanes for riders.

At only \$2.70 for a daily ticket, it is cheaper than daily public transport and provides you with unlimited rides for the day. You can also choose an annual student subscription at a discounted price of \$40.50. This provides you with a key to access your bike, anytime you need a ride.

Simply go to your nearest Melbourne Bike Share station and swipe your Visa/MasterCard credit/debit card and you are ready to go.

Well, almost. You need to have a bicycle helmet too, for your safety, and to avoid being fined. Bicycle helmets are available for just \$5 at many 7-Eleven and IGA around the city, such as at Federation Square, or vending machines at Southern Cross Station and Melbourne University.

With 51 MBS stations strategically spread around Melbourne it is a greener and more sustainable way to travel around the city. You don't have to worry about buying and maintaining a bike and best of all, you always have a place to park your bicycle. And, cycling keeps you healthy.

For more information on the Melbourne Bike Share visit:  
[www.melbournebikeshare.com.au](http://www.melbournebikeshare.com.au)

### Free Theatre – Life as an International Student



University of Melbourne, in conjunction with the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health and the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, has produced a free theatre event that tells the story of foreign students settling into life and study in Melbourne.

The play focuses on students negotiating their way in new homes, and how they often find themselves vulnerable to a range of emotional, financial, academic and cultural stressors. Combining this with new-found freedom in a foreign land also puts some students at risk of developing gambling related problems.

Director Catherine Simmonds workshoped the play with the students involved, uncovering their personal stories. Life's a Gamble! presents a surprising and honest collage of the challenges and triumphs in their lives.

Launching the performance will be Wesa Chau, a former Young Victorian of the Year and Responsible Gambling Awareness Week Ambassador. Joining her for a post-performance panel discussion will be Danny Ong, the author of The International Student's Handbook: living and studying in Australia.

**When** : 10am – 2pm | 17 July 2013  
 (including free lunch and panel discussion)  
**Where** : RMIT Kaleide Theatre | 360 Swanston St | Melbourne.

Register online for this free event:  
<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/7001811607>

### Ramadan – Break the Fast Together



As an international student, the City of Melbourne understands that you may miss the support of your family during the important time of Ramadan. When it comes to breaking the fast, you are invited to join members of the community to celebrate at the following events. Remember to let them know you are coming so they can cater for you.

#### Ramadan Mubarak for Women

**When** : 20/07/2013  
**Time** : 5:00pm

#### Ramadan Mubarak for Men

**When** : 27/07/2013  
**Time** : 5:00pm  
**Where** : Statewide Resources Centre  
 150 Palmerston St, Carlton

**For more information contact:** Maria Ibrahim on 0402 690 173.

## Student Profile

### Gavi Mongla



- Q. How old are you?**  
A. 30
- Q. Name of your course at RGIT?**  
A. Diploma of Business
- Q. Which country are you from?**  
A. India
- Q. Please provide 4 words that describe your personality!**  
A. Emotional  
Helpful  
Funny  
Passionate.
- Q. What do you miss most about home?**  
A. My family, my temple, college life and my best friend.
- Q. What do you enjoy most about Australia, or Melbourne?**  
A. The good facilities here, snow at Mt Buller, and the people; they are friendly and have a good attitude.
- Q. What is your favourite meal?**  
A. Spicy food with chilli.
- Q. Who is someone you admire, and why?**  
A. There was a religious man at my temple in India. He told me to believe in God and told me a true story.
- Q. Have you ever had 15 minutes of 'fame'? When and how?**  
A. I write poetry and I had a poem published in a book with my photo and with some others, and we received prizes on a stage.
- Q. What drives you crazy?**  
A. When I ask someone to do something and they don't do it and I have to repeat myself over and over again.
- Q. What music are you listening to?**  
A. Classical, dance, folk music, pop.
- Q. What's your idea of a great night out?**  
A. A birthday dinner with my family and friends.
- Q. If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?**  
A. I would provide good facilities for the poor who have no food or house.
- Q. What is one thing you wish to do in this lifetime?**  
A. I want to see God in this life.

### Rita Pandey



- Q. How old are you?**  
A. 24
- Q. Name of your course at RGIT?**  
A. Diploma of Business
- Q. Which country are you from?**  
A. Nepal
- Q. Please provide 4 words that describe your personality!**  
A. Intelligent  
Friendly  
Shy  
Kind.
- Q. What do you miss most about home?**  
A. My family, my friends, my mum's cooking, celebrating festivals with my family.
- Q. What do you enjoy most about Australia, or Melbourne?**  
A. The weather, the public transport and the Great Ocean Road.
- Q. What is your favourite meal?**  
A. Spicy chicken or chicken curry.
- Q. Who is someone you admire, and why?**  
A. My mum; she encourages me in all things in life. She is like my friend.
- Q. What drives you crazy?**  
A. Cleaning up after my 2.5 year-old son. He is always making a mess! And waiting for the train.
- Q. What music are you listening to?**  
A. All sorts. I like rock 'n' roll.
- Q. What's your idea of a great night out?**  
A. Taking a long drive with my husband and having coffee and cake.
- Q. If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?**  
A. I would change the political system of my country.
- Q. What is one thing you wish to do in this lifetime?**  
A. I would like to be like a carefree child!

## Fieldtrip

### Seafood Market Research in Queen Victoria Market



## Coffee Art Course

### Student Interview



We asked our Latte Art short-course students about how it's all going. 28-year-old student Shinsaku Fukayama is doing the course in order to work in a coffee company in Japan, and 20-year-old Sofie Hargaard, who works as a barista and waitress, wants to improve her coffee knowledge. Their favourite coffee is, you guessed it, café latte!

**Q: What's your name?**

**A:** Suingki Min

**Q: How old are you?**

**A:** 24

**Q: Why are doing the course?**

**A:** To learn a new skill.

**Q: What are you finding my challenging?**

**A:** The art!

**Q: Do you have a job?**

**A:** I'm a student and looking for a job.

**Q: What's are you enjoying in the course?**

**A:** Practicing steaming milk and learning some latte arts.

**Q: What's the best art you've done?**

**A:** Heart.

**Q: What's your favourite coffee?**

**A:** Latte.

## Student Writing

### Miyuki Nakatani

- Country :** Japan  
**Course :** ELICOS Intermediate  
**Task :** Write on the topic "Learning English"

Miyuki had only been in Melbourne for 2.5 months learning English when she wrote this task. She returned to Kyoto, Japan, last month.

I strongly believe that it is better to learn English abroad than in Japan. This is because I can learn the native pronunciations

and make friends from other countries. If I could have friends from a lot of other countries, then we could speak in English and I can learn about their cultures. I could travel to their countries too.

I could gain different experiences by learning English. If I hadn't come to Melbourne, then I

wouldn't have met the friends that I have made here. So I'm happy that I can learn here.

By the way, English grammar is different from Japanese, so it is difficult for me. However, it's a popular and common language, so if I can understand and speak it very well, there'll be no troubles.



### Thanachporn Fuangcharoen

- Country :** Thailand  
**Course :** ELICOS Intermediate  
**Task :** Write an opinion piece on "Learning Languages"

If you want to talk with other people around the world, you will need languages. It's easy to understand when a conversation's in the same language. Each culture has to understand each language, so you should learn more than one language.

When you learn languages that means you can know many things. I think the person who

knows many languages looks intelligent. You can find many jobs and many jobs will want to find you! About salary, if you know many languages, then you will have a high salary too.

You can also travel to another country by yourself because you can understand if people say something. I think it's better to travel by yourself and not with a

guide. This is because if you want to go some place, to eat some food or to buy something and to relax, you can plan tours each time.






I want to learn many languages. The first language I want to learn is the English language. A lot of people can speak English, and I really want to, too.



### Frederico Yepes Araque

- Course :** ELICOS Intermediate  
**Task :** Create a PowerPoint presentation on how people learn, illustrating the different learning styles. Identify your own best learning styles and show how they help you learn English.



<p><b>Auditory Learning</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Enjoy listening to the teacher or to CDs</li> <li>-Taking part in discussions.</li> <li>-Learners can learn better when hear it.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Learning</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Enjoy group activities and discussions are social learners.</li> <li>-Are good listeners and able to understand other peoples points of view.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Verbal/linguistic Learning</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Learners love reading and writing</li> <li>-Good listeners.</li> <li>-Enjoy learning languages.</li> <li>-Like learning new words.</li> </ul>	<p><b>My mix learning</b></p> <p>To Improve my English</p>  <p>GOOD ENGLISH</p>	<p><b>FUTURE</b></p> <p>Continue with the same strategy</p>  <p>GOOD ENGLISH</p>
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## Staff Profile

### PIKE STEALNETR, Hospitality Trainer



**Q. What kind of student were you?**

**A.** I was not a top student, but I hung out with a top student! I never failed a subject. I was very hard working. I came here with my parents' high expectation because I am the first child they sent to study overseas and I knew the value of that. I was very quiet. I had a lot of questions in my head, but was sometimes too shy to ask. Now as a teacher, I prefer the students to ask questions.

**Q. Best job you ever had?**

**A.** Teaching is the best job.

**Q. Worst Job?**

**A.** When I was little, my parents would make me do gardening. I hated that.

**Q. What about life outside RGIT?**

**A.** I have a special hobby - marine fish. I have "Nemo", a clown fish, "Thaison" the leopard fish - he has the same personality as Thaison my bulldog back Thailand - "Puffy" the puffer fish and a starfish called "Dao", which means "star" in Thai. People warned me that they are hard to maintain; it takes lots of attention to detail, and it's expensive. But I am a good underwater gardener!

**Q. What do you like about Melbourne and miss about home?**

**A.** I've been here nearly 14 years. I like that it's multicultural and the people are easygoing in a different way to Thailand. People here are not so concerned about what they have and what they look like but in Asia, it's all about how you look and what you have. It feels more relaxed here. I like the weather too. I miss the food at home, and my family of course.

**Q. What's your favourite thing to do in Winter, now that you have one?**

**A.** An outdoor spa bath.

**Q. What's your idea of a good night out?**

**A.** I'm not a party animal. It would be going to friend's place for dinner, or having a friend come over for dinner, drinks and good conversation.



### CHANDIKA BYANJANKAR, Intern, Student Services



**Q. How long have you been in Melbourne?**

**A.** Since 2008. I completed my Bachelor of Business Studies in Nepal, but here, I completed a Masters of Commerce (Professional Accounting)

**Q. What kind of student were you?**

**A.** Dedicated and hard working, but not really long hours. I always liked working in teams.

**Q. What were your best subjects?**

**A.** Accounting. When I was younger, I always liked maths and moral science, which is more about society.

**Q. What has been your best job?**

**A.** I have enjoyed all my jobs. I give 100% to whatever I do.

**Q. What are your career goals?**

**A.** To be a professional accountant, and to do the CPA course. Later, when I retire, I'd like to do either something with cooking or maybe working as a make-up artist.

**Q. Are you good with own money?**

**A.** I think I'm a good saver. I do balance saving and spending. I save, and whatever I have left, I spend! I don't buy what's in front of me; I wait for the sales.

**Q. What do you like about Melbourne?**

**A.** The weather, but summer can be too hot. The parks, gardens, beach. The roads for driving; the infrastructure is well organized. There are good rules and regulations for people. And I like Zeena (the other receptionist)!

**Q. Any hobbies?**

**A.** I'm a good cook. I love baking cakes, usually for my niece. Now all my friends and family ask for them, so I'm always busy baking around birthdays.



## Staff News

### OUR MOSAIC MASTER



Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) trainer, Pino, has a secret life outside RGIT as the talented-half of an artistic duo. He and his wife, Petra, have entered into what they hope is the first of many art competitions and exhibitions to come.



**Q. Describe your competition entry (pictured):**

**A.** It's called "Tête-à-Tête" and it's in the Mosaic Association of Australia and New Zealand (MAANZ) "Illuminate" competition. Petra, my wife, does the design and we do the mosaic work together. It represents a deck of Southern Italian playing cards, which are far more artistic in design than normal playing cards. There are batons instead of hearts, and swords instead of diamonds, and the club looks like a real club. "Tête-à-Tête" shows two heads together, facing opposite directions.

**Q. Is there prize money available?**

**A.** No, but all pieces must be for sale. Ours is selling for \$2,700. Any takers?

**Q. How long have you been doing mosaics?**

**A.** Since 1999. We do them in our back shed.

**Q. Is this a hobby or do you have other plans?**

**A.** We've decided to move forward and produce more work that we can exhibit and enter into competitions to attract commissions and, hopefully, lots of sales!



### INTRODUCING PRITISHA, AGAIN

You know her face well by now, Pritisha Moktan, who has been working on the front desk at Level 2, Student Services. Pritisha now has a new role as RGIT's Short-Course Co-ordinator. You can find her tucked just around the corner, next to reception.

## Student ALERT!

### WARNING : Job Scam Targets International Students



The Australian Council for Private Education and Training has been advised by the Victorian Police that there is currently a scam targeting international students.

The offenders are targeting international students and advertising jobs at a juice bar in Russell Street (the address given is a bar).

They do an interview via Skype and then hack into the student's Facebook account, or in the case being investigated by Victorian Police, the Chinese version of Facebook, and post the Skype video of the student, without sound.

They send the video to relatives saying that the student is in financial trouble and ask for money to be sent to a Professor Pan at the student's college or university. Professor Pan does not exist of course.

Police advise that preliminary investigations indicate the scam may be originating in China.

Students should contact their local police station if they are approached or come across this scam online.