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Level 2, 28-32 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
Editor's Note

We've certainly come a long way to reach this milestone. It's just astounding to take a look back and see how far we've come.

And just like how EVOLVE has been, well, evolving… many of our students have also reached the next stage of their journey in their lives as they proudly walked up the stage to receive their qualifications.

Yes, we held our yearly graduation in December last year for both domestic and international students. Flip through the pages and get a glimpse their journey studying and living it up in Melbourne.

We also take a quick look back at our humble origins of this institute. Within a short span of time, RGIT Australia has now expanded to 3 campuses in 2 states (Victoria and Tasmania), HESG and VET FEE-HELP, and more courses so that you have more options.

But we'd love to hear more about your journey at RGIT too. After all, the students are what makes up an educational institute, and without you, we would not be here today. So whether it's to say thank you to a trainer, or to share your experiences, we'd love to hear what you have to say.

With love,

Faridah Wu

Editorial Board

Faridah Wu  Marcus Norbula
Rakesh Maharjan  Brendan Kelly
Anish Karki  Jasmine Bowditch
Zeena Chhettri

Got something to say?

Wrote a great movie review, or want to talk about a great new place in the city? You could see your name in print! Just send us an email at: communications@rgit.edu.au.

EVOLVE has reached 20 issues!

What's inside

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Inside RGIT

Going Back in Time – The History of RGIT

Timeline

2008 - Gurkhas Institute of Hospitality and Management (GIHM) was started. There were 114 students and four trainers in the first year.

2009 - IT courses were offered to full-time students.

2010 - Skills Victoria-approved! Skills Victoria is a government subsidised scheme for domestic students.

2011 - VET FEE-HELP approval - VET FEE-HELP is a loan scheme for domestic students that helps eligible Vocational and Educational Training (VET) students pay their tuition fees for certain higher-level VET qualifications.

2012 - We expanded to include the London House campus in 2012-13, a mere five minute walk from the main campus.

2014 - We crossed states to Tasmania and opened our third campus in Hobart CBD.

2015 - We moved to Victoria House campus, just across the street from our main campus.

2016 - Student numbers total approximately 700 at the moment, with more to come!

Royal Gurkhas Institute of Technology as it is today was born out of the vision of one man - CEO Chandra Yonzon.

It started out in 2008 as Gurkhas Institute of Hospitality and Management (GIHM) and offered only the Hospitality course.

ELICOS courses were added through a partner provider ITHEA, and IT courses were conducted over the weekend.

2009 saw the first intake of IT students on a full-time basis. RGIT also commenced a student activity program, aimed at helping students assimilate to the local culture.

In 2010, the institute received Skills Victoria approval and VET funding contracts (contracts between the Department of Education and Training and registered training organisations, for the delivery of government subsidised training).

VET FEE-HELP was approved in early 2011.

With all this in progress, RGIT constantly upgraded its facilities to provide a better learning environment for students.

In 2014, RGIT decided to make its foray into Tasmania, acquiring a building in Hobart CBD. This year, it makes the exciting leap into delivering courses to both domestic and international students.

In 2015, RGIT acquired the Victoria House campus on Elizabeth Street, across the street from its main campus, to meet its growing student needs.

RGIT has truly grown from strength to strength, with a multicultural environment of students from over 30 countries.
Things you can do on Level 2

- Inform us if you’re going overseas or on holiday
- Update your contact details - address, phone numbers
- Ask for a course progress report
- Withdraw your course
- Request for leave
- Pay your student fees
- Get your student ID card
- Change your course
- Find out about USI (Unique Student Identifier)
- Chill out and read the latest issue of EVOLVE!
New courses at RGIT

We are pleased to announce that we have just received approval from ASQA to deliver and assess six new courses.

✓ Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
✓ Certificate III in Individual Support
✓ Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care
✓ Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology
✓ Certificate IV in Information Technology
✓ Advanced Diploma of Information Technology

New Library Security System

Our library in the main campus has recently been installed with a new library security system. We’ll now be able to develop our collection even further, and ensure that none of the books mysteriously disappear.

Drop into our Library on Level 8 and check out our learning resources. You can spend time browsing our newspapers and magazines for recipe inspiration, or catch up on what’s going on around the world.

SVP Streamlined processing

International students looking to study in Australia will soon have a simpler student visa regulatory environment. Simplified student visa framework (SSVF) will come into effect in 2016, replacing the current Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP) and Assessment Level (AL) framework.

There will also be lesser student visa subclasses, reduced from eight to two.

There will also be just one immigration risk framework for international students to be assessed, regardless of which programme they are applying for (VET diplomas or English-language studies).

Basically, it will make it easier for people to understand and apply for a student visa to study in Australia.

Student News (Melbourne)
Student News (Hobart)

Our Hobart campus is now offering courses to international students!

The campus in Tasmania was set up in 2014 in Hobart CBD. We run short courses with regular intakes every 2 weeks. The courses such as First Aid and Food Safety are immensely popular with locals who find that they help them upskill themselves and be more valuable in the job market.

We also offer VET courses like community services work and business to domestic students. Recently, we received CRICOS approval to deliver courses to international students.

Tasmania has seen a boom in the hospitality and community services sector, with five new hotels currently under development. We have been working towards meeting that continually growing demand in the hospitality and community services sector.

RGIT works to help our students in hospitality courses by providing on-the-job training, which includes approximately 36 shifts within the industry. This practice would help give our students an edge when they venture out to join the work force.

The CRICOS approved courses for Hobart Campus are as follows:

- BSB30115 - Certificate III in Business
- BSB40215 - Certificate IV in Business
- BSB50215 - Diploma of Business
- BSB51107 - Diploma of Management
- BSB60215 - Advanced Diploma of Business
- ICT20115 - Certificate II in Information, Digital Media and Technology
- ICT50415 - Diploma of Information Technology Networking
- ICT50715 - Diploma of Software Development
- 072500F - ELICOS General English (Elementary to Upper Intermediate)
- 072504B - English for Academic Purposes 1
- 072505A - English for Academic Purposes 2
- 084570D - English for Academic Purposes 3

If you are in Hobart at any time, make sure you drop in to the campus and say hi!
Hey all started with a dream. And that night, that dream was realised. To wear the graduation regalia and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Last year’s graduation was held at the Ibis Hotel on Friday, 4th December. There was plenty of excitement in the air, and the celebration was twofold: for the students proud to have successfully completed their course and the staff delighted to have played an integral role in grooming them to join the real world.

It began with a photo slide-show, showing the student excursions, buffets, classes and orientations throughout the year.

Dr Colleen Rolls, a distinguished academic from Australian Catholic University, was the guest of honour for the evening. She reminisced about her memories of her own graduation, and drew parallels with her expectations and experience. She encouraged students to be positive and persistent in pursuing their dreams and goals.

Director of Studies (English) Lana Harasymiv congratulated students on their successful graduation and spoke about gearing up for the challenges that lay ahead.

Academic head and VET coordinator Buddhi Raya followed up with the distribution of testamurs onstage.

The students were given a warm round of applause by the members of the audience as they collected their testamurs.

The evening drew to a close with the serving of canapes and beverages. Students availed of a professional photo booth within the venue to get their photos taken in graduation regalia.

Given recognition for being the outstanding students of their faculty.

Chief Executive Officer Chandra Yonzon expressed his pride and satisfaction in yet another batch of students successfully completing their course. He outlined that his focus has always been on providing quality education to students to ensure they are ready to play a part in the socio-economic development process. He also presented the awards to principal agents to appreciate their ongoing support for RGIT.

Valedictorian Natalie Jayne Lavill from the business faculty spoke from her heart of her enriching learning experience. She then joined 5 other students who were given recognition for being the outstanding students of their faculty.
Graduation is a wonderful time for the students at RGIT. It symbolises a new chapter in their lives: in a way it is both the end and the beginning for them.

This term’s valedictorian was Natalie Jayne Lavill, a bright hardworking student from England. After having worked in hospitality in the front house and kitchens, she wanted to explore new fields and felt that business would suit her future ambitions.

An English speaking background certainly made some things easier for her, but she believes that there was no substitute for the amount of hard work she put into her studies.

But school is not all about work. Natalie has certainly enjoyed and cherished the great friendships she made during her course, as well as the support from her Business and Management trainer Sourabh Bhardwaj.

She found it challenging to juggle her studies, social life, run a household and work at the same time, but she has proven to find a balance between all these facets of her life. In her free time, Natalie enjoys reading, exercising and socialising.

She chose to come to Australia for the hot weather and the great beaches. Her favourite places to go in Melbourne include: Crown – “because it has everything you could possibly want under one roof!”, the Zoo (for her love of animals) and the many beaches.

At the end of Natalie’s speech, she left her fellow students to ponder on these words – “Do what you love and never regret anything. Things might seem tough but there is always light at the end of the tunnel, and if you don’t like the outcome, you can change it. Just trust in yourself.”

We would like to wish her all the best in her future endeavours.
RGIT appreciates the hard work from staff and students alike. Every year, the top students from each faculty are presented with the Outstanding Students of the Year awards. Here’s a look at what this year’s recipients see themselves doing in the future.

**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE YEAR**

_Laura Coppa_
*Graduated in Certificate III in Hospitality – Italy*

Laura plans to continue her studies and attain a Diploma of Hospitality. However in the future, she would like to possibly study tourism and specialise in it, as she is very interested in exploring a career in this area as well.

_Muhammad Abbas_
*Graduated in Diploma of IT Networking – Pakistan*

Muhammad Abbas found the pathways and research during his time studying here with RGIT very helpful and believes it will help him achieve his future goals. He wishes to pursue a Bachelors in Information Technology and find a job in the IT sector.

_Tatsuya Ito_
*Graduated in Diploma of Hospitality – Japan*

Tatsuya plans to go back to Japan to be a chef. He has had some professional cooking experience working at an Italian restaurant here in Melbourne. That experience has rubbed off on him and he really enjoys authentic Italian cuisine. His favorite Italian dish is “Aglio e Olio” (Spaghetti with garlic and oil).
Graduation Feature

Graduation Snippets

The night was a glitzy affair, and many students took the opportunity to take photos with their beloved trainers and staff who helped them during their studies. Here's what they had to say:

Roberto Marrapodi, Pietro Pietroni, Manlio Sebastiano Meci, Laura Coppa - Hospitality

We just want to say thanks to Natalie (O’Donoughue), to the RGIT team who support us every day, who took care of us every day. Even for our mums and our brothers and dads. Thank you!

Maris Stella - Commercial Cookery

I would like to thank RGIT for the opportunity and I’m very happy to be here. And I’m thanking my husband and my son to be very positive supports and also all the trainers Chris, Audrey, Pino, and Kohei. Not to forget Zeena and her team. Thank you so much and... all the best for me!

Siwapol Kansuwong from Certificate IV in Business!

The lucky Thai student shared our favourite snap on Instagram. He won a cool $50 Coles Myer gift card. Here he is collecting his prize from Student Services Manager Zeena. We hope you enjoy it, Siwapol!
Graduation Feature

A Student’s Journey to Graduation

“From (the airport), I took a cab, $50. Immediately I converted into Malaysian money and I thought, Oh my god, so much!”

Commercial Cookery graduate Maris Stella has been through much with us, from presenting a buffet to 40 people, to producing various dishes. This plucky student also received a scholarship, although she had to apply multiple times before she struck gold.

Coming from Malaysia, Maris Stella loves baking and used to own a home business. Naturally, the Commercial Cookery course was a perfect fit for her, as she completed her Certificate 3 and Certificate 4 at RGIT.

We present a snapshot of her experience, right from the beginning of her Melbourne journey.

RGIT going above and beyond:
I came in July 2014. I was so fearful because it was a very new place. I came with my husband and my son.

When we put our bags down and searched for my school, the first person we met was Chandika, Zeena and Vernaz. So the first person I approached was Zeena to notify her of my arrival and explain my circumstances. By the time we finished talking, my son had already fallen asleep on the couch at the entrance as my husband watched over him.

Zeena was so good, she was a very helpful person. She even took me down to the Lebara centre and helped me get a phone SIM card. Until now I'm still using the same number!

What do you find is the hardest part of your studies?
The sauces! I burn the sauce! Every time I do hollandaise sauce, the eggs will split. That is really stressful. It looks very easy but it's not. Trust me, it's not. You must really be consistently doing and practising. It's really hard.

On Hospitality (Operations) trainer Audrey:
When you work with her, she's such a helpful lady. When you approach her, she doesn't give you the answer. She'll encourage you to think and try to get the answer. There's no free lunch! Well she will assist you. But we must put in the effort first.

“Pino is so strict! But he’s a very good person. Everything at his fingertips. You ask him anything related to hospitality, he’s got everything.”
Third time lucky:
When I first came to Melbourne, I already tried (applying for a scholarship). First attempt, second attempt, third attempt, and then I got it (for Term 3)! I’d really like to thank RGIT for approving my scholarship. I feel so blessed. Even a small amount of money can make a big difference for me. So I never gave up, I kept trying.

The cooking genes:
My grandmother, my mother are traditional cooks. They are bakers and cooks. Maybe there’s a gene in the family? Everyone has their own talent. So maybe I’ll take this as my own thing.

(Editors: We think the person who loves this the most is your husband) Ya! My husband was so skinny, now he put on weight! He doesn’t eat sweet things until I force him to taste! My son and my husband are my food testers. Every time I do something they get to taste it.

About graduation:
Honestly at first I wasn’t excited. But after I got the scholarship, it boosted (my confidence). I feel like I’m providing a motivational path for my son. Whatever I get, it’s for him to see what he can get for himself. So that my son will do the best for his studies.

“I feel like I’m providing a motivational path for my son.”

“Chris handles all students equally. He doesn’t pick and choose. He is equally balanced to all students.”
Staff Party 2015

The RGIT Annual Staff Party 2015 was held at Rydges on Swanston in Carlton.

All the members of the RGIT family were excited to get together and let their hair down to celebrate yet another year of hard work. It was also a celebration of all the team members’ efforts who worked tirelessly to ensure that the tradition of producing high quality graduates was upheld.

The party kicked off with a visual package compiled by the Communications team which comprised a montage of the different activities that RGIT family shared as indelible memories in the sands of time.

This was followed by presentations and formal awards that were distributed to agents who made invaluable contributions to RGIT’s success in 2015. This was followed by Best Department of the Year award and the Slogan of the Year. One of the ELICOS trainers Anastasia Pustovit, got up on stage to share her experience at RGIT.

Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Hampton gave a speech, followed by Chief Executive Officer Chandra Yonzon who outlined the achievements of 2015 and the goals that RGIT is looking forward to achieving in 2016.

After the CEO's speech, the informal segment of the party got underway. ELICOS trainer James Hallal and his partner took to the stage to belt out some tunes with James playing the guitar. The informal awards ceremony had various categories such as the Wikipedia Award (for always having an answer to every question… whether it's right or wrong!), Little Miss Sunshine Award and the Pen Stealer Award which elicited a few laughs.

The CEO and his wife Laxmi were on stage next to announce the winner of the raffle. Proceeds of the raffle went to a children's hospital.

The evening ended with everyone joining in the Kris Kringle: a game where everyone anonymously gives another person a Christmas gift.
Inside Hospitality

Visit to VCAT

Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

by Brendan Kelly

Last November, a group from the Certificate IV in Hospitality (Operations) visited the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). This was part of their study of the unit Manage Conflict.

The aim was to experience how conflict in the workplace, or indeed everyday life, may need to be referred for a conclusion. VCAT was established to provide a low cost, legal profession free tribunal to hear and determine cases of conflict.

The group sat in on three cases: the first where a Tenant had died and the Landlord was applying to take back possession of the house. The second case was Tenants versus Landlord, but because of the sensitive nature of the case, the group was asked to leave the room. Lastly was a case between a developer and a council about a planning permit which had been denied.

The students were exposed to the protocols and etiquette of the legal system. When entering or leaving a court while a Judge was present, you turned towards them and bowed. The room also observed complete silence during the proceedings.

It was certainly an eye-opening opportunity for students to understand more about the legal aspects of managing conflict in the workplace.
Inside ELICOS

Tell me a Story

I woke up very early in the morning.
But I stay in bed, because I just opened my eyes.
I saw 3 beautiful birds outside, and I turn on the music and sing and watch the birds.
I think, “What a beautiful day!”
Then I went to the beach and changed to go for a swim.
It was a nude beach *everyone laughs*
I sat on the beach and looked out, there was a shark.
I saw a sexy girl.
I bought her a drink.
Because the sexy woman was hunting the shark
(Editor: we like the sound of this warrior princess!)
I grilled the shark. We had a shark barbeque!

Student Contributors:
- Tzu Yen, Tsao (Kiki)
- Jung Rye Jung
- Kim Rody
- Amornrat Panjaveenin (Amor)
- Poramate Metara (Bear)
- Jimmy Yongling Kim
- Wang Jung Te (Edison)
- Panita Anantakun (Bew)
- Chan See Ling
- Rujira Mahawan (Nut)
- Sarawuthi Sae-Ngow (Justin)

And we danced at night, with romantic music.
Then it started raining, I still dancing but I feel lonely.
Suddenly the police came! Because we were not supposed to eat the shark!
And I ran inside the forest.
I saw a tiger.
But I was still running.
And I saw a small hut.
Then I make some clothes from the leaf and pick some fruit.
But suddenly I find out that the tiger is not a tiger.
It turned into a handsome guy. I was shock but I fell in love with him.
1 year later, we have kids.
But the police was still looking for us.
And later on, I woke up. It was a dream!
**Travel**

**Myki travels in and around Melbourne**

Want to find a fun getaway in Melbourne but can't travel too far?

Here are RGIT's top picks for fun places to visit using a myki card (public transport system in Melbourne).

**Tip:** Keep track of real-time train & tram arrival times by using the “Melbourne Train Trapper” and “Tram Tracker” app on your smartphone.

1. **Brighton Beach**

Refresh yourself this summer with a trip to the beach. Brighton Beach is a classic spot to relax and enjoy the nice views of the CBD in the background. Just take the train towards Sandringham and get off at the Brighton Beach station. Does anyone else enjoy long walks along the beach? *hint hint*

2. **St Kilda**

Another great beach to hang out is the St Kilda beach. It's very easy to get there from the city. Just take the 96 or 16 tram to St Kilda beach.

3. **Melbourne Museum**

The exhibitions might not be alive but they sure look like they are. Check out the display of animals, both from Victoria and around the world, how they thrived in the wild and how nature caused them to evolve to survive. Transport options include trams (86 or 96) and buses (250, 251 and 402).

4. **Werribee Zoo**

If you prefer seeing animals up close and personal instead, discover Australia's indigenous wildlife by catching a train to Werribee station (travelling on the Werribee Line). From Werribee station catch Bus 439 Werribee South to the zoo.

5. **French Island Ferry**

For those of you that enjoy ferrying around and want to get to Mornington Peninsula, head on down to the Stony Point train station. The French Island Ferry is a ferry service which runs between Stony Point in Mornington Peninsula and Cowes on Phillip Island, via French Island. Ferry prices are currently: $13 one-way and $26 return (adult prices).

6. **Puffing Billy Railway**

Take a scenic trip through the forests, fern gullies and farmlands of the magnificent Dandenong Ranges by catching the historic Puffing Billy train. Just take the train to Belgrave station, in the outer eastern part of Melbourne and walk to the Puffing Billy railway station. There are also some destination choices from Belgrave; you can choose to visit Emerald, Gembrook, Lakeside or Menzies Creek.

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**Did you know?**

Myki replaced the Metcard (in December 2012) ticketing system in metropolitan Melbourne and several ticketing systems used by buses in some major regional cities.
Dinner Dates

Imagine if you had the chance to have dinner with 3 people anywhere in the world (alive or dead). Who would you pick? We quizzed our students and staff and find out the people they admire the most.

**Tuan, Ya-Fang** - Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
1. Jolin Tsai (Chinese singer) I like her music.
2. Barack Obama (U.S. president) He is the 1st African American president.

**Prashant Gurung** - Advanced Diploma of Hospitality
1. Charli XCX (singer) I really like her type of music, her personality.
2. David Beckham (football star) I want to take some tips from him about how to have a great personality.
3. Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India) I’d like to ask him about what he is up to, with the relationship with his neighbouring country (i.e. Nepal).

**Chelsea Chapman** – Student Liaison Officer
1. Frankie Valli (lead singer) I like his music and he is a cool dude.
2. Heath Ledger (actor) He’s a babe and a half!
3. Rebel Wilson (actress) Because she’s funny.

**Sanjay Sunar** – Advanced Diploma of Hospitality
1. Rajesh Hamal (actor) I love his personality and respect him very much.
2. Kapil Sharma (king of comedy) He is the one of best for laughter. He brings laughter to all those around him.
3. Jeewan Rashaili (film/music video director) I love the way he works and performs his direction of films and music videos.
Convert your raw potential into a sizzling career in hospitality

From working as a chef in a professional kitchen to a supervisory role in various hospitality settings - RGIT Australia can help kick start your hospitality career with an industry focused diploma that will get you work ready, sooner. RGIT Australia also offers Diploma courses in IT, Management, Health Science along with a range of short courses.

Hospitality Courses offered at RGIT:

- Certificate III in Hospitality (Operations) (CRICOS 081911A National Code SIT30713)
- Certificate IV Hospitality (Operations) (CRICOS 081912M National Code SIT40313)
- Diploma of Hospitality (CRICOS 081915G National Code SIT50313)
- Advanced Diploma of Hospitality (CRICOS 81918E National Code SIT60313)

Please refer to our website www.rgit.edu.au for detailed information on courses and entry requirements.

We also offer courses in: Business, IT, Hospitality and English

Enquire now!!
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