BC QUARTERLY
THE WINTER ISSUE
BC BIRTHDAY
Providing over a decade of education

Birthday Montage!

Celebrating our 12th Birthday, we have compiled a montage of images - providing over a decade of education. We have celebrated a diverse range of nationalities and backgrounds at Brisbane College and continue to provide support for Students by opening our Scholarship Offers to all students throughout the year to assist future and current students with their studies here.
Meet our English teacher, Helen

Helen Gunning-Stevenson has been teaching English at BCE since early 2012. She brings a wealth of experience to the classroom, having travelled widely and spent time in many countries including, England, Scotland, France, Thailand and Jamaica. Helen knows what it is like to be a language student - she studied German at school, taught herself Thai in preparation for her Masters' field research and is currently learning Greek (for beginners)!

While in Thailand, Helen ran informal after-school English classes for children in a local village school near Chiang Mai. She is currently volunteering as an English tutor for an Afghani refugee family through a St Vincent de Paul Society program. Helen's main interest is to ensure each student feels welcome at BCE and able to achieve their goals while studying in her class.

English Language Courses at BCE

Brisbane College caters for students with a range of needs - including both general English and IELTS preparation. The classes are small, informal, supportive and friendly. Over the past year we have welcomed ESL students from a wide range of countries including: Austria, Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, Russia, South Korea, India, Iran and Thailand. Our students have the opportunity to meet people from all over the world while improving their English.

HELEN’S TIPS FOR STUDY SUCCESS

ATTEND ALL CLASSES
You never know what you might be missing if you decide to sleep in!

REVISE
By going over the work you have done in class you are more likely to remember it

DON’T BE SHY
The more you speak the more quickly you will improve

NEVER BE AFRAID TO MAKE MISTAKES
See them as learning opportunities

HAVE FUN
Our classes are designed to be lively and enjoyable
By Peter McDowell

I recently asked Pre-Intermediate students Yoko from Japan and Lucy from Korea to share their advice about learning English vocabulary. The answers they gave, both fanciful and practical, became the basis for this article.

As English students you should be curious. You can learn anywhere if you really want to, for example you can pick up new words and phrases just by reading street signs. And by watching movies and TV you can learn some good slang words not found in the textbook. But be careful, you might learn some bad ones too! Another good way to discover new words is by reading. When you look up a word in the dictionary you should underline it, so the next time you go back to that page you can see which words you’ve learnt. You can learn by playing games too. Scrabble, for example, is a great way to test your vocabulary while having fun.

Some people say that you can learn vocabulary by eating pages from a dictionary, or by sleeping on a dictionary instead of a pillow. However, common sense dictates that it would be ill-advised to practice such a technique; it has no proven benefits, and may in fact be detrimental to your health.

In reality, the best way to learn English is to marry a native speaker! But if you can’t do this, a positive attitude, curiosity and some hard work might be just as good.
Elena Elyarova

Where are you from?
I am from Russia, my city’s name is Rostov-on-Don.

How long have you been in Brisbane?
For 7 months - since last November.

Why did you choose to study in Brisbane?
I chose this city because my relatives live here and because it is close to Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast and has a lot of entertainment.

What have you enjoyed doing while living in Brisbane?
I like walking in the park, visiting art gallery and museum and botanic gardens. I enjoy doing activities with other students - for example barbeques at Southbank.

What are your plans when you finish the English course?
To continue with Accounting course at this college. At the end of this year to receive Certificate IV.

What are the best things about studying at BC?
1. Qualifications of teachers
2. Friendly atmosphere
3. High attention to each student
4. Convenience - close to the city centre, to public transport and so on.

Would you recommend BC to other students?
Yes I would recommend BC to my friends and any students to do a course here because they will get the best result.
Once upon a time...

She was born in the castle, people called her Snow White. Because she has very white skin like a snow and she has black hair and red lips.

Sad, her mother died during childbirth. So The King married a new woman. The new woman is a witch but The King doesn't know that fact.

She always look at herself in the mirror and then ask to mirror, " Magic mirror, who is the most beautiful girl in the world?"

The mirror says, "The most beautiful girl is Snow white."

The witch is very angry, she got two hunters, and she ordered, "You should take her to forest and kill her and bring her eyes and heart."

Two hunters took her to the forest. But one hunter doesn't want to kill her. But another hunter want to kill her so they were fighting. The hunter that didn't want to kill her won. He pick up to dead hunter's eyes and heart and bring to the Queen.

And, Snow white ran away in the forest but she lost her way. She found a little house. She came inside and everything is little. She ate food and slept. When she got up, there are seven dwarfs around to be.

They were living together.

One day, an old woman came to home without shape and gave her apple. Actually, The apple was poisonous but she didn't know that, so she ate the apple. She fell over.

Actually, the old woman is the witch.

When seven dwarfs came to home, she was asleep.

One day, seven dwarfs met A prince in the forest. They were told about Snow white to prince. So prince came to home.

He kissed her because she is beautiful.

Surprising, Snow white woke up!

The prince and Snow white went to castle together. And told The King about the witch.

The King throw the witch away.

The prince and Snow white get married.

And they lived happily ever after.

The end.
Welcome Rachael!

We would like to welcome our new Children and Community Services trainer Rachael to the College. Rachael has had successful training and practicum achievement in the key areas of education and teaching, child protection, family support, children’s development and working with children.

Course Updates

Certificate 3 in Children’s Services class have been learning about providing care for babies. The students enjoyed practicing how to change a nappy following the correct QLD government procedures on the baby doll.

Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Children’s Services students have all been working hard completing assessments and learning about how to write a child’s learning story and the Early Years Learning Framework.

The Community Services students have just finished learning about identifying and responding to children and young people at risk of harm and now about to start learning about domestic violence.

All students are excited about starting their work placement in various childcare centres and community service centres.

Work experience tips

Here is some important information to remember when on your work placement:

It is essential that students treat the work placement as a real job, as they are setting an impression about their own work standards and own work ethics. Students please don’t forget any placements you are sent on, could possible lead to a future career with that Centre/organisation or another one, as they may recommend you to another service that are looking for reliable and committed staff. Students; in order to display yourself at your best, you need to show Brisbane College and the work placement staff that you are:

- Committed – To your roles and tasks put upon you, complete them, if having problems use your imitative to ask for clear instructions or help.
- Reliable – Be trust worthy and a dependable person.
- Punctual – Be at Placement 10 minutes early to settle in to work
- Polite – Be courteous to all staff, children, parents and outside visitors
- Respectful – To all staff, children, parents and outside visitors and be aware of cultural differences
- Be helpful - Try hard and be willing to complete tasks
- Dress professionally for nature of the placement
- Fulfill responsibilities of the position given to you

All students of Brisbane College are representing themselves and the college out in the wider community. To enable us all to achieve a high quality service, it is essential that we act in an appropriate and respectful manner in and outside of the college.

All staff and students behaviour impacts not only on our own personal reputations, but also that of Brisbane College itself. Respectful and polite behaviour shows the wider community that we are all committed to our studies and can achieve the best results and experiences we possibly can accomplish for the future, of yourself and the college.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful holiday.

Regards,

Rachael
ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS

Congratulations to Rajbir Kaur, who after a very determined effort to finish all her work in time, has completed her Diploma in Business (following from a Certificate IV in Business). Other Business students are busily continuing on with their units, as are the Accounting students, who will begin their accounting specific units after the holidays. They will be joined by some new students just beginning their Certificate IV in Accounting.

STUDY TIP!

One tip that I can give everyone studying vocational courses is not to leave everything to the last minute - complete your work and tasks progressively throughout your course according to the due dates given to you by your trainer. It doesn't take much for it all to pile up which can then start to become a bit overwhelming!

TESOL (TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES)

Since our last newsletter, we’ve had quite a number of Certificate IV in TESOL students complete their course. The latest of these are Katharina (who I believe has written something in this issue) and Selina below. I wish all of the recently qualified TESOL teachers all the best in their endeavours to impart their new found knowledge and skills to anyone wishing to learn English! The Certificate IV in TESOL always brings together such interesting groups of people who find themselves doing this qualification for a variety of interesting reasons. Some, such as Selina and Katharina, are international students who are considering teaching English back in their home countries, others are looking to teach here in Australia, and then of course there are those domestic students who wouldn’t mind heading off overseas on an English teaching adventure. Happy travelling!

Katharina finishing off her last assignments!

L to R: Selina, Carmelina, and Katharina at the end of term morning tea. All smiles - possibly due to the fact that all the assignments were almost done, but certainly because of our very professional and engaging photographer (thanks Elke!) . . . and also, well, let’s face it, there was a lot food to be eaten!
Introduction

We would like to introduce you to our new Blackstone Campus. This historic building dates from 1887, formerly known as Blackstone State School for 122 years. This Campus has been open since June 2013 and offers Certificate and Diploma qualifications to the Western Corridor. More updates on Blackstone Campus to come.
HARVEY HAYES

Completing a TESOL Certificate IV has always been something I wanted to do. I looked into online courses while I lived in London, but with more research I discovered a lot of employers look for the classroom certification. I thought the Brisbane College of Australia offered a good program, the timetable suited my work schedule and Carmelina ended up being an excellent teacher of teaching!

I would like to now gain more teaching experience in Brisbane, before I head to South America to live and to teach English. I’m currently learning Spanish, so being immersed in the culture and lifestyle over there, while teaching my first language, will make for an exciting experience!

KATHARINA ZWENG

My name is Katharina, I am from Austria and I have been working in a media agency in Vienna. I wanted to go overseas to further improve my English and to gain new experiences. After I had done some research, I finally decided to come to Brisbane to attend the certificate IV TESOL at Brisbane College of English which was definitely the right decision.

This course has not always been easy for me because English is not my mother language. Furthermore, I’ve never lived for a long time in an English speaking country before I came to Australia. However, I see it as a challenge to further improve my English and to experience something new.

My teacher Carmelina is a great support and has always been on hand if I needed assistance.

I especially like that we get the possibility to teach actual students. I had never taught before and I really enjoy it. I acquired a taste for it and can imagine taking further steps in this direction.

I’ve also learned to appreciate the country Australia. Fortunately, I’ve had the possibility to travel to some other places like for example Perth or Sydney. Australia is a wonderful country with an incredible impressive nature, plants and animals, but also beautiful, vibrant, clean and orderly cities. People are very nice and helpful and I especially appreciate that people from so many different cultures live here and get along well with each other.

I can just recommend coming to Australia and making this great experience. It’s worth it!
Not for one minute during the course did I regret the decision though grappling with tenses – present simple, past perfect, future continuous and the rest – was itself a challenge after so many years of using language without having to recall how or why it works.

Back in the early 2000s I decided to undertake full-time studies for an Arts degree at USQ in Toowoomba where I was living. I was proud to finish with a GPA of 6.05/7 including a HD for Romantic Literature – during the semester for that subject I spent several weeks overseas including an inspiring visit to Dove Cottage, home of the Wordsworths, who were at the core of the subject’s focus.

In my late 20s I had entered journalism without completing a degree through the then more common path of a cadetship; previously I had spent some years in banking and other roles including the Army and service as an infantry soldier in the Vietnam War. In journalism I rose through the ranks to become an editor before going over to the ‘dark side’ of government media and subsequent community relations and corporate communications roles.

After completing my degree I moved to Brisbane and spent a few years back in government media with Queensland Health – a period that was not without significant challenges; then I was in a contract role part-time with Ergon Energy with whom I had worked previously in a regional role.

Since that contract expired last year I have been doing some casual work such as writing, editing and proof-reading from home on the Sunshine Coast. Now I hope to pick up some work – maybe voluntary or paid – ‘teaching English to speakers of other languages’.

At the college I enjoyed the inter-action with younger people – teacher and students – from varying backgrounds and the challenge of two-hour practical teaching sessions. A ‘prac’ lesson I particularly enjoyed was one I volunteered to do ‘About Australia’. You can see the Power Point at this link

Thanks to all of students and staff I was involved with at the college: bon dezirojn en la estonteco

**KERRY WHITE**

**STUDENT PROFILE**

**STATUS** Graduated Student  
**COURSE** Certificate IV in TESOL  
**Country of origin** Australia

TAKING on an English teaching course was a daunting prospect for a semi-retired professional aged in his 60s.

It was a challenge I had been considering for a few years – in fact, I had done one subject, Nature of Language, for a post-graduate Certificate IV in TESOL at University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in Toowoomba, but because of circumstances that arose, had not proceeded further.

However, I still remained interested in gaining a qualification. When the chance arose through Brisbane College (which also offered me a 50% scholarship to cover half the cost), I decided to take it though it meant commuting from my Sunshine Coast home three days a week.
The College will be on holidays from 28th of June 2013 – 14th of July 2013. We’ve picked out some places and events to explore in Brisbane.

**Day Trips**
For just over an hour’s drive you can visit many places at the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast.

*Sunshine Coast*
- Beaches
- Maleny and Montville
- Hinterland Great Walk – 58km four-day walk in the Blackall Range
- Glasshouse Mountains
- Ginger Factory
- Eumundi Markets
- Big Pineapple
- Australia Zoo

*Gold Coast*
- Beaches
- Tamborine Mountain
- Tree Tops Walk – O’Reily’s
- Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk – 54km three-day hike
- Natural Bridge, Numinbah valley
- Green Mountains, Lamington National Park
- Springbrook National Park
- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

**Urban Hubs**
A lot of students cycle around Brisbane so we have compiled a list of Brisbane’s urban hubs for you to discover.

- West End
- South Bank
- Paddington & Rosalie
- New Farm and Teneriffe
- Milton & Park Road
- Kangaroo Point & Woolloongabba
- Fortitude Valley
- Caxton Street/Barracks
- Bulimba & Hawthorne
- The City
- Brisbane’s Bayside
- Ascot & Hamilton
Better known as the “Ekka”, The Royal Brisbane Show is a must do while in Brisbane this winter. Here are some tips on what to see and do!

- Enjoy the spectacular nightly fireworks display
- There are many exciting rides for thrill seekers and side show alley for those who want to take it easy.
- Stop by the main arena during the day for guaranteed free entertainment. Events range from wood chopping competitions to sheep shearing competitions.
- From cows to ducklings, there is an animal stall on every corner. Animal Boulevard showcases the adorable Little Miracles Newborn Corner and the Horse Breeds Expo.
- The Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion is a great place to try a range of delicacies from yum cha and souvlaki to cupcakes and wood fired pizzas.
- The show bag pavilion is open throughout the day with over 300 varieties of show bags on offer. Visit http://www.ekka.com.au/showbags.aspx if you would like an idea on what is available.
- Indulge in an Ekka tradition and buy a strawberry sundae (top right image). There are stalls at every corner so there is no way to miss out on the experience. The lines are long, but it is definitely worth the wait!

The Ekka is held from 8 – 17 of August 2013 at RNA Showgrounds.

Tickets can be bought on the door or online. Student discount available.
ACCELERATED COURSES

ACCELERATE YOUR WAY TO THE TOP!

*Accelerated* courses at BC are designed for those who wish to gain a qualification to re-enter the workforce, a pathway to higher education such as University or those wanting to upskill. It also gives International Students the opportunity to study at Domestic Student Prices.

These courses are shorter and more intensive than the Full-Length Courses but cover the same content and material.

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<th>FULL TIME</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
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