



# **EAP - ENGLISH CORNER 2008**

## **FAQ's**

### **What is English Corner?**

English Corner is an adjunct to the EAP program and is designed to help students learn everyday Australian English. It does this by bringing English speakers (English Corner Volunteers) and our EAP students together on a weekly basis for 'conversation' over tea and coffee. English Corner is also a great way to make new friends and to learn about Australians and Australian culture. Many important friendships and support networks have developed from this very important platform. English Corner is unique and many other Australian universities are looking at it with great interest.

### **Who are the English Corner Volunteers?**

English Corner volunteers are usually local people interested in learning about other cultures and in helping our EAP students with their everyday English conversation skills. Past and current English Corner volunteers include UB academic and general staff, domestic students and members of the local community. Volunteers generally commit one or more hours per week to the program and find the cross-cultural exchanges very rewarding. In 2006, the EAP teaching and English Corner Volunteer teams received the Vice Chancellor's Team Excellence Award - a very prestigious university award which pays testament to the good work done by all involved.

### **Why should EAP students attend English Corner sessions?**

EAP students should take this program seriously and attend each session. One important reason is that 'immersion' in authentic English speaking situations helps students improve their everyday English skills at a much faster pace than by simulated conversations in the classroom. Another reason is that English Corner provides students with invaluable information - they can get important advice and contacts from the local people. Advice about Australian customs, buying a car or where to find good, cheap food are just some examples. Students also have opportunities to educate the local people about their own language, culture and

customs - things our volunteers want to know about. Such cultural information exchanges enrich peoples' lives and broaden their horizons. If these are not good enough reasons for you attend English Corner, then you should know that English Comer, like all EAP subjects, is compulsory. This means that you must attend if you wish to do well in the EAP course. You should also understand that our English Comer volunteers take time out of their own work, study or general routine to meet with you.

### **Can students not enrolled in EAP participate in the English Corner Program?**

Generally not. English Comer is restricted to current EAP students and the registered English Corner volunteers. Keeping the student to volunteer ratio balance ensures that all EAP students have opportunities for one on one conversation with an English speaker.

For more information, please contact Christine Kimonides - Director - EAP on 5327 9613 or email: [c.kimonides@ballarat.edu.au](mailto:c.kimonides@ballarat.edu.au). Alternatively, please contact Sally Grist, EAP - Administrative Officer on 5327 9610 or email: [s.grist@ballarat.edu.au](mailto:s.grist@ballarat.edu.au) or Fiona Robertson, EAP - Assistant Course Coordinator on 5327 9626 or [f.robertson@ballarat.edu.au](mailto:f.robertson@ballarat.edu.au)