

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

April 2011

1. SHORT LANGUAGE COURSES FOR ADULTS

An impressive range of short courses in a variety of languages is available around the ACT next term (some begin next week!!). Many classes need a minimum number of enrolments, so if you are interested please contact the organisers as soon as possible.

CIT solutions

Languages offered include Arabic, Croatian, Czech, Farsi, French, German, Hindi, Polish, Spanish and Vietnamese. See <http://citace.com.au> for more details.

Weston Brain Gym in Stirling

Languages include Danish, Dutch, Indonesian, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Marathi, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. Most are at beginner level but a few are continuing. See www.westonbraingym.com.au for more details.

Lake Nite Learning at Lake Ginninderra College in Belconnen

Beginning and/or continuing classes in Arabic, French, German, Indonesian conversation, Italian, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish and Tagalong/Filipino. For more details see www.lakentelelearning.com.au

Classes run by the Australia Indonesia Association (AIA) ACT

Classes taught by native-speaking Indonesian speakers in O'Malley at four levels: Advanced, Tuesdays 7-9pm; Intermediate, Mondays 7-9pm; Continuing Beginners, Thursdays 7-9pm; and Beginners, Wednesdays 7-9pm.

Term two starts in the week commencing 9 May 2011. Cost: \$100 per person for AIA members, \$120 for non-members. Prospective students are welcome to drop in for an obligation free try out.

For more information, contact Phil on 62888640 (ah) or email pdomasch@webone.com.au

2. EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AROUND LANGUAGES AT THE ANU COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ethel Tory Centre for Language Learning

This refurbished centre has been launched in the old 'language laboratory' area of the ANU's Baldessin Precinct Building. The fitout cost \$1.7 million and uses cutting edge technology to replace the outmoded language lab approach. On its first day in operation the Centre was visited by the Prime Minister and First Lady of Mongolia and most of the Mongolian cabinet, who participated in a video Mongolian language class delivered from Indiana University.

National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP)

The ANU College of Asia and the Pacific is pursuing two grants under NALSSP. The first works with the Faculties of Education at the University of Canberra and University of South Australia to try to increase the supply of language teachers through combined language and education programs. The second works with ACT schools to offer special high level extension programs for Year 10, 11, and 12 students in the four targeted NALSSP languages.

Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities (LC-NAU)

This new network will be launched in Melbourne on 26-28 September. The Network is targeted at university language lecturers and tutors to both provide a cross-language conversation on quality teaching and research, and to empower a voice for languages in the sector. For more information see www.languages.unimelb.edu.au/network/index.html

3. ACT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The Department continues to be very active in the area of Languages education and Teacher professional learning. Events and activities in the first half of the year include:

- Offering professional development workshops for teachers in ACT Ethnic schools
A workshop on the use of games for Languages learning took place in term 1 with subsequent workshops planned for terms 2-4. The term 2 workshop will focus on using Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences to design engaging home learning and encouraging parent support of language learning.
- Memorandums of Understanding have been signed with China and Taiwan to place Language Teachers Assistants in ACT schools in Semester 2
- A number of Japanese Language Teachers Assistants are currently placed in ACT schools through a variety of programs.

Teacher Professional Learning included:

- February: Primary Language Teachers Meeting
- March: Invitational Forum and Open Forums to discuss the ACARA Draft Australian Curriculum: Languages
- April: Primary Spanish Curriculum Writing
- April: Italian, German and Spanish Language Teachers PD

National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) Projects include:

- Indonesian & Japanese refresher courses for practicing language teachers at ANU
- A joint initiative with the Embassy of Indonesian Embassy to provide Indonesian Language Teacher Assistants in schools
- On May 6 an *Asia Literacy in the English Curriculum* Conference
- On May 13 & 14 a two day conference for teachers of Mandarin Chinese with guest presenters Julie Tee and Andrew Scrimgeour
- On May 25 an Indonesian Wayang Puppet Performance at the National Gallery will be provided to students learning Indonesian through a joint project with the Embassy of Indonesia.
- A *Korean Fun Day*, for students learning Korean, will occur in Term 2 with the support of the Embassy of Korea.

For more information please contact the Curriculum Executive Officer Languages & Asia Literacy, Kristina Collins by email: kristina.collins@act.gov.au

4. COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS IN CANBERRA

Did you know that more than 1700 school-aged students are studying over 30 languages in community language schools after school hours or at weekends in the ACT? Languages learned include: Arabic, Bangla, Cantonese, Croatian, Dutch, Filipino, Finnish, Greek, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Karen, Khmer, Korean, Macedonian, Mandarin Chinese, Maori, Mon, Japanese, Persian, Polish, Punjabi, Russian, Samoan, Sinhalese, Spanish, Swedish, Tamil, Tongan and Vietnamese. Some of these schools also offer classes for adults.

For a listing of schools see the newly updated website of the ACT Ethnic Schools Association, the umbrella body for the majority of community based language schools in the ACT, at www.actesa.org.au

5. THE TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING SERVICE (TIS) SEEKS INTERPRETERS

Do you speak, or do you know any speakers of, the following languages with strong English abilities who may be interested in a career as an interpreter: Bengali, Dari, Dinka, Hakka Chin, Hazaragi, Karen, Kurdish (all dialects), Rohingya, Thai?

TIS is seeking Australian permanent residents and citizens who are interested in working as interpreters for these and other languages and dialects, particularly those spoken by our refugee and humanitarian entrants from Africa and Burma.

In addition, TIS is looking for people with NAATI professional or para-professional level accreditation in Mandarin, Arabic, Persian, Russian and Somali

Ninety four percent of the interpreting assignments involve telephone interpreting. The rest are on-site assignments at metropolitan, regional and remote locations.

For more information and to discuss your availability and suitability contact TIS on **1300 132 621**

6. LANGFEST IN CANBERRA 27 November to 9 December 2011

From 27 November to 9 December 2011, Canberra will host a series of exciting events about language, languages and their relationship with the world. Events include:

Australian Society for French Studies (ASFS) Conference ' <i>French Connections: Traduction, Didactique et Analyse du Discours</i> '	27–28 Nov
Australasian Association for Lexicography (AustraLex) Conference	28 - 29 Nov
Language and Culture Conference	29 Nov
Applied Linguistics Association of Australia (ALAA) & Applied Linguistics Association of New Zealand (ALANZ) Postgraduate Student Workshop	29 Nov
ALAA-ALANZ combined conference	30 Nov to 2 Dec
Language and the Law (ALAA-ALANZ-ALS Joint Day)	Late afternoon 1 Dec and all day 2 Dec
Australasian Language Technology Workshop 2011)	1–2 Dec
Australian Linguistics Society (ALS) 42nd Annual Conference	2–4 Dec
ALS Graduate Master Classes	5–9 Dec

See <http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/langfest/conference.htm> for more information.

FEEDBACK ON THESE FORUM UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES ARE WELCOME.

NOTE: Copies of previous Languages Updates can be found at <http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/>