

# Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

February 2016

## 1. Promoting languages at the Multicultural Festival (NMF) in Canberra

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) will have a languages information stall at the Multicultural Festival in Civic on

- Sunday 14 February 2016, 10.30am-4.30pm.

(Stall number E61 on the corner of City Walk & Akuna Street, opposite Myers).

The festival is visited by thousands of people each year so this is a great opportunity to publicise the benefits of knowing more than one language and to promote language learning and teaching opportunities in the ACT area. If you would like to help to staff the stall and share your enthusiasm and knowledge and/or if you have brochures or pamphlets about a language program you are involved in that you would like to display, please let us know at [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com)

Note: ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government's 2015-16 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program) for funding its activities at the festival.

## 2. Mother Tongue | Multilingual Mic

If you speak a language other than English and enjoy writing poetry, story-telling and sharing your culture and experiences, you are invited to share your words at the Mother Tongue open mic at the Canberra Multicultural Fringe:

- Saturday 13 February 2016, 2pm - 4pm.

This open mic celebrates the rich cultures of poetry from around the globe. It is a friendly, non-competitive space where all respectful voices are welcomed. No experience is required, only the willingness to perform your own work in a language other than English, or in a mixture of English and non-English. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, refugees and those whose first language is not English particularly welcome.

For more information and/or to register your interest in performing, email [Mothersonguemic@gmail.com](mailto:Mothersonguemic@gmail.com) or call Jacqui (0433 845 900) or Lauren (0432 942 683).

## 3. Opportunities to learn another language or develop your language skills in 2016

- Languages at the ANU: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/languages>
- Languages at other Australian universities (some available online): <http://ulpa.edu.au/>
- General overview of language programs in the Canberra area:
  - for children: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html>
  - for adults: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-adults.html>
- Languages at CIT Solutions: <http://shortcourses.cit.edu.au/flipbook/index.html>
- Indonesian classes, Australia Indonesia Association: [www.aia-act.org.au](http://www.aia-act.org.au)
- French at the Alliance Française Canberra: <http://www.afcanberra.com.au/>
- Free Mandarin Community Tutoring Project:  
<http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/mandarin-community-tutoring.html>

## 4. Resources for encouraging language study

- ULPA portal <http://ulpa.edu.au/why-study-languages/>
- ULPA video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnPIjqQal\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnPIjqQal_Y)
- Why learn a language? [http://www.all-languages.org.uk/support/making\\_the\\_case](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/support/making_the_case)
- The benefits of learning a language in later life:  
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/mar/18/learning-a-language-in-later-life-are-you-ever-too-old>

## 5. Celebrate international mother language day

- 10.30am – 1.30pm Sunday 21 February 2016

Meet at 10am near the International Flags Display behind Questacon car park to join the 2 km language walk over Commonwealth Bridge.

Feel free to bring along posters and banners publicising your language/s and to wear national dress. Free T-shirts for participants (while stocks last)

THEN enjoy FREE fun activities at Stage 88 after the walk:

- Multilingual and multicultural performances
- Jumping castle and Face painting
- Sausage sizzle or bring a picnic.

Organised by the Canberra-based International Mother Language Movement (IMLM). For more details: email [IMLM.21feb@gmail.com](mailto:IMLM.21feb@gmail.com) or follow IMLD Canberra on [facebook](#).

Visit [http://imlm21.org.au/?page\\_id=1109](http://imlm21.org.au/?page_id=1109) for more information on International Mother Language Day

## 6. Books and readers in other languages

As part of a major early literacy initiative for children everywhere, the Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication (RUMACCC) at the University of Melbourne has launched free early readers designed to help children enjoy reading in many languages.

*Chicken Little* - the first in the series - is available in over 30 languages. In addition, readers by Oma Online (Brigitte Lambert) show parents and educators how easy it is to prepare enjoyable reading materials – starting with pencil and paper or photographs, and then with a little help from the computer. These readers are available in English, German and without text, so that you can translate them into your language or write your own story.

For more information: <http://rumaccc.unimelb.edu.au/other-language-readers>

## 7. Focus on other language resources and activities for children

For information about

- kids' books in Tagalog
- new website for German language resources for children
- new opportunities for children to learn Mandarin in the ACT
- free fun activities for children at Chinese Year and/or the Multicultural Festival

See the February Update of the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance at:

[http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/actbea\\_update\\_february\\_2016.pdf](http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/actbea_update_february_2016.pdf)

## 8. Language Learning and Teaching

A free online 4 week course to introduce some of the latest ideas in research and practice in language learning and teaching.

- Join Now – starts 4 April

What is language? How do we learn meaning in a new language? What is easy and hard about learning another language? And what is the best way to teach other languages? This course suggests some answers to these questions. It has been developed by the University of Southampton and the British Council, and draws on their joint online course.

### REQUIREMENTS

This course is aimed at graduates with an interest in the development of languages and language teaching. It will give you a taste of postgraduate study in the field of English

language teaching. However, no prior knowledge is required to take part in the course and we welcome anyone who is curious to know more about language learning and teaching.

For more details: [https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-language?utm\\_campaign=Share+Links&utm\\_medium=futurelearn-run\\_details&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-language?utm_campaign=Share+Links&utm_medium=futurelearn-run_details&utm_source=facebook)

- For more free online courses on languages and cultures see:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/categories/languages-and-cultures>

## 9. Discovering the Language Learning Space

The Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA), in partnership with Education Services Australia (ESA), have made available FREE resources on the Language Learning Space through Webinar Series.

See [https://www.mltav.asn.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=350&Itemid=100134](https://www.mltav.asn.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=350&Itemid=100134) for recordings of the two webinars that have already been held, one for primary language teachers and one for pre-service language teachers.

The final webinar, targeted at secondary language teachers, will take place on 23 February 2016. The webinar is free and will be held from 4-5pm EST and conducted using Adobe Connect. To log-in, go to <http://connect.vic.edu.au/afmltalls/>

The webinars focus on the student resources available at <http://www.ils.edu.au/> for Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese including game-based challenges, in-country based tutors, alignment with the Australian Curriculum, teaching resources, free language apps and a comprehensive professional learning program for ALL teachers of languages.

## 10. Professional learning program for language teachers

All teachers of Languages (F-10) are invited to participate in the AFMLTA Ready? Set? Plan! Australian Curriculum: Languages (AC:L) Professional Learning Program in Canberra:

- 30 April 2016 (see <http://afmlta.asn.au/> for dates in other states).

Costs:

- MLTA Members: \$165 (includes catering & materials)
- Non-members: \$195, Pre-Service Teachers: \$95 inc GST

Online registration: <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/afmlta-8892647824>

Enquiries: [PL@afmlta.asn.au](mailto:PL@afmlta.asn.au)

This program builds on the 2015 Ready? Set? Go! Program, but attendance at the 2015 program is not a pre-requisite for involvement in the 2016 program.

## 11. Articles and links that may be of Interest:

- Links to research studies that support claims that language learning supports academic achievement, provides cognitive benefits and affects attitudes and beliefs about other cultures: <http://www.actfl.org/advocacy/what-the-research-shows>
- For teachers in bilingual and dual language classrooms - 5 Fundamental Strategies for Bilingual Learners [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kevin-wong2/five-fundamental-strategi\\_b\\_8870038.html?ir=Australia](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kevin-wong2/five-fundamental-strategi_b_8870038.html?ir=Australia)
- CLIL Media - a resource for teachers interested in Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) <http://clilmedia.com/language-and-subject-a-balancing-act/>
- Asia Mother Language Education WG's electronic newsletter: <http://cms2.unescobkk.org/nc/education/appeal/appeal-news/news-and-events/article/20th-issue-of-multilingual-education-e-newsletter/>
- PreK-3rd: Challenging Common Myths About Dual Language Learners, An Update to the Seminal 2008 Report: <http://fcd-us.org/resources/prek-3rd-challenging-common-myths-about-dual-language-learners-update-seminal-2008-report>

- multilingual children Beyond myths and toward best practice: <http://fcd-us.org/resources/multilingual-children-beyond-myths-and-toward-best-practices>
- Foreign concept: Why learning a second language is vital to our global future: <http://au.educationhq.com/news/33846/foreign-concept-why-learning-a-second-language-is-vital-to-our-global-future/>

## **12. Verbal arts in Indigenous Australian societies**

- 3 pm Thursday 3rd March - 3.30 pm Friday 4th March 2016
- Humanities Research Centre Conference Room, A D Hope Building, ANU

This workshop brings together specialists on language, literature and oral art with researchers on music and language in Indigenous Australia. We will share ideas about performance, about techniques, about memory and the aesthetics of oral art.

Keynote speakers

- Rob Pensalfini, UQ, 'Developing oracy: these words were meant to be spoken'
- Nigel Fabb, University of Strathclyde: 'The psychology of literary-linguistic form'

For more details, see the Australian Languages Workshop information at <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/whats-on/australian-languages-workshop-2016/> and for full program: <https://cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus/index.php/s/mPK7QqfZE2A6rNj>

Sponsored by the ANU School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, Research School of Humanities & the Arts and the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Languages

## **13. Alliance Française French Film Festival**

Presented by the Alliance Française in association with the Embassy of France in Australia and uniFrance Films, the festival offers contemporary French films and a program drawing on five of France's most popular television shows.

- 3-29 March Palace Electric Cinema

For more details of the program, and dates in other cities: <http://www.affrenchfilmfestival.org>

## **FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME**

**Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at**

<http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>