



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

April 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Mother Tongue: Transporting Words

- Friday 16 April, 6.30-8pm
- Outside the Palko Building, 25 Lonsdale Street Braddon
- Free event and all welcome
- Booking not required but attendees should check in with the Check In Canberra app.

This performance event will combine live multilingual poetry with projections, a combination guaranteed to carry you away. While it is difficult to travel at the moment, words can take you anywhere!

In case of bad weather, this event may shift to Saturday 17 April.

For details see: <https://www.facebook.com/mothertonguemc>

2. Teacher development opportunities

a) Collaboration, creativity and formative assessment in Languages

- Two Online workshops organised by the Modern Language Teachers Association ACT
- Thursday 22 April, 7pm – 9.30pm and Thursday 29 April 7pm – 9.30pm

Facilitated by Joe Dale, these workshops will explore how Language teachers can use ICT to engage, support and assess student learning through blended and remote learning. The sessions will be recorded and can be viewed by participants on a later occasion.

Cost (covers both workshops)

- \$50 MLTA ACT members, \$120 Non-members, \$90 Community Language School Association teachers.
- MLTA ACT membership is included in the two non-members categories

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=741642&> by COB Tuesday 20 April

For more details: Annemarie.Power@ed.act.edu.au

b) Translation in the Multilingual Language Classroom: Rationale, Roles and Activity Design

- Free online seminar
- Thursday 22 April 9 – 10.30am
(Wednesday April 21 4pm – 5.30pm Arizona time)

A webinar presented by Sonia Colina and Sara Albrecht at the University of Arizona, discussing how translation in the multilingual language classroom can promote literacy, metalinguistic and cultural awareness, translanguaging and community engagement

Register at https://arizona.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_apRqHkrPSq2J88GluXU0QQ

c) Professional Development organised by the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools

The NSW Federation of Community Language Schools continues to record and make their professional development webinars freely available.

The two latest videos are part of *Fundamentals of Teaching for the Community Language School*, a short course organised by the Federation through the University of Western Sydney:

- Teaching strategies to create engaged learners
- High impact assessment and feedback approaches

To access these and previous webinars:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy0EvVQIfuqv9qZvI0Pucfw/videos>

OTHER ACT NEWS

3. Languages at the ANU

ANU Language Teaching Forum 2021

A monthly forum which aims to foster the exchange of research and new approaches in language education. Everyone involved in language teaching and research within the ANU and in the wider community welcome.

- For information about upcoming meetings or to be added to the mailing list, contact Wesley Lim: Wesley.Lim@anu.edu.au

Diploma of Languages

First semester 2021 has seen students enrolling again in the Diploma of Languages. Available to both ANU students and graduates of bachelor level degrees from any other Australian or international university, the Diploma offers a great opportunity to gain a qualification in one or more of the many languages offered at the ANU.

- For a list of language programs available at the ANU: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/languages>
- For more details about the Diploma: <https://cass.anu.edu.au/degrees/diploma-languages> or email Ashok.Collins@anu.edu.au.

Asian and Pacific languages at the ANU School of Culture History and Language

In second semester 2021 (commencing 26 July) CHL will continue to offer its language programs in a range of delivery models that include on-campus, hybrid, remote and online models. Details of delivery models in individual language programs can be obtained from the relevant language co-ordinator.

Winter School in Gamilaraay 2

Intensive course in Gamilaraay during the ANU's Winter Session (1 July to 30 September) for those who have an introductory knowledge of Gamilaraay.

- Details at <https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/2021/course/INDG2004> or contact John Giacon at John.Giacon@anu.edu.au

4. Language programs in Canberra starting in Term 2

Term 2 will soon be starting for many language programs in the ACT. Here are a few:

- Italian with Dante Alighieri Society - Canberra. Courses for adults, all levels. Term 2 begins Monday 26 April. Details at: <http://danteact.org.au/language/italian-classes/>
- French with the Alliance Française de Canberra. Courses for adults, teens & children plus cultural events. Term 2 starts 19 April. Details at: <https://www.afcanberra.com.au/>
- Indonesian with the Australia Indonesia Association ACT. Online courses for adults, all levels, beginning Monday 19 April: www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=728830&

For other language programs see

- <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/other-language-programs.html> for adults and
- <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html> for children

5. ACT community language schools

The Independent Review of ACT Community Language Schools

Commissioned by the ACT government, the review has now been completed and submitted to the Community Services Directorate. We look forward to it soon being released and/or tabled in the Assembly.

Language Teaching Methodology course at the University of Canberra (UC)

The Spanish Speakers Association Inc has partnered with UC, which is offering its Language Teaching Methodology course to community language teachers in the ACT.

Running from 31 May until 16 July, the course examines and reflects upon contemporary approaches to language teaching across all ages and levels and identifies teaching practices and principles for teaching speaking, listening, reading writing in a foreign language. Requiring a commitment of approximately 100 hours, the course includes online activities for independent learning, engagement and reflection, and one weekly evening session at UC.

For more details email ositoscool@yahoo.com.au

6. Libraries ACT

Libraries ACT continue to help celebrate our multilingual city and to promote and support the sharing and learning of languages, including English, through its collections and activities. These include:

Online Bilingual Story Times and Giggle and Wiggle

- Links to videos at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/librariesact-bilingualstorytime>

English conversation classes

- Currently being held online.
- Details at: <https://librariesact.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRNGEN/WPAC/OECC>

In your language

- Books, DVDs, CDs, magazines and newspapers in 23 languages other than English. Some items are available online too.
- Details at <https://www.library.act.gov.au/services/in-your-language>

Mango Languages

- An online language-learning system with access to over 70 languages, including English taught in 21 community languages
- Visit: <https://librariesact.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/ERESOURCES?HOMEPRMS=EVPARAMS>

Call for volunteer literacy tutors for adults

Libraries ACT are looking for more literacy tutors as they are expanding their English literacy program to assist learners who speak English as an additional language. Volunteer tutors would need to be available to meet learners for one to four hours a week during library opening hours since the one-on-one tutoring sessions will be held at library branches. Qualifications and/or experience in ESL or adult literacy preferred, though training and support will be provided.

- For more information about the role and requirements, contact the Assistant Director, Literacy Development at Rachel.Davis@act.gov.au

To keep up to date with ACT Library events and activities, follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LibrariesACT> or their website: <https://www.library.act.gov.au/>

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

7. From Western Australia (WA)

Noongar language in schools

- WA education has plans to develop resources for Noongar language teaching
- If successful, Noongar could be offered alongside European and Asian languages, eventually studied all the way to year 12

More details at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-04/noongar-language-to-be-taught-in-south-west-wa-schools/100045124>

Hindi, Tamil and Korean

These languages will start being taught in WA schools from 2023, from preschool to Year 12.

More details at: <https://www.nationaltribune.com.au/new-languages-for-western-australian-schools/>

8. The role of family languages in mainstream education

Schools overseas are increasingly adopting classroom practices which encourage students to compare and contrast languages – both those taught at school and those brought to school by the children themselves. This approach has been shown to improve language learning and to have general educational, socio-cultural and economic benefits. Acknowledging the value of all languages has also led to more active encouragement and support for the use and development of family languages in mainstream schools.

For a statement about the value of linguistic diversity and examples of how Scoil Bhríde (Cailíni), a primary school in Ireland for girls from 4 to 12 years old, encourages children to make active use of their home languages in the classroom, see:

- <http://www.scoilbhridecailini.ie/index.php/about-us/language-and-culture/> and
- <https://ppli.ie/news/primary-intercultural-guidelines/>

How does this relate to the ACT?

With of 20% of ACT residents speaking a language other than English at home, a significant proportion of children enrolling in our mainstream schools have some knowledge of an additional language. The majority of our schools recognise the importance of home languages. They may name them on notice boards and posters, mention them during Harmony Day events and refer parents to community language schools. Parents of children receiving EALD support are also advised, particularly by specialist EALD teachers, to continue speaking their family language at home and to read to and with children in that language.

However, given the proven educational and socio-cultural benefits for all, could ACT schools do more to actively encourage the learning, development and sharing of skills in all of the languages represented in our school communities? This is one of the areas to be addressed in the 2021 Work Plan of the Canberra Languages Network.

9. Lost in translation

Interesting discussion about the process and politics of translation on ABC Radio National on Sunday 11 April sparked by controversy over translations of Amanda Gorman's 'The Hill We Climb', the poem she recited at Joe Biden's inauguration.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sundayextra/translation-amanda-gorman-poetry-black-white-identity-politics/13295504>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at
<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>