

# ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

## May 2015

### 1. NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORY TIME

Join in this fun event to promote enjoyment of books on 27 May. The book this year is *The Brothers Quibble* by Aaron Blabey. Audio versions will be available in a variety of languages thanks to SBS radio.

Registrations are free and open to all, and will provide some Brothers Quibble themed activities and an electronic version of the book on Monday 25 May.

See <https://www.alia.org.au/nss> for more info and free downloads and inspiration in Arabic, Cantonese, Farsi, Filipino, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese.

### 2. VIDEO RESOURCES

Two interesting videos about bilingual education:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Juz3bQyMqBw>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hW\\_qpta6zb4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hW_qpta6zb4)

### 3. AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM WEBSITE UPDATED

Seven more language curricula now available on the Australian Curriculum website for Kindergarten level to Year 10.

The curricula are awaiting final endorsement from the Education Council, but are now available for use.

Together with the four language curricula released by ACARA in 2014, this now means the following languages are now available: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Modern Greek, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Further languages to follow are Turkish, Hindi, AUSLAN, Classical Greek and Latin.

See the language curricula at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/languages/preamble>

### 4. CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM

If you are interested in wider language issues, you might like to join this forum, which aims to facilitate discussion among the many stakeholders in Canberra and the surrounding region who are interested in promoting languages and language learning.

The April Forum Update included information about:

- Events related to 'Global Languages', the theme of the ANU Humanities Research Centre for 2015.
  - Tuesday Afternoon Seminar program
  - International Symposium: Global English, Minimal English
- Inaugural Book Launch of the French Research Cluster
- Language learning classes and other resources for adults
- Literary events at the National Library of Australia:
- Events organised by the Lu Rees Archives of Australian Children's Literature Inc,
  - 'Hippopotomusing' with Hazel Edwards, Fri 22 May
  - Colin Thiele Festival (2-28 June) and Talk on His Work and Legacy (2 June)
- Some news items and articles about Language

For more information about the Languages Forum and/or to download a copy of its April Update, see <http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com.au/>

## **5. ACADEMIC SEMINAR: IS BILINGUALISM AN ADVANTAGE FOR COGNITIVE CONTROL?**

- Tuesday 5 May 2015, 5pm to 6pm
- Al-Falasi lecture theatre, CAIS, 127, Ellery Crescent, ANU, Canberra
- Speaker: Célia Mendes PhD Candidate, Dept of Psychology, University of Otago

Several studies indicate that being proficient in more than one language leads to positive cognitive gains in the form of attentional control and conflict monitoring. This talk investigates this through a study based on the Simon Task (Craft & Simon, 1970). Over 100 adults participated. Results did not support a bilingual advantage (measured by a reduced susceptibility to the conflict effect in response times and in error rates).

For more details of the talk, see:

[http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/language\\_teaching\\_forum\\_2015\\_celia\\_mendes\\_-\\_5\\_may.pdf](http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/language_teaching_forum_2015_celia_mendes_-_5_may.pdf)

This free public seminar is part of the ANU Language Teaching Forum, which usually holds talks on the fourth Monday of the month, from 4.15pm – 5.15 pm. The forum is jointly coordinated by the ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences (CASS) and the College of Asia & the Pacific (CAP). For more information and to join the mailing list contact:

- Dr Louise Jansen (School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics, CASS) [Louise.Jansen@anu.edu.au](mailto:Louise.Jansen@anu.edu.au)
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## **FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ACTBEA UPDATES WELCOME**

Copies of previous Updates can be downloaded from <http://actbilingual.weebly.com>