

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

DECEMBER 2015

1. NOMINATE YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY!

School libraries provide a great service to our schools. They help children find reliable information, think critically, safely navigate the internet and find great reads. Nominated libraries will be celebrated in an advertisement in a leading education magazine in the first term of 2016. In addition, principals will receive a joint letter from Australian School Library Associations and a certificate of achievement for their school. Nominations can be supported by students' artwork, letters, photos, poems, songs - anything that celebrates the library!

Nominations close on 18 December 2015

For more information see <https://fair.alia.org.au/greatschoolibraries> or visit Facebook [facebook.com/joinFAIR](https://www.facebook.com/joinFAIR)

2. CHIEF MINISTERS READING CHALLENGE 2015

Five thousand more ACT students completed the challenge this year. The increase might have been due to the participation of the early childhood category and the opening up of choice of reading material to the students. Books could be read in English or another language. Over 80 schools participated: 8 early childhood schools, 67 Primary schools, 8 High schools, 1 community language school (Chennai Tamil), and various age groups in home schools.

3. CANBERRA LANGUAGES TEACHER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Sarah Payne, Head of Languages and teacher of French and German at Canberra Grammar School (CGS), has been awarded the Patji-Dawes Award for outstanding achievements in language teaching. She was selected from an impressive list of nominees for this inaugural national award. Her nominator, a previous student at CGS, flew over from the UK where he now works to be present at the conferral of the award in Sydney by Robert Dessaix on 25 November 2015.

The Patji-Dawes award is an initiative of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language through its Communications and Outreach Program. This program includes a commitment to improving levels of multilingualism and mastery of other languages in Australia through understanding and public debate on how we learn (and teach) second and other languages most effectively. See <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/get-involved/outreach/dawes-award/> for more details.

4. OTHER NEWS FROM THE ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE DYNAMICS OF LANGUAGE AT ANU

The Centre's first seminar of 2016 at the ANU will be held on 29 January 2016. The speaker is Dr Morten Christiansen, Director of the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory at Cornell University.

The Wellsprings Forum Dialogues, featuring sociolinguists Peter Trudgill and James Stanford, will be held at ANU during the first week of February 2016 (1-5). They will include public lectures, commentary and discussion on the theme: 'What is different about the sociolinguistics of small-scale communities'.

For more information: <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/whats-on/events/>

5. AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LANGUAGES

The updated Australian Curriculum website (version 8.0) has now been released. Curricula for [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Indonesian](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#), [Modern Greek](#),

[Spanish](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/languages/preamble), [Vietnamese](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/languages/preamble) have now been endorsed and are available on <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/languages/preamble>

Each language curriculum includes an interesting 'Context Statement' which looks at

- the place of that language and culture in Australia and in the world,
- its place in Australian education,
- the nature of language learning for that language and
- the diversity of learners of the language in Australian schools.

Curricula for Hindi and Turkish, plus the Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages, will go to the Education Council for endorsement in early December. Once endorsed, the curricula will be made available on the Australian Curriculum website.

Draft curricula for Auslan and Classical Languages will go out for consultation in the second quarter of 2016.

6. A NEW RESOURCE SITE FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS

Google+ Community OzLangED, a space is for language educators, especially those in Australia, to share ideas and resources.

Created by Kati Varela, a French and Spanish teacher in Sydney, the space is organised so the resources and discussion points can be categorised as exclusively relevant to a particular language or useful for several languages. Other languages can easily be included later on. For details: <https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/109904448482806550521>

7. UNIVERSITY LANGUAGES PORTAL AUSTRALIA

Do you want to know which languages are taught at ACT universities, or where in Australia you could learn a particular language - possibly online? This newly launched site now allows you find out! Try it out at <http://ulpa.edu.au/>

Funded by the Australian government, and supported by the Office for Learning and Teaching, the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities (LCNAU) and the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language, this is a resource for anyone interested in studying a language at a tertiary institution, including those currently in the secondary sector. The initial focus of this website (due to funding limitations) is on introductory-level subjects, but entries indicate whether more advanced levels are available.

The web developers welcome feedback – what works, what doesn't and what you would like to see included. Please have a look at the site and provide any comments to anya@unimelb.edu.au

8. ACTBEA AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL IN CANBERRA

ACTBEA will have an information stall at the National Multicultural Festival in Civic on Sunday 14 February 2016, 11am-4.30pm.

This is a great opportunity to publicise the benefits of knowing more than one language and any language program or activity you are involved in; the festival is visited by thousands of people each year.

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 would like to display, please let us know at 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.

9. ACT MANDARIN BLUEPRINT

The ACT Mandarin Blueprint, which aims to enhance the learning of Mandarin and promote understanding of Chinese culture in ACT schools, was officially released on 15 October 2015. The blueprint gives an overview of the current initiatives and future plans of the many

organisations in the ACT involved in the teaching and promotion of Mandarin and Chinese culture. For a copy of the Blueprint, see http://www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/mandarin-blueprint

A list of the recipients of ACT Government Mandarin Culture and Language Grants announced as a part of the Blueprint - together with a brief description of their projects - can also be seen at that site. The 21 recipients include mainstream and community language schools, other community organisations, and the ANU.

10. JAPANESE BOOK CLUB FOR KIDS

The Kangaroo Pocket Bunko (Bunko means 'mini-library' in Japanese) has been operating since May 2015. The Club aims to help maintain and develop the bilingual ability of children aged between 0 and 12 years of age and to help develop and enhance an understanding of both Japanese and Australian cultures.

Activities include lending books and having story time, games, crafts, and other activities which relate to "today's book" for story time. Currently club meetings are held at the Mosaic Church at Page, Belconnen.

For details email Maki Christie (yonemaki0923@hotmail.com) or visit them on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/%E3%82%AB%E3%83%B3%E3%82%AC%E3%83%AB%E3%83%BC%E3%83%9D%E3%82%B1%E3%83%83%E3%83%88%E6%96%87%E5%BA%AB-1053332551349182/>

11. ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE CANBERRA

The Alliance offers French courses for all ages, an extensive cultural and events program, a library and other services. Subscribe to their newsletter or follow the Alliance on Facebook to keep up with news and events. For more information see: <http://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

12. ARTICLES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

- 6 principles for promoting language development through books
<http://multilingualparenting.com/2015/07/29/6-principles-for-promoting-language-development-through-books/>
- Myth: young people have abandoned language learning: Fact: applications to language degrees have plummeted – but students are finding novel ways to learn
http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/nov/02/myth-young-people-have-abandoned-language-learning?CMP=share_btn_link
- Yet another benefit of languages learning! 'Speaking two languages can double hopes of stroke recovery' November 20, 2015
<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/world/speaking-two-languages-can-double-hopes-of-stroke-recovery-20151119-ql3hhd>

13. CALLING RAPPERS AND SLAM POETS IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

Do you know anyone into rapping or performance poetry in other languages? Plans to celebrate International Mother Language Day on Sunday 21 February 2016 include a spoken word event after the traditional language walk. If you are involved in rapping or performance poetry in another language, or know of anyone who might interested in participating, please contact languagesact@gmail.com.

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ACTBEA UPDATES WELCOME

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