

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

January 2017

1. PROMOTING LANGUAGES AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

ACTBEA will have a languages information stall at the Multicultural Festival in Canberra City:

- Sunday 19 February 2017, 10.30am-4.30pm.

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 have brochures or pamphlets about a language program that you would like to display and/or would like to help to staff the stall and share your enthusiasm and knowledge, please let us know at canberrabilingual@gmail.com

Note: ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government's 2016-17 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program) for funding its activities at the festival.

2. WRITING IN OTHER LANGUAGES AT THE CHILDREN'S SANCTUARY

Come along with the family, collect a passport, and see how many ways your name can be written in other languages at the Children's Sanctuary at the Multicultural Festival.

- Saturday 18 February 10.30am – 4pm
- Canberra Museum and Gallery, Civic Square, Canberra City

If you can write in another script - like Cyrillic, Arabic, Chinese, or one of the many Indian or South East Asian written forms – we are looking for volunteers to help with the name writing. Children who can write well in another language also welcome. This is a great way to raise awareness of the many languages spoken in the Canberra area. A small payment is available for volunteers who are able to help out for 90 minutes.

Please contact Mandy at canberrabilingual@gmail.com for more details

Other activities ACTBEA is helping to organise at the Children's Sanctuary on the Saturday are face painting, balloon twisting, Aboriginal storytelling and international dancing. All activities are FREE.

Activities at the Children's Sanctuary on Sunday 19 February will be organised by West Belconnen Child and Family Centre.

For details about all the events over the three days of the Multicultural Festival (Friday 17 - Sunday 19 February 2017), see: <http://multiculturalfestival.com.au/about-us/>

3. CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

- Sunday 26 February, 10am
- Near the International Flags Display behind Questacon car park,

Bring the whole family to celebrate International Mother Language Day in Canberra. The opening event will be followed by a 2 km language walk over Commonwealth Bridge.

Feel free to bring along posters and banners publicising the language/s you speak or are learning.

Organised by the Canberra-based International Mother Language Movement (IMLM).

For more details, email IMLM.21feb@gmail.com, follow IMLD Canberra on [facebook](#) or visit <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html> for updates as they become available

For more information about International Mother Language Day see http://imlm21.org.au/?page_id=1109

4. MOTHER TONGUE – MULTILINGUAL POETRY

Celebrate the languages, cultures and stories of our diverse community at the Multilingual Poetry Showcase.

- Canberra Fringe Festival, Canberra City
- 10am-1pm, Saturday 18 February 2017

Anyone who speaks a language other than English is invited to register their interest in taking part. All languages are welcome, and any style, from traditional poetic forms to hip hop.

Each person will have up to 5 minutes to read or recite a poem or story in their language/s, or a mix of their language and English. Original work is encouraged, but a favourite piece by another poet is also welcome.

Workshops for young people (12-25 yrs old) who speak a language other than English

Mother Tongue, in partnership with the Multicultural Youth Service, Canberra, is offering two free workshops for young people

- Friday 3 February, 4.30pm – 6pm, to write a poem or short story, and
- Friday 10 February, 4.30pm – 6pm, to learn performance skills to read or recite their words out loud
- Venue for both workshops: Multicultural Youth Services, Level 2 Theo Notaras Centre, London Circuit, Canberra

To sign up to share poetry at the Fringe Festival or for the workshops and/or for more information, email mothertonguemc@gmail.com or call 0433 845 900.

Join and follow the events on <https://www.facebook.com/events/593935637470026/>

5. LANTERN FESTIVAL SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY

A colourful and exciting event for the whole family. Bring your own picnic and enjoy the colour and spectacle of the traditional Chinese Lantern Festival.

- Saturday 11 February, 6.15pm until dark
- Beijing Garden, Lennox Gardens, Flynn Pl, Yarralumla - next to Nara Peace Park. (In the event of rain, the Festival will move to Lancaster Hall, 20-22 National Circuit, Forrest)

There will be performances by dance groups, martial arts groups, the Mawson Primary School choir, musicians and the exciting Lion Dance! Bring your own lantern or buy one at the event. ALL WELCOME. Entrance is FREE.

Prizes for the best hand-made lanterns. If you need help making a lantern - see details of workshop below.

For further information: email acfsevent@gmail.com or ring Carol on 6247 8231.

Organised by the ACT branch of the Australia China Friendship Society, sponsored by the ACT Government Office of Multicultural Affairs, and supported by ACTBEA

Lantern Making Workshop

Come and make a lantern, be creative and then take your lantern to the Lantern Festival! For adults and children (young children will need to be accompanied by adults). Bring a cutting board, scissors, ruler and pencil.

- Saturday 4 February 2017, 1.30 – 3.30pm
- Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton St, Cook
- Cost: \$3 per person.

Workshop Bookings essential to acfsevent@gmail.com or ph Jean 62547732.

6. CANBERRA LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN THE NEWS

- Mawson preschool and the Mandarin immersion program at Mawson Primary School got a special mention in an article about the successful trial in ACT preschools of the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) program: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/act-preschools-trial-successful-language-program-20161117-gsrhgx.html>
- Four Telopea Park School fifth graders will play a special role for the tens of thousands of students expected to tour the National Gallery of Australia blockbuster, Versailles: Treasures from the Palace, this summer. Because the school is uniquely bilingual, its students were chosen to narrate both the English and French children's official audio guides to the exhibition: <http://hercanberra.com.au/cpcity/telopea-park-school-versailles-audio/>
- The German Playgroup was featured in an article about donating to a women's refuge: <http://www.queanbeyanagechronicle.com.au/story/4356563/playgroup-donates-christmas-presents-to-womens-refuge/?cs=5355>

7. ACT COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

The ACT Community Language Schools Association (ACTCLSA) is an umbrella organization which lobbies government on behalf of community language schools for better recognition of languages education outside of school hours. ACTCLSA provides advice on establishing a new school, running a school within government funding guidelines, and sourcing suitable grants. They also offer professional development for community language school teachers, first aid training and opportunities to network with other community language school supporters.

- ACTCLSA has grown to include 49 schools, 1 playschool and 4 playgroups with more than 2,500 students and 370 teachers.
- ACTCLSA provides student certificates co-signed by the ACT Education Directorate
- In 2016, three ACTCLSA schools entered the ACT Chief Minister's Reading Challenge (Chennai Tamil School, Telugu Badi and the Filipino Language School of Canberra).
At the awards ceremony at the National Library, Telugu Badi and Chennai Tamil School were among the 27 schools who received awards for completing 100 percent of Challenge. Four students from the Chennai Tamil School gave a dance performance.

ACTCLSA's current challenge is lobbying the ACT Government for an increase in funding received from the Community Language Schools Grant Program that is paid directly to community language schools. Since 2012, there has been a no allowance for indexation built into the funding or increase in the overall grant funding available to allow ACTCLSA to cover the increases in student numbers they have experienced.

For a list of current schools and contact details, see http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/act_community_language_schools_nov_2016.pdf

For more information check the ACT CLS facebook page or contact admin@actclsa.org.au or phone (02) 6230 5191

8. LAUNCH OF THE CANBERRA ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES

The Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) had its official launch at CMAG on Tuesday 17 January 2017. CAL is a not-for-profit organisation, established to expand opportunities for language learning in the Canberra region. It will complement provisions for language learning that exist in schools, ANU Extension and existing specialist providers. The target group in the foundation year will be students in Years 11-12.

The academy has provisional registration with the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) as a Specialist Education Provider. It will undertake the process for full registration when programs are operating to provide the required information for this.

For more information see: <http://www.cal.act.edu.au/>

9. TERM 1 CLASSES AT THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE CANBERRA

Monday 30 January 2017 – Thursday 6 April 2017

- 2 Campuses: Turner & Barton!
- Adults: all level courses & workshops
- Young learners: pre-kindy, kindy, children, teens
- At Telopea Park School: French after-school classes, French Homework Tutoring

For more information: <http://www.afcanberra.com.au>; phone: (02) 6257 6696 / 6257 2140 or email: enquiries@afcanberra.com.au

10. SERBIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

The recently established Dositej Serbian Language School in Griffith offers classes in Serbian language and culture for school-aged children in the Canberra region. Programs for younger children are in development and adults can also be catered for.

The school aims to offer a fun and positive experience to arouse children's curiosity and interest in their Serbian heritage and to link this with their Australian identity. Students gain awareness of contemporary Serbia as well as its path through history. In addition to traditional classroom work, children learn through team challenges, games, songs, technology, model-building, cooking, art and other activities.

Term 1 begins 18 February; enrolments on 4 February. For more information contact Maria at maria.milbridge@bigpond.com or (02) 6260 8742 or visit on Facebook at <https://web.facebook.com/Dositej-Serbian-Language-School-199077223894774/>

11. SEAL OF BILITERACY – could the ACT build on this idea?

Nearly half of U.S. States offer special recognition for bilingual graduates. They promote bilingualism among K-12 students by offering the seal of biliteracy—special recognition on high school diplomas for graduates who demonstrate fluency in two or more languages.

The popularity of the seals of biliteracy stems in part from the expansion of dual-language programs across public schools that bring both native English-speakers and English-language learners together into classrooms to learn all academic content in English and the target language.

"It's important that we see bilingual education and multilingualism as not just for those for whom English is not their first language, but for all students" ... "We must be committed that all students, whatever language they speak at home, have access to the opportunities to be bilingual or multilingual."

For more details see: http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2016/09/nearly_half_of_us_states_recog.html?_ga=1.140967664.377844270.1483592067

12. READERS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

The Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication (RUMACCC) at the University of Melbourne is proud to share a series of readers to foster reading and literacy in Italian in Australia and elsewhere. The books are designed to support schools and families that wish to teach and use Italian with their students and children respectively: <http://arts.unimelb.edu.au/rumaccc/resources/italian>

Chicken Little, based on a traditional folk story from South Sulawesi and illustrated by Katrina Langford, is available in over 30 languages! Early readers designed to help children enjoy reading in their mother tongue. They are also intended to preserve in print the world's linguistic and cultural diversity:

<http://arts.unimelb.edu.au/rumaccc/resources/chicken-little>

For other readers in various languages courtesy of RUMACCC:
<http://arts.unimelb.edu.au/rumaccc#resources>

13. NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR PATJI-DAWES AWARD TO HONOUR AN OUTSTANDING LANGUAGE TEACHER IN AUSTRALIA.

Nominations are invited from individuals who have achieved a very high level of fluency in a language and would like to honour their teacher by setting out what it was about their teacher's practice which inspired and enabled them to unlock the rewards of learning another language despite all the difficulties involved. The teaching may take place in any setting – school, university, private language school, government department, Indigenous community – provided that the learner is led, by the teacher's inspiration, to a high level of mastery in the chosen language.

Visit <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/education-and-outreach/dawes-award/> for more details and to hear speeches from the 2015 award night, including from the nominating student and the 2016 recipient.

Deadline for submission of nominations: 17 March 2017

The Patji-Dawes award is an initiative of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language, through its Communications and Outreach Program with ongoing support of the AFMLTA and LCNAU.

14. ARTICLES AND LINKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

- Language learning in schools, are we wasting our children's potential – part of a five-part series on SBS about bilingualism and language education in Australia:
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/03/31/language-learning-schools-are-we-wasting-our-childrens-potential>
- Migrant students lead reading, maths in NAPLAN results; Indigenous students improving:
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/12/13/migrant-students-lead-reading-maths-naplan-results-indigenous-students-improving>
- 12 things parents raising bilingual children need to know (available in over 20 languages):
<http://multilingualparenting.com/2014/02/26/12-things-parents-raising-bilingual-children-need-to-know/>
- The Superior Social Skills of Bilinguals:
https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/the-superior-social-skills-of-bilinguals.html?_r=0
- One more article about the benefits of bilingualism for brain development:
<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/11/29/497943749/6-potential-brain-benefits-of-bilingual-education>
- An article that challenges some claims around bilingual cognitive advantages. While it does not say that there is no bilingual advantage, it suggests that it can be overstated and misconstrued. <http://www.newyorker.com/science/maria-konnikova/bilingual-advantage-aging-brain>
- Can ESL teachers play a role in helping maintain the home language?:
<http://www.languageonthemove.com/can-esl-teachers-play-a-role-in-helping-maintain-the-home-language/>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ACTBEA UPDATES WELCOME

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