

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

November 2014

1. CELEBRATE CANBERRA'S LANGUAGES AT WESTON PARK

The ACT Branch of the Australian Institute of Interpreters & Translators (AUSIT) is holding a picnic

- Sunday, 30 November 2014, 12 noon to 3pm.
- Weston Park Rd, Yarralumla, Canberra

Everyone involved in teaching, promoting, and using languages professionally or just speakers of the many languages in the ACT, plus family members and guests (including children) are welcome.

Weston Park is a great place to go for a picnic with playgrounds for the kids, a safe swimming area, shady trees and plenty of water activities to watch.

- Bring your own food and drinks. BBQ facilities available

The gathering is an opportunity to have fun, meet people with common professional interests, discuss related issues and explore future business opportunities.

For more details: Mécia 0417 386 269, Roberto 0431 291 425 or email act@ausit.org

2. CHRISTMAS EVENT FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

- Thursday 11 December 2014, 10am – 1pm
- Tuggeranong Town Park (near the swimming pool)

ACT Playgroups is partnering with Tuggeranong Arts Centre to hold this event, and invites everyone with young children to come along and enjoy the fun.

They are organising activities based on Christmas traditions from other cultures and decorations will include Merry Christmas in various languages.

For more information, contact Vicki Brown, ACT Playgroups, at play@playgroupact.org.au or phone 1800 171 882 or 6251 0261

3. LANGUAGE-BASED SCOUT GROUPS AND ACTBEA IN THE NEWS

A reporter from the Canberra Times got in touch with ACTBEA after seeing a community announcement for the October Languages Afternoon Tea event. The result was a front page picture and article about the scouting groups run in other languages as a way to give young people a chance to use language skills outside the classroom.

- Great publicity for our active ACT languages community!

Read the article at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-life/act-scout-clubs-foster-childrens-native-languages-20141108-11iztb.html#ixzz3IZ3YSB3S>

4. THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGES IN MULTICULTURAL CANBERRA

The ACT Community Services Directorate (CSD) has recently released a discussion paper, [Capital Culture](#), to assist in the development of the ACT Multicultural Framework 2014-2018.

The government is inviting responses to the paper (closing date 30 January 2015) and is inviting interested groups to an ACT Multicultural Summit in Civic to discuss the paper on Saturday, 29 November 2014.

Language is not a focus area in the discussion paper, nor are the benefits of maintaining and promoting our rich language resources in the ACT explicitly acknowledged, though there is mention of the [Many Voices: 2012-16 ACT Language Policy](#) as a possible area “that could be considered for expansion or further refinement” (Capital Culture p9).

If you are interested in participating in the Summit (10am-3pm Saturday 29 November), contact oma@act.gov.au by Tuesday, 25 November 2014 with details of your name, organisation, postal and email address and phone contact.

Please consider getting involved so we can ensure that languages are given adequate and appropriate attention in the final Framework.

The discussion paper can be downloaded from http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/649569/Capital-Culture-a-Discussion-Paper.pdf

5. CAN THE ACT LEARN FROM A NEW LANGUAGES WEBSITE IN VICTORIA?

Love of Language (<http://loveoflanguage.com.au>) aims to alert and inspire all parts of the community to the benefits of maintaining mother tongue language and learning additional languages. The site

- recruits, and provides a way to contact, Language Ambassadors
- links to news and information on language-related games, resources and events
- emphasises the role of languages in all spheres of life, including education, sport, trade, international relations, food, fashion, the arts and travel.

Among the ACT government’s commitments in ACT Language Policy was the undertaking to:

- work with the ACT languages sector to develop a campaign to promote the benefits of languages education and influence positive attitudes towards languages education in our community (Para 5.16)

Could the Victorian initiative be a model the ACT?

6. LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA: BILINGUAL CHILDREN & SHOP

Languages Australia is like a ‘yellow pages’ online directory of language education in Australia. It includes all languages, States/Territories, and education levels from preschool to Government Schools and After-School language options. Languages Australia www.languagesaustralia.com.au provides details about:

- bilingual playgroups and bilingual story time options
- Childcare Centres who teach a language
- Language based activities and classes
- Government Primary & Secondary Schools, and their language programs
- After School government classes, and Saturday Schools

Want to list your language program? Contact Karen below; 95% of listings are free.

NEW: Online Bilingual SHOP run directly by Languages Australia. Bringing you:

- Products printed in AUSTRALIA
- Products translated in 10 languages
- They will translate products in YOUR language – now that’s easy!
- Fundraising options coming soon for community groups

Contact: Karen Nejad, Owner of Languages Australia info@languagesaustralia.com.au

7. ELEVEN LANGUAGES CURRICULA NOW AVAILABLE IN THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Seven new languages curricula (K to year 10) now available: Arabic, German, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese (Chinese, French, Italian and Indonesian are already available).

While the curricula for these seven languages are yet to be finalised, the validation versions are being released as part of the Australian Curriculum development process. The final curricula are scheduled for approval by the Education Council in the coming months. See the curricula in PDF format on the ['Languages' page of the ACARA website](#).

8. TONGUES: AN ONLINE MULTILINGUAL MAGAZINE CELEBRATING AND PUBLISHING WRITING IN ALL LANGUAGES AND ABOUT ALL CULTURES.

Founded by Raelke Grimmer in April 2014, in Adelaide, *Tongues* publishes articles on linguistics, travel, memoir, arts reviews, health, wellbeing, culture and language learning, with a strong focus on exploring different cultures.

Got something to say about linguistic and cultural diversity, or want to share your story, your culture or your language? Have a look at the [submissions](#) page for submission guidelines.

Tongues is supported by [Express Media](#) and [The Copyright Agency Cultural Fund](#) through the 2013 Young Writers Innovation Prize.

9. INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY, SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2015

The Bangladesh Australia Association Canberra Inc (BAAC) is again coordinating a walk and fun family event to celebrate International Mother Language Day in February next year.

Interested in finding out more or getting involved in the event? Contact Ziaul on ziaulhoquebablu@gmail.com or imlm.21Feb@gmail.com for details of an upcoming planning meeting.

For more information about the International Mother Language Movement, see http://imlm21.org.au/?page_id=1109 Meanwhile, mark the date in your diary and watch out for more news about the event in future Bilingual Updates.

FEEDBACK ON THESE UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME.

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

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