

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

April 2015

1. Global Languages: the theme of the ANU Humanities Research Centre for 2015.

The history of the world is characterized by great diversity in languages and societies as small groups split off and develop their own ways of talking and interacting. This diversity has been periodically checked by the rise of larger societies and economies, created by empires, evangelism and the demands of trade and diplomacy.

- How do societies react to the language challenge?
- How do global languages influence ways of thinking and reasoning, ways of seeing the world, ways of expressing feelings?
- How does this affect small language groups?
- How do they influence other modes of communication?

Under this Global Languages theme, the HRC is hosting a number of events, including

Seminar program

- Tuesday Afternoons, 4pm-5.30pm, A.D. Hope Building, ANU

Members of the University and the general public are welcome to attend these free seminars.

For more information see <http://hrc.anu.edu.au/events/hrc-seminar-series> or contact (02) 6125 4357 or email colette.gilmour@anu.edu.au

International Symposium: Global English, Minimal English

- Thursday 2 and Friday 3 July 2015

Featuring a range of speakers from multiple countries and disciplines, this symposium aims to bring new energy and new ideas to interdisciplinary dialogue on two pressing issues: reducing the dangers of Anglocentrism and achieving better intercultural understanding in these times of Global English.

Registration is free but places are limited. For more information see: <http://slll.anu.edu.au/news-events/events/global-english-minimal-english-towards-better-intercultural-communication> or

contact the convenors: Anna Wierzbicka anna.wierzbicka@anu.edu.au, Zhengdao Ye Zhengdao.Ye@anu.edu.au or Cliff Goddard c.goddard@griffith.edu.au

2. The French Research Cluster (FRC)

Established in 2014 to develop ANU's emerging research strength in the area of French Studies, the cluster comprises scholars from a range of disciplines across the humanities and the social sciences, and includes a significant number of early career researchers.

The wider community of ANU scholars and Canberrans interested and invested in French culture are invited to find out more at the Inaugural Book Launch of the FRC hosted by the Humanities Research Centre.

- Wednesday 29 April, 2015, 5.30-6.30pm
- HRC Conference Room, A.D Hope Building #14, ANU

For more information:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/events/the-inaugural-book-launch-of-the-french-research-cluster>

3. Language learning classes and resources

Term two classes are starting soon.

- For a list of some of the many opportunities for adults to learn and practice languages - including English - in the ACT region, see <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-adults.html>
- Using SBS radio Australia podcasts: for learners with intermediate-level listening skills. See more at <http://tongues.com.au/language-learning-resource-roadtest-sbs-radio-australia-podcasts/>

This idea comes via the free newsletter of Tongues, an online and print magazine celebrating the world's linguistic and cultural diversity. For more info see <http://tongues.com.au/>

- Free online language learning apps: Duolingo: <https://www.duolingo.com/> and Memrise: <http://www.memrise.com/>

4. Literary events at the National Library of Australia (NLA)

Meet Graeme Simsion

- Wednesday 29 April 2015, 5.30pm-7.30pm
- Cost: \$21.50 (includes refreshments)

Graeme Simsion, best-selling author of *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect*, will talk about his literary journey, as well as his insightful and endearing characterisation of Asperger Syndrome via hero, Don Tillman. Enjoy a glass of wine and get your books signed all in a good cause – to help raise awareness of autism spectrum disorder.

For bookings see: <http://www.nla.gov.au/node/7869>

Hack Attack

- 27 May 2015, 6pm-7.30pm, Theatre, Lower Ground 1, NLA

In conversation with Matthew Ricketson, Professor of Journalism at UC, Davies reveals the nail-biting story of an investigative journalist's quest, a shining example of the might of good journalism. Hack Attack tells the story of what happened when truth caught up with power (Nick Davies broke the News of the World phone hacking story in the United Kingdom).

The talk will be followed by refreshments and book signing by the author.

For more information about these and other NLA events see: <http://www.nla.gov.au/events>

5. Events organised by the Lu Rees Archives of Australian Children's Literature Inc

'Hippopotomusing' with Hazel Edwards

- Friday 22 May 5pm – 7.30pm
- ALIA House 9 Napier Close, Deakin – parking available onsite

Hazel Edwards will talk about her new memoir, *Not just a piece of cake – Being an Author*. Hazel tackles myths that writing for children is easier or of less significance.

There will be time to speak with Hazel over refreshments, ask questions and have books signed. There will also be a display of items from the Archives' research collection relating to Hazel and her work.

Cost: \$25 – includes refreshments - pay at the door. Booking is essential. RSVP by Monday 18 May to trishmilne@gmail.com

The Colin Thiele Festival

A FREE exhibition featuring items from the Archives' research collection relating to Colin Thiele's books as well as some items from the Thiele family.

- 2 - 28 June 2015, during normal library opening hours (Mon to Fri 10am-5.30pm and Saturday 10am-4pm),
- Civic Library, Mezzanine Floor, Civic Square, London Circuit

School Groups Welcome

Colin Thiele, His Work and Legacy

- Tuesday 2 June 5.00-7.30
- Ann Harding Conference Centre, Building 24, University of Canberra

Three speakers will reveal unique insights of Colin Thiele, as a person and a writer. The director of the *Storm Boy* production at the Canberra Theatre (from 3 - 6 June), John Sheedy, has accepted an invitation to attend.

Cost: \$25 – pay at the door – includes refreshments. Booking is essential. RSVP: by Friday 29 May to trishmilne@gmail.com.

For more information about the Lu Rees Archives visit <http://www.canberra.edu.au/lurees>

6. Some news items and articles about Language Learning

- On The High School Diploma: A 'Bilingual' Stamp Of Approval?
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2015/04/21/400173544/on-the-high-school-diploma-a-bilingual-stamp-of-approval>
- The Guardian and the British Academy launched the Case for Language Learning to investigate the reasons behind the UK's shortage of foreign language skills, discussing the importance and value of learning a foreign tongue. *The Living Languages report* highlights many of the debates and thinking generated by the two-year project, and brings together some of the dominant themes.

For seven of the key findings see:

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/apr/14/seven-language-learning-uk-multilinguism>

For full copy of the report see

http://static.guim.co.uk/ni/1428923743291/BritAcFINAL_living_language.pdf

FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

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