

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update March 2015

1. Growing Professionally – Finding, Learning and Reflecting for Optimum Benefit from Continuing Professional Development

- Saturday, 21 March 2015 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- CIT Bruce Campus, K Block, Vowels Crescent, Bruce

Mini Conference organised by the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators ACT.

Speakers:

- Sam Berner: Principal Partner, Arabic Communication Experts
- Eve Hedley: President, Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association Inc
- Kevin Windle: Emeritus Fellow, School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, ANU
- John Beever, CEO, National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters
- Gaye Campbell, CIT Solutions

Cost: AUSIT Members: \$50, Non-Members: \$70, Student concessions available

- Lunch and morning/afternoon tea included.
- Registrations Close: Friday 20 March 2015

For flyer see http://ausit.org/AUSIT/Eflash/ACT150321_Flyer.pdf

2. Raising children in more than one language

- Sunday 22 March 2015, 1.30pm-4.30pm,
- JG Crawford Building, ANU #132, Lennox Crossing, Acton ACT

A free seminar and discussion session for parents and carers as well as early childhood educators, teachers and others interested in bilingual education.

The program will be led by a panel comprising a teacher at a bilingual school, two parents who are raising bilingual children and two young adults who have grown up bilingually. There will be a refreshment break to give time for networking and perusal of written information about bilingualism and language learning ideas and options, followed by a chance to explore specific topics and hear more discussion of useful resources, including websites.

For more details and to book a place email: Canberrabilingual@gmail.com or visit <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html>

Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance with the support of the ANU and the ACT Government's 2014-15 Multicultural Grants Program

3. Public Seminar: Hindi Express - Phones, tablets and notebooks in class

Presenter: Dr Peter Friedlander, College of Asia & the Pacific, ANU

- Monday 23 March 2015, 4.15 – 5.15 pm
- Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU

How do we deal with era in which students are constantly on their phone, tablet or computer? Seeking to take advantage of this situation, a new online/on-campus course for first year Hindi began to be developed last year (see: <http://www.bodhgayanews.net/topic000.html>).

This presentation looks at issues involved in conceptualizing and creating language teaching materials in an era of constant online access. It will also outline possible directions for research to investigate the impact of online materials on issues such as vocabulary acquisition, teaching time and retention rates.

Dr Friedlander will argue that there are substantial advantages to using online materials and current developments in multi-lingual support on PC/Mac/Android platforms allow for the creation of materials which are widely accessible by students. However, there are also many challenges, in particular, tensions over resourcing development and conflicts between spending time creating online materials and spending time conducting research towards publication goals.

In the end though, the question is not whether students will be accessing materials through phones, tablets and computers but how language teaching can adapt to an era in which, even in class, students are constantly online.

The ANU Language Teaching Forum holds public seminars on the fourth Monday of the month from 4.15pm – 5.15 pm. The forum is jointly coordinated by the College of Arts & Social Sciences (CASS) and the College of Asia & the Pacific (CAP).

For more information:

- Dr Gabriele Schmidt (School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics, CASS) gabriele.schmidt@anu.edu.au
- Dr Duck-Young Lee (School of Culture, History & Language, CAP) duck-young.lee@anu.edu.au
- Ms France Meyer (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, CASS) france.meyer@anu.edu.au

4. Other Language News from the ANU

Javanese on YouTube

"Sri Ngilang" is a language learning exercise for foreign students of elementary Javanese at ANU. By performing the play students visualise and practise the complex respect levels of everyday Javanese and learn a little of Java's music culture and melodramatic theatre. A video of the exercise in 2014 went viral in Indonesia after being posted on YouTube (see <http://youtu.be/uTL6BMG8JZ0>). The video has English subtitles.

Javanese is one of 14 Asian languages offered at the Australian National University. Find out more here: <http://chl.anu.edu.au/languages/courses.php?career=UGRD>

Portuguese now available at first and second year level at ANU

The Portuguese lectureship at ANU has been renewed for another two years. The Brazilian Minister for External Relations together with the Brazilian Embassy has helped the School of Literature, Language and Linguistics at the ANU in the renewal process of the Brazilian Portuguese leitorado. The new Portuguese language and culture leitorado teaches first and second year courses.

For more information contact elisabeth.mayer@anu.edu.au

The ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language

The website for the Centre is now updated and online. Catch up with what they are doing by visiting <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/about/>. You can also follow them on Facebook at The ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language.

5. International Mother Language Day a great success

Over 400 people celebrated International Mother Language Day on Saturday 21 February 2015. The walk across Commonwealth Bridge was followed by live music, cultural performances, kids' activities and multicultural food stalls in Commonwealth Park. Everyone received a free T-shirt specifically designed for the event, which helped symbolise the spirit of 'unity in diversity' among the participants, who represented over 20 different cultural and ethnic groups and spoke more than 40 languages.

Missed the event this year? Come and join the celebration on 21 February 2016, which will be a Sunday! For ABC news coverage of the 2015 event, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVcbPQNmyw&feature=youtu.be>

While the celebration was a day of fun and an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the many languages within the ACT region, the local International Mother Language Movement (IMLM) which coordinated the event has broader goals. These include raising awareness of the need to conserve endangered languages, especially the rapidly declining Aboriginal languages of Australia, and to promote the value of multilingualism to facilitate trust and mutual respect within our multicultural society. These goals are in line with those outlined by UNESCO when it declared 21 February International Mother Language Day in 1999. For more information about IMLM see <http://imlm21.org.au/>.

6. The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA)

ACTBEA is a local non-profit community group that supports and encourage bilingualism in the Canberra region. It organises talks and social events for families raising children in more than one language, and works with staff of schools and preschools with bilingual programs.

ACTBEA's March Update includes items on:

- Traditional German Karneval for Kids, Saturday 14 March 2015 11am to 2pm
- ACT Playgroups World's Biggest Playgroup, Wednesday 25 March 10am—1pm
- Canberra Bilingual Mums'n'Bubs, a new networking and support group
- Bilingual Scout Groups for children from 6 years old
- SBS program in Italian for bilingual families

See: http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/actbea_update_march_2015.pdf for a copy.

ACTBEA also encourages adults to maintain and/or develop bilingual skills. The ACTBEA website has information about some of the many opportunities for adults to learn and practice both English and other languages in the ACT region. For more details, see <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-adults.html>

ACTBEA is affiliated with Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc

7. Some more news items and articles about Language

[Far from extinct, Indigenous languages thriving in public schools in Dubbo](#) *The Canberra Times*, 1 March 2015

[Chinese Teacher Training Centre to close after Education Department ends funding](#) *The Age*, 4 February 2015

[Advice for raising bilingual kids](#), *SBS* 26 January 2015

[Why is Australia condemning language education to insignificance?](#) *EduResearch Matters* 11 January 2015

FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

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