

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update May 2015

1. UPCOMING EVENTS ORGANISED BY AUSIT ACT

(Australian Association of Interpreters and Translators ACT branch)

Networking meeting 2pm Saturday 30 May, 2015

Interpreters, translators and others interested in, and involved with, languages are invited to come along to share experiences and anecdotes and raise queries.

- WHERE? Café at National Museum of Australia, 1 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT

No cost involved. Except for your coffee/tea or whatever you consume.

Round Table Workshop: Setting Standards for interpreters in the ACT (40 PD Points)

- 9.30am – 3pm, Thursday 11 June 2015
- CIT Bruce, B Block, room B104, Vowels Crescent, Bruce, ACT 2617

The main purpose of this workshop is to gather everybody's input into problems/bottlenecks as they perceive them. The following are invited:

- Government/Community organisations using interpreters
- Interpreting services providers
- Interpreters (AUSIT and non-AUSIT members)
- Student interpreters (CIT Community Interpreters Program)
- All others involved with languages or interested in the development of languages

Cost (includes coffee/tea and lunch): \$35 (interpreters/translators) \$10 (CIT Community Interpreting Students) \$50 (others)

For more details and/or to book, contact Mecia at mecia.freire@bigpond.com or Roberto at bbirio@hotmail.com. For more information about AUSIT see <http://www.ausit.org/>

2. ARC CENTRE FOR THE DYNAMICS OF LANGUAGE

The centre's website is now up and running. Find out what the centre does and how you can get involved. Whatever your specific interest in language, you are sure to find something to excite you in their [broad research program](#).

Every year the Centre hosts a series of targeted workshops on the state-of-the-art in language research methods (Summerfest), and holds a public lecture on an aspect of their research. They also offer affiliate status to researchers working within the scope of their program.

Check out their current [job vacancies](#), find out about [upcoming events](#) and subscribe to their newsletter at <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/get-involved/>

3. PATJI-DAWES AWARD TO HONOUR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING BY AN ACCOMPLISHED PRACTITIONER

This award reflects the belief of the ARC Centre for the Dynamics of Language:

- that achieving proficiency in other languages is one of the great learning experiences in the human condition
- that this happens all too rarely in contemporary Australian society, and
- that there is unfilled need for public recognition of those who defy our national mediocrity in this arena.

The teaching may take place in any setting – school, university, private language school or an indigenous community – provided that the learner is led, by the teacher's inspiration, to a high level of mastery in the chosen language.

Nominations are made by someone who has achieved a very high level of fluency in their chosen language and would like to honour their teacher by setting out what it was about their practice which inspired and enabled them to unlock the rewards of learning another language despite all the difficulties involved.

Details of the very simple nomination process can be found at <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/get-involved/dawes-award/>

Deadline for submission of nominations: 20 August 2015.

4. SEVEN MORE LANGUAGE CURRICULA FOR SCHOOLS NOW AVAILABLE

Seven more language curricula now available on the Australian Curriculum website for Kindergarten level to Year 10. The curricula are awaiting final endorsement from the Education Council, but are now available for use.

Together with the four curricula released in 2014, this now means the following languages are now available: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian Korean, Japanese, Modern Greek, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Further languages to follow are Turkish, Hindi, AUSLAN, Classical Greek and Latin.

See the language curricula at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/languages/preamble>

5. HINDI IN AUSTRALIA National Workshop 17 July 2015

Hindi is now recognised in Australia as one of the five priority Asian languages for study in Australian schools. In response to this, ACARA (the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority) has been working with the community to develop a National Hindi Curriculum to be introduced in 2016.

This workshop offers an opportunity for those interested in Hindi to meet to discuss the current state of Hindi in Australia, in education, the community, and in media. The workshop includes keynote speakers from Sydney and Melbourne and is open to all interested parties.

- Friday 17 July 2015, 10am-5pm
- McDonald Room, Menzies Library

For details contact: peter.friedlander@anu.edu.au

6. LANGUAGES POTLUCK LUNCH

- Sunday 14 June, 11am to 1pm
- Polish-Australian White Eagle Club, 38 David Street Turner

A fun event for families raising children in more than one language and others interested in promoting language learning and bilingual education.

- Bring along your favourite foods, cooking skills and recipes to share
- FREE fun activities for children

For more details or to RSVP (by 10 June) email canberrabilingual@gmail.com

This event is being organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance – for more information see: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/> and is supported by the ACT Government Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program 2014-2015

7. SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE FACTORS IN HOME LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

A new international Research Network with the following aims:

- Research: To foster collaborations and exchanges between scholars working in the field of social and affective factors in home language maintenance and development.

- Dissemination: To disseminate research findings on the importance of home language maintenance and development to stakeholders including Departments of Education, policy makers, childcare centres, schools, parents, minority language-speaking communities and the mainstream society.
- Advocacy: To lobby for the recognition and uptake of research findings and to provide expert advice to stakeholders. This might include submissions to Senate inquiries, support and advice to communities on grassroots initiatives and other activities.

If you are interested in this network, please contact Dr Susana Eisenclas or Dr Andrea Schalley of Griffith University at a.schalley-at-griffith.edu.au or s.eisenclas-at-griffith.edu.au

8. BILINGUAL MARKETPLACE

Colourful bilingual flash cards and 'play match' snap cards in a number of languages. Available to families for personal shopping and/or can be used as a way to raise money for your school or group. For more information visit the "bilingual marketplace" website at www.bilingualshop.com.au

This is linked to the Languages Australia website, a 'yellow pages' of language education options for children aged 0-18 years in Australia. See <http://languagesaustralia.com.au/> for details and how to sign up for their free Bilingual News with articles, resources, parent tips / ideas for raising bilingual children in Australia.

9. ENDEAVOUR LANGUAGE TEACHER FELLOWSHIPS AXED FROM JANUARY 2016

The ELTF has for many years provided school languages teachers with in-country experiences to improve and update their language skills, teaching skills and competencies.

The Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers (AFMLTA) is encouraging languages teachers to write to local members of federal parliament to seek their support for the continuation of this program. If you would like to add your voice to this appeal, you could make use of the form of words provided by AFMLTA for its members (see below). The two ACT MPs are Gai Brodtmann and Andrew Leigh.

Dear member

Government decision to withdraw funding from Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships

I write to you as your constituent and as a language teacher. In the Federal Budget, announced by the Treasurer on Tuesday 12 May 2015, the funding for the Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships (ELTF) was withdrawn.

In the strongest of terms I condemn the actions of the Government in withdrawing from this valuable program. This action is in stark contradiction to recent announcements from the Government about the desire to focus on enhancing teacher quality. The ELTF was an invaluable program providing teachers with in-country experience including language instruction courses to improve and update their language skills as well as opportunities to engage in the culture of the language they are teaching. This significantly improved language teacher skills and competencies and helped to ensure their teaching was providing students with a current understanding of the language and its cultural context, a strong feature of the Australian Curriculum: Languages.

We urge you to do whatever possible to support the quality teaching and learning of languages across Australia by ensuring ongoing funding is made available to the ELTF program.

Yours sincerely

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>