

## Canberra Region Languages Forum Update November 2014

### 1. ANU Language Teaching Forum,

Trying to do it Better: Teaching Ancient Greek and Latin at the ANU

- Wednesday 5 November 2014, 4.15–5.15pm
- Al Falasi Theatre, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Building 127, ANU

Panel discussion of the challenges and pedagogical approaches to teaching Ancient Greek and Latin at ANU led by Prof. Elizabeth Minchin, Dr Greta Hawes and Dr Ioannis Ziogas.

Professor Minchin will talk about the advantages and problems of the Classics program for teaching ancient languages; Dr Hawes will discuss the particular issues around having students of different levels in the same class; Dr Ziogas will present his pedagogical strategies in teaching Advanced Latin this Semester and the ways in which literary interpretations can support language learning.

All welcome. No RSVP necessary.

For information about upcoming seminars (2 more scheduled for 2014!) contact

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

### 2. Celebrate Canberra's languages at Weston Park

The ACT Branch of the Australian Institute of Interpreters & Translators (AUSIT) invites everyone engaged in languages to 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 different languages in Australia, 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](mailto:act@ausit.org)

### 3. Official launch of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language

- Monday 24 November 2014, 1.15pm
- Lotus Hall, Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU

Transforming the science of language: how languages vary, how we learn them, how we use them and how they evolve. For more information about the centre and its aims see [www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au](http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au)

Places at the launch are limited so RSVP essential (by Wednesday 12 Nov) to 6125 9376 or email [CoEDL@anu.edu.au](mailto:CoEDL@anu.edu.au)

#### **4. The place of languages in the ACT Multicultural Framework 2014-2018**

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 for submissions 30 January 2015) and there will be an ACT Multicultural Summit to discuss it later in November 2014 (contact [oma@act.gov.au](mailto:oma@act.gov.au) for details).

Language is not a focus area in the discussion paper, so if you are involved in languages, consider attending the summit or responding to the paper to ensure that language services and/or languages education, including English, are given adequate and appropriate attention in the final Framework.

[http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/649569/Capital-Culture-a-Discussion-Paper.pdf](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/649569/Capital-Culture-a-Discussion-Paper.pdf)

#### **5. What can the ACT learn from the Victorian new Love of Language website?**

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 [Many Voices: 2012-16 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)

This was related to the aim of working "closely with the *ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc* to develop community understanding of languages education including acknowledgement of the increasing need for languages education in a changing global context, increased linguistic and intercultural capacities of the ACT teaching workforce, and development of positive attitudes towards languages education among students, families, teachers, community groups and education leaders in the ACT (Para 5.10)

Could the Victorian initiative be a model for the ACT?

#### **6. 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 a 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](#).

#### **7. New China/Canberra scholarship will send students to Shenzhen**

The recent signing of an MOU between ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher and Shenzhen Mayor Xu Qin will enable two Canberra students to take part in a new internship program. Canberra will send two students to Shenzhen and two students will come to the ACT, supported by \$30,000 in government funding. The cost of airfares and living expenses will be shared between both governments and business partners.

Ms Gallagher said both cities would benefit from improved capability in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; internship participants would be exposed to learning experiences and social networks in each city.

Applications for the Study Canberra internship program are expected to open soon; the first exchange placements will take place during 2015.

Read more: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/new-chinacanberra-scholarship-will-send-students-to-shenzhen-20141023-11adz0.html>

## **8. 2014 ACT Japanese Speech Contest a Success**

'The 45th Japanese Language Speech Contest in ACT division' was held at the ANU's Sparke Helmore Law Theatre on 24 September. 32 participants competed in four divisions and three ANU students were awarded first prize.

The winners of each division are:

- High School Senior Division: Mr Christopher Magarry (Marist College)
- Open Beginner Division: Ms Jiyun Jiang (ANU)
- Open Division: Mr Ying Hoi Wong (ANU)
- Background Division: Ms Hannah Bushby (ANU)

## **9. Languages Australia: Bilingual Children & Bilingual SHOP**

Want to see a comprehensive list of language programs for Children 0-18 years in all languages in all States/Territories? The directory is for information purposes only and does not endorse any services or products.

Want to list your language program? Most listings are free.

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

- Products printed in AUSTRALIA
- Products translated in 10 languages with more to come!
- Fundraising options coming soon for community groups

Join the conversation on Languages Australia Facebook Page, contribute to the website or join their Newsletter at <http://languagesaustralia.com.au/>

## **10. *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.

**FEEDBACK ON THESE UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES  
WELCOME.**

**Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at**

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