

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update May 2013

1. DRAFT AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: LANGUAGES OPEN FOR CONSULTATION

The draft Foundation to Year 10 curriculum for Arabic, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese, along with the draft Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages, are opening for public consultation.

Deadline for submissions is **25 July 2013**.

The schedule of release dates is:

- 13 May** French, Indonesian, Korean
- 20 May** Modern Greek, Spanish, Vietnamese, draft Framework for Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages
- 27 May** Arabic, German, Japanese

See <http://consultation.australiancurriculum.edu.au/> for information on how to access the curriculum and how to provide comments and feedback.

2. CURTIN UNIVERSITY MAY ABANDON LANGUAGE MAJORS

Japanese and Chinese language are among the majors that may disappear at WA's Curtin University. Other low enrolment majors targeted include Asian studies. Units with good enrolments may remain, but the majors are in danger of being axed.

Curtin is the third institution to consider abandoning language programs since the government asked former treasury head Ken Henry to craft an Asian Century strategy. Both La Trobe and the University of NSW were to close their Indonesian programs but retreated in the face of lobbying.

To sign an online petition against the possible Curtin cuts, go to <http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/curtin-university-pro-vice-chancellor-humanities-professor-majella-franzmann-do-not-terminate-chinese-japanese-and-asian-studies-majors>

Source: The Australian 10 May 2013. www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/curtin-may-abandon-language-majors/story-e6frgcjx-1226638882380_2/2

3. LAUNCH OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT ANU

And now for some good news!! The new Portuguese program at ANU was launched by the Ambassador of Brazil at a packed function at the ANU on 21 May 2013. The course, offering a practical introduction to the Portuguese language, will commence in second semester, using an innovative combination of on-line and face-to-face teaching and learning.

For more information, contact Elisabeth.Mayer@anu.edu.au

4. FRENCH-AUSTRALIAN PRESCHOOL OPEN DAY

The French-Australian Preschool, which offers a full time French immersion program to children aged three to five, will host an open day for prospective families to meet staff and learn more about the preschool program and the French education system.

11am – 2pm, Saturday 1 June 2013, French-Australian Preschool, Astrolabe Street, Red Hill

For more information call 02 6295 0621, email info@frenchaustralianpreschool.com.au

5. TRADITIONAL GERMAN LANTERN WALK IN CANBERRA: 100 Lanterns for Canberra's Centenary!

Sunday 16 June, 2013, 5 – 6.30pm, Glebe Park in Civic

Sausages, Saint Martin's Brötchen, traditional Gluehwein and Kindergluehwein will be available for a gold coin donation each (BYO mug). Song sheets provided. After the walk, everyone will return to the starting point for desserts/treats. ALL WELCOME

For more information email spielwelt@hotmail.com.au, ring Lisa on 6251 7743, or visit www.spielwelt.org.au/home/page.php?pid=97&nid=63

6. MULTILINGUAL POTLUCK LUNCH

Saturday 29 June 2013, 11am – 1pm, Function Room, Theo Notaras Centre, North Building, Civic Square

Come and meet young families raising children in more than one language for a fun multilingual lunch. Bring along your favourite foods and share your cooking skills and recipes. There will be some children's games and activities. FREE ALL WELCOME

For more details or to book, email canberrabilingual@gmail.com or call 0408 089 235

7. LANGUAGE CONFERENCES AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN JULY

- 3 to 5 July, '2013 Policies, practices and research in university language and culture programs' **LCNAU 2nd biennial conference**

Registration is free until the conference is full. Preference will be given to LCNAU affiliates and other language and culture tertiary educators. For more information see <http://lcnau2013.cap.anu.edu.au/>

All welcome to the public lecture: 'Languages, the Asian Century White Paper, and Three Provocations for the Committed from a Pragmatic Humanist'. 5.30pm Thursday 4 July. Speaker: Kent Anderson, University of Adelaide. See LCNAU website for details.

- July 5 to July 8, 2013 **Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) National Conference**
<http://afmlta.asn.au/submissions/ocs-2.3.5/index.php/AFMLTA2013/AFMLTA2013>
- July 6 and 7 2013 **National Chinese Languages Teachers' Conference**
<http://www.cltfa.asn.au/frameset.htm> or email Dr Li Fuxin at ascc@trilong.com.au
- July 8 to 11 **2013 Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA) Conference**
<http://chl.anu.edu.au/sites/jsaa2013/>

8. MANDARIN EDUCATION IN THE ACT: PATHWAYS TO PROFICIENCY

Saturday 10 August at the ANU

A forum to bring together all those involved in Mandarin education in the ACT region, from early childhood to tertiary level, to explore ways to maximise the range and quality of the teaching and learning of Mandarin and to increase student participation and retention rates. Local politicians, Chinese community leaders, and relevant diplomatic personnel and business people, plus some interstate experts will also be invited. The forum will focus on the ACT region to maximise the chances of successful practical outcomes.

The main objectives of the forum are to:

- Develop networks and strategic partnerships to demonstrate and build on the quality and proficiency outcomes of Mandarin programs for children in the ACT

- increase interest in learning and continuing to learn Mandarin in ACT schools, including community language schools
- encourage language maintenance among Canberrans of Chinese background and heritage.

In June 2013, there are plans for an evening seminar to canvass the views and expectations of parents and families in the Canberra region about Mandarin learning in schools so these can be fed into the forum discussion.

For more information, contact canberraalma@gmail.com

**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>