

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

November 2013

1. Celebrating mother tongues and family languages in Australia

The Bangladesh Australian community in Canberra is seeking partners to help them in their efforts to increase community awareness of the importance of mother tongue and heritage languages in Australia. They hope to spearhead a national movement to recognise and celebrate International Mother Language Day on 21 February each year, beginning with an event in Canberra in 2014.

The Bangladesh Australian community are inviting community groups and peak organisations, including indigenous and multicultural groups, educational bodies and the media to a planning workshop at 5pm on Wednesday 4 December.

For more information about this initiative, contact Ziaul at IMLM.21Feb@gmail.com

2. Languages Potluck Lunch

Saturday 30 November, 11am-1pm, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, North Building, Civic

A fun get-together for families raising children in more than one language and people interested in bilingual education. Free activities in various languages for children. Bring along your favourite foods as well as your cooking skills and recipes to share with others and enjoy dishes from around the world. Hot drinks, cups, plates and cutlery provided.

This activity is being organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance. Visit the website at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/> for more details or email canberrabilingual@gmail.com

This project was made possible by the support of the ACT government's 2013-14 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program.

3. Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Australian National Dictionary

Thursday 28 November 2013

- *4.15pm: Lecture and Seminar*
School of Cultural Inquiry Conference Room, A.D. Hope Building (Bld #14), ANU
Associate Professor Richard White from the University of Sydney will talk about the comings and goings of an eclectic collection of Australian words whose careers have been tracked by the Australian National Dictionary.
- *6pm: Reception*
Launch of the publication 'Celebrating 25 Years of the Australian National Dictionary', Australian National Dictionary Centre (Building 13T1). RSVP (required) to amanda.laugesen@anu.edu.au.

4. National Curriculum Languages

The draft Chinese and Italian curricula have been revised based on feedback from national consultation and the validation process. The revised documents are available for comment until 22 November 2013 but this is not a formal public consultation process. Formal feedback will be sought from state and territory education authorities through the ACARA Languages National Panel. Copies of the revised drafts can be downloaded from <http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com.au/>

For more information about the Australian Curriculum: Languages see <http://www.acara.edu.au/languages.html>

5. Language News from the ACT Education and Training Directorate (ETD)

Melrose Cluster project in Indonesian online for year 9-10 elective

Melrose High School is currently running a trial Indonesian Hub Model in two high schools, Belconnen and Caroline Chisholm. The program combines 3-4 hours on-line delivery with a face to face class every second week from the teacher. There is also at least a one day excursion per term where students from both schools meet up.

The initiative is looking at supporting schools that may have difficulty in finding a language teacher and/or have small numbers enrolled in a language. The model also provides an opportunity for collaboration between schools and students.

11 students started the year at Belconnen and Caroline Chisholm high schools in this on-line program.

Increasing numbers of student taking Asian languages, including at Year 12 level

| | K-6 | | 7-10 | | 11-12 | | 2009 Total | 2013 Total |
|-------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|-------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2009 | 2012 | 2009 | 2012 | 2009 | 2012 | | |
| Japanese | 3038 | 5860 | 1148 | 1685 | 303 | 336 | 4486 | 8224 |
| Mandarin | 46 | 672 | 279 | 422 | 300 | 672 | 625 | 1364 |
| Indonesian | 1626 | 3063 | 326 | 553 | 22 | 33 | 1974 | 3786 |
| Korean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 61 | 29 | 60 |

Policy for languages education

For the rationale for teaching languages in schools and the link to the ACT Languages Pathways Plan see http://www.det.act.gov.au/archive_jan13/curriculum_support/languages

26 ETD schools have sister schools relationships

Of the ETD schools involved, 10 are primary schools, 4 are K-10 schools, 7 are high schools and 5 are colleges. 17 of the schools have one sister school relationship, five have two sister school relationships and four have three or more!

These partnerships are with Jakarta, Bogor and Mandani in INDONESIA; Vientiane in LAOS; Arles and Grenoble in FRANCE, Noumea in NEW CALEDONIA, Beijing, Shanghai, Dezhou, Hangzhou, and Xian in CHINA; Nara, Matsusak, Kyoto, Osaka, Makabetsu and Anan in JAPAN; New Jersey and Illinois in the USA, Taipei in TAIWAN and Seoul in KOREA

6. Languages thriving at the Australian National University

Languages are a Priority Area for undergraduate recruitment at the ANU in 2014. High school students doing a Language other than English (Senior Secondary Certificate, score 159+) will receive 5 academic bonus points on top of their ATAR for all ANU programs, excluding programs with an ATAR of 98.1 or above.

An anonymous donor has donated \$1 million to enhancing language studies in Portuguese, Russian and Indigenous Australian languages. The ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences have agreed to invest \$100,000 bringing the overall donation to \$1.1 million.

The ANU is offering Intensive Summer courses in Mongolian and Arabic:

- For information about an intensive 3 week course in Mongolian from 28 January 2014, contact li.narangoa@anu.edu.au.
- For Elementary Arabic (5 hrs per week, Tuesday & Thursday 4.30—7pm) between 7 January — 6 February 2014 at a cost of \$450, contact Kerry Pert at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. Tel: (02) 6125 1061, email cais@anu.edu.au

Outreach to schools

The ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP) is running its annual *ANU EngageAsia* immersion workshops for students in Year 10 and 11 on 2-3 December 2013. This program brings school students from the surrounding regions onto campus for two days of language lectures and activities. There are currently 80 students registered for the Japanese stream and 60 for the Mandarin stream.

Assistance available for CAP students to study in Asia or the Pacific

Students who enrol in a bachelor degree offered by the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP) are guaranteed the following to support their study as part of their degree:

- At least \$3000 to participate in the CAP Year in Asia program
- At least \$2000 to participate in the CAP Semester in Asia program
- At least \$500 to participate in a study tour course or an in-country language course in Asia

Students with an ATAR over 95 (including bonus points) in 2013 will be guaranteed at least \$5000 for overseas study during their degree. For more information, email asiapacific@anu.edu.au or visit asiapacific.anu.edu.au

ANU is becoming the centre for Hispanic Linguistics in Australia.

From 2014, the ANU will offer a minor in Hispanic Linguistics, the only university in Australia to do so and the only university to teach Hispanic Linguistics courses in Spanish.

Capitalising on this major research focus, the School of Language Studies recently launched a new research centre: RomLA ("Romance Linguistics in the Antipodes"). The centre will bring together scholars working on linguistic analyses of Romance languages in the Antipodes and beyond. For more details, visit <http://languages.anu.edu.au/node/1365>

7. Awards and Nominations for language champions in the ACT

Congratulations to the following for being nominated for an ACT Centenary Multicultural Award in 2013

- ACT Community Language Schools Association, shortlisted for a Multicultural Award for Community Organisation of the Year
- The EALD teachers at Aranda Primary School for their nomination under the Education category. The EALD teachers emphasise the role of home languages in the development of English language and overall cognitive skills of children.

Congratulations also to Dr Carol Hayes of the ANU for her Award for Teaching Excellence at the Australian Awards for University Teaching. The award recognizes Carol's passion and hard work in teaching Japanese.

**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>