

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

September 2015

1. ANU Language Showcase – What's in A Language?

- Tuesday 8 September 2015

A day aimed at school students from Years 9-12 to give them an engaging and interactive first taste of University language studies.

ANU Language students and clubs will be there to speak first-hand about studying a language at ANU. Some local organisations that promote language learning have also been invited to be on hand to talk to students during the lunch break.

For more details, a draft timetable and to register (essential for students and teachers) see <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/events/whats-in-a-language> or contact Dale at dale.druhan@anu.edu.au or on 6125 6404

2. ANU Language Teaching Forum

A monthly forum on Mondays 4.15 – 5.15 pm, jointly coordinated by the School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics (ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences) and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies and the School of Culture, History & Language (ANU College of Asia & the Pacific).

The next Forum (Monday 26 October) will be a presentation from Consuelo Martinez Reyes.

For more information and to join the mailing list, contact:

- Dr Louise Jansen (SLLL, CASS): louise.jansen@anu.edu.au
- Dr Duck-Young Lee (CHL, CAP): duck.lee@anu.edu.au
- Ms France Meyer (CAIS, CASS): france.meyer@anu.edu.au

The November forum will be a pre-LCNAU colloquium.

For information about LCNAU (Language and Culture Network of Australian Universities) and the colloquium see <http://www.lcnau.org/>

3. Workshop: Supporting Primary and Secondary Teachers to Thrive in Mixed Ability Classrooms by Differentiating the Curriculum.

- Tuesday 8 September, 9am-3pm at the Statesman Hotel in Curtin.
- Cost: \$220 per person (GST, Manual, Certificate & Catering included)

This workshop presented by Ralph Pirozzo offers a professional learning opportunity with practical information about creating student choices, ability/multi age grouping, cooperative learning teams, learning contracts, learning centres, Individualised Learning Plans, critical and creative thinking tools, and planning and assessment.

The program is ACT TQI accredited for 5 hours. For further details and registration contact Ralph on 07 3263 1764, Mobile 0419 788 311 or email: ralph@pli.com.au

4. Pronunciation Workshop: Tai Chi and tennis balls: Haptic techniques for teaching pronunciation

- Saturday 19 September, 9.30am - 1pm at Hughes Primary School
- Presenter: Michael Burri
- Cost: ATESOL ACT Members \$10, Non members \$50

This workshop, which is TQI accredited, will explore some memorable and excitingly new techniques for exploring pronunciation. You will explore sounds, stress patterns and

intonation of English with practical exercises using gesture, touch and movement. This kinaesthetic pronunciation teaching method can help students develop fluency and sound differentiation skills using physical memory. It is suitable for all levels of language learners.

More information and Bookings at <http://www.atesolact.org.au/events/> by COB Tuesday 15th September 2015

5. HSK Test Centre now open in Canberra

HSK is an official Chinese Proficiency Test for study and employment in China. China Hanban has now established a test centre in Canberra, hosted by the Australian School of Contemporary Chinese.

The test is open to universities, secondary schools, primary schools, Chinese community language schools, Australian Government agencies, companies and any individuals and educational institutions in Canberra.

There are four types of tests (HSK, HSKK, BCT, YCT) and the Canberra HSK test centre will take collective or individual registration. There will be centralised examinations twice each year in May and October. One-to-one tests may be arranged based on personal needs.

For more information see www.standardchineseschool.act.edu.au, call (02) 6176 0528, 6100 6478 or contact: Mr He 0425 910 505 or Ms Sun:0430 835 542.

6. Interested in gaining NAATI accreditation as a community interpreter?

Come along to an information session about a training course which will prepare students to take the NAATI paraprofessional interpreter test.

- Saturday 24 October 2015 West Wing Meeting Room, 3pm-5pm OR
- Tuesday 27 October 2015 , Function Room, 6pm-8pm

Address of both the above: 2nd Floor, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Civic

The information session, run by CIT Solutions and the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF), will cover course aims, format, costs, and how to apply for a place. The course will be held at CIT, Reid Campus and is planned to start in February 2016 with a preparatory session in November 2015. Course fees (\$150) are greatly subsidised thanks to funding provided by the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).

Participants who successfully complete the course will be eligible for OMA scholarships to apply for and sit the NAATI paraprofessional test. Once accredited, course graduates will be required to register with the OMA so that their services can be called on by ACT government departments.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS: As well as proficiency in your own dialect, there will be a requirement to have a good level of proficiency in the standard form of your language. You will also need to have a certain minimum level of proficiency in English, equivalent to Level 6 in the IELTS General Training scale (i.e. a competent user of English).

For more details and/or to register for one of the information sessions, email Amy at amy.shi@cit.edu.au before 25 September or languagesact@gmail.com after that date.

7. Parrot Time: a magazine covering language, linguistics and culture of the world around us.

The July/August issue of Parrot Time is now available online. Contributions for future issues welcome.

For more information see <http://www.parrottime.com/>

8. Would you like to teach English in China?

Several vacancies exist for teachers of English for junior middle school children with non-English speaking backgrounds in High Schools in Shandong Province, PRC.

Duties include organising classroom activities, conducting classes in line with guidelines, textbooks and supplementary materials that are provided, organising regular assessment including tests and exams, participating in professional development including workshops, seminars and discussions. Duties may vary. 12 month contract, extendable. Start as soon as possible. Remuneration: Salary, international airfare, living allowance and transport subsidy.

Applications close 15 September 2015.

Selection criteria:

1. Native speaker of English with a tertiary qualification
2. Relevant experience in teaching English and organising classroom activities for students with bilingual (Chinese and English) backgrounds, especially in classroom environments
3. Responsible, enthusiastic, patient, and showing respect to children
4. Good presentation and communication in English

Email resume to ascc@trilong.com.au (in English or Chinese) or by fax: (02) 8003 9188. For more details, contact: Mr Yunfei He 0425 910 505; Ms Yangxue Sun, 0430 835 542.

9. ACT talks the talk on languages

This article reports that the ACT appears to be bucking a national decline in the number of school students studying languages. ACT Minister for Education and Training, Joy Burch, said that approximately 26,000 public school students were studying languages through the priority language program in ACT public schools in 2014. This represented a twofold increase since the program was introduced in 2008. Ten languages are taught in Canberra's public schools: eight priority languages (Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean and Spanish) and Latin and Hindi.

The Language Pathways Plan on the ACT Education and Training Directorate website (http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/123396/Language-Pathways-2014.pdf) maps the availability of different language programs and ensures continuity for students seeking to continue language studies through the primary, secondary and college years. In addition, the ACT Government supports the delivery of programs in 40 languages at more than 50 community language schools across Canberra.

For a full copy of the article see: <http://www.psnews.com.au/act/470/news/act-talks-the-talk-on-languages>

10. Other articles that may be of interest

- Cognitive Advantages of Bilingualism
Professor of Linguistics at Harvard University, Maria Polinsky, explains arguments for raising bilingual children. <http://serious-science.org/coognitive-advantages-of-bilingualism-2-2610>
- Without a second language our kids are second class citizens
This article concentrates on Asian languages but makes some good points. <http://www.laborherald.com.au/education/without-a-second-language-our-kids-are-second-class-citizens/>
- Community languages and mainstream education
An article from the UK about the potential benefits of supporting community languages and ideas for cooperation with mainstream schools: <http://leftfootforward.org/2015/07/how-we-can-save-community-languages-and-why-we-should/>

- Language and the law: NT judges 'on trial' in role-playing court lesson
Northern Territory Supreme Court justices take to the defendant's dock and put interpreters in charge to highlight the difficulties for non-English speakers in court: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-29/nt-judges-on-trial-in-role-playing-court-lesson/6734816>
- A link to several linguistic databases and datasets: <http://languagegoldmine.com/>

11. All About Book Groups

Want to join a book group but not sure how to go about it? Attend this information session to find out how to start your own book group or join an existing one.

- Monday 7 September, 6 pm – 7 pm, Woden Library.

Bookings at: <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/all-about-book-groups-woden-library-tickets-17964090077?aff=ebapi>

12. Canberra Bilingual Families

The Canberra Bilingual Mums'n'bubs group has changed its name to Canberra Bilingual Families. Join them on [Facebook](#) to contact other families interested in raising children in more than one language and for information and links to informative and useful resources for families.

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>