

# Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

April 2017

## 1. Noted Writers Festival: 3 - 7 May 2017

An independent celebration of words and writing for anyone and everyone who loves to write. All are invited to get involved in free panels, workshops, lectures, readings, literary bar crawls, children's events, an independent publishing fair and more! For details: <http://www.notedfestival.com/search-by-stream/>

You might be particularly interested in the Multilingual Hub - see Item 2 below

## 2. Multilingual Hub, Noted Festival

- Sunday, May 7, 2017,
- Main Hall, Gorman Arts Centre, 55 Ainslie Avenue

### Lots-o-Lingo! 10am-11am

Select a language from the menu and learn the basics from an expert. Write your name in Farsi, introduce yourself in Urdu, recite a French verse, order a beer in Polish and much much more!

### Translate THIS 11am-12noon

In this enlightening and informal conversation, Graciela McNamara, multilingual writer and translator sheds some light on the incredibly complex and, at times, plain frustrating, ins and outs of thinking and writing in different languages.

### Tongues at the Table 12 noon-1pm

In a series of readings that will make you hungry, four writers who grew up with a language other than English will share stories, recipes and phrases from their childhood kitchens.

### Homespun 1.30pm-2.30pm

In languages including Azerbaijani, Indonesian, Persian, Serbian and Spanish, Mother Tongue poets will weave a tapestry of sound and meaning, exploring the universal idea of home.

For more details: <http://www.notedfestival.com/program?category=Multilingual%20Hub>

And if you are interested in Auslan – also Sunday, May 7

### Gimme Some Kind of Sign 2pm-2.30pm in the Gorman Arts Centre Courtyard

Community indie pop choir Mixtape Chorus have teamed up with the Deaf Society to learn some basic Auslan.

## 3. A chance to promote languages at the Noted Festival, Sunday 7 May

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) will have an information booth at the Multilingual Hub to promote the benefits of learning/maintaining other languages and to encourage people to learn a new language or develop the language skills they already have.

- Sunday, May 7, 2017, 10am – 3pm
- Main Hall, Gorman Arts Centre, 55 Ainslie Avenue

If you have brochures or pamphlets about a language program that you would like to display and/or could help on the stall by sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge, please let us know at [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com) or add your name to the roster at <http://doodle.com/poll/qzi2n8vt3epkesus>

## 4. Woroni Multilingual

The Australian National University's student newspaper Woroni recently launched a multilingual section. It publishes writing in non-English languages and is always seeking contributions. You do not have to be a student or affiliated with the ANU to get involved!

- Submissions are welcome in a variety of forms (e.g. opinion pieces, poetry, fiction, short essays, memoir) and on a variety of topics. Upper word limit of 1000 words approx.
- Woroni encourages people to submit their writing even if they are not wholly confident in their language abilities. Woroni Multilingual works with native speakers of different languages alongside contributors to edit and proofread submissions.

More information can be found via the ['Woroni Multilingual' Facebook page](#) or contact [write@woroni.com.au](mailto:write@woroni.com.au).

## 5. Celebration of the Portuguese language

- 5 May 2017, 12.30pm - 2pm
- Nye Hughes Room, ANU Centre for European Studies, 1 Liversidge Street [Building 67C]

Dr Kate Mitchell, Head of the ANU School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, Dr Elisabeth Mayer, Director ANCLAS, and HE Ambassadors: Abel Guterres (Timor-Leste), Paulo Cunha-Alves (Portugal) and Manuel Innocencio de Lacerda Santos Jr.(Brazil) have the honour to invite you to this celebration of the Portuguese language.

### Program

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| 12.30 | Dr Elisabeth Mayer: Welcoming words  |
| 12.35 | Ms Isabel D'Avila: Luís de Freitas Branco, a Portuguese Composer   |
| 12.45 | Ms Kate Ticehurst: Carnival: More than just feathers   |
| 12.55 | Mrs Mécia Freire: Aspects of the Portuguese influence in Goa   |
| 13.05 | HE Abel Guterres: 2017 Timor-Leste national elections and first time voting for Timorese dual nationals in Darwin, Sydney and Lisbon |
| 13.15 | Finger food and refreshments provided by the Embassies   |

RSVP by Monday 1 May to [anclas@anu.edu.au](mailto:anclas@anu.edu.au)

## 6. ANU Language Teaching Forum

A forum for language teachers and researchers across ANU colleges and language educators from outside the university such as secondary school teachers and teachers from community schools. The forum's main objective is to foster the exchange of research and new approaches in language education. It is held on the fourth Monday of the month.

Next forum for 2017 will be

- Monday 24 April 2017, 4.15 – 5.15 pm
- Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU
- Dr Yuko Kinoshita, *School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, CASS, ANU*
- ["Developing an educational toy for Japanese language: Fostering analytical skills through grammar acquisition"](#)

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

- Ms France Meyer (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, CASS)  
[france.meyer@anu.edu.au](mailto:france.meyer@anu.edu.au)
- *Dr Duck-Young Lee (School of Culture, History & Language, CAP)*  
[duck.lee@anu.edu.au](mailto:duck.lee@anu.edu.au)
- *Dr Manuel Delicado (School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, CASS)*  
[manuel.delicado@anu.edu.au](mailto:manuel.delicado@anu.edu.au)

## 7. Opportunities to learn and practice languages in Canberra

### a) Polyglot Club

Mondays evenings at the ANU. Small conversation groups in French, German, Spanish and Danish. For more information see <http://www.canberrapolyglot.org/>

#### b) French with the Alliance Française de Canberra

- French courses for adults and children – all levels
- Term 2 starts 26 April 2017
- Cultural events, Library and other Services

For more details: <http://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

#### c) Learn Indonesian with the Australia Indonesia Association ACT Inc (AIA (ACT))

- Fun vocational classes held at a private address in O'Malley
- Teachers are professional and native Indonesian speaking
- Five Levels from Beginners level 1 to Advanced
- Classes commence week beginning 1 May 2017 and run for 8 weeks
- Early bird discounts for payments before 27 April.

For more details: <https://aia-act.org.au/learn-indonesian>, phone 0406 930 835 or email [yp-australian@aia-act.org.au](mailto:yp-australian@aia-act.org.au)

d) For other opportunities to study and practice a range of languages in the Canberra region: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/other-language-programs.html>

### **8. Host family opportunities: experience a new culture, make new friends and learn a new language**

In July 2017, students aged 15 – 18 years from over 25 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 3-10 months. Opportunities are available to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide each student with the chance to study and experience life in Australia.

This is a great way to practice your language skills, share your stories, learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. Students bring with them their own spending money, health insurance and a desire to learn about their new host country.

To learn more, call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit the website at <http://studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student>

### **9. Data wanted for Kinship questionnaire**

University College London is collecting data about kinship terms from over 500 of the world's languages. All the data collected will be open source for free use by linguists and anthropologists. Native speakers, professional linguists and language enthusiasts are invited to take part. For more information about the project and a short (five minute) internet survey see <https://sites.google.com/view/thegreatlanguagemuster/home>

### **10. Articles and links that may be of Interest:**

- Fighting for 'pure' Mongolian, *Languages on the Move*, 10 April 2017. On New Year's Eve, a group of Mongols in remote Inner Mongolia ... were busy burning dictionaries. <http://www.languageonthemove.com/fighting-for-pure-mongolian/>
- "Mandarin skills open doors for jobseekers", *The Australian*, 12 April 2017. Discusses the increased demand for Mandarin speakers in the job market. Google article name for more information.
- How Britain's monolingualism will hold back its economy after Brexit, *The Conversation*, 31 March 2017 [https://uk.news.yahoo.com/britains-monolingualism-hold-back-economy-110510123.html?soc\\_src=social-sh&soc\\_trk=tw](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/britains-monolingualism-hold-back-economy-110510123.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=tw)

### **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>