

# Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

August 2013

## 1. ANU LANGUAGE TEACHING FORUM

A new discussion platform to enhance the exchange of research and new approaches in language education across ANU colleges. The forum is also open to interested people from outside the university, such as school teachers and teachers from community schools.

**When?** The second Monday of every month, 4 - 5.30pm, followed by drinks & nibbles.

**Where?** Room W121, Baldessin Precinct Building (Building no.110 – see map at [http://facilities.anu.edu.au/\\_documents/maps-and-way-finding/visitor-parking-map.pdf](http://facilities.anu.edu.au/_documents/maps-and-way-finding/visitor-parking-map.pdf)).

First presentation: Monday 12 August, 4 pm. Gabriele Schmidt: Mixed methods research into language learning motivation.

For more information, contact:

- [Gabriele.Schmidt@anu.edu.au](mailto:Gabriele.Schmidt@anu.edu.au) or 6125 2785 (School of Language Studies)
- [Duck.Lee@anu.edu.au](mailto:Duck.Lee@anu.edu.au) or 6125 3205 (School of Culture, History & Language) or
- [France.Meyer@anu.edu.au](mailto:France.Meyer@anu.edu.au) or 6125 5483 (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies)

## 2. FORUM ON MANDARIN EDUCATION IN THE ACT

Australian National University (ANU), Saturday 10 August 2013, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Are you interested in promoting the learning of Mandarin? If so, come and share your experience and ideas at this forum, which will explore options to:

- expand and improve on opportunities for children to learn Chinese in the Canberra area
- increase interest in learning Mandarin in ACT schools
- develop links between education providers from preschool to university level
- encourage language maintenance among Canberrans of Chinese heritage.

The morning session is for invited educators, community leaders and decision makers who will discuss issues such as sequencing of learning, bilingual options, accessing and developing resources, the use of ICT, and teacher training. The afternoon session is open to all, and will include highlights of the morning outcomes and an opportunity for questions and general discussion.

The forum is free, but registration is essential. Contact [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com) or see <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/activities--events.html> for more details.

## 3. HOMESTAY HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

The ACT Education and Training Directorate is looking for host families for international students attending ACT public schools. Most students are aged between 15 and 18. Homestay families gain a unique understanding of cultural diversity through the relationship that develops with the student they host.

While it is important to assist students in their language development by speaking English in the home, as a multicultural society, people from all cultural backgrounds are welcomed as homestay hosts. Suitable families can be paid up to \$260 a week.

Interested? Want more information? Contact Nicole King, Manager of the International Education Unit on 6205 6998 (BH) or at [nicole.king@act.gov.au](mailto:nicole.king@act.gov.au) (email)

#### **4. PARTICIPATION (MULTICULTURAL) GRANTS PROGRAM**

Apply now for a 2013-14 Participation (Multicultural) Grant for innovative projects which contribute to sustainable communities by highlighting and promoting cultural diversity and social harmony in the ACT community.

A total of \$280,000 is available for these grants, and you can apply for activities that fall within the following categories:

- National Multicultural Festival;
- Community Radio Stations and Multicultural Community Broadcasters; and
- Multicultural Community Participation and Social Harmony.

For guidelines and application forms (which have to be completed online) see [http://www.grants.act.gov.au/health\\_comm\\_grants](http://www.grants.act.gov.au/health_comm_grants) Closing date: 5pm Friday 6 September 2013.

For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs on (02) 6207 0555 or email [omatsia@act.gov.au](mailto:omatsia@act.gov.au)

**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>