

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

March 2016

1. Promote languages at the Connect and Participate (CAP) Expo, Saturday 19 March

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) is having a stall at this event to publicise the range of opportunities to learn languages in the Canberra region and to encourage people to get involved. The expo is great fun for all the family. It is a free event involving over 150 local clubs and societies with many 'come and try' activities and performances on several stages.

- WHEN? Saturday 19 March, 11am-4pm
- WHERE? Old Bus Depot Markets, 21 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston.

If you are attending the expo, please visit the ACTBEA stall, number 149 on the upper level. Feel free to stay a while and share your enthusiasm for languages with others!

For more information on the Expo see:

<http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/wac/community/connect-and-participate-expo>

For more details about the ACTBEA stall, contact canberrabilingual@gmail.com

Note: ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government's 2015-16 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program for funding its activities at this event.

2. Noted Festival, 16 – 20 March 2016

Noted is Canberra's independent writers' festival and one of the newest additions to Canberra's cultural calendar – a celebration of reading, writing and all things literary that is not to be missed.

It features authors, poets, journalists, publishers, editors, dancers, zine-makers, visual artists and more. More than sixty free panels, AMAs, workshops and children's events in city cafés, galleries, pubs and arts centres. See full program at <http://www.notedfestival.com/program-2016>.

Two workshops that might be of particular interest:

Auslan Storytelling Workshop

- Sunday, March 20, 12 noon to 1pm
- Main Hall, Gorman Arts Centre, 55 Ainslie Avenue, Braddon

Doubling as an introduction to basic Auslan, this open-to-everybody workshop aims to teach you the basics of this beautiful language and then have a chance to watch a story be performed.

Workshop: Other Tongues

- Sunday, March 20, 9.30 – 11.30am
- C Block Theatre foyer, Gorman Arts Centre, 55 Ainslie Avenue, Braddon

Is English your second language? Or are you an Australian-based writer working in a language other than English? Join journalist and European media expert, Alia Papageorgiou, for a workshop on the challenges and opportunities of writing outside your mother tongue.

3. More opportunities to celebrate other languages in poetry in the Canberra Region

Mother Tongue is a multilingual poetry open mic celebrating cultures, history and identities from around the globe. Their inaugural Multilingual Mic was held on Saturday 13 February 2016 as part of the Canberra Multicultural Fringe. For more information and future activities visit them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mothertonguemmic/> or email MothersTongueMic@gmail.com

4. Seminar: Raising children in more than one language

- Sunday 10 April 2016, 2pm - 4pm
- Molongolo Theatre, ANU JG Crawford Building, 132 Lennox Crossing, Acton ACT

Guest speaker: Dr Susanne Döpke: Melbourne-based speech pathologist and consultant on bilingualism with an academic background in language acquisition, bilingualism, and cross-cultural communication (see bio below).

A seminar for families raising children in more than one language, early childhood educators, teachers and others interested in bilingual education all welcome. There will be ample time for Q and A and general discussion in the second half of the seminar.

- Free entry and nearby parking – search for venue at <http://www.anu.edu.au/maps#>
- Light refreshments provided.

Children are welcome, but must under parental supervision at all times.

To book (to assist with catering), please email: Canberrabilingual@gmail.com

Dr Susanne Döpke has a PhD in linguistics and a professional MA in Speech Pathology. During her academic career (University of Melbourne, Monash University), she specialized in language acquisition, bilingualism, and cross-cultural communication, and published two books and numerous articles on bilingual development and bilingual education in the family. Since 1990, Susanne has been giving talks to families who wish to raise their children bilingually as well as to professionals who are working with such families. Susanne currently works as a speech pathologist in private practice with special focus on supporting families from non-English backgrounds. She also offers consultancy on bilingualism for individual families. In the last few years, Susanne has worked in Aboriginal settings in Australia, in Kenya, in Peru, in Bangladesh and in East Timor. She is the mother of two bilingual adults. For more information: <http://www.bilingualoptions.com.au>

Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance with the support of the the Australian National University and the ACT Government's 2015-16 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program

5. Opportunities for people wanting to improve their English Skills in the ACT area

Queanbeyan Presbyterian Church (Corner Morisset and Lowe Streets, opposite Queanbeyan Park) is starting up a free community ESL program for migrants and refugees and anyone else who wants to improve their English. Wednesdays during school terms, 10am – 12 noon. Contact: Peter Gobbo 6292 6772 or 0423 548 821

For other classes and opportunities to practice and improve English skills – many free and run by ACT libraries or committee groups – see the ACTBEA website at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/english-language.html>

6. Interested becoming involved in the Modern Language Teachers' Association ACT?

The MLTA promotes language learning in the ACT by providing a voice for language teachers and to facilitate professional dialogue among ACT colleagues and with colleagues in other jurisdictions. All financial members and any potential members (who will become financial members by the date of the AGM) are invited to attend the Association's AGM.

- Thursday, 24 March 2016
- 4pm (refreshments). 4.15 – 5.30pm (AGM)
- Telopea Park School, New South Wales Crescent, Barton, Canberra ACT 2600

Members interested in joining the Committee and/or joining an Organising Committee for a planned ACT Languages Day/Week to be held in 2016 particularly welcome.

The MLTA ACT Inc. would also like to have a wider representation of teachers of ALL languages taught in the ACT.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP (for catering purposes) no later than Tuesday, 22/3/2016 to Yvonne Webber (Secretary) at yvonne.webber@ed.act.edu.au

For more information about MLTA ACT Inc. see www.mltaact.asn.au

7. Help celebrate the centenary of the *School Magazine*

The School Magazine, based in Sydney, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. It is the longest continuously published magazine in Australia, and its creators are some of our best children's authors and illustrators. Through reading the *School Magazine* children are introduced to the best in children's literature and many become lifelong readers as a result.

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature, based at the University of Canberra, is inviting everyone for whom the *School Magazine* is, or was, a part of their childhood reading, to send a few words about what the *Magazine* means or meant to them. The Centre would also like to hear from young people who are current readers as well as people who read it, perhaps, up to 70 or more years ago. From these stories the Centre will create a single story about the *Magazine* and its impact. They aim to have it ready for the *School Magazine*'s own celebration in early August and publish it on the Centre's website.

The cut-off date for stories is 15 April 2016

For more details contact Trish Milne at schoolmagstory@gmail.com. For more information about the Centre, see <http://www.canberra.edu.au/national-centre-for-australian-childrens-literature/>

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>