

## Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

May 2016

### 1. ANU LANGUAGE TEACHING FORUM

This forum is open to language teachers outside the ANU and in the wider community. Meetings are held on Mondays from 4.15pm to 5.15 pm in Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU.

The first meeting of 2016 will be on Monday 23 May, when Peter Friedlander will be sharing his experience on Using Comics in Hindi Language Teaching.

Draft program for 2016

Date	Presenter	Topic/Title of Paper
Monday 23 May	Peter Friedlander	Get the Picture: Using comics in Hindi language teaching.
Monday 25 July	Shun Ikeda	Authentic Japanese newspaper materials for beginners (tentative)
Monday 22 August	Nguyen Bui	Quality control in online course design and delivery
Monday 24 October	Julie Docker	Teaching Italian with Readers
Monday 28 November	Mariolina Pais Marden	Online teaching (details TBA)

The forum is jointly coordinated by the ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences (the School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies) and the ANU College of Asia & the Pacific (the School of Culture, History & Language).

For more information and/or to join the mailing list contact: Ms France Meyer (CAIS, CASS): [france.meyer@anu.edu.au](mailto:france.meyer@anu.edu.au), Dr Duck-Young Lee (CHL, CAP): [duck.lee@anu.edu.au](mailto:duck.lee@anu.edu.au) or Dr Piera Carroli (SLLL, CASS): [piera.carroli@anu.edu.au](mailto:piera.carroli@anu.edu.au)

### 2. REVIEW OF THE ACT LANGUAGES POLICY

*Many Voices: The ACT languages policy 2012-2016* is due for review this year. The policy includes a number of commitments to promote, enhance and safeguard language skills in the ACT community. These commitments relate to:

- Australian languages in the ACT region
- English language programs
- interpreting and translation services and using plain English
- the learning and valuing of languages in addition to English
- maximising the economic benefits of the many languages spoken in the ACT

The ACT Government's Community Participation Group (CPG) will soon be requesting responses from ACT Government Directorates and the wider community on the achievements of the current plan and ideas for potential new actions/priorities. These responses will provide the basis for a discussion paper. Two public forums will then be held in August 2016 to consider the discussion paper and provide further input for the review.

Interested in being involved? Have a look at the current policy, downloadable at <http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/publications/amended-act-languages-policy>, and begin thinking about possible responses for the CPG's request, details of which will be forwarded to members of the Canberra Region Languages Forum as soon as they are available.

### 3. ANU'S SCHOOL OF CULTURE, HISTORY AND LANGUAGES (CHL)

The future of CHL staff and the languages they teach has been much in the news over the past few months. While the final proposal for change is not as extreme as first mooted at the end of 2015, morale is still extremely low among CHL staff and students. Some of the latter have set up two Facebook pages 'Language Diversity at ANU' and 'Hands Off Asia Pacific Studies' and are asking students to complete a short survey about affected staff members with a view to compiling a joint submission to the Vice Chancellor.

For the Vice Chancellor's Update on CHL see: <http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/vcs-update-changes-to-the-asia-pacific-school-released> You can also access the full CHL Change Implementation Plan through this link.

For some media reports see:

- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/comment/anu-celebrates-excellence-in-asiapacific-studies-by-axing-it-20160327-gnrxt6.html>
- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/comment/ct-editorial/puzzling-rationale-to-anu-budget-cuts-20160328-gnsrvu.html>
- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/union-urges-academics-not-to-depair-as-anu-languages-rally-draws--crowd-20160329-gnt3y3.html>
- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/anu-asian-language-budget-cuts-may-see-top-academics-go-20160324-gnq4ow.html>

### 4. ANU LANGUAGES SHOWCASE

- 10am–3pm 31 May 2016
- Manning Clark Centre, ANU Campus

Year 9-12 students from the ACT and surrounding region will be visiting the ANU for a taste of university language studies. The day features presentations from ANU experts in languages and interactive language activities. All languages available at ANU including Asian, Modern European, Ancient, and Middle Eastern languages will be showcased. There will be a student exchange panel, and some mini lectures on topical issues related to the regions of focus. ANU language students will also be there to speak first-hand about studying a language at ANU.

For details: <http://cass.anu.edu.au/news/events/anu-languages-showcase>

### 5. ENRICHING CHINESE STUDIES IN CANBERRA SCHOOLS — A mentoring project linking schools with the ANU to promote and enrich the study of China and Chinese

The [Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia](#) (ALMA) and the [Australian Centre on China in the World](#) (CIW) at the ANU, with the support of the ACT Government Mandarin Culture and Language Grants Program and the ANU Postgraduate and Research Students' Association (PARSA), are joining forces to establish a student ambassador project to promote and enrich Chinese Studies in ACT high schools.

This project will match ANU students and researchers with ACT schools to encourage secondary students to further develop their interest in China and pursue Chinese Studies at university. The goal is to connect Asian Studies and Chinese Studies programs in ACT schools with the institutional support of the ANU, and to connect school students with people who can inspire them to continue their studies. The project will also assist ANU Students to become involved in community service, improve their teaching, presentation and leadership skills, and develop their skills as academics.

ANU students can contribute to school programs in various ways, including:

- Giving a motivational talk about their China experiences;
- Presenting their China research to enhance school curriculums; or

- Forming an ongoing mentorship and teaching relationship with a particular high school Chinese program.

Costs will be reimbursed, and stipends may be available for extended commitments.

If you are interested in taking part in this project or for more information, please email [anuchinamentor@gmail.com](mailto:anuchinamentor@gmail.com)

## 6. TWO RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS ABOUT LANGUAGE LEARNING IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

### Senior Secondary Languages Education Research Project

This report by the Asia Education Foundation is part of the Australian Government's efforts to revive the teaching of languages to ensure that at least 40 per cent of Year 12 students study a language in addition to English within a decade. Its purpose is to inform all Australian governments on practical, implementable ways to enable this. For a copy of the report see: <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/senior-secondary-languages-education-research-project-final-report>

### Building Chinese Language Capacity in Australia

Written by Dr Jane Orton and commissioned by the Australia-China Relations Institute, this report surveys the current position of Chinese programs in Australian schools, identifies shortcoming and gaps in programs and teacher preparation, and recommends how to overcome these, with detailed costings. To download a full copy of the report see: <http://www.australiachinarelations.org/content/building-chinese-language-capacity-australia>

## 7. OTHER ARTICLES AND LINKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

The Oxford global languages initiative aims to enable speakers and learners across the globe to find answers online to everyday language questions. The site will make available large quantities of quality lexical information for major global languages and digitally under-represented ones these languages in a single linked repository. For progress to date, see [https://zu.oxforddictionaries.com/explore/about\\_OGL\\_en](https://zu.oxforddictionaries.com/explore/about_OGL_en)

The Language Flagship, a US initiative to change the way Americans learn languages through a groundbreaking approach to language education for students from kindergarten through college. <https://thelanguageflagship.org/>

The 'Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs) Project' aims to advance the teaching and learning of LCTLs in the USA by providing:

- information on LCTL programs in the USA from kindergarten to university level
- principles and practical guidelines for LCTL teachers of all levels and languages to transform raw materials into activities for the language classroom
- sharable material for a number of languages, including collections of royalty-free images and [audio and video files](#) with suggestions on ways to incorporate these resources into in-class and out-of-class activities
- a list of [LCTL Organizations](#) and volunteers willing to answer questions about their language(s) of expertise by e-mail.
- helping LCTL teachers cooperate and communicate

For more information see <http://carla.umn.edu/lctl/>

Petr Cech, the record-breaking Arsenal goalkeeper, uses his multilingual skills to speak to his team mates in three different languages to avoid miscommunication <http://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/petr-cech-speaks-arsenal-defenders-7102942>

Nine research facts about L2 phonology teaching and learning that every teacher should know <https://gianfrancoconti.wordpress.com/2016/01/23/nine-research-facts-about-l2-phonology-that-every-teacher-should-know/>

## 8. LIBRARIES ACT APPOINT MULTICULTURAL LEARNING COORDINATOR

This newly created role within Libraries ACT will support delivery of library services to our multilingual community through:

- bilingual story times and other creative and innovative literacy and learning programs
- facilitating access to library resources and services
- ensuring services are responsive to future trends and to community needs, particularly those of families, new migrants and refugees

The Multicultural Learning Coordinator also contributes to the ongoing development of the libraries' foreign language collections.

Please contact Maria Milbridge, Multicultural Learning Coordinator, Libraries ACT, on [maria.milbridge@act.gov.au](mailto:maria.milbridge@act.gov.au) or ph. 02 6207 5745, Mondays to Wednesdays, to discuss your thoughts and suggestions.

## 9. INAUGURAL CANBERRA WRITERS FESTIVAL: Friday 26 August – Sunday 28 August 2016

The Canberra Writers Festival will showcase local, national and international writers across an array of venues around the National Capital, including the National Museum of Australia, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, National Portrait Gallery, National Press Club and Australian National University.

Power, Politics and Passion are the driving themes of the festival, and an exciting line up of authors and artists are in store for those who love books, reading or are writers themselves! Activities range from workshops, panel sessions, keynote addresses to intimate events such as literary lunches and dinners. Some events will be free.

If you have ideas or suggestions on who you would love to see or if you would like to be involved in volunteering at the festival, email: [hello@canberrawritersfestival.com.au](mailto:hello@canberrawritersfestival.com.au)

To keep up to date with the latest information join the mailing list and follow the Festival on facebook, instagram and twitter. For details: <http://canberrawritersfestival.com.au/about/>

## 10. ACT BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ACT Government is offering a 2016 ACT Book of the Year Award for excellence in literature, valued at \$10,000. This award recognises quality contemporary literary works including fiction, non-fiction and poetry, by ACT based authors published in 2015. The Award aims to support the development of ACT based writers and promote writing in the ACT.

Nominations close 5pm, Wednesday 1 June 2016. For more information see: <http://www.arts.act.gov.au/funding/types-of-funding/act-book-of-the-year-award2>

## 11. CALLING LOCAL POETS

The International Poetry Studies Institute, Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra (UC) is administering three major poetry prizes this year

- **UC Vice-Chancellor's International Poetry Prize:** First Prize: \$15,000; Second Prize \$5,000. Closing date 30 June 2016 <http://www.canberra.edu.au/vcpoetryprize>
- **UC Health Poetry Prize:** Sponsored by the Dean, Faculty of Health, UC. Theme: Living Life Well. First Prize: \$1,500; Second Prize: \$700; Third Prize: \$300. Closing date: 30 June 2016 <http://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/competitions-and-awards/health-poetry-prize>
- **Young Poets Awards** Sponsored by the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Design, UC. First Prize: \$500; Second Prize: \$250; Third Prize (x5): \$50. Closing date: 15 August 2016 <http://www.canberra.edu.au/young-poets-awards>

All prizewinners will be invited to read at the final, celebratory event within the Poetry on the Move Festival, 16 September 2016.

For more information, contact Dr Paul Munden on 02 6206 8715.

## **12. ME & MY SCHOOL ENGAGING MIGRANT FAMILIES**

Education & School Engagement Forum: Creating a sense of belonging at school for migrant and refugee students and parents. Thursday June 9 Time: 2pm - 4pm

- Level 1, Centre for Teaching and Learning, 51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

Five panellists bring their own unique insights to this pressing question for many schools in a forum exploring what works and what doesn't.

We will hear from parents and cultural experts as well as educators who have successfully engaged migrant students and families. Your questions, experiences and comments are encouraged.

The event is free and all are welcome.

RSVP by June 6 to [glenn.flanagan@companionhouse.org.au](mailto:glenn.flanagan@companionhouse.org.au) or phone (02) 6251 4550

Afternoon tea will be provided, including vegetarian and halal options

Event partners: Companion House, ACT Council of Parents & Citizens' Associations, ACT School Principals' Association, Canberra Multicultural Community Forum.

## **13. AFRICA IN WORLD HISTORY: LITERACY, REVOLUTIONS AND THE QUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE HISTORIES**

The presentation and discussion will include the role of literacy-writing/reading/arithmetic in the formulation of national histories and how radical changes in socio-political cultures led to technological, scientific, medical, military and industrial revolution in Western and Eastern civilizations.

The presenter, Dr Kabu Okai-Davies, is an African-Australian author from Ghana. He's the author of two poetry collections *The Long Road to Africa* and *Symphony of Words* and has written articles for daily Graphic, Spectator, Public Agenda and the finder, in Ghana. He's the 2015 Alumni Award Winner for Excellence for the faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra and is currently a Visiting Fellow in Writing at the ANU.

- Friday 27 May 2016, 3.00pm (followed by drinks at 4:30)
- Sir Roland Wilson Theatre (building # 120) ANU

This is a free event and all are welcome

## **FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME**

**Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at**  
<http://canberralanquages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>