

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

October 2014

1. ACTBEA LANGUAGES AFTERNOON TEA

WHEN: Sunday 26 October 2014 2pm- 4pm

WHERE: Function Room, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Civic Square (near Civic Library and Canberra Theatre Centre)

- Enjoy free games and fun activities for children in a range of languages
- Get to know other families raising children in more than one language
- Meet some of the ACTBEA organisers and others interested in bilingualism and learning and teaching languages

Bring along a favourite snack for a multicultural afternoon tea

For more details and/or to book: email canberrabilingual@gmail.com, phone Mandy on 0408 089 235. For poster, click [here](#)

This is an ACT Children's Week event. The national theme for Children's Week in 2014 (18-26 October) is: *You have the right to speak and be heard*

2. OTHER LANGUAGE-RELATED EVENTS DURING ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK

Family fun learning Mandarin event

- Tuesday, 21 October 2014, 3.20 – 4.50pm,
- West Belconnen Child and Family Centre, Cnr Starke & Luke St, Holt

Mandarin for Fun playgroup will host this free event to support and encourage bilingualism and learning Mandarin. Come and enjoy performances by children and parents, games, craft, singing, dancing and a healthy afternoon tea. Chinese and non-Chinese background families welcome.

For catering purposes, RSVP required by Friday, 17 October. Contact Lucia at 0410 981 788 or mandarinforfun@gmail.com.

NOTE: A place is available in **Mandarin for Fun's Thursday Immersion Program**, suitable for 3 to 5 year olds with little or no Chinese background. This is a small group program held every Thursday during term time from 10am to 2 pm in a home environment in Macgregor. For more details see: <http://mandarinforfun.weebly.com/> or contact Lucia.

Community language schools day

- Saturday 25 October 2014, 2pm -6pm
- Refectory, University of Canberra, Bruce

Find out more about the more than 50 community language schools and playgroups that teach over 40 languages to nearly 2000 children in the ACT region.

Enjoy colourful performances by schools, a Lantern parade and piñata. Talk to teachers and community members at display stalls; see books and other resources used to teach language and culture as well as students' work. Multicultural food on sale.

For more information contact the ACT Community Language Schools Association at admin@actclsa.org.au or 02 6230 5191 or visit www.actclsa.org.au

3. SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT EDUCATION FOR MIGRANT AND REFUGEE FAMILIES IN CANBERRA.

You are invited to participate in the annual information exchange between schools, parent groups (P&Cs), teachers, and newly emerging communities in the ACT. Mr Kirk Zwangobani, from Dickson College is the Keynote Speaker. Student presentations will be advised by early November.

- Wednesday 12 November 2014 6.00pm – 8.30pm
- Community Hall, Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton Street, Cook.

Please Register by Monday 3 November. Light dinner including vegetarian food provided

For information, contact Hongsar Channaibanya on 6251 4550
or hongsar.channaibanya@companionhouse.org.au

Jointly hosted by Companion House: *Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma*, and the ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations: *The parent voice on public education*

4. ENHANCING THE LEARNING OF MANDARIN AND PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE CULTURE THROUGH EDUCATION IN THE ACT

A working group (WG) chaired by the ACT Education and Training Directorate (ETD) was established in June 2014 to explore ways of promoting Mandarin. Members of the WG include representatives from all school systems (ACT government, Catholic and independent), as well as the Australian National University, University of Canberra, ACT Chinese Teachers Network, Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia, and Community Languages Schools. The terms of reference of the WG are:

- To prepare a two-year blueprint for enhancing the learning of Mandarin and promoting understanding of Chinese culture in ACT schools.
- To identify and optimise the resources available for languages.
- To identify and optimise the opportunities in the new Australian Curriculum.
- All participants of the working group have equal responsibility for achievement of the role and aims of the working group.

The ETD has collected information from WG members to build a picture of current activities, the priorities of WG members and ideas for building on current initiatives. This data was discussed at a WG meeting on 17 September 2014. Based on the data collected and discussion at the September meeting, the ETD will develop a draft blueprint for further discussion by the WG in 2015.

For related article in the Canberra Times of Friday 10 October 2014, see <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/-10rpi0.html>

HARMONIE CHILDREN'S CHOIR'

The Harmonie German Club, with the support of the German Embassy, is inviting children aged 8 to 15 years to join its new 'Harmonie Children's Choir'. The choir will have its home at the Harmonie Club in Narrabundah and will be led by Dr Gunter Brandstetter, who has been the musical director of a number of choirs overseas and in Australia. Dr Brandstetter will be supported by Miss Brigitta Van Reesch, a qualified teacher, and Ms Joy Kosciuk-Altman, who conducted the Harmonie Choir for some years. The choir will cover a wide range of music and will be open to children of all language backgrounds.

The choir will provide some basic music lessons which will include reading music and voice training. As a number of songs will be in German, children will also receive some basic language tuition from qualified language teachers. There will be an initial assessment of the children's musical and singing ability. Rehearsals are planned for Mondays after school

hours, with some rehearsals on Saturdays in the lead up to concerts – which may be at official functions at the Harmonie German Club and venues outside the club.

This may be a great opportunity for your child to develop some musical and language skills and be part of an exciting project.

For more information, contact Dr Gunter Brandstetter at maestro.gb@westnet.com.au or 0419 263 123 (m) or Ms Joy Kosciuk- Altman on 0437 509 792 (m)

5. LANGUAGES IN THE NEWS

The following information comes from the September Update of LCNAU, the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities. (Please note that the opinions expressed in the articles below do not necessarily represent the views of LCNAU as an organisation).

From J-Lo to Strictly: why more students are learning Spanish

The Guardian, 9 September 2014

Spanish helping to reverse the decade-long decline in the number of students taking language GCSEs.

Achtung baby: the future is bilingual

The Age, 8 September 2014

From Chinese to French, Italian to Japanese, Victoria is on track for every prep to learn a second language from next February. (Comments from LCNAU President John Hajek)

Reform may attract private colleges into foreign language teaching

The Australian, 1 September 2014

Students of foreign languages may have wider choice if the government's higher education reforms get through Parliament.

Duolingo creator: "I wanted to create a way to learn languages for free"

The Guardian, 27 August 2014

He'd sold two companies to Google by his mid-twenties and now Luis von Ahn has created an app that he hopes will allow anyone with internet access to learn a language for free.

State school students soon required to learn second language

The Chronicle, 26 August 2014

Queensland state school students will be made to learn either Japanese, German, Mandarin, French, Italian or Indonesian under an ambitious plan the government claims will give kids the necessary skills to live in a global society.

Linguist's concern at heritage language report

Scoop, 11 August 2014

New migrants should be supported to speak their own language to ensure their children develop a strong cultural identity, says a Massey University linguist critical of a government report on the subject.

Carrum Primary School students learn German while caring for chickens

Bayside Leader, 2 August 2014

When this brood of chickens at Carrum Primary School hatches, they will be more likely to chirp "guten tag" than "hello".

For more information about LCNAU see <http://www.lcnau.org/>

FEEDBACK ON THESE ACTBEA UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES ARE WELCOME

Copies of previous Updates can be downloaded from the ACTBEA website at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com>