

# Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

October 2014

## 1. LANGUAGE COURSES ENROLLING NOW

A number of short courses in various languages are now enrolling for fourth term 2014. For more information see:

- Lake Ginninderra <http://www.lakenitelearning.com.au/>
- Erindale College [http://www.erindalec.act.edu.au/community\\_links/adult\\_education](http://www.erindalec.act.edu.au/community_links/adult_education)
- ANU Centre for Continuing Education: [www.anu.edu.au/cce/languages](http://www.anu.edu.au/cce/languages)
- CIT Solutions: <http://shortcourses.cit.edu.au/>

For specific languages

- Polyglot Club, French, Spanish, German and Danish conversation: <http://canberrapolyglot.org/> or email [tim.gulliver@hotmail.com](mailto:tim.gulliver@hotmail.com)
- French: Alliance Française de Canberra [www.afcanberra.com.au/](http://www.afcanberra.com.au/)
- Indonesian: contact Phil at [pdomasch@inet.net.au](mailto:pdomasch@inet.net.au) or phone 6288 8640
- Thai: free classes, contact Chintana at [Chintana.Sandilands@anu.edu.au](mailto:Chintana.Sandilands@anu.edu.au) or 6125 4659
- Some community language schools also hold classes for adults. Contact individual schools to enquire via [http://www.actclsa.org.au/?page\\_id=102](http://www.actclsa.org.au/?page_id=102)

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

All are invited to participate in the annual information exchange between schools, parent groups (P&Cs), teachers, and newly emerging communities in the ACT. This is 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*.

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 on [hongsar.channaibanya@companionhouse.org.au](mailto:hongsar.channaibanya@companionhouse.org.au) or phone 6251 4550 or

## 3. ACT COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS DAY

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

Find out more about the 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. A chance to 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](mailto:admin@actclsa.org.au) or 02 6230 5191 or visit [www.actclsa.org.au](http://www.actclsa.org.au)

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

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

- **Family fun learning Mandarin event** Tuesday, 21 October 2014, 3.20 – 4.50pm

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 healthy afternoon tea. Chinese and non-Chinese background families welcome.

**WHERE?** West Belconnen Child and Family Centre, Cnr Starke & Luke St, Holt

For catering purposes, RSVP required by Friday, 17 October. Contact Lucia at 0410 981 788 or [mandarinforfun@gmail.com](mailto:mandarinforfun@gmail.com).

NOTE: A place is available in Mandarin for Fun's Immersion Program for 3 to 5 year olds with no or little Chinese background. Thursdays, 10am to 2pm. If interested, please contact Lucia or see <http://mandarinforfun.weebly.com/>

- **Languages Afternoon Tea** Sunday 26 October 2014 2pm- 4pm

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance invites you to this free fun event. Families and others interested in promoting and maintaining languages all welcome

- Enjoy free games and fun activities for children in a range of languages
- Find out more about bilingualism and raising children in more than one language
- Bring along a favourite snack for a multicultural afternoon tea

**WHERE?** Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, North Building, London Circuit, Civic

For more details and/or to book: [Canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:Canberrabilingual@gmail.com) / Mandy 0408 089 235 / <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html>

#### 5. 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 an article in the Canberra Times of Friday 10 October 2014 about this WG, see <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/-10rpi0.html>

## 6. ANU LANGUAGE TEACHING FORUM

### Teaching online: Arab Current Affairs and Media Arabic

- Wednesday 22 October 2014, 4.15 – 5.15 pm (No RSVP required.)
- Al-Falasi Theatre, CAIS, Building 127, Ellery Crescent, ANU

Arab Current Affairs and Media Arabic is the first Arabic course offered as part of the CASS Online Languages Project solely using Moodle (Wattle) for content, delivery and assessment. This presentation provides an overview of the structure of this third-year level course, and shares some of the successes and challenges faced during the development and teaching stages. Speakers: Leila Kouatly and Huda Al-Tamimi.

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

Recent public seminars include "Intercultural language teaching and learning: Rethinking language, culture and learning in the language classroom" (by Tony Liddicoat) and "We murder to dissect": Culture Through Crime Fiction in the L2 Classroom" (by Stewart King).

For more information and to join the mailing list for future seminars, contact

- Dr Gabriele Schmidt, gabriele.schmidt@anu.edu.au
- Dr Duck-Young Lee, duck-young.lee@anu.edu.au
- Ms France Meyer, france.meyer@anu.edu.au

## 7. OTHER NEWS FROM THE ANU

### • Languages remain a priority

"Language remains a core part of an ANU education, and languages are recognised as priority areas at ANU." <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/students-drawn-to-study-mandarin-and-japanese-20140919-10ikwk.html>

### • 2014 QS rankings:

ANU is ranked 25th in the world in the 2014 QS rankings, and ANU Linguistics and Modern Languages have both been ranked top in Australia; Linguistics has been ranked #11 in the world and Modern Languages #14. This is a fantastic result, and is recognition of the work being done by a large body of scholars in these areas across ANU. See the ANU story at: <http://news.anu.edu.au/2014/09/16/anu-hits-top-25-in-global-rankings/>

### • Translation Prize for ANU academic

ANU Emeritus Fellow, Kevin Windle has been awarded the Inaugural AALITRA (Australian Association for Literary Translation) Translation Prize, 2014, for his translation of the Spanish prose text: "Antes del almuerzo" by Ana María Moix. The winners were announced in a Ceremony held at Reader's Feast Bookstore in Melbourne on 17 September. The winning entries will be published in The AALITRA Review in 2015. See the full story here.

## 8. 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/>

## **9. 'HARMONIE CHILDREN'S CHOIR'**

An opportunity for children to develop some musical and language skills and be part of an exciting project.

The Harmonie German Club, with the support of the German Embassy, is inviting children age 8 to 15 years old to join its new 'Harmonie Children's Choir'. The choir will cover a wide range of music and is open to children of all language backgrounds. There will be an initial assessment of the children's musical and singing ability.

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

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

**Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at**

<http://canberralanquages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>