



# CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM

Update May 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

### 1. Little kids learning languages

A talk by Assoc. Professor Carmel O'Shannessy as part of ANU's Linguistics Seminar Series

- Friday 12 May 3.30pm - 5pm
- Room W3.03 Baldessin Precinct Building, 110 Ellery Crescent, ANU campus, Acton
- Free and all welcome (Note: in-person only, not available online)

**Abstract** This project aims to better understand the input young children receive in Warlpiri and Arrernte families in Central Australia. We take a repertoire approach, asking 'what kinds of input do the young children hear spoken to them and therefore learn?' In this talk I will touch on several perspectives in the project. The findings will be helpful to educators and health professionals working with families with young children.

For more details email: [evan.kidd@anu.edu.au](mailto:evan.kidd@anu.edu.au)

### 2. Tapestry of Cultures Family Festival

- Saturday 13 May 2023, 10am – 4pm
- National Museum of Australia

Family friendly activities and workshops, performances, market stalls, multicultural food. Hear some languages in music and singing during the day, plus Mother Tongue – Multilingual Poetry on the main stage from 2.10pm-2.40pm

- Anita Patel - much published Canberra poet born in Singapore
- Hangama Obaidullah - local artist who draws on her Afghan heritage and homeland
- Jolly Bhattacharjee - writes in Hindi and English and represents the Indo-Aussie essence.

More details at <https://bit.ly/42qmeYR>

### 3. Program Launch: Poetic City 2023 - Winter Edition

- Saturday, May 13, 2pm-3.30pm
- City Walk, near the Carousel

Get a taste of what Poetic City has to offer during poetry workshops and events in June and July - including activities for children and young people during the July school holidays. Language-focused events include a multilingual poetry workshop on 24 June and a Mother Tongue open mic event at the Street Theatre on 1 July.

Find out more at Saturday's launch or follow <https://www.facebook.com/poeticcitycbr>

### 4. ACT Community Language Schools Open Day

- Saturday 20 May 10.30-1pm
- Albert Hall, Yarralumla 2601
- Free and open to all

Performances from community language school students showcasing their language skills through spoken word, storytelling, music or singing. Information stalls and tasty snacks to sample or for sale. Followed by a roundtable discussion for CLS Principals and Teachers until 2.30 pm.

More details from Manu at [actclsa@gmail.com](mailto:actclsa@gmail.com)

## 5. Mother Tongue - Multilingual Poetry

- Monday 22 May 7pm – 8.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm).
- Smiths Alternative, 76 Alinga Street, Canberra
- Cost: \$10/\$5.

All welcome to come along to listen and enjoy - or share some poetry in another language in the open mic section.

Feature poet is Akka Ballenger Constantin, a multi-disciplinary artist who expresses herself in various languages, with poems moving from English to French, Spanish and Romanian from one verse to another.

For more information, email [mothertonquemic@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonquemic@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/6204352609659758>

## 6. Poetry and Protest: Philippine Poetry Through the Years

Organised by the Philippine Australia Association of the ACT for Philippine Heritage Day.

- Sunday 28 May 2pm-4 pm
- Griffith Neighbourhood Centre, 53 Stuart Street, Griffith
- Cost: \$25, which includes afternoon tea with Philippine traditional delicacies.

An hour of dramatic oral readings, singing and dancing performed by enthusiastic and creative members of the local Philippine-Australian community. Poetry-play is co-scripted by award-winning writer Dr. Merlinda Bobis and Marlene Tucker and co-directed by Dr. Bobis and Maria Lourdes Doronila.

More details and booking at <https://www.trybooking.com/CHZBM>

## 7. Festival of Languages

Have fun with languages and find out more about the many languages being spoken, used, taught and learned in our multilingual city!

- Saturday 17 June, 10.30am-4pm
- ANU Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, Ellery Crescent, Acton
- Free and all welcome
- Refreshments and light lunch provided

Drop into a panel discussion led by an ANU lecturer, have fun in a 'language taster' session, learn how to be a bilingual ventriloquist, watch a calligraphy demonstration, enjoy performances featuring languages.

Fun activities especially for kids, informative displays and a chance to chat to experts and others interested/involved in languages, language education and/or raising children bilingually.

Keep an eye on <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html> for full program details and registration details nearer the date.

Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance in partnership with the ANU's Centre of European Studies, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, and CASS School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics. Supported by Canberra Multicultural Community Forum and an ACT Government 2022/23 Participation (Multicultural) Grant.

## 8. International Symposium on Bilingualism

- Monday 26 – Friday 30 June, 2023
- Hosted by Macquarie University, Sydney - online or in person

A biennial conference which aims to bring together bi/multilingualism researchers from all around the globe to advance the theoretical and applied research in bi/multilingualism, and to support bi/multilingualism practices in the community.

More information at <https://www.isb14.com/>

## OTHER NEWS and ITEMS OF INTEREST

### 9. Accredited Training for ACT Community Language School teachers

Over 30 community language school teachers have enrolled in the first accredited course in the ACT for community language schools. Funded by the ACT Government and run by the Sydney Institute of Community Language Education (SICLE), the 60-hour course started with 2 evenings of face-to-face sessions at the University of Canberra in the first week of May. The course will continue through weekly online classes culminating with a final face-to-face session in August.

### 10. Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL)

#### Teacher of Japanese for Semester 2

CAL invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified teachers for a casual sessional role teaching a composite Beginning/Continuing Japanese class. TQI registration required. Experience in teaching ACT senior secondary languages desirable. Salary based on the Australian Educational Services (Teachers) Award.

Closing date for expressions of interest: *Friday 2 June 2023*

#### Tag der deutschen Sprache

CAL German students attended a special program of German language activities at the Swiss Embassy on Thursday 27 April 2023. Organised by Das Zentrum in conjunction with the Swiss, Austrian and German Embassies.

#### CAL proposal about languages education

As part of the consultation process for the ACT 2023-24 budget, CAL lodged a proposal about future directions for language education in the territory. This is the latest in a series of proposals, the first of which was presented to the government at the end of 2017 during the first round of consultations in the context of the Future of Education Conversation.

For more information see <https://www.cal.act.edu.au/news.htm>

### 11. The Motivated Classroom

A weekly podcast for language teachers and learners hosted by Dr. Liam Printer. His latest podcast (Number 101!) 'Respecting and amplifying all languages in our multilingual classrooms' is a conversation with Dr Eowyn Crisfield that emphasises the importance of supporting and celebrating the entire linguistic repertoire of learners and not forcing them to leave their home languages at the door.

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/themotivatedclassroom/episodes/101--Respecting-and-amplifying-all-languages-in-our-multilingual-classrooms-with-Dr--Eowyn-Crisfield-e23dstm>

## FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Details of previous Forum Updates are available at  
<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/>