

# Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

December 2016

## 1. Multilingualism in Urban Spaces

Could Canberra take some tips from the ideas and examples of best practice from the LUCIDE City project toolkit *Multilingualism in Urban Spaces*? As the toolkit says:

Using different languages in public spaces can benefit the image, culture and profile of a city; it can encourage trade and tourism, but also community cohesion, the integration of newcomers, and influence the attitudes of established communities towards newcomers and tourists. Remember the full scope of what a city can do with its public spaces such as its streets, libraries, venues, transport... using documents, signs, street signs, audio services and websites – and its people of course!

Would we say yes to the following questions in the toolkit?

Do you want to be a global city? Attract talent? Promote trade? Build your city's human capital? Encourage vibrant and inclusive communities? Attract foreign businesses to set up in your city? Take full advantage of the skills in your population? Increase tourism? All of these can be supported by a city that thinks about languages in its management of public spaces.

For more information and ideas for public authorities, urban planners, libraries and other public spaces, businesses and community organisers see

<http://www.urbanlanguages.eu/images/stories/docs/toolkits/toolkit-urbanspaces.pdf>

## 2. A chance to promote languages at the Multicultural Festival in February 2017

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) will have a languages information stall at the Multicultural Festival in Canberra City:

- Sunday 17 February 2017, 10.30am-4.30pm.

The festival is visited by thousands of people each year so this is a great opportunity to publicise the benefits of knowing more than one language and to promote language learning and teaching opportunities in the ACT area.

If you have brochures or pamphlets about a language program that you would like to display and/or would like to help to staff the stall and share your enthusiasm and knowledge, please let us know at [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com)

**Note:** ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government's 2016-17 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program) for funding its activities at the festival.

## 3. Mother Tongue: Multilingual Poetry at the Canberra Fringe

Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry will be part of the Canberra Fringe Festival, celebrating the cultures and stories in our community through poetry in many languages.

- Saturday 18 February 2017, 10am – 1pm.

If you speak a language other than English, sign up for the open mic! Any language is welcome, and any style, from traditional forms to hip hop. Each person will have up to 4 minutes to read or recite a poem or story in their language/s, or a mix of their language/s and English. Original work is encouraged!

To sign up: email [mothertonguemic@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonguemic@gmail.com) or call 0433 845 900.

For announcements about feature poets and musical performers, watch the Facebook page at <https://web.facebook.com/events/593935637470026/>

#### **4. Language programs at Canberra schools in the news**

Mawson preschool and the Mandarin immersion program at Mawson Primary School got a special mention in an article about the successful trial in ACT preschools of the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) program: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/act-preschools-trial-successful-language-program-20161117-gsrhgx.html>

Four Telopea Park School fifth graders will play a special role for the tens of thousands of students expected to tour the National Gallery of Australia blockbuster, Versailles: Treasures from the Palace, this summer as it is their voices that you will hear on the children's official audio guides to the exhibition. Because the school is uniquely bilingual, its students were chosen to narrate both the English and French guides. <http://hercanberra.com.au/cpcity/telopea-park-school-versailles-audio/>

#### **5. Learning languages through the Australian National University**

##### **School of Culture, History and Language (CHL)**

In 2017, CHL will expand its rich program of instruction in Asian languages with three new undergraduate minors and two intensive language courses. The School, located in the ANU's College of Asia and the Pacific, will also increase its online language learning opportunities.

For the first time ever, Burmese, Mongolian and Tetum will be offered as minors in the ANU's Bachelor of Asian Studies. Burmese will be taught face-to-face on the ANU campus; Mongolian and Tetum will be offered 100% online, providing language learners across the country the opportunity to enrol either cross-intuitively or as non-award students.

The School will also offer an intensive Introductory Mongolian Summer School on campus for three weeks from the end of January. An intensive on-campus course in Taiwanese will run for the first time in July 2017.

After successful summer intensives in Tibetan, two consecutive courses in this language will now be available 100% online in Semesters 1 and 2. Tibetan, Mongolian and Tetum will supplement the School's other online language offerings of an Indonesian minor (ab initio), and majors in Thai, Vietnamese and Sanskrit.

The ANU is the only Australian university to offer courses in Thai, Tetum, Urdu, Burmese, Mongolian, Tibetan, Cantonese, and Taiwanese. It is the only tertiary institution to offer majors in Thai, Vietnamese, and Sanskrit.

For more information contact CAP Student Centre at [cap.student@anu.edu.au](mailto:cap.student@anu.edu.au).

##### **Learning Sanskrit online**

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ouOLcng9hk&feature=youtu.be> for more information about learning Sanskrit in 2017.

##### **Full list of ANU language programs on campus and/or online**

For details of all languages courses offered and various enrolment options see <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/languages>

#### **6. Canberra Academy of Languages**

The Canberra Academy of Languages is a not-for-profit organisation, established to enable students in the Canberra region to access senior secondary courses in languages that are not available in students' home schools. The academy has applied to the Office of the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (OBSSS) to become registered as a Specialist Education Provider. A launch is planned for 2017, subject to approval of registration by the board. The target group in the foundation year will be students in Years 11-12.

The Academy looks forward to working with students, families and schools in providing expanded opportunities for language learning that complement existing programs in languages offered in the ACT.

For more information see: <http://www.cal.act.edu.au/>

## **7. Balai Bahasa Indonesia (ACT): celebrating and promoting Indonesian Language Teaching in Canberra Schools**

The achievements of primary and secondary school Indonesian language teachers were celebrated at a dinner hosted by Balai Bahasa Indonesia (BBI) ACT at the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra on 4 November 2016. At least 10 ACT Schools were represented. The dinner provided teachers and school principals the opportunity to exchange classroom experiences. Specially invited guests included five Indonesian Language Teacher Assistants who give up time outside their own tertiary studies in Canberra to teach in classrooms under their supervising teachers.

BBI (ACT) Chair, Heath McMichael, discussed the challenges of encouraging young people to take up and persevere with Indonesian language and culture studies. Heath said that BBI (ACT) was willing to assist teachers, principals, and ACT education authorities to promote the learning of Indonesian in order to maintain much-needed ballast in the people-to-people relationship between the two countries. BBI (ACT) is looking at practical and inventive ways to stimulate interest in Indonesian language learning, for instance in workshopping Indonesian curriculum materials with teachers and educators from schools in Canberra and Indonesia, organising teacher field trips to schools in eastern Indonesia, and hosting a YouTube Indonesian language competition.

For more information about BBI (ACT) and details of a 5 day working visit to a school in Kendari. Southeast Sulawesi from 12-20 January 2017 see <https://bbiact.wordpress.com/>

## **8. News from the Alliance Française de Canberra**

### Cultural program December 2016

- Speed Talking, Wednesday 7 December, 5pm – Monday 19 December, 12pm
- Book club, Tuesday 20 December, 12pm
- Café cinema, Friday 9 December, 5.30pm
- Christmas Party for Kids, Tuesday 13 December 4-5pm
- AFC Christmas Party, Thursday 15 December, 8.15pm

### Summer Intensive courses January 2017

- For Adults (17 years and older)
  - 9 Jan – 25 Jan, General courses, beginner to advanced levels
  - 9 Jan – 20 Jan, Workshops: Conversation, Pronunciation, all levels
  - 9 Jan – 16 Jan, Immersion weeks level B2 and B1
- For Young learners
  - 17 Jan – 20 Jan, Immersion week Videogame level A2
  - 9 Jan -20 Jan, 2 weeks: Teens, Children holiday camp, Kindy holiday camp and Pre-kindycraft and French.

### French courses Term 1: Monday 30 January 2017 – Thursday 6 April 2017

- 2 Campuses: Turner & Barton!
- Adults: all level courses & workshops
- Young learners: pre-kindy, kindy, children, teens
- At Telopea Park School: French after-school classes, French Homework Tutoring

Free Tutoring for enrolled students who have missed a class, would like to catch up with a specific point, are having difficulty with a particular grammar point or need help with homework

For more information: <http://www.afcanberra.com.au>; phone: 61 2 6257 6696 / 61 2 6257 2140 or email: [enquiries@afcanberra.com.au](mailto:enquiries@afcanberra.com.au)

## **9. Nominations open for Patji-Dawes award to honour an outstanding language teacher in Australia.**

Nominations are invited from individuals who have achieved a very high level of fluency in a language and would like to honour their teacher by setting out what it was about their teacher's practice which inspired and enabled them to unlock the rewards of learning another language despite all the difficulties involved. The teaching may take place in any setting – school, university, private language school, government department, Indigenous community – provided that the learner is led, by the teacher's inspiration, to a high level of mastery in the chosen language.

Visit <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/education-and-outreach/dawes-award/> for more details and to hear speeches from the 2015 award night, including from the nominating student and the 2016 recipient.

Deadline for submission of nominations: 17 March 2017

The Patji-Dawes award is an initiative of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language, through its Communications and Outreach Program with ongoing support of the AFMLTA and LCNAU.

## **10. Languages of the Pacific and indigenous Australia at Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG)**

Get a taste of the languages of the Pacific and indigenous Australia through virtual reality technology at CMAG's 'Memory of the World in Canberra' exhibition. Drawing on the digital archive of records of PARADISEC (the Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures), the exhibition uses technology to "fly" from island to island in the Pacific, listening to real archival recordings of speech and song. Notebooks and a map in the display will also reveal extra multimedia dimensions when an iPad is held up to them, for example allowing visitors to hear the lines of a fieldwork notebook read aloud by the original research participant..

- November 2016 to 19 March 2017
- CMAG, Cnr London Circuit & Civic Square, Canberra City.

There will also be a floor talk on preservation and access by PARADISEC personnel on Thursday 16 March (1-2pm).

For more information see <http://www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions>

## **11. Be: longing, new online publication launched in Canberra**

Co-edited by Canberra-based Jasmine Soukieh and Dunja Cvjetičanin, this online publication was launched at Smith's Alternative in Canberra City on Saturday 3 December 2016.

Be:longing is an online publication exploring personal experiences of migration, cross-culture, nostalgia and divided (or shared) belonging. The aim to provide a space to gather written and visual pieces on anything that touches on those difficult-to-articulate feelings that can arise when your cultural story isn't quite like "everyone else's".

To see the poems, memoirs and photography and art presented at the launch, and to find out how you can contribute your story and join the be:longing community see <https://belongingmag.wordpress.com/>

## **12. 2017 National NAIDOC Theme - Our Languages Matter**

The importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will be the focus of national celebrations marking NAIDOC Week 7-12 July 2017.

The theme - *Our Languages Matter* – aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

It is hoped that the theme will shine a spotlight on the programs and community groups working to preserve, revitalise or record Indigenous languages, and encourage all Australians to notice the use of Indigenous languages in their community.

For more information: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/2017-national-naidoc-theme>

### 13. Articles and links that may be of Interest:

- Why is bilingual education 'good' for rich kids but 'bad' for poor, immigrant students? Article by Claire Bower, PhD from ANU and now at Yale  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2014/10/24/why-is-bilingual-education-good-for-rich-kids-but-bad-for-poor-immigrant-students/>
- Time travelling to the mother tongue: The sounds of languages that died thousands of years ago have been brought to life again through technology that uses statistics in a revolutionary new way.  
<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/time-travelling-to-the-mother-tongue>
- Reviving Indigenous languages – not as easy as it seems. By Jane Simpson, ANU. The government's plan to prioritise the revival of Indigenous languages in New South Wales is a welcome first step. Truly achieving it will take several more.  
<https://theconversation.com/reviving-indigenous-languages-not-as-easy-as-it-seems-68977>
- Is bilingualism really an advantage? This article challenges some claims around bilingual cognitive advantages. While it does not say that there is no bilingual advantage, it suggests that it can be overstated and misconstrued.  
<http://www.newyorker.com/science/maria-konnikova/bilingual-advantage-aging-brain>
- An article about the growing literature on how using a foreign language changes the decisions people make. Findings could have implications in a number of different fields—ranging from doctors' offices to voting booths.  
<https://news.uchicago.edu/article/2016/11/18/research-examines-impact-foreign-language-risk-perception-moral-judgment>
- Statement on the role of language learning in valuing diversity and promoting unity  
<https://www.actfl.org/news/position-statements/statement-the-role-language-learning-valuing-diversity-and-promoting-unity>
- 'This is what we need to do to boost languages learning in Australian schools' – suggests a much wider approach is required to transform current debates about Languages education: <http://www.aare.edu.au/blog/?p=1872>

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

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

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