



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

February 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

1. International Mother Language Day – Walk and celebration

- Sunday 20 February
- 10.00am – 11.30am (walk) 11.30-1.30pm (performances)
- Free and all ages welcome.
- Bring language banners and dress in traditional costumes to showcase your languages and cultures
- COVID-safe measures will be in place.

Assemble under the International Flags display, Lake Burley Griffin, near Questacon and then stroll along Lake Burley Griffin and cross Kings Avenue Bridge to end at the Police Memorial.

- After-walk activities will include song, dance and spoken word and barbecue or picnic.
- If you can help with equipment, logistics or would like to perform after the walk, please contact the organisers by 11 February 2022.

For more details, email Ziaul at imlm.21feb@gmail.com or phone 0411 031 942

2. Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry Night

Mother Tongue's first poetry night for 2022 will showcase some local multilingual poets and celebrate International Mother Language Day (IMLD), recognised every year on 21 February to raise awareness of language, cultural diversity and multilingualism around the world.

- Monday 21 February 2022 7pm – 8.30pm
- Smith's Alternative, 76 Alinga St, Canberra city
- Free and open to all but booking required
- Doors open 6.30pm and COVID safe measures in place

Featured poets:

- Abhi Tripura: Born in an indigenous community in Bangladesh, Abhi's mother tongue is Kokborok, the language of over a million indigenous Tripura people of Northeast India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. He also speaks three other South Asian indigenous languages as well as English and Bangla. Abhi will speak about IMLD and its connection with Bangladesh, his indigenous background and languages, and share poems in his mother tongue and two other languages.
- Mirsad Ramic: A bilingual writer and poet of Bosnian origin living and working in Canberra. Mirsad will present a small selection of his poems, which are a collage of diary segments, memories, dreams, and observations, multilayered with his personal history and true events, often fictionalized into fantastic visions of reality and loaded with symbolic imagery.

There will also be an 'open mic', where other local poets share a poem in a language other than English with an introduction or translation in English.

For information about booking and possibilities of accessing the event by Zoom, email mothertonguemc@gmail.com or see Events at <https://www.facebook.com/mothertonguemc>

Anyone interested in sharing a poem as part of the open mic also welcome to email mothertonguemicro@gmail.com. You will have 4 minutes to share your poem and summary in English. All styles from traditional forms through to contemporary slam poetry are welcome, and you can read your original poem or a piece by another poet.

3. Call to action following government response to independent review of Investment in ACT Community Language Schools

The independent review clearly stated that

“When benchmarked against other states in Australia, ACT community language schools are under-resourced, both in terms of direct funding and indirect support such as professional development opportunities, rent relief and ability to access shared pools of funding”

(Page 5 of Report:

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1912915/LIST_Report-on-the-Independent-Review-of-the-Investment-in-ACT-Community-Language-Schools.PDF).

However, the ACT government’s response to the review report includes no commitment to increased resourcing and could be read as a blueprint for requiring ACT community language schools and their Association to do more to receive the current level of funding.

(See https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dhK_IimQSXTh-HU6GlvVRcYExWNpNkv/view)

The government will soon be seeking community input on priorities for funding in the 2022-23 budget as part of its consultation process. Such input can make a difference if many voices send a similar message. If you would like to help lobby for greater investment in community languages education – or greater recognition of the value of languages more broadly - please email Mandy at languagesact@gmail.com or keep an eye on the CReLF website for ideas about when and how you can make your voices heard.

LANGUAGE PROGRAM NEWS

4. Spanish Australian Preschool in Redhill

The Spanish Australian Preschool opened its doors on 4 January 2022 after nearly a year of planning. Led by a team of three, the preschool has started with an average of 10 children per day and has plenty of scope to expand. About 50% of families attending are Hispanic and 50% are non-Hispanic. The preschool offers all meals, sun hats, sunscreen, nappies, and plenty of activities for the children and is pleased to find that in just one month, the children are starting to speak Spanish!

For more information or to book a tour: <https://spanishaustralianpreschool.com.au/>

5. Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL)

CAL ran a very successful Japanese Summer School over 3 weeks in January 2022. It was open to any students preparing to continue their Japanese language studies at senior secondary level and was based on key learning outcomes from the Australian Curriculum: Languages Japanese for students at completion of Year 10.

In 2022, CAL is offering Korean for the first time. This means that CAL is now delivering senior secondary programs in six languages: French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil, which is 60% of the languages they may consider delivering under the current ACT curriculum. For more information: <https://cal.act.edu.au/news.htm>.

CAL is still enrolling for this year’s classes, which will commence in Week 2 of Term 1 (Wednesday 9 February and Thursday 10 February). For scheduling details see <https://cal.act.edu.au/programs.htm#times-and-venues> and to enquire about enrolment, email info@cal.act.edu.au.

6. Australian National University

- Tok Pisin Language and Cultural Awareness courses
ANU is the only university in the world to offer Tok Pisin as a minor, and the first one to offer an immersive language and cultural awareness training micro-credential (a short, intensive course, spread over 4 days).
 - Micro-credential, 4 – 8 April 2022 <https://cce.anu.edu.au/all-micro-credentials/tokp01-tok-pisin-language-and-cultural-awareness.aspx>
 - Semester-long courses (Tok Pisin 1, 2, 3, 4) available online and open to external students or interested members of the public through Open Universities Australia (OUA) <http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/students/undergrad/languages/tok-pisin>
- Introduction to Gamilaraay, an Aboriginal language of NSW
Offered face to face and online in Semester 1 2022 at the ANU and through OUA <https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/2022/course/INDG2003>.
May also be offered as an ANU Centre for Continuing Education course later in the year: <https://cce.anu.edu.au/our-courses/languages/gamilaraay.aspx>.
- New online course in Classical Chinese
Offered through OUA: <https://www.open.edu.au/subjects/australian-national-university-literary-chinese-1-anu-chin2019>
- Portuguese now offered online via Zoom
Available to university students anywhere across Australia and credited to their degree via cross-institutional enrolment. For more details, contact the convenor, Dr Fabricio Tocco at Fabricio.Tocco@anu.edu.au.
- Diploma of Languages is continuing.
Usually studied part-time over 3-4 years, the Diploma enables students to obtain a recognised qualification in a language which they may not otherwise be able to access within their major field of study. Also open to external students.
Applications via <https://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/anu/130015.shtml> and you can contact the course convener for more information at Ashok.Collins@anu.edu.au
- More about ANU language programs at <https://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options-1/languages>

7. French with the Alliance Française

Courses for all levels and ages from pre-school up, plus innovative and fun opportunities to practice and use the language and learn more about French culture.
<https://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

8. Indonesian

Fun vocational Indonesian classes for adults from absolute beginner to advanced level. Run by the Australia Indonesia Association Canberra, ACT. More details at <https://www.aia-act.org.au/indonesian-classes>

9. Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

Volunteer-led project linking adults already studying Chinese, or who have learned it in the past, with local Mandarin speakers:
<https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/mandarin-community-tutoring.html>

10. Other language learning opportunities in the ACT

- for adults: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/other-language-programs.html> and
- for children: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html>

OTHER NEWS

11. Research study on the vitality of Spanish in Australia

Linguists from Griffith University are seeking Spanish-speaking parents of children under 18 to take part in a research project on attitudes towards the intergenerational transmission of Spanish in Australia.

For more information see: <https://forms.gle/VB3wXW5XrAx7rvDn9>

12. National languages contest for secondary school students

OzCLO, The Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad, is a volunteer-run contest about language for secondary school students. The contest challenges students to develop their own strategies in teams of four to solve problems about fascinating real languages.

Open for registrations until 25 February 2022 for competition in March. Please note: only school-based teams may participate, and only teachers may register their teams. Cost: \$40 per team.

More details at <https://ozclo.org.au/>

13. Research showing the benefits of valuing multilingualism in schools

- A study of more than 800 school students in England led by academics at the University of Cambridge shows that young people who consider themselves 'multilingual' tend to perform better across a wide range of subjects at school, regardless of whether they are actually fluent in another language. More details at <https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/students-who-self-identify-as-multilingual-perform-better-at-gcse>
- Other research from Cambridge indicates that young people are more likely to choose to study languages if they are encouraged to explore the importance of languages and their significance for their own lives instead of just learning vocabulary and grammar <https://news.educ.cam.ac.uk/cultivating-multilingual-identities-could-reverse-crisis>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

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