

CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

JULY 2018

1. LANGUAGES IN THE NEWS

Good news story about languages in ACT schools

Congratulations to students at Amaroo School, which took some top honours this year in the Language Perfect World Championship, an online global competition. The school placed first out of the 34 ACT schools that competed, and also first out of more than 1100 schools in the world in Japanese ('Language Legends' article in the Canberra Chronicle of 26 June).

Is monolingualism a disease?

"It's almost official now: monolingual people are at a physical disadvantage and may develop health problems". For the full article, based on recent talks at the Hay Festival in Wales:

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/life/2018-06-12-multilingualism-is-good-for-your-mind--and-body/>

Critique of the Adult Migrant English Program

A scathing assessment in the Canberra Times of 25 June about the decline in the AMEP program. For full article see <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/the-demise-of-english-language-programs-for-new-arrivals-to-australia-20180620-p4zmm1.html>

University of Southern Queensland to discontinue Mandarin and German

USQ (Toowoomba) announces it will discontinue language programs by the end of 2018. Mandarin may be retained as a first-year offering, but German is to be discontinued entirely. Students have been particularly active in protesting against these changes. To show support you can access a petition at <https://www.change.org/p/vice-chancellor-save-language-teaching-at-the-university-of-southern-queensland>

2. UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ANU Language Teaching Forum

This is a discussion platform for language teachers and researchers across ANU colleges as well as for language educators from outside the university such as secondary school teachers and educators from community schools. The Forum's main objective is to foster the exchange of research and new approaches in language education.

- Monday 23 July 4.15 – 5.15 pm
- Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU.
- Presenter: Yanyan Wang

For more information and/or to join the mailing list, contact France Meyer at france.meyer@anu.edu.au

Call for volunteers to lead English conversation groups at ANU College

Lisa Powick, a teacher at ANU College, is seeking volunteers to lead English Conversation groups for international students at the college, who often find it difficult to meet locals. The Conversation Groups will run from 30 July to 21 September 2018.

Volunteers can arrange the time and location to meet (e.g. library on ANU campus, cafes or restaurants) with a group of 3-4 students for one hour per week to practice English.

More information, email Lisa at conversation@anucollege.edu.au or apply online at: <http://bttr.im/0936Q>

Survey of EAL/D and mainstream teachers in schools (K-12)

ATESOL ACT is conducting a survey of EAL/D and mainstream teachers in schools (K-12). This is to assist ATESOL ACT and its national body ACTA, to present an evidence-based case to the ACT and Commonwealth Governments about the needs of students learning English as an additional language. The survey is available until Sunday 29 July at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7MNL83F>

All teachers are invited to take part. Names and other personal details will not be collected as part of this survey.

WA conference: Making task-based language teaching work in the classroom

Curtin University and the Modern Language Teachers' Association of WA invite you to a conference on task-based language teaching and how to integrate it into your classroom.

- Friday 20 – Saturday 21 July 2018, 8.15am - 4.30pm
- School of Education, Building 501, Curtin University, Kent Street, Bentley, WA.

For details: Gabrielle Migliore learninghub@curtin.edu.au or https://payments.curtin.edu.au/other-events/booking?UDS_ACTION_DATA=Y1xUc0FDUANOWCYKMEJDcihVQg1LLkMbWTNBLnMyUUd9NypW

3. OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND PRACTICE LANGUAGES IN THE ACT AREA

SPECIFIC LANGUAGES

French with the Alliance Française

- Enrolments now open for Term 3 (23 July – 29 October).
- Programs for all ages and levels - preschool to adults
- Some classes now offered in Tuggeranong

NEW: Social meetings to practice French while learning typical French card games - Wednesday evenings, 7.15pm.

For more information: <https://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

Indonesian classes with the Australia Indonesia Association

- Fun vocational classes.
- Five Levels with professional and native Indonesian speaking teachers.
- 8 week classes beginning Monday 23 July 2018

For more information: phone 0406930835, email: vp-australian@aia-act.org.au or see <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=386589&>

Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

- Are you learning Chinese – in a formal program or self study?
- Would you like to practice speaking with a native speaker?

This free project, coordinated by the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia (ALMA), aims to promote

- the learning and maintenance of Mandarin language in the ACT
- contact and friendship between Chinese people living in Canberra and members of the wider ACT community

Learners are introduced to a fluent speaker of Mandarin who lives in the Canberra region. The tutor and learner then make their own arrangements to meet, usually for one or two hours a week on a one-to-one basis. There is no payment involved. All participants are volunteers.

For more information and to register for the project:

<https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/mandarin-community-tutoring.html>

VARIOUS LANGUAGES

Languages at university level in the ACT and around Australia

For information about university level language courses at the ANU and other universities around Australia – including in 6 Aboriginal languages – see: Universal Languages Portal Australia at <https://www.ulpa.edu.au>

Language Courses with ANU Continuing Education

Selection of programs in a variety of languages. Designed for students planning to travel for both personal and professional reasons.

For details: <https://cce.anu.edu.au/our-courses/languages.aspx>

Learn languages with CIT Solutions

Short courses in various languages, including Auslan, plus Writing and Speaking English, about to start Semester 2.

For more details: <https://shortcourses.cit.edu.au/courses/?ccid=9710169b-0f69-093e-2e20-5b2374f6de6f>

Canberra Language Exchange – Tuesday evenings in Civic

- A club for anybody interested in learning or improving a second language, meeting new people from other cultures and being social.
- Tuesday evenings at 7pm at P.J. O'Reilly's, 52 Alinga St, Civic
- A free event

There should always be speakers of English, Chinese, Spanish, French, Japanese, Korean, German, Arabic and Persian - with a variety of other languages most weeks.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/LanguageexchangeCanberra/>

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance

ACTBEA provides links to local language programs for adults and children, plus information about other opportunities to hear, speak and practice languages in the Canberra area. See headings on the left-hand side of the ACTBEA website at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/>.

FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

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