

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

March 2017

1. Bridging Language Barriers Symposium at Macquarie University

Thursday, March 16, 2017. A day-long symposium which includes discussion of

- Language diversity as an asset for teaching and learning
- Educating diverse student populations
- Multilingualism in institutions

Registrations are now closed, but anyone interested can participate in online discussions and forums on *Language on the Move*. Throughout the day, they will also be live-tweeting the event. The twitter hash tag will be #LOTM2017.

For more information see <http://www.languageonthemove.com/bridging-language-barriers-symposium-program-update/>

2. Languages potluck lunch: Help celebrate Harmony Day

A fun networking opportunity to meet families raising children in more than one language and talk to language and literacy educators and experts

- Sunday 19 March 2017, 11am- 1pm
- Function Room, Second Floor, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Civic Square

Bring your favourite foods and recipes to share. Free games and fun activities for children in a variety of languages, Short performances from children welcome.

For more information and to book: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html> or contact canberrabilingual@gmail.com or Mandy 0408 089 235.

3. Multilingual Poetry Reading

- Tuesday 21st March 2017 12.30 – 1.30pm
- Civic Library (Civic Square, London Circuit, Civic)

Celebrate Harmony Day by coming to Civic Library to hear:

- their talented bilingual library staff read the same poem in different languages
- young Persian poet Asefeh Abedini read her poem 'Love Each Other'.

Then feel free to take to the stage and read your favourite poem in your language.

To book a place: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/harmony-day-multilingual-poetry-reading-tickets-32610658357?aff=ebapi>

4. A chance to promote languages and language learning at the Connect and Participate (CAP) Expo

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) will have a stall at this well-attended event. The aim of the stall is to promote interest in language learning, encourage people to learn a new language or develop the language skills they already have, and provide information about where and how they can do this.

- When? Saturday 25 March, 11am-4pm
- Where? Old Bus Depot markets Kingston - Stall number 149 on the upper level

If you have brochures or pamphlets about a language program that you would like to display and/or could help to staff the stall and share your enthusiasm and knowledge, please let us know at canberrabilingual@gmail.com or add your name to the roster at <http://doodle.com/poll/6mwhz553w2xw7h9u>

For more information about the live performances, come and try activities and food stalls at the CAP Expo, see <https://au.eventbu.com/canberra/cap-expo/971406> for more details.

5. ANU Language Teaching Forum

A discussion forum for language teachers and researchers across ANU colleges. Language educators from outside the university such as secondary school teachers and teachers from community schools also welcome.

The forum's main objective is to foster the exchange of research and new approaches in language education. It is held on the fourth Monday of the month.

First forum for 2017 will be

- 4.15pm – 5.15pm on Monday 27 March
- Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU
- Speaker , Dr Kinoshita
- Topic “Influences of cross-institutional studies”

For more info, to enquire about making a presentation, and/or to join the mailing list contact:

- *Ms France Meyer (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, CASS)*
france.meyer@anu.edu.au
- *Dr Duck-Young Lee (School of Culture, History & Language, CAP)*
duck.lee@anu.edu.au
- *Dr Louise Jansen (School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics, CASS)*
louise.jansen@anu.edu.au

6. Celebrating Mother Languages 2017

The Canberra-based International Mother Language Movement organised another very successful walk on Sunday 26 February to celebrate International Mother Language Day. For the story behind one of the walkers, see <http://citynews.com.au/2017/walking-talk-mother-tongues/> Click on <http://citynews.com.au/2017/language-walk-encourages-understanding/> for a report of the event.

Watch this space for details of the walk next year, which will be held on or near the United Nations declared International Mother Language Day, 21 February.

For information about a storytelling event in Melbourne that highlighted Australia's linguistic diversity as part of International Mother Language Day celebrations in 2017, see <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/embracing-australias-linguistic-diversity-through-stories/8279056>

7. Modern Language Teachers' Association of the ACT Inc.

Teachers of languages in the ACT region are invited to become members or renew membership. The role of the MLTA is to promote language learning in the ACT by providing a voice for language teachers and to facilitate professional dialogue among ACT colleagues and with colleagues in other jurisdictions.

For more information see <http://www.mltaact.asn.au/>

Financial members of the MLTA ACT Inc. and any potential members (who will become financial members before the day of the AGM) are welcome to attend the AGM on Thursday 23 March at Telopea Park School beginning at 4:30pm.

The MLTA ACT Inc. would particularly appreciate the presence of members who are interested in joining the Committee and/or joining an Organising Committee for planned events in 2017.

They would also like to have a wider representation of language teachers from **ALL** languages taught in the ACT.

For more information, contact president@mltaact.asn.au

8. Patji-Dawes Award: nominate your inspiring language teacher

You only have until 17 March to nominate a language teacher for this award. As part of the prize, winner and nominator are funded to attend the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations' International Conference on the Gold Coast in July.

The Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language, Professor Nicholas Evans, says he hopes Australians who have become fluent in a language other than English will nominate their teacher.

“It may be an indigenous language teacher, university teacher of Mandarin, or Indonesian high school teacher, a Spanish teacher of an evening class or teacher from one of Australia's many multilingual communities. We are asking speakers who have become fluent in another language to nominate the language teacher who inspired them most.”

For details: <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/education-and-outreach/dawes-award/>

The Patji-Dawes award is an initiative of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language with the ongoing support of the AFMLTA and LCNAU.

9. Volunteer adult literacy tutor required

Libraries ACT is looking for an experienced adult literacy tutor to work with someone in first year of release from the Alexander Maconochie Centre. This role is very important to help learners build on the literacy support they received while detainees, and can make a huge difference in their life.

For more details contact Rachel Davis, the Learning Projects Manager, on 6205 9671 or see <https://www.volunteeringact.org.au/volunteers/opportunities#/opportunity/98672>

10. Opportunities to learn and practice languages in Canberra

• Language Exchange - Canberra

Tuesday evenings at PJ O'Reilly's. A club for anybody interested in learning or improving a second language, meeting new people from other cultures and being social. For more information see <https://www.meetup.com/Languageclub/>

• Polyglot Club

Mondays evenings at the ANU. Conversation groups in the French, German, Spanish and Danish languages. For more information see <http://www.canberrapolyglot.org/>

• Farsi –Dari

Experienced bilingual educator and teacher offering private tuition in Farsi and Dari. For details contact malihasaikal@yahoo.com, 0417 223 197 (m)

• French with the Alliance Française de Canberra March and April

French programs during Easter Break (Mon 10 April – Saturday 22 April 2017)

- Adults: revision courses, Workshop Versailles, Workshop Journalism, Ciné-class
- Young learners: Workshop Versailles, Workshop Journalism, Tales time, and cooking workshop

Cultural programs

- Speed Talking: Wednesday 22 March at 12pm
- Alliance Française French Film Festival: 9 March to 4 April
- Café Historique (Topic: Versailles): Friday 24 March, 5.30pm to 7.00pm, Free event conducted in English
- Open Day / Francophonie: Friday 31 March, 3.00pm to 6.00pm

For more details: <http://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

- **For other opportunities to study and practice a range of languages see:** <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/other-language-programs.html>

11. Articles and links that may be of Interest:

Linguists have long known that bilinguals act as brokers in making languages more similar, as they pass structures back and forth between the languages they speak. But a talk at the Australian Linguistic Society in Melbourne in December 2016 revealed that bilingualism can also produce the opposite effect, making languages more different. <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/news-and-media/latest-headlines/article/?id=powerful-bilinguals-study-shows-theyre-changing-the-worlds-languages>

Marketing can make or break a launch, especially for start-ups. Think about getting someone on your team who has at least a foundational understanding of linguistics. <https://medium.com/startupsc0/hire-a-linguist-to-do-your-marketing-d85520422361#.ng279ko40>

It's often thought that it is better to start learning a second language at a young age. But research shows that this is not necessarily true. In fact, the best age to start learning a second language can vary significantly, depending on how the language is being learned. <https://theconversation.com/younger-is-not-always-better-when-it-comes-to-learning-a-second-language-73274>

One the other hand:

New research published by **Monika Schmid** and colleagues, using brain scans and innovative statistical methods, does indeed suggest that our capacity to learn a language diminishes gradually over our lives. <https://theconversation.com/at-what-age-is-it-easiest-to-learn-a-second-language-53840>

A diverse group of private and non-profit partners spanning the education, business and foundation sectors will launch **Lead with Languages**, an unprecedented, multi-year campaign aimed at reversing the language skills gap and making language learning a national priority in the USA

<https://www.actfl.org/news/press-releases/lead-languages-campaign-launches-promotes-urgent-call-action-making-language-proficiency-national-priority>

Translanguaging, strategy which can help multilingual learners bridge the languages spoken at home with the linguistic demands of schools.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/using-multiple-languages-to-support-bilingual-learners_us_58a77894e4b0fa149f9ac5e8

Valuable Voices: a new iPhone app developed at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), provides 12 ready-to-implement exercises for students and teachers to build linguistic awareness and English language skills. <http://news.umbc.edu/new-app-valuable-voices-builds-awareness-of-linguistic-and-cultural-diversity-in-the-classroom/>

Phonics is just one player in the literacy story

<https://theconversation.com/a-new-phonics-test-is-pointless-we-shouldnt-waste-precious-money-buying-it-from-england-69355?>

FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

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