



# CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

**MARCH 2019**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1. PUBLIC FORUM: THE BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM AND HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR HERITAGE LANGUAGE

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) is supporting the activities of the Hellenic Club of Canberra as part of the annual 'Speak Greek in March' campaign by presenting a talk on the benefits of bilingualism and how to maintain your heritage language.

- 3pm Saturday 23 March
- Aegean Room, Hellenic Club, Matilda Street, Woden, ACT 2606

Come along to discuss the benefits of learning more than one language and how, why and when to encourage children to develop their skills in a heritage language or a language spoken in the family. Questions and input from audience members are encouraged.

FREE and ALL WELCOME but bookings essential through [hellenicclub.com.au/booknow/](http://hellenicclub.com.au/booknow/)

### 2. LANGUAGES OF SYDNEY: THE PEOPLE AND THE PASSION

- Saturday 30 March, 3pm - 4 pm
- NSW State Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

More than 52% of school students in Sydney have a language background other than English. To address ways of knowing and learning of our diverse student population, educators need to acknowledge, recognise and incorporate in their teaching the linguistic and cultural heritage of their students. To coincide with the publication of their book, *Languages of Sydney: The people and the passion*, Alice Chik, Susan Markose and Diane Alperstein from the Macquarie Multilingualism Research Group at Macquarie University will address two questions:

- How do multilingual students view languages?
- How do languages shape students' identities?

The one-hour program will include a short presentation and an interactive workshop on using the tool kit of language portraits and stories to explore the dynamics of the multicultural and multilingual classroom. For more info: <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/languages-sydney-people-and-passion>

The book is an open-access publication: <https://www.candlinandmynard.com/new-titles.html> but purchase of a printed copy via Amazon will benefit the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (<https://alnf.org/>).

### 3. LANGUAGES AFTERNOON TEA

Come and meet others with a love of languages and language learning at this informal networking event. There will be fun language activities for all ages and a chance to share ideas about language learning and raising children in more than one language.

- Sunday 7 April 2pm-4pm
- Latin American Cultural Centre, 28 Astrolabe Street, Red Hill, ACT 2603
- Free and all welcome, but booking required for catering purposes:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/languages-afternoon-tea-tickets-58771678673>

For more details: [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com) or 0408 089 235 (m)

#### **4. HOW LANGUAGES ARE TAUGHT – FREE WORKSHOP**

- Do you teach a language?
- Are you in training to be a language teacher?
- Are you interested in seeing language teaching in action?

This free workshop will be of particular interest to teachers of languages to students above elementary school level.

The workshop will use Chinese, Hindi, and some German as demonstration languages, but the focus is on foreign language teaching in general.

- 9.30am – 5.15pm Thursday 11 April and Friday 12 April 2019
- Sir Rowland Wilson Building, ANU, 120 McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601

The presenter is Dr. Cyndy Ning, Associate Director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Hawaii. Dr Ning specializes in language pedagogy and is the author of several Chinese language textbook series focusing on task-based, learner-centred instruction, including the most recent video-based series: Encounters: Chinese Language and Culture

This is a free event, but registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/how-languages-are-taught-a-special-workshop-on-second-language-pedagogy-tickets-57763228371>

For program and more information, contact Dr Yanyin Zhang at [yanyin.zhang@anu.edu.au](mailto:yanyin.zhang@anu.edu.au)

Presented by the ANU School of Culture, History and Language in collaboration with the ANU School of Languages, Literature and Linguistics, with funding from the Asia-Pacific innovation Program (APIP) by the College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP).

#### **5. CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

##### School Holiday Chinese Culture Camp

- Saturday 13 April until Thursday 18 April 2019
- Snow Centre, Canberra Grammar School, Monaro Crescent, Red Hill
- Open to students 5 – 23 years old

Organised by the Australian School of Contemporary Chinese. Early bird fees available until 31 March 2019.

For more information: (02) 6176 0528 or 0478 788 459

##### First ACT Chinese Recital Competition.

Open to all students learning Chinese across ACT schools, as well as individuals outside the school system. There will be four levels of participants: primary, secondary, college and university, and two categories: native speakers and non-native speakers.

- Sunday 5 May, 9.15am – 4.30pm
- Canberra Grammar School, Monaro Crescent, Red Hill, ACT 2603

Organised by the Chinese Language Teachers' Association of ACT (CLTAACT) Inc

For more information, contact Mr Chen 0478 788 459 or [ascc@trilong.com.au](mailto:ascc@trilong.com.au)

#### **6. MOTHER TONGUE MULTILINGUAL POETRY**

All welcome to the next Multilingual Open Mic

- Monday 13 May 2019, from 7pm
- Smith's Alternative, Alinga Street, Canberra City 2601

Performers can read their own poem – so now is the time to start writing something new to share! – or share a favourite piece by someone else.

- All languages welcome – as long as it includes some language other than English
- You can share a translation of your piece in English, or just give a brief outline or introduction.
- All styles of poetry are welcome – from traditional forms to contemporary spoken word and rap.
- Open mic spots are 4 minutes long, including any introduction or translation.

The feature, celebrating the International Year of Indigenous Languages, will be Tyronne Bell. He will talk about the significance of language for his community, and will teach us how to make an Acknowledgement of Country in the language of the Ngunawal People. This is a great opportunity to make our acknowledgements more meaningful.

For more information or to sign up in advance, email [mothertonguemicro@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonguemicro@gmail.com)

## OTHER NEWS

### 7. LANGUAGES AT THE ANU

A focus on languages is included in the strategic goals for the ANU College of Asia Pacific (CAP). The college has a dedicated marketing budget for languages, which will enable more outreach in the community and the establishment of strategic partnerships with schools and cultural institutions. This complements the \$11.6m ANU has invested into less commonly taught Asian and Pacific languages over five years, which will support the development of programs, digital innovation and hiring of permanent language academics.

The college is also exploring the feasibility of making study of a language compulsory for all CAP students.

As regards enrolments, these went up from 16 students in online language programs in 2018 - the first year of the ANU partnership with Open University Australia (OUA) - to approximately 140 for semester 1 2019.

The number of languages taught online has also grown. In 2019, Mongolian and Persian were added to Hindi, Sanskrit, Tetum, Thai, Tibetan and Vietnamese. In 2020, Tok Pisin and Burmese will also join the list. Possible future plans include adding advanced levels of the most in-demand languages (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) to OUA students.

Many programs taught on campus are also enjoying a boon. Literary Chinese is at record enrolments, while Mandarin, Korean and Japanese continue to fill the top three spots in terms of popularity of languages offered through CAP. The college is also looking at giving more support to Indonesian, possibly through increased outreach to ACT schools teaching the language to Year 12. Attracting students to the Burmese program has been a challenge this year, but ANU continues to be the only university in Australia to teach the language.

For more information about CAP language programs: <http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/languages>

For all languages at the ANU: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/languages>

### 8. LANGUAGE LEARNING ADDED TO THE ACT MULTICULTURAL FRAMEWORK

One of the outcomes arising from community consultations at the ACT Multicultural Summit held in November 2018 is 'Language learning is valued and promoted across the community'.

This outcome is included under the objective 'Capitalising on the Benefits of our Cultural Diversity' in the draft ACT Multicultural Framework Second Action Plan 2019-20. Actions listed to progress this outcome are

- Review funding provided to ACT Language Schools
- Continue to develop and support the Languages Showcase at the National Multicultural Festival (NMF)

The Canberra Region Languages Forum, together with the President of the ACT Community Language Schools Association and the Convener of the Canberra Academy of Languages, has written a joint letter to the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC), to offer our assistance to realise the actions identified.

One of the roles of the MAC is to “ensure a continued consultative approach to the implementation of the ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-2020 and to report to the ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs on the implementation of initiatives arising from the ACT Multicultural Summit”.

We will keep Forum members informed of further developments.

## **9. RECORD OF CONFERENCE: ‘LANGUAGE KEEPERS: PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE PACIFIC’**

If you missed this conference hosted in February by the National Library of Australia in association with UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019, you can watch it in full on the NLA YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzgJLpDMiCeUZ6CD4WR2mhEwWVZmLAWCm#IYL2019>

The conference featured some incredible speakers across the two days, including Professor Kim Scott, Professor Jakelin Troy, Ray Ingrey and Associate Professor Nick Thieberger.

## **10. SURVEY INTO COMMUNITY ENGLISH PROGRAMS**

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA) and the Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA) invite you to have your say on community English classes for migrants and refugees. FECCA and SCoA are interested in learning what works, what doesn't work, the challenges and the strengths of community English classes.

They would like to hear from both participants and providers via a very short survey designed to give FECCA and SCoA a broad understanding from across the country on challenges and strengths with community classes. The survey will be open until 30 April 2019.

More information and the survey for participants is available at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvE1-aSJo3osiljCmSGQbPbUOldbxjv-BPSj4IVmGfvfXswQ/viewform>

and for providers at : [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZ\\_a-LB8rxSnTLy4IO\\_Gt97KYDnnFH26zrQXL8C7\\_UGSrKfA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZ_a-LB8rxSnTLy4IO_Gt97KYDnnFH26zrQXL8C7_UGSrKfA/viewform)

## **11. GERMAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM IN CANBERRA**

Would you like to see a German Immersion Program in a primary school in Canberra? If you are interested, you are invited to join the German Immersion Program Parents & Friends – a committee that is exploring the possibility of setting up a German Immersion Program in a public primary school in the ACT.

For more information see <http://spielwelt.org.au/about/canberra/german-immersion-in-primary-school/> or email Brigitta at [german.primary@spielwelt.org.au](mailto:german.primary@spielwelt.org.au)

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

**Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at**

<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>