



# CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

March 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### 1. Celebrating Multilingual Canberra on Canberra Day

- Monday 14 March 11am - 6pm in Commonwealth Park

#### Multilingual story walk

Explore the Adventures of Sindbad by following the story walk near Stage 88.

- Nine stops and nine different languages.
- Each stop has an illustrated section of the story – written in English plus one other language spoken and/or being taught in the ACT.
- You can hear recordings of all the languages
- Correctly identify at least 6 of the languages for a chance to win a cash prize!

More info at <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html>

#### Mother Tongue – Multilingual Poetry

- Canberra in Poem. 11.50am to 12.15pm (to be confirmed)  
Work produced at the multilingual poetry writing and performance workshop with Mother Tongue at the ANU on 5 March
- Poets from the Balkans 1.45pm to 2.15pm  
Two Canberra-based poets sharing their original work in Serbian and English (Vesna) and Bosnian and English (Mirsad) and speaking about what writing in their respective languages means to them.

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

#### Multilingual Canberra: Information Stall

Stall number 4 – in the line of stalls nearest to Regatta Point

- Information about languages and language learning in the ACT area.
- Meet people from the Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL), ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA), Canberra Region Languages Forum, Mother Tongue multilingual poetry and others interested in promoting languages and language education in the ACT
- Find out what they do, how they can assist in your language journeys and/or how you can get involved to share your love of languages and language learning.

CAL and ACTBEA would like to acknowledge the support from the ACT Government 2022 National Multicultural Festival Grant program for these Canberra Day activities

For the full program of events on Canberra Day in Commonwealth Park on Monday 14 March, visit <https://enlightencanberra.com/program/canberra-day/>

## **2. Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) Information Evening**

- Monday 28 March 2022 6pm-7 pm
- Online via Google Meet

An information evening for students interested in commencing studies with CAL for senior secondary language studies in Term 2 2022.

Programs are offered in French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil.

Discussion will include information on receiving credit for languages studies towards the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and towards the ATAR; how CAL's programs are set up; how to find current information through CAL's online systems about programs throughout the year; and what to do if planning to commence with CAL in Term 2.

For Google Meet link email [info@cal.act.edu.au](mailto:info@cal.act.edu.au) and more information see <https://cal.act.edu.au/>

## **3. ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences Showcase**

- Monday 4 April – Thursday 7 April 2022 4pm-6pm
- Online by Zoom
- Free and open to Year 11 and 12 students, parents, teachers and careers advisors

An opportunity to experience the breadth and diversity of disciplines available within the humanities, arts & social sciences (HASS) and languages at the ANU, while providing Year 11 and 12 students an opportunity to learn about the study options available and the career paths these fields can open.

Mini webinars and drop-in sessions presented by ANU academics. Sessions will be structured around the themes of 'Social Sciences and Government', 'Humanities, Society and Culture', 'Understanding the past', 'Creative Arts and Music' and 'Languages'. You can also interact with current students to learn about life at university and demystify the world of tertiary education.

For more details and to register to receive event schedule and further updates:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/hass-languages-showcase-2022-tickets-264933572447>

## **4. Poetry and Story Share afternoon with Be:longing**

- Saturday 9 April 2022 2pm-4pm
- Smith's Alternative, Alinga Street, Civic.

Be:longing, an online publication exploring personal experiences of migration, cross-cultural interactions, nostalgia and feelings of divided (or shared) cultural belonging, is currently organising this live event.

For more information, keep an eye on <https://www.facebook.com/belongingmag/> or <https://www.smithsalternative.com/calendar>

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **5. Free English Conversation Groups at Libraries ACT**

Face to face conversation classes have now recommenced at most ACT library branches. These are friendly, free and informal opportunities to practice speaking and listening in English. The groups are run by library volunteers who lead the conversation each week. Where possible, groups split up into different conversations by level of experience e.g. beginners, intermediate, advanced.

For times and locations: <https://www.library.act.gov.au/services/english-conversation-classes>

Bookings currently essential and can be made online, in person at a library or via 6205 9000.

## 6. Supporting Community Language Schools

### Submissions and letters

Send a message to the ACT Treasurer (Andrew Barr), Minister for Education (Yvette Berry) and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Tara Cheyne) to ask them to properly fund our community language schools in the upcoming ACT budget.

- Add your own views and ideas to the letter you can see at <https://greens.org.au/act/campaigns/fund-community-language-schools-canberra> or
- Write directly to the Ministers – using some of the wording in the letter if you wish. Ministers' emails are: barr@act.gov.au; berry@act.gov.au; and cheyne@act.gov.au.

### Petition for free RATs

Sign an ACT Assembly e-petition, initiated by the Spanish language school, for free Rapid Antigen Tests to be made available to students and teachers at community languages schools in line with arrangements for public and private schools. This will bring the matter to the attention of the Minister and be automatically referred to the relevant Assembly committee if at least 500 signatures are collected.

For more information and to add your signature see:

<https://epetitions.act.gov.au/CurrentEPetition.aspx?PetId=211&Index=-1&fbclid=IwAR2Qbc-Griy3hedC17u8MzgCL3iNiLgWscdmDTC-wQEmCD4XLNSuG-Y38FQ>

## 7. ANU Language Teaching Forum

The ANU Language Teaching Forum (LTF) provides a platform for language teachers and researchers in all areas of the ANU as well as teachers in mainstream and community language schools in the Canberra region. Meeting monthly on Mondays during semesters and starting at 4.15pm, the LTF offers an opportunity for the sharing of language teaching experiences and reflections, research studies, and pedagogical practices.

The Forum held its first meeting in 2022 on 7 March, with Maureen Gallagher, a lecturer in German Studies, giving the presentation “Gender-neutral and Gender-inclusive Language Teaching Strategies”. Materials and a recording of her presentation available from:

- [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bl3Uy6ts8hICHdwIDN7sST6fHJHKpQzZLr\\_Y2zqSxn8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bl3Uy6ts8hICHdwIDN7sST6fHJHKpQzZLr_Y2zqSxn8/edit?usp=sharing) and
- <https://cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus/s/Q7hXFfZzDmA4ZJ8> (password **ivjU^yACEhU3**)

To join the ANU LTF mailing list, or if you are interested presenting one Monday – there are still some spots open this semester – please email [Wesley.Lim@anu.edu.au](mailto:Wesley.Lim@anu.edu.au)

## FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

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