



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

June 2021

1. VIDEO COMPETITION: SHARING LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Free and open to all students from preschool to Year 12 in the Canberra Region

To enter, students produce a video of a conversation (maximum length 2 minutes) involving a language other than English. The conversation could be with an older member of the family, a classmate or a friend, and the language can be a family or community language or a language being learned at school.

- Three categories: Preschool-Year 2, Years 3-6, and Years 7-12
- First prize of \$100 for each category, plus 6 runner-up prizes of \$50

For more details, including possible conversation starters and judging criteria see <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/news.html> or email canberrabilingual@gmail.com

For poster with all the details:

https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/actbea_sharing_languages_competition_2021_revised.pdf

All entries must be received by Monday 6 September 2021

Organised by ACTBEA (ACT Bilingual Education Alliance) with support from Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc and an ACT Government 2021-2022 Participation (Multicultural) Grant

2. NEWS FROM ACT COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS (ACTCLS)

Open day

The ACTCLS Association held a very successful Open Day at the Albert Hall on Saturday 15 May 2021. Opened by the ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the day featured fantastic performances by students, interesting displays and activities - and some tasty snacks - on the many information stalls, and an excellent round table discussion in the afternoon.

Independent review

There is still no news on when the Independent Review of Investment in ACT Community Language Schools commissioned by the ACT government will be released and/or tabled in the Assembly. The review was completed at the end of 2020 and submitted to the Community Services Directorate before Christmas.

University of Canberra short course on Language Teaching Methodology

Supported by a community grant obtained through the Spanish Speakers Association and Director Mr Carlos Torres, twenty teachers from ACT community language schools are currently enrolled in a Language Teaching Methodology short course at the University of Canberra (UC).

The course is being offered in a mixed-blended mode, with classes timed to suit the teachers and full-time working participants. A graduation and awards night is planned for mid to end of August. Teachers who successfully complete the course can apply for entry into the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Foreign Language Teaching.

NOTE: UC is currently offering its Graduate Certificate in TESOL and Foreign Language Teaching at a heavily discounted price of \$2000 (compared to an original price of \$7,000). More details at <https://www.canberra.edu.au/course/EDC301/1/2021> or email: Education.student@canberra.edu.au

3. PATJI-DAWES LANGUAGE TEACHING AWARDS

Award winners 2021

- Group category: The Wiradjuri program at Charles Sturt University
- Individual category: Maria Lo Presti, Head of Languages at Aquinas College in Perth WA and teacher of Italian for over 30 years.
- Community Outreach category: Sharon Gregory, teacher of Noongar with the Walyalap Waangkaniny Noongar Language Group, Fremantle, WA

More details at: <https://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/news-and-media/latest-headlines/article/?id=2021-patji-dawes-language-teaching-award>

The awards will be conferred on Tuesday 6 July 2021 at the AFMLTA (Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations) International Languages Conference.

OAM for previous winner

Brother Steve Morelli, who shared the Patji-Dawes Language Teaching Award in 2019, received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours 'for service to the Indigenous community of the Mid-North Coast of New South Wales'

Details at <https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/awards/2008891>

Changes in administration from 2021

Established in 2015 by the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (CoEDL), the Patji-Dawes Award will be administered from 2021 by the AFMLTA and the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities (LCNAU), co-sponsors of the Award since its inception.

4. REFORMS TO THE ADULT MIGRANT ENGLISH PROGRAM (AMEP)

Significant changes are afoot in the Australian Government's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), a free service that has been supporting migrant settlement since the 1940s. Already announced are the removal of some limits to participation. Eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants in Australia can now:

- keep studying, even if they have completed 510 hours (the previous limit), until they reach a level of vocational English (previously the limit was 'functional' English)
- apply to enrol, even if they have enrolled in the AMEP before and have been living in Australia for many years

The Department of Home Affairs has now released a discussion paper about further changes to the AMEP and is calling for community feedback - from individuals, groups and organisations with an interest or expertise in the AMEP

For Discussion paper see: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-pubs/PDFs/amep-reform-discussion-paper.pdf> about further reforms and is seeking community feedback

For online feedback form see: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/submissions-and-discussion-papers/amep-reform-submission-form>

ACTA (the Australian Council of TESOL Associations) has welcomed the AMEP reforms announced in April 2021, but is concerned about the further changes proposed. Their views can be seen in a draft ACTA position statement:

https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/interim_acta_statement_on_amep_goals_and_outcomes_v.4.pdf When ratified, the final version of the statement will be posted on the Advocacy page of the ACTA website.

Submissions to Home Affairs close on 9 July 2021

5. UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA RELATED TO LANGUAGES EDUCATION

❖ **23rd AFMLTA (Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations) International Languages Conference**

The conference will see international and local speakers present sessions relevant to teachers of languages at all levels. The program includes keynote presentations, panel discussions and 30-minute workshops.

- Monday 5 - Tuesday 6 July 2021
- Online event via Zoom across 2 full days
- All sessions will be live online. No recordings of sessions will be available.

Registration costs and full program: <https://afmlta.asn.au/2021-conference-page/>

❖ **International Conference on Community/Heritage Language Education**

- Thursday 11 – Saturday 13 November 2021
- Sydney Institute of Community Languages Education, University of Sydney

This conference will explore community/heritage language education and its key role in maintaining and developing intergenerational linguistic and cultural understandings.

Bringing together researchers, school leaders, teachers, community members, parents and students, the conference will be organised in two strands. Strand 1 will focus on the latest research into community/heritage languages education. Strand 2 other will focus on effective classroom practice.

Call for papers, symposia and posters now open.

Abstracts (250–300 words) due by 1 July 2021.

For more details: <https://sesw-events.sydney.edu.au/calendar/international-conference-on-community-heritage-language-education/>

❖ **Multiculturalism, multilingualism and culture-language education in Asia and the Pacific**

- Thursday 18, Friday 19, and Tuesday 25 November 2021
- Mainly online symposium with possibility of some hybrid face-to-face participation.

This symposium is interested in the socio-cultural-historical-political-economic-educational dimensions and challenges that multiculturalism/multilingualism pose in the modern context in Asia and the Pacific.

These straddle intertwined themes such inter-ethnic relations, peace and harmony, indigenous minority rights, culture-language interrelation, culture-language maintenance, language and education policy, and local/regional ethnolinguistic economic vitality.

Call for abstracts (500 words max) open until Saturday 31 July 2021

For more details email: Wayan Arka (wayan.arka@anu.edu.au), Duck-Young Lee (Duck.Lee@anu.edu.au), Carmel O'Shannessy (Carmel.O'Shannessy@anu.edu.au) or Yanyin Zhang (yanyin.zhang@anu.edu.au).

❖ Decentring and Diversifying Languages and Cultures

6th National Colloquium of LCNAU (Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities)

- Wednesday 24 November - Friday 26 November 2021
- a hybrid conference, online and in person The University of Queensland, St Lucia

As we continue to adjust to a new (ab)normal reality and to tackle the many challenges faced by an increasingly vulnerable education sector, we invite colleagues to consider critically how the disruption of what it means to teach and research in the field of languages and cultures has been enacted in their own contexts.

Call for Papers open until 28 June

Submissions on topics addressing the colloquium theme particularly welcome - how de/re-centring strategies may have manifested and enhanced the diversification of our teaching and research practices to consider more accessible and inclusive approaches (taking into account questions of gender, race, social class, etc.).

However, papers covering other aspects of praxis and lines of inquiry relating to languages and cultures, particularly at the tertiary level, will also be considered.

For more details: <https://www.lcnau.org/colloquia/#2021>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

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