



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF MODERN **LANGUAGE TEACHERS** ASSOCIATIONS

## AFMLTA News in Brief, February 2020

*The AFMLTA provides vision, leadership, representation, advocacy, professional learning and support for quality teaching and learning of languages.*

### Vale Jane Orton

Jane Orton PhD, long term member of MLTAV, former member of AFMLTA executive, Editor of Babel, recipient of the AFMLTA medal, presenter of the Horwood memorial lecture and a passionate advocate for languages education and Chinese Language teaching and learning in particular, passed away on the morning of 31 January 2020. Jane had overcome cancer a few years ago, but it unfortunately returned in recent months, leading to her untimely passing.

Jane had held the position of Honorary Fellow at The University of Melbourne since 2015, and continued to work tirelessly to support research, debate and professional learning for teachers of Chinese nationally and internationally. Most recently she was involved as consultant to a number of Chinese CLIL and bilingual programs in schools. Before her 'retirement' she was Director of the Chinese Teacher Training Centre at The University of Melbourne, from 2009-2015, which operated as a national research and professional development centre for Chinese language teaching in Australia.

Jane researched and published widely in areas related to the teaching and learning of Chinese as a Second Language, in Chinese teacher education and in intercultural relations. Her most recent publications included her book, *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language: the Way of the Learner*, co-authored with Andrew Scrimgeour, published in 2019. She also published chapters in key works including *Chinese Language Education: Teacher Training*, in *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Culture (2016)* and on Teaching Content, and Developing Language in CLIL Chinese in the *Routledge Handbook of Chinese Language Teaching (2019)*. She also authored the two highly commended and influential commissioned reports into Chinese language teaching in Australian schools in 2008, and 2016. These reports sounded the alarm for issues in the teaching of Chinese in Australia and set in train responses from governments and scholars throughout the nation.

Jane was well known internationally and was a keynote speaker at conferences in Germany, the UK, and, most recently, Ireland. She was an active member of the board of the international

Chinese as a Second Language Acquisition Research (CASLAR) Association and was on the editorial board of the CASLAR Journal. She was to present a keynote address at CASLAR6 in Washington DC in August 2020.

Jane's passing has led to an outpouring of grief among practicing teachers of Chinese, many of whom recognise her as the inspiration for their teaching practice and a compassionate mentor and supervisor who always sought to assist teachers to see the classroom from the perspective of the learners themselves. She will be sorely missed for her tireless efforts to improve the quality and outcomes of Chinese language education locally, nationally and internationally.

*An event to celebrate Jane's life will be held in April.*

*Further details will be shared once confirmed.*



## AFMLTA: The National Voice for Teachers of Languages

The Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA Inc.) is the national professional body representing teachers of all languages in Australia.

We provide vision, leadership, representation, advocacy, professional learning and support for quality teaching and learning of languages. Ensure you are a member of the MLTA in your state or territory to enjoy the benefits of membership.



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### AFMLTA Membership

To enjoy the benefits of AFMLTA membership, join the MLTA in your state or territory.

### AFMLTA Communication

Website: [afmlta.asn.au](http://afmlta.asn.au)

Twitter: [@afmlta](https://twitter.com/afmlta)

Facebook: [facebook.com/afmlta](https://facebook.com/afmlta)

Email: [president@afmlta.asn.au](mailto:president@afmlta.asn.au)

### AFMLTA Executive 2019 - 2020

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