



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF MODERN **LANGUAGE TEACHERS** ASSOCIATIONS

## AFMLTA News in Brief, July 2020

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

### Message from new AFMLTA President



Welcome to the latest edition of News In Brief.

I am very privileged indeed to be elected as AFMLTA President for the next two years. It is well researched and publicised that the single biggest influence on student learning is the teacher. Critical, then, to high quality language learning and teaching is the languages teacher and I very firmly support this position.

My day job is Head of Languages at Willetton Senior High School, one of Western Australia's largest secondary schools, with more than 2500 students from Years 7-12, and the most expansive Languages program in WA. Our school is the Teacher Development School for Languages, which provides tailored professional learning to best meet the needs and context of teachers of all languages K-12. Our team provides practical support for whole school planning, teaching, learning and assessment to

languages teachers in WA public schools.

Key components of teachers' work are our professional relationships and active involvement in professional communities. In developing such a community, the core business of the AFMLTA is to provide leadership, vision, representation, advocacy and support to the eight state and territory MLTAs/LTAs, and the teachers who are their members. I am eager to continue promoting the interests of the AFMLTA and languages learning and teaching in Australia, whenever and wherever I can.

One of my major goals as President is to build on the already strong work in enhancing the visibility, and strengthening the position, of the AFMLTA across Australia and, importantly, internationally. Expanding any good work is a team effort and I am also looking forward to working with the seven Elected Officers to implement the decisions made at the recent National Assembly and advancing the Strategic Plan into 2021. We welcome to the Executive Gillian Cordy as Information Officer and Jackie Mikami as Treasurer. Both bring professional association experience from MLTANSW and MLTAQ respectively, as well as a range of other skills and expertise in languages education. Gillian and Jackie have already made positive contributions to our Executive. I would like to publicly thank our outgoing officers Veronique Canellas and Kati Varela who gave two years of service to the AFMLTA. Their contribution to the varied work of the association has been much appreciated. Outgoing President, Amanda Pentti, is to be commended on her open leadership, positive approach and commitment. I also thank Amanda in advance for the work we will do together in her role as Immediate Past President.

I encourage everyone to stay connected with the AFMLTA through the regular communications on our website, Facebook and Twitter, and through your state or territory association.

Nathan Harvey, July 2020

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## AFMLTA Assembly 2020

AFMLTA National Assembly was held online on 7 July. The Assembly comprises one representative of each MLTA/LTA and the AFMLTA elected officers. The Assembly administers the business of the AFMLTA, including the election of officers, and makes decisions for the upcoming year.



Reports from Executive Committee role holders and each MLTA/LTA were shared and participants took the opportunity to connect and network on supporting teachers to deliver high quality teaching of languages in Australian schools. It is always a pleasure to hear about the significant work of the MLTA/LTAs in supporting teachers of languages throughout Australia and how we can support our state/territory members.

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## National Languages Plan and Strategy: Project Update



The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment has engaged the AFMLTA to undertake this project with key stakeholders, nationally. The purpose of the project is to develop a National Languages Plan and Strategy for languages education in Australia. The objective is to support the Australian government efforts to increase the uptake of language learning in schools. Teachers of languages in schools and community language programs are encouraged to participate in a series of 3 online surveys which will be rolled out through Semester 2. Survey data as well as a range of consultation processes will

be used to inform development of the plan and strategy. The first survey will be launched early in Term 3 and promoted widely. You are encouraged to be involved to ensure your knowledge and experience contributes to this important project.

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## Advocacy with AITSL & AAAE



Members of the AFMLTA Executive and MLTAQ and MLTAV Presidents attended the Australian Alliance of Associations in Education's (AAAE) online meeting on 25 July. AAAE member associations contributed beforehand to developing strategic queries to pose to the panel of AITSL officers. AITSL

officers' response was to commit to provide input on Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and Principals, Formative Assessment and Professional Learning; Initial Teacher Education was deemed not a policy position (or in discussion scope).

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## Representation with ESA

The AFMLTA continues to represent the profession as part of the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) Advisory Network. This group, facilitated by Education Services Australia (ESA), advises on the ELLA program in preschools and the F-2 trial in the early years of schooling, associated professional learning events and reviews of the program. The AFMLTA provides a national perspective on this significant development in the way language learning is supported in Australia. [Click here](#) for more details, including information about participating in the preschool program.



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## Professional Reading

### Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) TALIS

The OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) asks teachers and school leaders about working conditions and learning environments at their schools to help countries face diverse challenges. Evidence from TALIS 2018 is that 'so-called' foreign language teachers act as ambassadors of multilingualism and international exchange. Read more [here](#).

## Supporting Research

### Nominations open for Penny McKay Memorial Award

The Penny McKay Memorial Award is for an outstanding doctoral thesis which benefits the teaching and learning of second/additional languages in Australian schools and pre-schools, including Indigenous languages, community languages, foreign languages, Standard Australian English as an additional language or variety, and/or English as a foreign language. The closing date for 2020 applications is 1 November 2020. Further information can be found on the [ACTA website](#).

## Professional Learning

### Association for Language Learning (UK) webinars

ALL have a regular programme of webinars. Sessions are streamed to an unlisted YouTube address with chat enabled to allow as many people as possible to benefit. Each webinar will have an Eventbrite registration and the link will be given in the event information on the site below. Please sign up via Eventbrite giving your name, email, institution and ALL membership status, and you will then receive an email confirmation with a direct link to join with the Zoom or YouTube stream. See their event list on the [ALL website](#) for details of speakers, dates and times and links to Eventbrite registration. ALL has been supporting its members and the wider Language teaching community on the website <https://www.all-languages.org.uk/>. Their Development Manager has collated advice, links and resources for people working or living in isolation.

Members of FIPLV and other Language Associations around the world have been advised of a gesture of international professional friendship from ALL in May, when their termly members' magazine [Languages Today](#) was made available for the first time online only, and is accessible to all interested readers free of charge.

## Local and International Languages Conferences

3 - 27 August 2020: MLTAV Virtual Conference [more details](#)

20-22 November 2020: ACTFL Virtual Convention and World Languages Expo [more details](#)

4-6 July 2021: AFMLTA International Languages Conference, Adelaide

9-11 July 2021: NZALT Conference, Wellington

6-8 September 2021: FIPLV World Congress. Warsaw, Poland



## **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

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

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

## **AFMLTA Executive 2019 – 2020**

President: Nathan Harvey

Immediate Past President: Amanda Pentti

Vice President: Sherryl Saunders

Secretary: Kylie Farmer

Treasurer: Jackie Mikami

Babel Editor: Andrew Scrimgeour

Promotions Officer: Anne-Marie Morgan

Information Officer: Gillian Cordy

Go to the [AFMLTA Website](http://afmlta.asn.au)