



AFMLTA News in Brief, September 2020

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

Featured in this edition of NIB

President Message including advocacy and representation work of the AFMLTA

National Languages Plan & Strategy: Participate NOW in Teacher Survey 1: <https://nlps.afmlta.asn.au/>

Patji-Dawes Award: Nominations Open

AFMLTA Executive Profiles: Jackie Mikami & Gillian Cordy

Professional Learning Opportunities

Message from AFMLTA President

As the saying goes, we must all be having a lot of fun as 2020 is certainly flying by.

The AFMLTA elected officers are continuing to work hard in providing leadership and representation of languages education across Australia.

As I'm sure everyone is aware, ACARA is undertaking a review of the Australian Curriculum. Recognising the AFMLTA as the peak body for languages educators in Australia, ACARA officers approached us to be involved in a briefing of the processes and procedures involved in the review. We will have a second briefing session next month, and the elected officers are ensuring that the voice of the profession is heard in this process. Further information can be found at: <https://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/curriculum-review>.



It's been a privilege to be invited to be part of the MLTAV and MLTAT recent virtual conferences. The innovative ways in which teachers are connecting is quite remarkable. Thanks goes to the elected officers who participated in these conferences and we look forward to the opportunity to be involved in others.

Important work is being done on the development of a new website. Our website is one of the main ways of connecting with teachers, and other interested people, and the development of this more modern and user-friendly website is part of our Strategic Plan. The aim is to provide a relevant digital space for key information, member interaction and contributions.

The most exciting work is the National Languages Plan & Strategy. You will have received information about this through your MLTA/LTA. We really want to get a clear picture of language provision and participation across Australia and I implore everyone to participate in Teacher Survey 1. See below for more information on this.

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, September 2020

AFMLTA Assembly 2020

National Languages Plan and Strategy: Project Update



The Australian Government, through the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), has engaged the AFMLTA to undertake the National Languages Plan and Strategy project for languages education in Australia. The plan will inform future policy design at the national level, for a sustainable approach to planning and implementing languages education.

A series of 3 teacher surveys will be implemented across 2020. The survey data will be used to inform the development of a national picture of the current situation of languages education across Australia, including the teaching of Community Languages and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Teachers of all languages in schools or community language centres are encouraged to participate in this survey about their experiences of the teaching of languages in their school site. This survey, relating to program provision and student participation, should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

This is the final call to participate in Teacher Survey 1 now.

Teacher Survey 2 will be opening soon.

For more details, go to the project website <https://nlps.afmlta.asn.au/>

To contact the Project Director, Sherryl Saunders: e:vicepresident@afmlta.asn.au

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS TEACHER SURVEY 1; <https://nlps.afmlta.asn.au/>

Patji-Dawes Award: Nominations Open

Do you know an accomplished language teaching practitioner or team of practitioners? Why not nominate them for this award?

The Patji-Dawes Language Teaching Award honours outstanding achievements in teaching languages other than English by an accomplished practitioner or team of practitioners in Australia.

The Patji-Dawes award is an initiative of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language through their Outreach program, which includes a commitment to improving levels of multilingualism and mastery of other languages in Australia through understanding and public debate on how we learn (and teach) second and other languages most effectively. The award is co-sponsored by the two national language teaching bodies, the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations and the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities.

The award will include a certificate, small cash prize and, if travel permitted, airfare and accommodation for both the prize-winner and their nominator to attend the award ceremony. In 2021, this is proposed for the AFMLTA conference in Adelaide, 4-6 July 2021.

Deadline for submission of nominations: 8 March 2021. Nomination forms and more details are available here <https://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/education-and-outreach/dawes-award/>.

AFMLTA Executive Profiles



Gillian Cordy

AFMLTA Information Officer

Gillian Cordy has promoted teacher professionalism and quality education in the languages area for many years in her role as an Education Officer – Languages at Sydney Catholic Schools. She has had a long career as a teacher of Indonesian and French in secondary schools and has been involved at senior level in the writing of language syllabuses, exam development and marking processes.

Gillian has also been involved in initial language teacher education at the University

of NSW. Her long and active membership of the Modern Language Teachers Association of NSW was recognised in 2017 when she was made a life member of the association. She served as President of MLTANSW from 2014-2016, as Vice President in 2017 and is still an active committee member and Public Officer.

Jackie Mikami

AFMLTA Treasurer



Jackie Mikami is a Primary School Japanese Teacher and Team Leader. She has been teaching Japanese for almost ten years in Prep to Year 7 expanding her school program to a whole school program using the Australian Curriculum. Jackie is recipient of several Innovation grants, awards and accolades in language teaching. Her experience also includes time as a School Principal at a Japanese Community Language School, as a Translator and Interpreter in Tokyo and more. Jackie is a bilingual, passionate educator, and has lived, studied and worked in three different countries leading to strong intercultural capability and language skills. She leads quality teaching and learning through innovation and continuous growth as a teacher, team leader and volunteer.

Most recently Jackie is working with QCAA & ACARA as a representative for

the languages curriculum review. Using her Master of Educational Leadership, Jackie is interested in language teaching and learning research. She has held a range of roles with MLTAQ on the Gold Coast and at a State level supporting Professional Learning, Conferences, Awards and now as the new Treasurer for AFMLTA.



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: <https://tesol.org.au/who-we-are/#about-acta-4>.

Professional Learning

Local and International Languages Conferences

20-22 November 2020: ACTFL Virtual Convention and World Languages Expo – more details: <https://www.actfl.org/convention-and-expo>.

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: 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.



AFMLTA Membership

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

AFMLTA Communication

Website: afmlta.asn.au

Twitter: @afmlta

Facebook: facebook.com/afmlta

Email: 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)