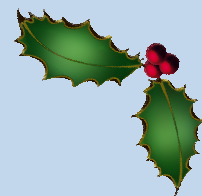




CONTACT



The Newsletter for the ACT Modern Language Teachers' Association

The ACT MLTA Works 4U!

December

2010

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Happy Holidays from the ACT MLTA!

The ACT MLTA would like to wish you all a very relaxing and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you again next year at our Meet and Greet in February!



President's Report

Dear members of the ACT MLTA,

Writing my last report for the year 2010 brings me a lot of joy for I can proudly say that the Executive Committee delivered even more than what we promised in February this year in our Plan "MLTA Works 4U".

Let me briefly remind you of some of the events:

February: 'Meet and Greet' cocktail party at the beautiful Kurrajong Hotel attended by app. 50 teachers.

Contact No 1 out in new format, sent electronically to all members.

March: A new partnership started with the University of Canberra. Members delivered four lectures to university language students.

The ACT MLTA represented at the 'Keys to Canberra' event for newly appointed teachers at the CTL.

May: A dinner and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Mecca Bah with an agreed change of Constitution so that we will now hold the AGM in March each year. This was for practical reasons such as teachers changing schools, membership lapses in February and appointment of the Executive Committee etc.

May/June: A three day workshop on the Professional Standards Project (PSP) Stream C – on Assessment. This was a nationally coordinated professional learning program for language teachers funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). It is based on the use of the *Professional standards for accomplished teaching of languages and cultures* as a framework. The workshop was attended by 11 ACT language teachers. Investigations were completed and a report sent for further research and inclusion in developing National Language Policies.

Contact No 2 sent electronically to all members.

We created the ACT MLTA webpage which is regularly updated, informative and well linked with all the events related to the MLTA and AFMLTA activities: www.mlaact.asn.au

July: AFMLTA Conference in New Zealand.

The President attended an annual AFMLTA Executive meeting in Melbourne and successfully bid to host the AFMLTA Conference in Canberra in 2013 to coincide with the Centenary Celebrations.

August: Event No.3 postponed until Term 4 because of the two day conference 'Intercultural Language Teaching and Learning' with Professor Tony Liddicoat. The ACT MLTA provided prizes and cocktail drinks.

Contact No 3 sent electronically to all members.

September/October: FIPLV Scholarship opened. As nobody applied, we extended it, targeting a specific event – the Conference in Darwin. We have five successful applicants.

We opened a direct bank deposit option for payments to make payments easier for members.

November/December: Conference 'De-stressing Assessment' was held at the Australian Catholic University. We had three presenters and 27 participants, four of whom were students from the University of Canberra.

Contact No 4 to be sent electronically to all members.

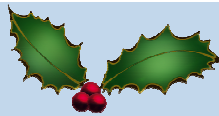
Behind the scene, the Executives were meeting almost once a month and exchanged endless emails in between these meetings to prepare all the events.

On top of this, we are preparing the 2013 national conference (which we did not plan for in February). We contacted Mr. Andrew Barr, who congratulated us and offered his Department's support. We held extensive conversations with the Canberra Bureau and they have already prepared a promotional CD for us to take to Darwin in 2011. We visited possible venues for the conference and are finalising the selection of a professional agency which will help us in preparing the conference.

Wishing you lots of quality time to reenergise for the new teaching year in 2011. Happy holidays!

Meri Dragicevic

President of ACT MLTA



FIPLV Scholarship Winners Announced!

Congratulations to the following people who were awarded a FIPLV scholarship to attend the 18th Biennial AFMLTA Conference in Darwin next July.

* Kate Montgomery

Canberra Girls' Grammar School

* Ludivine Le-Gal

Telopea Park School

* Patricia Blumstein

Telopea Park School,

* Myriam Davies

Aranda Primary School.

* Meri Dragicevic

Yarralumla Primary School



AFMLTA DARWIN 6th-9th JULY, 2011



Diary Dates for 2011

24 February, 2011

4-4:45pm—Meet and Greet' Cocktail Party

4:45-5:30pmAGM (Annual General Meeting)

Membership payment is required on or before this day to enable members voting privileges.

The AGM in February will be very important as we will propose several changes to the ACT MLTA Constitution and the FIPLV scholarships.

Remember:

In line with the slogan 'The ACT MLTA Works 4 U', there will be four (4) events in 2011, one event per term. These events will be held in week 4 of each term.

Membership for 2011

Your 2010 membership expires in February, 2011. To be eligible to vote at the AGM and be elected to the next Executive Committee, you will need to be a financial member of the ACT MLTA on or before the AGM.

It is advisable to join as early as possible so you do not miss out on any of the great events organised by the ACT MLTA or any editions of Babel, the National LOTE Journal. Remember that you can now pay your membership via direct debit using the following details.

Cheques payable to: MLTA of ACT Inc.

Forward payment to:

The Treasurer
MLTA of ACT Inc,

GPO Box 989,

Canberra ACT 2601

Payment by Direct Debit:

Acc. Name: Modern

Language Teachers

Association of ACT

Bank: Commonwealth

Bank of Australia

BSB: 062 902

Acc. No: 009 027 82

Reference: MLTA

Membership + Name

Once transferred, please email our treasurer, Jennifer MacDonald :

jennifer.macdonald@ed.act.edu.au

Remember to keep your receipt—it is tax deductible!

ACT MLTA Annual Conference

Saturday, 6th November 2010



*The Australian Catholic University -
Signadou Campus*

The ACT MLTA's annual Conference titled 'De-stressing Assessment' was held recently at the Australian Catholic University. The conference theme was welcomed by new as well as experienced teachers as assessment is such an important and timely issue in education. We are all aware how vital it is to be able to create a valuable assessment task and marking rubrics to match which allow us to mark students' work confidently, professionally and authentically.

The Conference attracted language teachers from all over the ACT, including four university students which was fantastic to see.

This, in many ways, was an experimental Conference for the ACT MLTA, as we:

- organised it as a Saturday morning session starting with breakfast;
- invited students from the University of Canberra to attend;

and for the first time, used the beautiful Signadou Building and its serene gardens. ACT MLTA President Meri Dragicevic opened the Conference by thanking her Executive team for their effort in organising the invitations, certificates, evaluation forms, registrations, web page, professional DET calendar listing and catering. She also

thanked Dr Carolyn Broadbent, the President of COACTEA, who helped greatly with organising the venue and partially helping with funds towards the cost of the conference. Meri invited all participants to actively engage in dialogue citing: "Classroom teachers may benefit professionally from their exposure to models of good assessment practice...and from conversations with colleagues about their judgements of student work...there are probably few professional development activities more powerful than the peer analysis and discussion of student work" (The Assessment We need, masters and Foster: 2000).

Meri introduced the key note speaker, Anita Patel, who presented her paper: 'The forms of things unknown: language and literature'. Anita demonstrated several activities to show how language can be taught through literature from very early stages in learning L2. We were all invigorated by her knowledge, wisdom and most certainly her passion and enthusiasm for literature.

The second presenter was Margaret Bell who spoke about Assessment and Rubrics; a necessary link in improving the quality of teaching and learning in languages. Margaret talked about the principles of assessment and the Big 3s: Validity, Reliability and Authenticity. She reinforced the notion that everything we do in class is

connected and gave us current terminology to describe the four types of performance criteria (content, process, quality and result).

Natalie Stewart presented teachers with several types of rubrics following the quality learning criteria emphasising that in her teaching practise she now spends more time creating rubrics with students than talking about the elements of tasks. This proves a very successful approach as students have much more control of their learning and achievement and know exactly what should they do in an effort to achieve the grade they aspire for.

Teachers discussed rubrics appropriate to the sector in which they teach and worked in groups. Under Natalie's guidance, they developed good marking rubrics for tasks to facilitate marking and moderation between teachers and enable students to take control of their learning.

Meri concluded the Conference by inviting teachers to register for the AFMLTA Conference in Darwin 2011 and inviting them to take an active role in preparing for the AFMLTA Conference in Canberra 2013.

The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to planning next year's conference to cater to your needs.

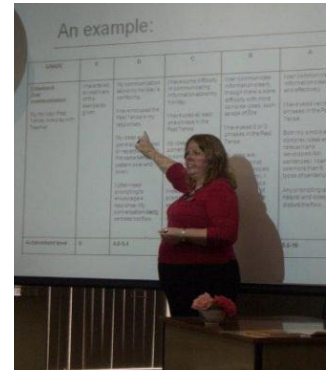
Written by Meri Dragicevic

COACTEA

The Council of ACT Education Associations



ACT MLTA Annual Conference Photos





Excellence in Languages Education

It is a pleasure to share the following success stories with you about languages education in the ACT. The ACT MLTA would like to congratulate all the teachers who shared their stories in this edition of *Contact* for inspiring their students and encouraging them to reach for the stars!

Goethe Film Festival 2010

Mount Rogers Primary School gets second place for a short German movie!



Mount Rogers Primary School entered 12 movies into an interstate film festival organised by the Goethe Institute. Two of the Mount Rogers movies were shortlisted and one came second. We were very pleased because this was the first time we entered the competition. The theme was environment and our place in the environment. Three classes created 12 movies which meant that about sixty students were involved and worked in groups ranging from 4 to 8 students per group. They learnt the skills of storyboarding, script writing, teamwork, filming and digital editing. It

was a great way of practising spoken German and many students were delightfully confident with speaking and even singing in German while being filmed! The Mount Rogers winning movie was called "Super Kartoffel." It was about a potato that educated an apple, broccoli and bean on how to be more energy efficient, save water and use less fuel.

In spite of the noise, headaches and chaos the movie making was great fun and the range of scripts the students produces was impressive. I'd encourage everyone to have a go at it.

Written by Lee-Anne Grunwald

Red Hill School Celebrates 50th Anniversary with International Fête

On Saturday 27th November, Red Hill School, the ACT's first International Baccalaureate World School, held a fête to coincide with its 50th birthday. The fete was led by the P&C committee and had an international theme to reflect the diverse backgrounds of students at the school.

It was a food fair of sorts, ranging from German sausages, Indonesian satays to

three national variations on the humble pancake.

Other stalls included products made by students, Year 5 businesses (from their Inquiry earlier in the year) and calendars featuring Kindergarten artwork.

Entertainment included the school's very own African Drumming group, Wassa Wassa, who performed some titillating rhythms as well as our school bands and choir and a gospel choir.

Thanks to Jenny MacDonald from Hawker Primary for kindly lending

me her crêpe kits, and the Friendly Grocer Red Hill for their donation of ingredients for *La Petite Crêperie* stall - I'm still having flashbacks of pouring and turning!

The fête proved a great success, raising significant funds towards new playground equipment.

Written by Tim Ward-Harvey





Excellence in Languages Education

The ACT Primary French Poetry Competition is a Success!

During second semester, the ACT Department of Education and Training with the support of the French Embassy, organised a French Poetry competition for Primary school pupils learning French. It was a great success with over 100

students entering and learning different poems according to their year level. Forty finalists, (francophone and non francophone) from over 10 different schools were selected by their teachers. A jury formed of the French Network Leader (Ludivine Le-Gal) and the Linguistic Cooperation Attaché at the French Embassy (Virginie Dourlet) met to view the videos of the finalists and selected the winners.

The prize ceremony was held on Thursday 25th November at the Alliance Française with all the winners and their families. More

than 90 people were gathered to celebrate the wonderful achievement of these young learners of French! Every single winner attended the ceremony and received their certificates and book prizes. The first prize winners recited their poems with a very impressive confidence and beautiful French.

This first edition of the Primary French Poetry Competition was a great success thanks to the hard work of French teachers and organisers and we all look forward to doing it again next year.

Written by
Ludivine Le-Gal



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THE ACT MLTA WORKS 4 U!

AFMLTA

For further reading about languages teaching in Australia,
please visit the following website:

<http://www.afmlta.asn.au/>

ACT MLTA Executive 2010

President

Meri Dragicevic

Vice-President

Natalie Stewart

Treasurer

Jennifer Macdonald

Membership Secretary

Tim Ward-Harvey

Minutes Secretary

Kratai Visityuthasart

Publicity Officer/Contact Editor

Shannon White

Please send all submissions for Contact to
shannon.white@ed.act.edu.au



**Are you doing something interesting at your
school with your languages teaching?
We would LOVE to hear about it!**

We have so many experienced and dedicated language teachers in the ACT and they should definitely be promoted and acknowledged for their amazing work!

If you are doing something special at your school, the members of the ACT MLTA would love to hear about it. You might even inspire someone to have a go at something different too. You might like to ask a student to write a review of their learning in class!

We would love to hear about any schools going overseas this year also.

Please forward all anecdotes and photographs to the Contact editor:

Shannon White

shannon.white@ed.act.edu.au

We look forward to hearing your stories!

The ACT MLTA Works 4u!