



CONTACT

The Newsletter for the ACT Modern Language Teachers' Association

The ACT MLTA Works 4U!

May

2012

President's Report

Dear members,

We concluded 2011 with a joined Language Mini Conference at the ANU as part of the Canberra Langfest 2011, and started in Term 1 with the Meet and Greet party.

Despite the torrential rain, around 30 members attended the party organized for the second time in beautiful historic hotel Kurrajong in Barton. As much as I like to meet old friends and colleagues, it is exciting to see many new teachers joining the MLTA and participating in the events we organize. Those who came created an excellent atmosphere and used the opportunity to meet new teachers and old friends. We launched our draft plan for 2012. For those of you who missed it, we have included it in this Contact, and at the MLTA ACT web page.

With the implementation of the National Professional Standards for Teachers and the registration of teachers in the ACT, membership of a professional association such as the MLTA, demonstrates awareness that we, teachers, are the most valuable resource and contributors to language teaching and learning in the ACT. Therefore, the MLTA ACT will continue to provide opportunities to showcase your work and achievements and to share your expertise by delivering quality professional learning

workshops. By presenting your research of teaching practice you will gain the recognition of your skills, which will be the evidence of your progression from one level to another within the Professional Teachers Standards.

Furthermore, next year the MLTA ACT will be among the contributors to Canberra Centenary celebrations, as a host of the AFMLTA Conference. Preparations started three years ago, and now it is time for fine tuning. Are you one of the members willing to add that extra mile to your busy schedule and help to make it a successful event on 5-8 July 2013? The list of immediate jobs ahead of us will be discussed at the AGM on 16 May, and we will keep you posted on progress and extra needs, as the year unfolds.

This Contact will give you a glimpse of what we have done this year and what is ahead of us. Take some time to read it and save a copy for your future reference. If nothing else, to remind you to apply on time for the FIPLV Scholarship or attend the Conference in New Zealand in July 2012.

Hope to see many of you at the Annual General Meeting and the International Afternoon Tea at Telopea Park School, Wednesday at 4.15.

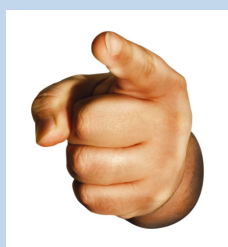
Meri Dragicevic

Inside this issue:

Languages in the Canberra Region	2
PSP—Stream C + ALAA-ALANZ Conf.	3
FIPLV Application	4
Meet & Greet + NZALT	5
French in Action + MoRe LEAPS	6
MLTA Calendar	7
Contact Details	8

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Find out what languages projects are happening in the Canberra region
- ◆ PSP—Stream C is running again in 2012!



Upcoming EVENTS

AGM

Date: Wednesday, 16th May

Time: 4:15—5:30pm

Venue: Telopea Park School

New South Wales Crescent, Barton,

DINNER

with Guest Speaker Sharron Brissoni

Date: Wednesday, 23rd May

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Harem Turkish Restaurant

48 Jardine St, Green Square, Kingston

RSVP to siobhan.lambert@ed.act.edu.au ASAP!

Publicise and Celebrate Languages in the Canberra Region



Help is needed to organise a marathon performance of the Christmas carol *Stille Nacht* (Silent Night) in Garema Place in December 2012. The aim is to perform the song in as many of the languages spoken by people in the Canberra region as possible, and

to try to get this multilingual feat recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records.

This event has the potential to focus huge attention on the many languages being learned and spoken in the ACT!

If the carol is sung in each language one after the other, the event will take several hours (according to the 2006 census,

over 160 languages were spoken in ACT homes!). The ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs has therefore suggested the marathon be the backdrop to a bigger community event with food stalls and other cultural displays and activities.

If you have ideas or can spare some time to help with logistics and planning, please contact Mirjam on

canberrasilentnight@gmail.com

Multilingual Interactive Artwork for Civic Square

Since late 2010, CMCF has been following up ideas from the community about installing a permanent artwork to highlight the central role of languages spoken and used in the ACT during the city's centenary in 2013.

The aim is to celebrate languages of the past as well as the vibrant multicultural present (170 languages are used in ACT homes according to the 2006 ABS census). It will also symbolize the ongoing and future importance of language skills for a city that interacts with the world through its residents as well as international visitors, delegations and diplomatic missions.

Civic Square has been identified as an ideal location, where several cultural institutions meet the city and the government, and

where the multicultural centre is located. In partnership with the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs, CMCF has organized a meeting with selected stakeholders, including representatives from ACT planning bodies and institutions and businesses around Civic Square, to discuss the overall concept, plans for selecting the final design, and possible sites for the artwork.

Designs for the artwork have already been put forward. In broad terms, we envisage a visually appealing artwork, incorporated into an existing building or structure, and involving sound, for example the voices of Canberrans speaking various languages, possibly with an associated web presence. The final brief for artists will, however, depend on input from stakeholders

at the meeting.

We anticipate the project will be mainly funded by the community, including the diplomatic and business community, as part of their gift for Canberra's centenary.

Like to get involved? Contact the CMCF Languages Advisor at

mandy.scott@anu.edu.au

Want to be kept informed of progress on the project and other languages projects in the ACT? Go to:

<http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com.au/>



Visit

<http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com.au/>

for more information on languages projects in the ACT.

PSP—Stream C (Assessment)

The AFMLTA and DEEWR, together with the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures Education (RCLCE) at the University of South Australia, are inviting teachers to participate in a national professional development programme using the *Professional standards for accomplished teaching of languages and cultures* developed by the AFMLTA as a framework to update and extend your knowledge and skills in languages teaching.

PSP Stream C in the ACT

Dates: Thursday, 17 May 2012 @ 8.30-3.00, room MR11 (Day 1) & Thursday, 24 May 2012, @ 8.30-4.30 room MR 7 (Day 2)

Venue: ACT Government Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning @ 51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling ACT 2611

Enrol via the Professional Learning Calendar (EVENT ID 2177).

Stream C is an in-depth exploration of assessment, consisting of 4 modules that will:

- situate assessment practices in the context of educational change and current curriculum and assessment frameworks;
- consider assessment as, of and for a focus of learning, as well as the diversity of assessment practices; and
- provide tools for evaluating assessment tasks and

collecting evidence of learning.

If you have any queries regarding this project, please contact: Meri.Dragicevic@ed.act.edu.au

Closing date for registrations (priority enrolment) was

Monday, 7th May 2012

This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training under the School Languages Programme.



ALAA-ALANZ Mini-Conference

The 2011 ALAA-ALANZ mini-conference was held from 9:00am -1:00pm on Saturday 3 December at The Australian National University (ANU). This event was sponsored jointly by ALAA-ALANZ 2011, the ATESOL ACT and the MLTA ACT.

The Languages Education Mini-Conference offered local English, ESL and Languages teachers and other language education professionals the opportunity to hear some of the key presenters of ALAA-ALANZ 2011 conference speaking on languages education issues. Presenters included Janet Holmes, Denise Angelo, Tim McNamara and Chris Davison.



FIPLV Congress 1988 Scholarship

Applications Now Open

What is the FIPLV Congress 1988 Scholarship?

This scholarship was established after the success of the 1988 FIPLV World Congress on language learning which was hosted by the ACT MLTA Inc. It provides financial assistance for teachers wishing to further their professional development by means of travel and associated experiences of educational programs or to develop a special language program.

Who can apply?

Any ACT MLTA Inc. member who:

- ◆ is an **active member** of the ACT MLTA Inc. and who has been a financial member for at least two years prior to applying for the scholarship;
- ◆ intends to continue to work as an ACT language teacher;
- ◆ will use the scholarship within twelve months of receipt of the award;
- ◆ will submit a report of his/her activity for publication in the CONTACT newsletter for the benefit of members of the ACT MLTA Inc.

How to apply

Send your application to the selection committee, including the details below and any other relevant information. Applications should be no more than 3 pages in length. Please include:

- * Full name, and date of birth;
- * Current school;
- * Language teaching experience;
- * Outline of previous overseas experience of any kind;
- * Number of years as an individual, financial member of the ACT MLTA Inc.;

- * Outline of any contribution made to teaching languages beyond the applicants own school;
- * Details of the proposed activity including dates, costs and other any other assistance required.

Who is on the selection committee?

Five members of the executive and/or committee of the ACT MLTA Inc. will read all applications and select one or more or none. This scholarship is offered annually but is not always awarded. It may be awarded to more than one applicant, in which case the sum shall be divided appropriately. The executive fixes the sum annually.

Where to send your application?

FIPLV Congress 1988 Scholarship

ACT MLTA Inc.

GPO Box 989

Canberra ACT 2601

2011 FIPLV Scholarship winners Patricia Blumstein and Myriam Davies who used their scholarship money to attend the AFMLTA conference in Darwin.



Closing Date: 15th June 2012

MLTA ACT Inc. Meet & Greet

On the 29th of February, MLTA ACT Inc. current members and new members gathered for the first event of the year—our Meet & Greet cocktail party. Although there was a chill in the air, the afternoon was filled with high spirits. Attendees enjoyed delicious canapés and beverages whilst catching up with language colleagues—as well as meeting new ones!

Meri Dragicevic, our President, spoke to us about the exciting events planned for this year and wished us well for our 2012 teaching year. Meri also invited us to become a part of the 2013 AFMLTA Conference committee - an exciting opportunity to experience organising a national conference that will be held in

Canberra to coincide with Canberra's 100 years centenary!

So, if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2012, you can do so by visiting our website at:

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

or email our Secretary at:

siobhan.lambert@ed.act.edu.au



Kurrajong Hotel
Barton

- The theme of the 2012 Conference is: *V.A.L.U.E.S.*
- Conference Venue: *Waiariki Institute of Technology Rotorua*
- Fellowship Dinner: *Distinction Hotel*

We value your attendance



NEW ZEALAND

- **REGISTRATION FEE:**
Early Bird before 5 April 2012 / after 5 April 2012
\$350 for NZALT/AFMLTA members / \$390 for NZALT/AFMLTA members
\$390 for non-members / \$440 for non-members
{inc. of teas, lunches and fellowship dinner}

- **CALL FOR PAPERS**
Deadline: 15 Dec 2011
Contact: NZALT Conference Organiser Laytee George
Email: georgesotonga@xtra.co.nz fax 00647 347 2528 tel 00647 347 2527

For more information visit the website www.nzalt.org.nz

NZALT
Conference
1-4
July
2012
in
Rotorua

Aranda Primary School Art Show—with a French Twist!

Last year, in term 4, all the students at Aranda Primary School focussed on Arts through their Inquiry Based Units, culminating in week 8 in a big art exhibition with all the students' creations.

In French, we looked at the art works of a contemporary French artist called Isabelle Kessedjian, and with her permission, created similar pieces of work. The whole LOTE unit, adapted to each year level, focussed on topics such as colours, body parts and jobs, along with art creation and

feelings. 450 art works later, this is what the French section of the Aranda Primary School Art Show looked like:



Teacher: Myriam Davies



Mentoring and Reflecting: Languages Educators and Professional Standards (MoRe LEAPS)



MoRe LEAPS aims to contribute to the improvement in the quality of language teaching in

Australian schools and ultimately contribute to improvement in students' learning outcomes.

Specifically, the project will serve the purpose of developing the leadership of Languages teachers and raising the profile of Languages teachers in the school community. These Languages teachers will then be in a position to provide inspiration to other teachers.

A major goal of the project is to enhance the number of Lead Language Teachers in NALSSP languages (Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean), and Lead

Language Teachers with professional capacities to support and mentor language teacher colleagues. The Lead Languages Teachers will be able to use the *Standards for Accomplished Teaching of Languages and Cultures* (AFMLTA, 2005) to support professional growth and to describe and support the development of leadership attributes.

In brief:

- * Networking and sharing of good practice
- * 40 lead teachers of the 4 NALSSP target languages participate in the project; trained as trainers for future delivery of the program at local state or territory through the MLTAs
- * Development of two professional learning modules with supporting

train-the-trainer materials

- * Development of a leadership standard for languages teachers
- * Showcasing of participants' investigations and publication of exemplars of Lead Language investigations and/or mentoring projects online
- * Some participants submitting their portfolios, investigations, reports and supporting documentation for university accreditation.
- * All the professional learning resources and processes of this project will be made available online for use by individuals and groups in their local contexts.

For more information, please email president@afmlta.asn.au or anne-marie.morgan@unisa.edu.au

MLTA ACT Inc. Calendar 2012

DATE	EVENTS
Term 1	
Thursday, 23 February	Language Teachers Welcome @CTL, 3.45- 5.30pm
Wednesday, 29 February	WEEK 4 EVENT: Meet and Greet – Cocktail Party, Kurrajong Hotel Terrace, Barton, @ 4.15 -5.30pm
Wednesday, 7 March	Key to Canberra @ CTL, 2.15 – 5.00pm
Wednesday, 14 March	Executive and Committee meeting
April	FIPLV Scholarship 2012 – open for applications <i>School holidays 13/4-30/4</i>
Term 2	
Wednesday, 16 May	Executive and Committee meeting Annual General Meeting (AGM) 4.15 – 5.30pm, Telopea Park School
Wednesday, 23 May	WEEK 4 EVENT: Dinner & guest speaker Sharon Brissoni: “Introduce CLIL into YOUR class” 6.30pm, venue TBA
Thursday, 17 May	AFMLTA Professional Standards Project (PSP) Stream C - Assessment (Day1) @CTL 8.30-3.00
Thursday 24 May	AFMLTA Professional Standards Project (PSP) Stream C - Assessment (Day2) @CTL 8.30-4.30 31/5 Census data (AFMLTA)
June	Executive and Committee meeting “Contact”
1-4 July	NZALT Conference, Rotorua, New Zealand (Launching Conference “Inspire, Innovate, Interact” To be hosted in Canberra, Friday, 5 July – Monday, 8 July 2013)
14-15 July	Melbourne, AFMLTA Executive Assembly <i>School holidays 6/7-22/7</i>
Term 3	
Saturday, 17 August	Executive and Committee meeting WEEK 4 EVENT: MLTA ACT Mini breakfast Conference, 8.15- 12.30 Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowship (ELTF)
September	Executive and Committee meeting “Contact”
Term 4	
October	<i>School holidays 28/9-15/10</i>
Thursday, 8 November	Executive and Committee meeting WEEK 4 EVENT: End of year dinner with guest speaker
December	‘Contact’ <i>School holidays 21/12</i>

MLTA ACT Inc. Contact Details

Postal Address:

GPO BOX 989
Civic
ACT

Email:

Meri Dragicevic
meri.dragicevic@ed.act.edu.au

Website:

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

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/>

MLTA ACT Inc. Executive 2011

President

Meri Dragicevic

Vice-President

Jennifer Macdonald

Treasurer

Anita Patel

Membership Secretary

Siobhan Lambert

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!