



# CONTACT

The Newsletter for the ACT Modern Language Teachers' Association

The ACT MLTA Works 4U!

December

2012

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## AFMLTA CONFERENCE 2013

Please consider registering your interest as a presenter or reviewer at the AFMLTA Conference which we host in Canberra 5-8 July 2013. The call for presenters and reviewers is open until 25 January 2013 and all the information is on the AFMLTA web site, linked to via our MLTA ACT web site.

## President's Report

Dear MLTA members,

This year the MLTA ACT Inc. celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary since incorporation (on 13 July). A great achievement considering that the members associate voluntarily and each member contributes to its success as a volunteer.

Recapitulating the year coming to its end:

The Executive and Committee are pleased that they could deliver what you requested in a 2011 survey.

Our traditional 'Meet and Greet' cocktail at Kurrajong Hotel in February attracted 30 teachers. Our membership expires on 28<sup>th</sup> February each year so this is a good occasion to renew your membership and introduce a friend. We will place a membership form on the web shortly, and the fee will be \$60.00.

We continued with our practice to invite local presenters to MLTA ACT dinners. The guest speaker in May was Sharon Brissoni who gave an inspiring introduction into 'Content and Language Integrated Learning' approach to teaching languages. CLIL is a hot topic and we hope to hear more about it at the AFMLTA Conference.

Thanks to the financial support from the AFMLTA, we could, again, run the Professional Standards Project Stream C on Assessment. We organised a two day workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Nine teachers attended and it was a great opportunity to deliver a comprehensive workshop on assessment as requested by members in our survey.

The Mini Conference 'Teacher's Delight' on 18<sup>th</sup> August was the opportunity to hear recipients of the FIPLV scholarship. Jennifer Macdonald and Shannon White explained their observations and successes in using AIM - Accelerative Integrated Methodology, what they and their students like about it and why would they recommend it. Nicola Barkley talked about her delight in using UbD - Understanding by Design approach in creating her Indonesian scope and sequences and units of work. We heard updates about the Australian Curriculum in

Languages from Kristina Collins. Myriam Davies, a FIPLV awardee, contributed her article.

The NALSSP and AFMLTA Project 'Mentoring and Reflecting: Language Educators and Professional Standards' (MoRE LEAPS) which aims to enhance the number of Lead Language Teachers involved Kristina Collins and Nicola Barkley as Key Contacts, while Janelle Mahoney, Sarah Hibberd and Kym Le Riche undertook the research projects. I am sure that all of you who heard Janelle and Sarah at the Dinner with Speakers will agree that they both achieved the Project's aim: 'These languages teachers will then be in a position to provide inspiration to other teachers.'

We passed on to you everything that we heard in relation to languages teaching in Canberra and nationwide. Needless to say, most of the work this year went into organisation of the AFMLTA Conference in 2013. You can now read a bit more about the developments from the convener, Natalie Stewart.

Siobhan, the Vice-President, analysed your responses from the survey and her summary is included in this issue. To give your input, contact us any time via email.

Finally, I use this opportunity to thank the Executive and Committee members who, on top of everyday tasks both professional and private, found time and energy, creativity and good will to deliver again a rich professional experience to the MLTA ACT membership. So thank you: Siobhan, Jennifer, Veronique, Shannon, Frank, Natalie, Nicola, Patricia, Anita, Heike, Ludivine, Myriam, Meredith and Tina.

I wish you the most pleasant break from school until we resume in January 2013.

Meri Dragicevic  
ACT MLTA Inc. President

Happy Holidays

## Amaroo Meets France



Veronique Canellas and Siobhan Lambert at Notre Dame, Paris

One of the most challenging and exciting opportunities a languages teacher can undertake is that of planning and running an overseas excursion.

We are uniquely linked to this special type of excursion in our desire to give our students that much sought after authentic language experience. This year, At Amaroo School we organised our second ever overseas excursion for the French program, this time to France- Paris, Tours and Amiens.



Enjoying the view from Amboise

After almost 18 months of planning, we were excited to finally leave Canberra on our Murray's bus to Sydney airport with 16 excited students in tow. The nearly 32 hours of travel did dampen the excitement somewhat but discoveries of an eat-in Pizza Hut on our Beijing stopover and a few good in-flight movies kept us in good spirits. Our first week in Paris saw us negotiate a few problems with our travel provider, but we also revelled in a 3 course lunchtime Seine River cruise; guided tours of Versailles, the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay; shopping on

the Champs Élysées and, of course, Disneyland! Our students were excited just to BE there taking in the sights and sounds and overwhelming Frenchness of it all. Watching the Eiffel Tower sparkle in the rain after eating dinner at its first floor restaurant was pretty magical.

Ending our Paris stint in this stylish way made us wonder what could compete in the rest of the hexagon of France.



Many students enjoyed trying frogs' legs out of curiosity in Paris

Luckily, we were more than pleasantly surprised to find that our next destination of Tours was absolutely delightful and charming. From our ornate old-style hotel to the manicured streets and friendly locals, many of our students began planning their future French lives here, just one hour from the hustle and bustle of Paris. A full day of touring the magnificent châteaux, such as Chenonceau and Amboise, did nothing but increase this desire. An afternoon spent playing with replicas of Da Vinci's inventions at his house, Clos Lucé, was perfect for our energetic teenagers.

As we moved on from Tours to Amiens, our mood changed from playful and adventurous to more somber and reverent. We listened with awe as our guide told us the stories of our Australian soldiers' involvement in the Somme area in World War I. We were touched



Walking up to Amboise Castle in Tours

by the Victoria School with its giant sign "NEVER FORGET AUSTRALIA" and the many Australian motifs all throughout Villers

Bretonneux. At the memorial, we watched the French and Australian flags fly proudly over the resting place of many young soldiers and thanked them for their sacrifice. It was truly a sobering and maturing experience for our very blessed group of 13-16 year olds.

So, what an experience we had! Despite problems and stress, the knowledge that we had given our students a true taste of France and an eye-opener into the wider world, made everything worthwhile. So, fellow languages teachers, get out your Overseas Excursion Manual or school policy and began dreaming for your students. It will be the most worthwhile thing you ever do for your languages program and your students will never forget it.

Siobhan Lambert  
MLTA ACT Inc. Vice-President



The Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux- very moving

## Reception at the French Embassy

On the afternoon of Thursday 29th November, the French Embassy organised a reception at the residence of the new Ambassador, H.E. Stephane Romanet to celebrate the teaching of French in Australia. Representatives from Educational Departments from every state and territory were invited to present to the Ambassador and his team the situation of French teaching and its complexity in Australia. Members of the French teaching stream at Telopea Park School were also present, as the

Ambassador reminded us all how exceptional the situation of such a bilingual school such as Telopea Park is in the world. Some teachers from the French network were also invited and had the opportunity to talk to the Ambassador and the new Cultural Counsellor, M. Eric Soulier. The two hours allowed for the reception went very quickly and everyone seemed very happy and positive about the outcome of such an event. Thank you to the French Embassy for taking the time to organise this reception.



Myriam Davies

French Network Leader

## Accelerative Integrated Methodology (AIM) Conference



On September 17 and 18 2012, I was able to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual AIM Conference in Melbourne thanks to the FIPLV grant. AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) combines gestures, specifically researched pared-down language, stories and music to engage the students and rapidly develop their fluency. The gestures enhance language retention, support struggling learners and enables language production, as the methodology is essentially a verb-based approach. I have been using the

AIM for a number of years now and remembered the same conference I attended two years ago as being very hands-on, so I was looking forward to this new one.

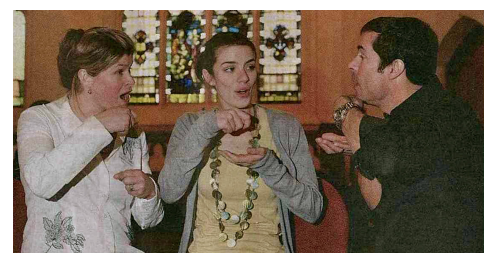
I was certainly not disappointed: the conference proved again to be inspirational and dynamic, with presenters from Victoria, NSW and Canada. Teachers came from every state and territory to attend this conference and it was interesting to be able to discuss with them about their own language situations in their various schools and settings.

The most valuable part was certainly all the ideas, tips, and strategies that we all got from these two days, ranging from games, songs, ICT, web links, and teaching grammar content, to extending reading skills,

developing spontaneous speech and enabling written productions. I came back from this conference invigorated and pleased to see that so many people were using and loving AIM with great success and ready to implement all these new tricks and strategies in my classroom. For beginners to more experienced AIM teachers, it was certainly a valuable conference, one of these ones that you can not wait to get back into the classroom to put it all in practice.

Myriam Davies

French Network Leader





## Ludivine Presents at the FATFA Conference



Earlier this year and with the support of MLTA ACT through the FIPLV scholarship, I travelled to Perth for the first time and attended the FATFA conference / TOFA Stage. This was a very unique experience as I had the opportunity to present my first workshop on the use of Interactive Whiteboard in the language classroom. I received excellent feedbacks and since then, I have been invited to present in

Adelaide and Sydney at the SAFTA and NAFT annual conferences. I would definitely encourage every teacher to share their skills and knowledge at these conferences as they bring so many networking opportunities (Don't forget to register your interest as a presenter for the AFMLTA Conference in Canberra!).

Other highlights of this conference were meeting with the very inspiring Joe Dale who introduced me to the use of twitter for professional development. I have been on twitter for more than six months now and have discovered so many new resources.

Finally, the "Moulin Rouge" dinner with Shay Stafford, former dancer at the Moulin Rouge and the Lido,

was such a beautiful evening. All the participants were dressed in red and black and after learning a few Can-Can moves, everyone was on the dance floor for a very fun and memorable evening.

Ludivine Le-Gal



## AFMLTA Conference Canberra July 5-8 2013, ANU



As you are all aware the conference here in Canberra is fast approaching. Preparations are well under way and I would like to thank all of those people who have already volunteered their time. If you have considered volunteering your time but have

been too busy up until now please contact me at:

[natalie.stewart@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:natalie.stewart@ed.act.edu.au)

Have you thought about presenting a paper or workshop at the conference? The Call for Papers has been issued and the deadline is Friday 25 January. For more information follow our conference link at:

<http://conference2013.afmlta.asn.au/>

Registration should be open very soon and Early Bird registration will close before the end of first term so start talking to your principals about getting some of the cost paid for by your school.

Bookings have already been made for the Welcome Cocktail Party at the National Portrait Gallery and the Gala Dinner at University House. We would love to see you all there.

If you have any other questions, have a great entertainment act that doesn't cost the earth or know of sponsors that would love to help us please do not hesitate to contact me.

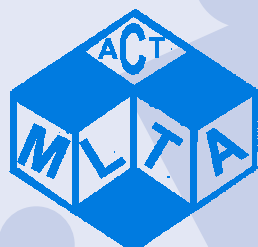
Regards,

Natalie Stewart

Canberra High School

MLTA ACT Conference Convenor

Results are in!



# MLTA ACT

August 2012 Mini Conference

## Report Card

	Feedback Area	Rating	MLTA Member Comments
1	Overall Rating	4/5	"Mini conference is very good - especially with a lot of ideas and speakers that engaged your attention"
2	Relevance	3/5	"Very informative and interesting. Good mix of information to support teaching practice and curriculum development"
3	Suitability of venue	3.5/5	"Lovely venue- pity the weather kept us out of the rose garden!"
4	Catering- Breakfast	4/5	"Love the breakfast format- delicious start to the day!"
5	Networking	5/5	"It's a very good opportunity to meet teachers of other languages"
6	Presenters and workshops	4/5	"All were very good and very interesting to hear what teachers are doing to improve teaching"
7	Morning breakfast format	5/5	"Saturday morning mini conference is an excellent format"

## MLTA ACT Inc. Mini Conference



On Saturday 18 August 2012 over 25 of our MLTA ACT members attended the annual Breakfast Mini Conference at

the Australian Catholic University. We heard from a number of speakers including Kristina Collins, Nicola Barkley, Shannon White and Jennifer MacDonald on many wonderfully relevant topics to us as language teachers. As you can see from our report card, it was a very successful

conference. Some of the requests for next year include:

- A stronger focus on secondary language pedagogy
- Handouts and summaries of the fantastic presentations
- Some more hands-on workshops
- Keep breakfast, half-day format



So, if you have wonderful expertise in any of these areas or would like to get involved in organizing this event, we would LOVE to hear from you! It is never too early to start thinking about our mini-conference- that is how we can keep it a success!

Siobhan Lambert  
ACT MLTA Vice President



A big THANK YOU to **LOTE TEACHING AIDS**

for your generous donation to the MLTA ACT Inc. Mini Conference in 2012

## Dinner at Harem with Guest Speakers

Our last event for 2012 was held at the Turkish restaurant Harem in Kingston. We enjoyed a delicious (and large!) meal while recapping 2012.

We were lucky enough to have Janelle Mahoney and Sarah Hibberd present at our dinner. They spoke about projects they had been working on for the MoRe LEAPS (Mentoring and Reflecting: Languages Educators and Professional Standards') programme which encourages languages teachers to become lead teachers and inspire and mentor others.



## The ACT MLTA Contact Details

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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/>



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## ACT MLTA Executive 2012

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**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

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We look forward to hearing your stories!

*The ACT MLTA Works 4u!*