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Dear Members,

In front of you is this year's only edition of *Contact*. It was such a busy year that in the end we prepared one comprehensive edition instead of four, which I am sure you will love for its rich content.

We launched the MLTA Works 4U program at the Meet and Greet party held at the Kurrajong Hotel in February and did not cut corners on any of our traditional events although we were aware that most of our time and effort would be dedicated to the organization of the 19th Biannual AFMLTA Conference.

Throughout the year members were regularly informed about relevant issues via emails and through the web site. At a dinner party at Legends Restaurant we presented the MLTA ACT Inc. banner and Language Perfect World Championship MLTA ACT trophy. Many ACT schools participated in the World Championship and Amaroo School was the overall ACT winner and the first recipient of the trophy.

The Mini Conference in August was well attended and an excellent professional learning opportunity.

We continued discussion with the Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) to gain their recognition of professional learning organized by the MLTA. They have now agreed to recognize us. We also alerted the AEU about the unacceptable working conditions of some language teachers.

You can read more about some of these events and see a selection of photographs in this edition. We achieved these thanks to professionalism, dedication, knowledge, enthusiasm and hours of voluntary work of the Executive and my close team: Jennifer, Siobhan, Veronique, Frank and Shannon. I thank you all.

The central place in this report deservedly goes to the AFMLTA Conference, 5-8 July 2013. Four years in the making and with an exceptional organizational committee, it was by all standards a success. The AFMLTA Executive deserves congratulations for the academic program and securing the ANU as the Conference venue, while the MLTA ACT Committee takes pride in providing the unique flavour which our national capital, Canberra, has to offer.

The Conference participants were greeted at the National Portrait Gallery by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Argentinian Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Pedro Villagra Delgado (with Mr. Delgado's permission the speech is on the AFMLTA web site). We are grateful to the Korean and Italian Ambassadors who hosted groups of interstate visitors and to the Croatian, French and Spanish embassies who sponsored the gifts for key note speakers and presenters.

The Gala Dinner at University House was superb. The tables decorated with flowers by Meredith and Yvonne were quickly filled with excellent buffet food. Gia Metherell skilfully led us through the program filled with games, lucky door prizes and great piano music played by Tony Bozicevic, a piano teacher himself. Our invited speaker, poet and teacher, Geoff Page, honoured us with a remarkable gift. Instead of the agreed usual 30-minute speech he wrote a poem *Adventures of a Monoglot* (Geoff kindly gave permission to put an extract from this poem on the AFMLTA web site).

Dr Michael Kindler, Principal from Stromlo High, delivered the official opening address of the academic program, while Principals Kerrie Blain, Kerrie Grundy, Pam Rosser and Angus Tulley together with students from Narrabundah College, Daramalan College and St Frances Xavier College participated in a Panel entitled *Current*

*challenges and opportunities for
languages education - reflections
from the field.*

Our members Nicola Barkley, Anne-Lee Grunwald and Janelle Mahoney were selected as presenters. I am thankful to all of them for presenting their papers again at our MLTA dinner and breakfast sessions.

During the academic program, the foyer at the ANU was always busy thanks to many exhibitors. A list is available in this issue and on our web site and we encourage you to use their services. Vivaldi Catering provided tasty, fresh and varied food and drinks served in a sustainably responsible way.

In conclusion, the Conference success relied greatly on the skilful and dedicated work of: Siobhan, Veronique, Jennifer, Frank, Patricia, Meredith, Tina, Kiraly, Tim, Yvonne, Lee- Anne, Louise, Dianne, Nicola, Heike, Christiane, Francesca, Myriam, Anita, Federica, and above all Natalie Stewart as the Conference Convenor. Once more, thank you all.

My role as President of this amazing Association is coming to its end. I cannot be happier and more certain that I am leaving the MLTA ACT in the hands of the most enthusiastic and capable language teachers who volunteered tirelessly and proved themselves through many challenging tasks in delivering an international language conference. Some of you will be elected to an Executive position next year, which, I am sure, after this experience will be a breeze for any of you.

My colleagues and MLTA ACT members, I thank you for the privilege of being your President for four years and I wish you a professionally fulfilling final few weeks of school and safe and joyful holidays.



A Snapshot of the AFMLTA Conference



John Hajek presenting his keynote address, "Snapshots from the Edge: Australia, Languages, Languages Education and the Asian/Global Century"



Registrations on Day 1!



ACT MLTA President, Meri Dragicevic, and Conference Convenor, Natalie Stewart

I would like to begin by thanking the MLTA ACT for their support of me attending the AFMLTA conference in July. What a rare and wonderful opportunity it was for us language teachers, especially from Primary schools, to network and listen to the issues affecting our specialised profession.

Apart from the Gala Dinner where I met the Language Perfect celebrities, the highlight for me was the keynote speakers. As the days passed, the words they spoke gradually turned me into an activist, rather than an advocate, for languages.

The speaker whose words have resonated the most with me in the weeks since the conference was John Hajek (a man who himself speaks English as his seventh language). He coined the phrase "Anglobubble",

which I find quite appropriate, as it implies that the English-speaking world is both expanding and could burst at any moment – and we are floating in the middle of it, whether we like it or not!

The main point that came through was that we are doing ourselves a disservice by primarily limiting ourselves to interact in a monolingual culture. Even in the education spectrum, we tend to look at the UK, US and Canada. While they are doing some great things, we should be looking beyond, to countries that are leading the way in results and innovation, such as Finland. Our counterparts in Europe for example are doubling or trebling their advantages with the languages they speak, and that is the status quo. The majority of

English-speaking countries are in the unusual position of being isolated. However, in the 21st century, where the world is a much smaller place, we cannot afford to isolate ourselves.

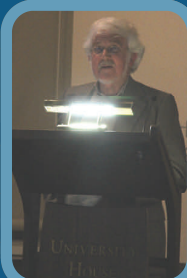
I believe as language teachers we have to find creative ways to get this message across to our students, who at their current point of life may have no idea how languages will help them in the future. Identifying with high-profile additional language speakers (e.g. Mila Kunis, Gotye, and even the Queen) is a great start. Perhaps one day we will never have to hear that grating phrase, "Just speak English" again!

By Tim Ward-Harvey

FIPLV Scholarship Recipient



ACT MLTA Members of the 2013 AFMLTA Conference Committee (in green); with Tania Christie from Language Perfect and in the front row: Dr Lid King, John Hajek (keynote speakers, and AFMLTA Executive Members: Sheryl Saunders, Anne-Marie Morgan, Matthew Absalom, and Greg Dabelstein; and Scott Cardwell of Language Perfect



Gala Dinner Guest Speaker, Geoff Page, presenting his poem, "Adventures of a Monoglot"



The Keith Horwood Memorial Lecture, delivered by Lesley Harbon, entitled "Accomplished Teaching of Languages and Cultures Doesn't Happen by Chance: Reflective Journal Entries of a 'Returnee' to the Learner Seat"



Games at the Gala Dinner with Gold Sponsors, Language Perfect



Meri Dragicevic with Gala Dinner pianist, Tony Bozicevic



Our Gold Sponsors, Language Perfect



The MLTA ACT Executive 2013 at the Cocktail Reception at the National Portrait Gallery

RESULTS ARE IN!

Report Card

MLTA ACT

August 2013
Mini Conference

Our 32 member participants gave their feedback at the conference. Here are the collated results overall!

	Feedback Area	Rating	MLTA Member Comments
1	Overall Rating	4.8/5	"Great ideas and resources shared!" "All well-prepared!"
2	Relevance	4.3/5	"Great to see practical ideas clearly demonstrated- not just theory. Good links with national curriculum!"
3	Suitability of venue	4.5/5	"Thankyou for organising this. A great conference!"
4	Catering- Breakfast	4.8/5	"Morning conference + breakfast= great!"
5	Networking	5/5	"Always a pleasure to meet with language colleagues" "As a pre-service teacher it was very interesting to meet my future colleagues"
6	Presenters and workshops	4.8/5	"They are inspirational. We can learn a lot from the presenters! A lot of hours have been put in."
7	Morning breakfast format	5/5	"Half day is excellent!" "Morning workshops are a good idea, just the right amount of time"

Terrific Teaching Tools and Trends



MLTA Mini-Conference by Meri Dragicevic

'Terrific Teaching Tools and Trends' - the third 'MLTA Works 4U' event for this year was held at Signadou Building, ACU, on Saturday, 17 August from 8.30 – 12.30. This Mini Conference attracted around 30 teachers who started the day with a healthy breakfast and moved quickly to the computer lab to hear Myriam Davies, the FIPLV Scholarship recipient and Scootle Community Champion. Myriam talked about the benefits and potential use of this web site specifically designed for language teachers in Australia.

Lee-Anne Grunwald presented her talk from the AFMLTA Conference. She demonstrated one unit designed with a CLIL approach and the stages of learning her students went through.

Heike Craig took us on the journey she has done with her students out of the class into the Zoo creating a meaningful environment to enhance students' communication in German.

There were a few minutes left to distribute many lucky door prizes and by lunch time we were all at home with some new terrific teaching tools available for our own classes on Monday.

Language Perfect Fever at Amaroo School

Since May this year, Amaroo School has been buzzing with Language Perfect obsession! Having used the wonderful free entries offered by Language Perfect through our MLTA and French Teachers' Network Membership, we entered with some excitement into the Language Perfect World Championships from 20-30 May 2013.

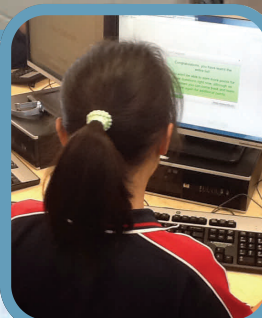
Nothing could have prepared us for the overwhelming enthusiasm of our students during these 10 days of competition! We had every computer in the school use every break time, a list a kilometre long of students online until the wee hours of the morning, and our lessons absolutely hijacked by demands for "Language Perfect time!" We watched in amazement as our students flew through list upon list of new vocabulary, and started using these new words confidently in class as well!

By the end of the competition, we had over 200 certificates awarded, achieved 19th in the world overall and came first overall in the ACT, winning the highly sought after MLTA ACT Cup! Our principal was so proud that he put on a hot dog lunch for our 400+ talented Language Perfect Champions! We have now subscribed to Language Perfect in Years 6-10 and our students continue to enjoy learning in this way.

We were also proud to win the ACT-wide competition held recently, even though Hawker Primary school, under Jennifer MacDonald's outstanding encouragement, nearly pipped us at the post! All in all, it has been a great year for us in our language program, thanks largely to the way Language Perfect has inspired our students in their learning!

By Kiraly Middleton

Amaroo School



Report on Japan Foundation Advisory Committee Meeting

Melbourne, 11 October, 2013

The Japan Foundation hosted a National Advisory Committee meeting in Melbourne on 11 October. This was an exciting opportunity to hear from the different states' Education departments and MLTAs. The Japan Foundation also presented their activities for the year.

To inspire us, I noted what states found successful.

- ⇒ Teachers who shared resources flourished
- ⇒ Teachers who were involved in networks felt supported
- ⇒ Immersion workshops for teachers and students were useful in promoting pathways for students and Professional Development

For Japanese teachers, if you are not already signed up, the Japan Foundation, produces a newsletter for teachers <http://www.jpf.org.au/language.html> (Go to the bottom left of the page to subscribe).

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JAPAN FOUNDATION



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THE ACT MLTA WORKS4U!

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

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



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