CONTACT

The Newsletter for the Modern Language Teachers' Association of ACT Inc.

Report from Veronique Canellas, President

Dear Members

It has certainly been a busy semester for everyone. I would like to commence by highlighting some of our achievements so far. We had a very successful 'Meet and Greet' in February at the Hotel Realm where over 30 members turned up to renew their memberships and liaise with fellow language teachers. We then held our AGM in March where the new Executive Committee and Committee Members were elected. I would like to personally thank our past President, Meri Dragicevic, for the excellent leadership and commitment she has shown towards the MLTA ACT Inc

I would like to welcome in the new Executive Committee and Committee Members for 2014 and look forward to working with you all.

Myriam Davies and I represented the MLTA ACT Inc. at the Education Perfect Conference and the 2014 Education Perfect World Series Launch at the end of April which was held in Brisbane. As the MLTA ACT Inc. is an Official Partner of Language Perfect my first official duty as President was to participate in the Forum with other Official Partners at the Education Perfect Conference. We also had the opportunity to hear from language teachers from around Australia and New Zealand who are using

New Zealand who are using Language Perfect and how it is making a difference to the learning and engagement of students and the acquisition of languages in classrooms. The conference also gave us the opportunity to work with the Language Perfect IT staff and make suggestions as to how Language Perfect can be improved for teacher and student use.



Education Perfect Conference Participants.



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The ACT MLTA WORKS4U!





Myriam Davies, Scott Cardwell, Veronique Canellas, Craig Smith Education Perfect World Series Launch (Brisbane)

The MLTA ACT Inc. Committee set about planning professional development for our members and we were extremely excited to invite Joe Dale from the United Kingdom to present an interactive workshop on iPad Apps in June. This workshop was very well attended with over 50 of our members eagerly learning about the Apps and how to use them in the classroom with students. A separate article about this workshop can be found in this issue of CONTACT.

We held our Term 2 dinner at the Harem Turkish Restaurant where five (5) of our members presented their experience and journey as participants of the ELTF (Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships) in January 2014.

As the President of the MLTA ACT Inc, I attended the AFMLTA Assembly in Palmerston North, New Zealand on 5 and 6 July. We spent the two days working through a busy agenda. AFMLTA Executive presented their reports to the Assembly and all State and Territory delegates also presented their reports. There was the election of AFMLTA Office bearers. We then received an update from the MLTAV regarding their progress with the planning of the AFMLTA 2015 Conference in Melbourne. A summary of the projects and activities being conducted by the AFMLTA was shared followed by a review of the 2013 Strategic Plan. The meeting finished with the strategic planning for 2014 and the welcoming of the new President of AFMLTA, Kylie Farmer. I look forward to sharing with you some of the fantastic work that the AFMLTA have been doing over the last year as well as for this year. I strongly encourage you to go to the AFMLTA website http://afmlta.asn.au/ and familiarise yourself with what your Association is doing, especially in light of the Australian Curriculum: Languages and the many projects and activities they are involved in.





Palmerston North's famous Town Crier Caroline Robinson with Veronique Canellas NZALT Conference.

The AFMLTA Assembly was followed by the NZALT (New Zealand Association of Language Teachers) Conference – 'Languages Give You Wings' from 6 July to 9 July also held in Palmerston North, NZ. The Conference began with a Mix and Mingle. It was a chance to register, chat with the Ambassador of France, M. Laurent Contini and be welcomed by Palmerston North's Town Crier, Caroline Robinson. Kylie farmer accepted the plaque from Language Perfect's Scott Cardwell for Australia coming first in the recently held Language Perfect World Championships.

The opening ceremony involved the Official Welcome, Mihi Whakatau and then a Key Note address by Professor John Hajek on "Life in the Anglobubble". Once again, we were challenged by Professor Hajek's presentation on breaking the monolingual mindset. The conference was filled with opportunities to listen, engage and participate in a variety of workshops, presentations and Key Note addresses. The over-riding theme of the conference "Languages Give You Wings" was evident in many of the workshops. It was an opportunity to spend three (3) days undertaking professional learning where I was able to attend several workshops and presentations on the latest research on language acquisition and cultural learning.

The one thing that really stood out from the NZALT Conference is the knowledge that language teachers, no matter where we are in the world, are amazing, committed and dedicated educators.

Wishing you all a very productive Semester 2 and I look forward to seeing you at our MLTA ACT events this semester



Veronique Canellas President MLTA ACT Inc.

Kylie Farmer receiving the Language Perfect plaque from Scott Cardwell.

Term 3 – Mini Conference – Saturday 23 August

Claim the Date

Set aside Saturday 23 August, 2014 from 8:30am to 12:30pm for our Mini-Conference.

For the benefit of all of our new members, we begin the morning with a healthy breakfast, attend workshops/presentations followed by morning tea and then more workshops/presentations. It is shaping up to be another exciting event that you will not want to miss.

Further details will follow so stay tuned!!!

Expression of Interest

We are seeking expressions of interest from teachers/colleagues who would like to present a short workshop at our Mini-Conference on Saturday 23 August. The workshop will need to depict best practice and align with the National Professional Standards for Teachers. Please submit your expression of interest to me (veronique.canellas@ed.act.edu.au) by the end of Week 2 Term 3 (Friday 1st August) stating

- 1. Title/Topic of the workshop
- 2. Abstract What is the workshop/presentation about?
- 3. Short biography
- 4. National Standards addressed
- 5. Specific requirements Projector etc

Endeavour Language Teaching Fellowships

Celia Bazalar, Spanish Awardee

I have greatly benefited from the In-country Spanish language course because as a student I have been able to observe and learn the different teaching strategies being used by very experienced teachers. Being a Spanish student has enabled me to reflect on my knowledge of the Spanish language and my teaching techniques as a teacher. I have gained a better understanding of myself as a teacher and I feel very well aware of my strengths and areas in which I could further develop to keep up to date with the knowledge of the language and teaching techniques.



Collegial interactions were a very positive aspect of the program. We learnt a great deal from each other in terms of effective learning strategies and been able to worked with students at different proficiency levels.

Being immersed in the home country of the Spanish language has given me more confidence in delivering the Spanish curriculum with flair and extended nuances. Now I have a greater understanding of the Spanish culture in addition to the Latin American culture which is part of my cultural roots. I believe I have fulfilled my expectations on the Spanish course, increased my expertise in the language and achieved an outstanding result at the end of the course.

Many thanks,

Celia Bazalar Hawker College

Meet the Awardees at Harem Restaurant



On the 22nd May, MLTA ACT organised a dinner at Harem Turkish Restaurant with Guest Speakers who told us about the application process and experiences they

have gained as recipients of ELFT



Elspeth Richardson, Japanese Awardee



Whole group photo at Toyokuni Shrine, Kyoto

From January 1st to the 23rd, 56 delegates and 3 coordinators from around Australia participated in the 2014 ELTF program to Japan, where preservice, practicing and retraining teachers had the opportunity to improve their Japanese proficiency and broaden their cultural perspectives over the 4 week program. It was also a great opportunity to strengthen networks within the national Japanese teaching community, especially for pre-service teachers. The program consisted of intensive language tuition at Kansai University, day trips and short excursions to Kobe and Kyoto, and plenty of free time for participants to explore the Osaka area and places of interest. "Teachers who study

together, stay together" Our experiences were wide and varied, from being served tea at a Cat Café, to creating our very own wax replicas of takoyaki (fried octopus balls) to experiencing a day in a Japanese family's home. Teachers also observed a day in a primary, junior high or senior high school, and were able to compare educational systems and teaching pedagogy in Australia with our Japanese counterparts. We also were given the opportunity to update our teaching resources with the ATEC project, in which teachers collaborated to create authentic products to use in the classroom with Japanese realia.





From the ACT region, we had three

Harrison School's Hugo Walker, Saint Francis Xavier School's Ping Zhou, and myself. I am currently a third-year B Asia-Pacific Studies (ANU)/B Secondary Education (UC) student. Personally, I am so grateful to have been granted this opportunity to work with some of the most enthusiastic and engaging Japanese teachers this country has to offer. The ELTF alumni office and our very active Facebook group site will ensure that we will continue to collaborate and share

> teaching resources with one another well into the future.

I have never experienced a more carefully planned and coordinated program. A big thanks to the team at Austraining International, with a special mention to our group leaders, Kathryn Tominaga, Hiroshi Hasegawa and Kim Rowlands for their tireless effort and organizational skills in making this program such a success. I highly encourage any language teacher to apply to this program, as there are a total of 11 in-country intensive courses offered each year in January (some countries subject to availability). You can apply through http://www.eltf.austraining.com.au

Joe Dale comes to Canberra

11,492
Followers on
Twitter.com for
@joedale

On Monday 2nd June, the MLTA ACT was fortunate enough to secure the presence and expertise of Joe Dale to run workshops on I-pads in the language classroom. For those of you who attended the AFMLTA conference last year, you would remember Joe as one of our presenters. Joe Dale is an independent

languages consultant from the UK who works with many organisations such as The British Council, the BBC, Skype, Microsoft and The Guardian. Joe has presented at many conferences worldwide and is renowned for his practical and efficient training courses. Described as an MFL guru, Joe embraces every chance to promote ICT in the language classroom. With more and more schools getting their hands on Ipads, it seemed logical for the MLTA committee to ask Joe to help language teachers discover the full potential of Ipads in their Language classroom. We were not disappointed. Joe presented two hands-on workshops on promoting listening and speaking, pronunciation and confidence with the iPad and improving reading and writing with the iPad. The workshops, which took place at Aranda Primary School, were highly attended and the room was certainly buzzing with excitement. Everyone

discovered new tools, new ideas and new resources and left feeling more confident and willing to have a go at using Ipads. We are happy to announce that this particular event attracted many new MLTA members and we would like to welcome them all warmly. We are certainly hoping, in the next coming years, to be able to welcome Joe back to the ACT.

Myriam Davies.
Aranda Primary School
MLTA ACT Vice-President



Joe Dale is an independent languages consultant from the UK who works with a range of organisations such as Network for Languages, ALL, The British Council, the BBC. Skype. Microsoft and The Guardian. He is a regular conference speaker and recognised expert on technology and language learning. He has spoken at conferences and run training courses in Europe, North America, the Middle East, the Far East and Australia, He was a member of the Ministerial Steering Group on languages for the current UK government and was short-listed for a NAACE Impact Award in 2013 too. Joe was recently described in a Guardian article as an 'MFL guru' and 'the man behind the #mfltwitterati."

Joe has featured in several Education Guardian articles and has himself both written for and been quoted by the TES. Joe recently starred on a Teachers TV programme and has spoken about the Rose Review proposals on BBC Radio 4. His blogwww.joedale.typepad.com has been nominated for four Edublog Awards.





News from the German Network

At the beginning of 2014 the German Network in the ACT was reinstated by the Department of Education with Birgit Matwijiw being our new Network leader. We now have at least one regular meeting scheduled per term and a constant stream of emails relevant for teachers of German.

As most of the German teachers in the ACT were unable to attend the Annual State Conference for German teachers in Sydney in March 2014, Heike Craig presented her workshop at the ACT German Network meeting at the end of Term 2. With nine teachers in attendance this meeting was also used to discuss new developments in regards to the Australian Curriculum and plan the next meeting.

German is taught at a number of Secondary and Primary Schools and about 600 students are learning German. It is a concern that one High School is phasing out German and one Primary School will stop teaching German next year when the German teacher leaves. In all other schools numbers seem to be stable. German was introduced at a High School at the beginning of this year and it is hoped that the program will gain momentum. Spielwelt operates a German-language Playschool, Playgroups and a Scout Group. These are very popular with the German Speaking Community in Canberra.

The German Senior Course was reviewed and updated early in 2014. This new course will, hopefully, be ready for implementation in 2015.

Major events for students of German in Canberra in 2014:

- 'Schülertag Kurz und Cool im Alltag' was a workshop organised by ACT German teachers for Years 10-12. Students watched three short films and worked in groups on a project relating to one of the three films. Students enjoyed working with German students from Colleges around Canberra. The final products were shown at the end of the day.
- The *Zootag* (organised by the Goethe Institut, Sydney) were a success with Year 7 and 8 German students.
- Another Year 8 event, the annual *Moktoberfest* is coming up in September and will be organised by the German students of Daramalan College.

Heike Craig Daramalan College



News from the French Network

French Network and Alliance Française collaboration

For the benefit of teachers.

During semester 1, along with its regular network meetings, the French Network was fortunate to collaborate with the Alliance Française of Canberra to provide valuable Professional Learning for its members. Two whole day workshops were organised in term 1 and term 2 on the following topics:

- ICT resources
- Interactive whiteboards in the language classroom
- Developing resources for the Language classroom

Each workshop was well attended and all participants left with a large amount of resources ready to be used in the classroom as well as a chance to network, share ideas and expertise. These workshops, run as immersion days and therefore entirely in French, also provided the attendees with an insight of current pedagogical perspective from French native speakers. This active collaboration with the Alliance Française of Canberra continues with the Alliance Française providing regular special conversation classes for French teachers and organising a whole section of its library for the use of French teachers. Teachers also have the opportunity to take part in special language programs to gain a certificate recognised around the world.



Myriam Davies. Aranda Primary School MLTA ACT Vice-President







Korean Fun Day at the Embassy

On the 23rd of May, students studying Korean at ACT were given the opportunity to visit the Korean Embassy. Students sang Korean songs, watched dance performances and ate Korean food. We were also able to meet and speak with the Korean Ambassador Mr. Bong Hyun Kim. Eager students practiced their Korean with other schools, and we enjoyed talking about the Korean program at Narrabundah with younger students. It was a fun learning experience for all of us, and we're very thankful for having been invited.

Sophie and Drew



From right:

Sanghyun Kim, Dhruva Trivedi, Sophie Bielleman, Ambassdor Mr. Bong Hyun Kim, Bokyung Kim, Yeajee Kim, Korean teacher Hee-Kyoung Lee



Sophie and Drew were talking about Narrabundah College in Korean

Marist College – Italy Study Tour

From April 11 to 27, 34 Italian language students from Years 9-12 and three staff enjoyed the best of Italy on the 2014 Italy Study tour. The tour commenced with four days in Rome and surrounds during which time the participants enjoyed the hospitality of Homestay families. This provided opportunities for the boys to practise their Italian language while enjoying the cultural and culinary experience of living with an Italian family. During this time, the group visited some sites of Ancient Rome, including the Colosseum and the Forum; and enjoyed the ambience of modern Rome; and visited the Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and the Spanish Steps. The final day included a visit to the magnificent gardens of Villa d'Este at Tivoli and a trip to the Marist General House for a guided tour by Brother Colin Chalmers, the Marist archivist.

On day 5, the tour group went 'on the road' travelling from south to north by bus, train and boat. On the way to the Amalfi Coast, we stopped at Herculaneum and explored the ruins of the city destroyed by boiling mud in the 79AD eruption of Mount Versuvius. This was followed by a couple of nights stay in Sorrento from where we explored the *Costiera* and visited the towns of Positano and Amalfi. At 3 am on Good Friday morning, we

attended the haunting *White Procession*, a reenactment of Mary looking for her son on the day before his death on the cross.

From Sorrento we travelled north to Assisi where we visited the Basilica of San Francisco before moving onto beautiful Florence for Easter Saturday and Sunday. These next two days were filled with a mixture of shopping, Easter eggs, a trip to Pisa to climb the Leaning Tower and Easter Sunday Mass celebrated in a magnificent cathedral. The group then travelled by train to Venice for a couple of days where we breathed in the atmosphere and visited sites including San Marco Cathedral and the Doges Palace; many of the boys enjoyed a Gondola tour of the canals. A boat trip to the islands of Murano for a glass blowing demonstration; and Burano, a fishing village, completed an amazing segment of the tour. Our last port of call was Milan where we mastered the Metro, shopped and visited the Last Supper, a 15th-century mural painting by Leonardo da Vinci in the refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria. We spent our final day at beautiful Lake Como and visited the town of Bellagio, set below the snow-capped Alps of Italy and Switzerland

> Chris Morrissey Marist College Deputy Headmaster



Language Perfect World Championships Amaroo, 1st in the ACT!

Amaroo School students learning French and Japanese in Years 6-10 competed in the Language Perfect World Championships again this year. Students were keen to defend their title from 2013 but ended up improving significantly on that result. We are very proud to say that we came 1st in the ACT in the Championship and 8th overall in the world! For two weeks of the Championship, our 553 students answered over 1.4 million questions to earn more than 500,000 points. Our students worked incredibly hard during this time and received more than 240 certificates, with nearly 50% of our students receiving a certificate. We also had 6 students achieve Elite Awards this year with over 10,000 points which was very exciting!

Our achievements in the competition included:

- 8th in the world out of 1151 schools
- 1st overall in the ACT out of 27 schools
- 1st for French in the ACT out of 25 schools
- 1st for Japanese in the ACT out of 22 schools
- 4th overall in Australia in the school size 501-1000 students category out of 133 schools
- 5th overall globally for French out of 916 schools



Our experience with Language Perfect has shown us that it is an exceptional resource for engaging students and consolidating their classroom learning. Student reaction to the competition this year shows us that its appeal just continues to grow! The Languages Team at Amaroo School is really proud of our students and their achievements in this Championship. Events like this further promote and enhance our languages program as well as increase the profile of language learning across the school.

Kiraly Middleton Amaroo School Languages Executive Teacher

Alfred Deakin - Celebration of the Francophone Week

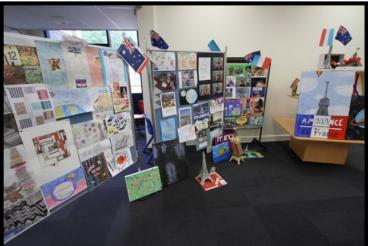
As a part of the celebration of the Francophone week, 15-21 of March the Francophone competition was held by the French Embassy and Alliance Française. The students were supposed to illustrate 10 random French words. The students of the French classes worked hard. They illustrated those words with paintings, drawings, sculptures, videos, etc. Their fantastic works are displayed in the library. 10 works were sent to Alliance Française to represent ADHS.

Year 7 students of French performed French song called "Alphabet" at the school assembly. That was *magnifique*. Monsieur Saikal and Madame Ivanova shared the achievements of their students with the French teachers of ACT through the French teachers' network. We are really proud of the French students' performance.

Merci beaucoup!

Kassem Saikal and Elena Ivanova Alfred Deakin

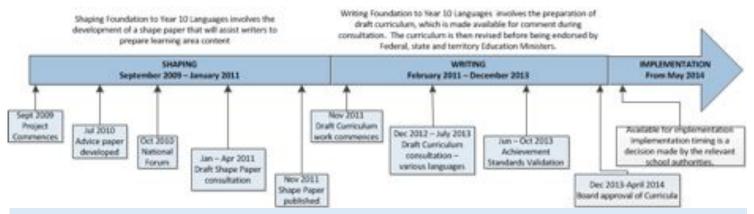








The Australian Curriculum



The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has made available Australian Curriculum for four languages.

With this release, ACARA has now published curriculum for all eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum – a significant moment in Australian education history.

Curricula for the Chinese, French, Indonesian and Italian for Foundation – Year 10 are now available on the **Australian Curriculum website**.

The curricula for the four languages are awaiting endorsement from the Education Council (formerly known as the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood), but as per a decision taken by the Council, the curricula are now available for states and territories to use in schools in their jurisdictions.

ACARA's CEO Rob Randall said that the opportunity for Australian children to learn a language in addition to English from a young age will give them an edge in the future when they participate in our linguistically and culturally diverse world.

'Learning a language will allow students to develop linguistic and cultural resources that will help them embrace opportunities in the future,' said Mr. Randall.

'It will enhance young people's skills to engage socially, culturally and economically in areas of business, trade, science, law, education, international relations and many other domains when they are adults,' he added.

Chinese, French, Indonesian and Italian are the first in a suite of languages to be released and are now available on the Australian Curriculum website

The remaining languages, including the Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages, Arabic, German, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese are currently under development. Funding for the additional languages – Turkish, Hindi, AUSLAN, and Classical Greek and Latin – has been provided by the Australian Government.

For more information, visit the **Australian Curriculum website**.

Shared Histories – Call for projects

SHARED HISTORIES Mémoires héritées, histoire partagée



An international school programme to commemorate the First World War France - New Zealand - Australia

www.sharedhistories.com



This call for projects aims to raise awareness among young New Zealand, Australian and French people about the contribution of the ANZAC in the fighting on the western front during the First World War and to highlight the historical links created between the three countries on this occasion. It seeks to bring together New Zealand, Australian and French youths to revive the memory of this major period of the three countries' common history and to explore its profound significance and impact. This website is dedicated to enhance cooperation in education.

All the schools (public, independent, catholic, primary, secondary level) are more than welcome to register online.

The Embassy of France in Canberra will also at the end of August publish on this same website a database with more than 250 schools in France, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Reunion Island, willing to create partnership with Australia on commemorations or other topics.

www.sharedhistories.com

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Nicolas Gouletquer at nicolas.gouletquer@diplomatie.gouv.fr



http://www.sharedhistories.com/how-2











JAPANESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE COURSE Kanazawa, JAPAN, 28 September- 10 October 2014

Twice each year the Australia – Japan Society (ACT) arranges participants for the two-week in-country course in Japanese language/culture in Kanazawa. The course is run by the Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange (IFIE) in April and September/October. Applications are now being called for the September/October 2014 course.

The courses run for 2 weeks from a Sunday afternoon to the Friday evening two weeks later and include intensive language lessons, cultural activities and home stay accommodation with a Japanese family - this latter is one of the outstanding features of the program and certainly gives a boost to the participants' language skills.

During the course, mornings are spent in formal language classes and, most afternoons, opportunities are provided to explore the local culture, either in organised classes and excursions or course participants are encouraged to explore Kanazawa by themselves or with other members of the group.

The classes are tailored to the individual participant's language skills – participants are assessed on the first day and placed in classes according to their language abilities. Beginner classes are available in the September/October intake. There are excellent facilities and very helpful teachers at the Institute.

There is a Youtube video about the various Ishikawa Foundation's courses at http://youtu.be/wiv2YBPQ4p4. The AJS two week course doesn't, of course, cover the full range of activities shown for the longer courses in the video, but there are many common features.

The total course cost per participant, including all course fees, cultural activities and accommodation for the duration of the course (but NOT including fares to and from Kanazawa, Japan) is, depending on fluctuations in the \$/yen ratio, around \$900 - \$1,000. Participants are advised to allow about \$30 - \$40 per day for day-to-day expenses (bus fares, souvenirs etc.) so the total cost for the two week experience, including the fares to and from Kanazawa, is usually around \$3,000.

Applicants must be at least 20 years old, must be a member of an Australia – Japan Society or an affiliated organization (or join one) and must be prepared to stay in Japan for the duration of the course.

This is a great chance to commence, refresh, improve or develop your Japanese language skills and, if your profession is appropriate, the cost may be tax deductible as a self-education expense.

For a more detailed outline of the program and for homestay application forms contact Michael Hodgkin, the coordinator of the program at;

E-mail: ajscoursecoordinator@gmail.com

or send mail: IFIE Program Coordinator, c/o Australia – Japan Society (ACT), PO Box 1066, Canberra, ACT 2601



Australia – Japan Society (ACT) Inc. GPO Box 1066 Canberra ACT 2601



Japan Foundation Video Masturi 2014 Deadline Extension



PF Sydney is pleased to announce that the deadline for this year's Video Matsuri has been extended to Friday 12 September.

Video Matsuri gives students of all ages across the country the chance to show off their Japanese language skills in a fun and creative environment.

For more information about this year's contest, please visit http://www.jpf.org.au/videomatsuri.



Combine your Japanese ability with your creativity to make a 3 minute film.



There is only one rule: somewhere in your film there must be an apple. It can be in the background, it can be on top of your head. Bonus points are up for grabs if you can find a creative way to include it.



There are no restrictions on theme or style. You can produce a comedy, a drama, a documentary; you can animate it, you can clay-mation it—the sky's the limit!

MLTA ACT – EXECUTIVE 2014

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For further reading about languages teaching in Australia, please visit the following website: http://www.afmlta.asn.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: Ludivine Le-Gal

Ludivinele-gal@mcc.act.edu.au

We look forward to hearing your stories!

The ACT MLTA WORKS4U!