

# CONTACT

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

## Report from Veronique Canellas, President MLTA ACT Inc.

I would like to welcome you to our first edition of *Contact* for 2015. The MLTA ACT Inc. Executive Committee has been working hard behind the scenes to bring you a variety of professional learning opportunities and advocating for languages education.

The first half of the year has been busy with our "Meet and Greet" held at The Loft where we welcomed back previous members and new members to the MLTA ACT Inc. and launched our 'MLTA Works 4U' plan for the year. We also recognised the extraordinary efforts of our past President, Meri Dragicevic, by welcoming her as the fifth Honorary Life Member of the MLTA ACT Inc. Meri has contributed well over 20 years of service to our MLTA and it was only fitting to recognise her and acknowledge the commitment and dedication she has shown towards the advocacy of languages education in the ACT.



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## The ACT MLTA WORKS4U!

Modern Language Teachers' Association ACT Inc.

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ABN : 81093701685

The first professional learning opportunity for 2015 was the **AFMLTA/MLTA Ready?Set?Go! Workshop** held on Saturday 14 March at the Australian Catholic University (ACU). This workshop was the result of the need identified by the AFMLTA to assist teachers of languages to unpack the Australian Curriculum: Languages. The workshop was designed to be delivered in all states and territories within Australia. Two of our MLTA executive members were trained by AFMLTA to act as facilitators of the workshop. The workshop was attended by 66 teachers from all jurisdictions and teachers who attended represented all languages taught in the ACT. This workshop was TQI accredited and heavily subsidised by the MLTA ACT Inc. The workshop has resulted in teachers gaining a better understanding of the recently released Australian Curriculum: Languages. The AFMLTA, in collaboration with MLTAs around the country, will be providing follow up workshops to progress the understanding and the work carried out by language teachers as the implementation phase of the Australian Curriculum: Languages continues.



The AGM held on 19 March saw a few changes to the MLTA Executive team. We acknowledged the exceptional work of our outgoing Treasurer, Jennifer MacDonald, and thanked her for the contributions and commitment in the role. Unfortunately during the AGM there was no one nominated to take her place and this resulted in a Special AGM being held in April where Mary Thorp graciously took on the role of MLTA ACT Inc. Treasurer. At the AGM we also thanked Natalie Stewart for her role as the outgoing Public Officer and the dedication she has shown in this role and also in the role of Conference Convener for the AFMLTA 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference held in Canberra in 2013. The role of Public Officer has been taken over by Tina Rodriguez. We also welcomed Heike Craig into the committee. I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive Council who have undertaken yet another year in their role and welcome all new committee members and trust that you will find the experience rewarding.

The MLTA ACT Inc. Term 2 event was held at the Kingston Hotel where an informal dinner was preceded by the Special AGM. A summary of language specific events was presented to the members who attended and the election of the new Treasurer took place. The food was delicious and the conversation was entertaining and enjoyable.

Applications for Round One of the FIPLV Congress 1988 Scholarships were announced to coincide with the registration for the AFMLTA 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference held in Melbourne in July. The Executive received five outstanding applications and all five members were provided with a scholarship to cover the early bird registration fee for their attendance at the National conference in Melbourne from 9-12 July. These members will provide a report for *Contact* and conduct a presentation at the Term 4 dinner.

In May, we received news from the AFMLTA that the Australian Government ceased funding for the ELTF (Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowship) program. As President I wrote, on behalf of the MLTA ACT Inc., to our local Member of Parliament, Andrew Leigh MP, and to the Hon. Christopher Pyne, MP Minister for Education, to express our concerns at the cessation of such a valuable program.

The MLTA ACT inc. is an Official Partner of Language Perfect and again this year our members were able to enter their students in the Language Perfect World Championships 2015 by taking advantage of 50 free entries per school. Many of our members took up this offer to enter extra students into the worldwide competition. I would like to congratulate Amaroo School on their exceptional results for the third year in a row winning the Language Perfect World Championship MLTA ACT Award for the *Top School in Languages in the ACT*. I would also like to congratulate Aranda Primary School for their fantastic results of earning the *Top Primary School for Languages in the ACT*. It is always pleasing to observe the competitive nature of our students (and teachers!!!!) but more importantly the learning that results from this 10 day intensive competition.

The Executive Committee were proud to offer the Joe Dale Workshop on 'Harnessing Google in the Languages Classroom' on 25 July at Daramalan College. Joe Dale presented several workshops at the recently held AFMLTA 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Melbourne and we are privileged to have been able to secure such an outstanding and well respected international presenter to come to Canberra to conduct this workshop. This workshop was TQI Accredited and we received positive feedback from our members who



The upcoming MLTA ACT Inc. Mini-Conference will be held on Saturday 15 August at ACU and the theme is on CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning). We have secured Dr Simone Smala, an expert in this field, from the University of Queensland. Simone recently presented workshops on CLIL at the AFMLTA 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference. I would like to thank Sharon Brissoni for suggesting we invite Simone to conduct a workshop for ACT teachers. As an Association, which represents its members, we value your suggestions and feedback and we do our outmost to provide you with what you are seeking in terms of professional learning. The Executive Committee would like to encourage its members to provide suggestions and feedback on professional learning that as teachers you identify as being pivotal and vital to your teaching practice and to your personal growth as educators.

We were devastated to hear of the passing of our dear colleague and a former MLTA President, Fiona Arthur, on Friday 19 June, and we acknowledge her outstanding contribution to languages education in the ACT. A separate article on Fiona can be found in this edition of *Contact*. Fiona will be dearly missed by her family, friends and her many colleagues.

I recently attended the AFMLTA Assembly in Melbourne held prior to the AFMLTA 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference. The usual proceedings of the Assembly took place where all state and territory MLTA Presidents presented their yearly reports to the Assembly. The Executive of the AFMLTA also presented their annual reports to the Assembly and a Strategic Plan for 2016 was formulated. We also had the privilege to have a presentation from Libby Tuckerman, Program Director from ESA (Education Services Australia) where a rundown of the Language Learning Space (LLS) and the Early Learning Language Australia (ELLA) project trial was provided. The Assembly was also asked to provide feedback on the ELLA project to the consultation company. The AFMLTA has also made recommendations to the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG). As a result of the consultation process with TEMAG the AFMLTA has been instrumental in ensuring that primary teacher training courses will provide future primary teachers with a specialisation in Maths, Science or in a LANGUAGE. This has been a fundamental recommendation and we look forward to hearing how this progresses.



The Executive of the MLTA would like to thank you for the ongoing support of our Association and we would like to wish you a very productive and rewarding Semester Two. I would like to encourage you to share the wonderful, engaging and exciting work you do in your schools with other members of the MLTA ACT Inc. by writing an article for the next edition of *Contact* at the end of Semester Two this year.

I would like to personally thank the hard working Committee of the MLTA ACT Inc. for their tireless work and dedication. They all have teaching loads and many have professional responsibilities beyond teaching as well as personal commitments and circumstances but they all rally together to make the MLTA ACT inc. such a successful and well respected Association that it is today.



**MLTA ACT Inc. delivers another event for 2015  
8:30am-12:30pm on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August**

**Mini-Conference - CLIL Focus**  
Discover the Key Principles and Features of  
**"Content and Language Integrated Learning - CLIL"**  
at

**Australian Catholic University**  
Signadou Campus  
223 Antill St, Watson

Bring along a teaching colleague of languages and meet other language teachers.  
Bring your own device.  
Start with breakfast.

Be inspired by the keynote address from our guest speaker, Dr Simone Smala.  
PhD, School of Education, University of Queensland.  
Followed by hands-on workshops on CLIL and of course a morning tea.

CLIL is a teaching approach and pedagogy in second language teaching that has had worldwide success over the past 10 years. It is now explored in various settings in Australia, in particular in Victoria and Queensland. In the CLIL approach, the second language is used as the medium of instruction for mainstream subjects and topics, such as science, social science and maths. The teacher integrates language learning with topical content learning, and creates an authentic language speaking situation for second language learners.

**COST: Current MLTA ACT Inc. members FREE**

**Non-members pay \$30.00 (On payment you will receive  $\frac{1}{2}$  year membership of the MLTA ACT Inc. - this does not include Babel Subscription)**

**RSVP by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August to: [Yvonne.Webber@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Yvonne.Webber@ed.act.edu.au)**

## French Day at Hawker Primary School

### Jennifer MacDonald, French teacher

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June Hawker School was awash in a sea of “bleu, blanc et rouge”. The theme for this year’s French Day was “Faces of France”. Our hard-working teachers prepared informative and creative activities based on the lives and contributions of famous French people throughout history.

Sixteen activity groups studied diverse characters who included Napoleon Bonaparte (royalty), Raymonde de Laroche (first female pilot), Jeanne d’Arc (war hero), Christian Louboutin (shoe designer), Jules Verne (author), Gustave Eiffel (architect), Antoine de Saint-Exupery (author and aviator), Marcel Marceau (mime artist), Charles Pathe (film pioneer) and Christian Dior (fashion). Each group also had a turn at being a French Master Chef. The cooking and eating of crêpes is always a highlight on French Day.

The year 5/6 students were wonderful leaders as they guided their multi-age groups from activity to activity throughout the day. We were also delighted that seven Yr 7 Belconnen High French students and their French teacher Madame Claire Thevenin-Smith were able to join us for the day.

The canteen prepared a delicious French menu for recess and lunch. The canteen fridge full of jellies in the French colours was a sight to behold!

There was an amazing variety of French-themed outfits that appeared on the day. Our Hawker families never cease to amaze and delight with their creativity and efforts on special days. It added so much to the atmosphere and enjoyment of French Day





## Year 10 Italian Class 2015 @ Saint Francis Xavier College

**Cecilia Mickleburgh**

**Year 10 Student of Italian at St Francis Xavier College**

The first two terms of this unit in Italian have been both challenging and rewarding. Our main focus for this unit was “La moda”. It has been lots of fun learning all about fashion in Italy and how important making a good impression through fashion is to them. We’ve learnt about certain clothing, accessories and colours that Italian people like to wear and how to use this vocabulary in everyday writing. This particular unit has given us the opportunity to make lessons exciting by holding fun events such as fashion shows and filming videos based around fashion. The fashion show that our class held was a great chance to show what we have learnt throughout the term in a way that enabled all of us to have fun. We got into pairs, chose some crazy outfits and then made a statement about what our partner was wearing. Signora Rodriguez even organized the classroom in the form of a fashion runway and brought in snacks and champagne to make the show a bit more real... (The “champagne” was really sparkling apple juice!). Events such as these are what have made Italian this year definitely the most interesting and exciting one yet. The topic we focused on was very engaging and I believe that this has allowed our class, as young teenagers who can relate to the topic, to be enthusiastic about learning Italian this semester.



Signora Rodriguez and the Year 10 Italian class: Fashion Parade

# Terrific Tango at Telopea Park School

## Annemarie Power, Spanish Teacher

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February this year Spanish students at Telopea attended a musical performance held at Telopea School Hall by Sydney-based tango quintet *Tángalo* and Latin-Grammy nominated *Duo Ramírez Satorre* from Buenos Aires. Students were enthralled by the performance which featured some traditional and modern tango interpretations as well as some Milonga, a folkloric musical genre originating from Argentina and Uruguay. The group dazzled the student audience with their dancing and musical talent. After the performance there was a Q&A session where students were able to ask questions about the music and Argentinian culture, students who answered questions correctly were lucky enough to receive a CD from the group!

### Student reviews:

"I was inspired by the outfits they were wearing especially the girls! I was inspired to look into tango fashion and dancing" – Merissa Year 8

"The tango music had heaps of beat and rhythm to make anyone dance. I really liked the way everyone managed to mix and gel together to make thrilling music for Telopea's Spanish students. Also unfortunately for me I wasn't able to answer a question correctly to get a CD" – Thomas Year 8



Duo Ramírez Satorre (Adrián Ramírez and Hugo Satorre) from Argentina on guitar and bandoneón.



Hugo Satorre and Emily-Rose Šarkova demonstrating the length of the bandoneón.



Tángalo and Duo Ramírez Satorre doing Q&A session with students.



## French Immersion Day: Une journée de rêve!

**Myriam Davies, French Teacher, Aranda Primary School**  
**MLTA ACT Vice-President, French Network Leader**

On Friday 5 June, French students in year 10, 11 and 12 from the Canberra north side schools took part in a French Immersion Day at Lake Ginninderra College. Taking inspiration from the German Immersion Day presented last year by Heike Craig (Daramalan College) and Birgit Matwijiw (Narrabundah College) at the MLTA mini-conference, Yvonne Webber (Canberra HS), Lena Britton (Lyneham HS) and Myriam Davies (Lake Ginninderra College) organised a day where students were asked to create short French movies in teams. After a couple of warm-up activities, students were invited to watch three short movies for inspiration, before starting writing their own scenario and tackling recording. Lunch provided a welcome break for budding actors and film makers with quiches, baguettes and cheese and crepe making. Students had then a short time to edit their film before watching some of the movies. Despite the lack of time to watch all the movies created on the spot (films were later on shared on CDs), everyone had an exciting time filming and speaking French. We are now looking at refining the details and are planning to make this event an annual outing. Eight schools were involved this year: Lyneham HS, Canberra HS, Campbell HS, Gungahlin College, Dickson College, Hawker College, Burgmann College and Lake Ginninderra College. Thank you everyone for your participation and enthusiasm!



# **Yarralumla Bilingual Primary School celebrates Italian Republic Day**

## **La scuola bilingue di Yarralumla festeggia La Festa della Repubblica Italiana**

### **Sharon Brissoni, Italian Program Coordinator at Yarralumla Primary School**

“Festa della Repubblica” is the Italian national holiday celebrated on the second day of June. It commemorates the institutional referendum of 1946 when the Italian population was called to decide what form of government (monarchy or republic) to give to the country after the Second World War and the fall of Fascism. After 85 years of monarchy, with 12,717,923 votes for and 10,719,284 votes against, Italy became a Republic, and the monarchs of the House of Savoy were deposed and exiled. This is one of the most important Italian national holidays which, like July 14th in France (Storming of the Bastille) and July 4th in the USA (Independence Day), celebrate the birth of the nation.

Yarralumla Bilingual Primary School celebrated the Festa della Repubblica on Tuesday 2nd June with an entire day of activities and cross-curricular learning experiences commencing with the flag raising ceremony in the morning at the front of the school and culminating with an assembly in the afternoon.

It was a great honour to have His Excellency Pier Francesco Zazo, Italian Ambassador to Australia, together with a representative of the Italian Armed Forces participate in the flag raising ceremony in the morning to start the celebrations. The Italian Ambassador and signora Marli Ayrton, Principal of Yarralumla Primary School, planted a tree to symbolise the birth of the Italian Republic during the morning ceremony.

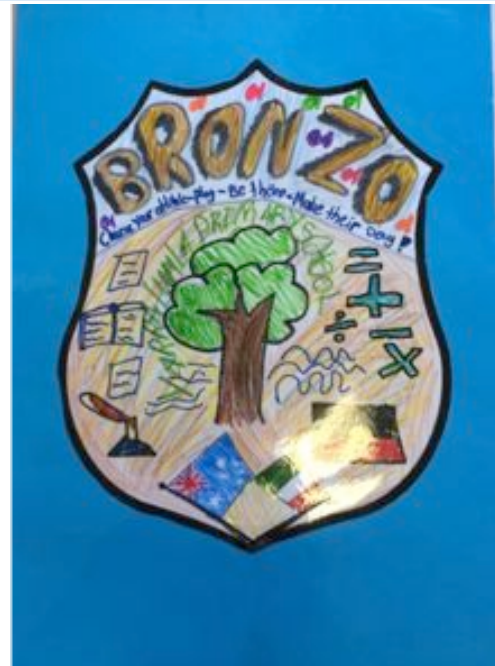


His Excellency Ambassador Zazo addressing the school.



During the day, students participated in a range of activities including learning the Italian National Anthem 'L'Inno di Mameli', designing and creating class shields (scudi) that were inspired by the emblems of Italian regions and playing interactive games such as reconstructing the map of Italy as a puzzle. Students in the senior classes were also involved in creating tourism brochures advertising the 20 Italian regions.

In the afternoon the school held a special assembly showcasing the artworks and the Italian and Australian National Anthems were sung. The assembly also coincided with a presentation to a very special Italian - signor Aldo Giurgola, the Italian architect who designed Parliament Building in Canberra. Signor Giurgola still resides in Canberra and was awarded a special merit award for 'his contribution to designing democracy in Australia'.



Examples of students' class shields 'scudi'





## Francophonie week at Amaroo School

### Kassem Saikal, French Teacher

Amaroo School has celebrated la Semaine de la Francophonie. On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, Year Four students sang a French alphabet song during the primary assembly. Years 9 and 10 students participated in the Francophonie competition, organised by the Alliance Française of Canberra. The students had to produce a creative piece using certain French as stimulus.

Last Saturday three senior French students were finalists in the Francophonie Week Awards and attended a ceremony with their families and Kassem Saikal.

We are happy to tell you that **Amaroo School won first place in the Awards!** The winning students were: Tanisha Jory, Jenny Akuola and Dinky Vaidya. They created an artwork on a canvas that was simply stunning! It was so good that it is now hanging at the Alliance Francaise.



## Daramalan College - "Les Mis" excursion

### Bobbie Dawson, French Teacher

In Term 1, a group of 41 sleepy eyed French students from Daramalan College departed Canberra at the crack of dawn to see the musical *Les Misérables* by **Victor Hugo**. They were accompanied by their 4 teachers: Ms Dawson, Mrs Tregoning, Mr MacDonald and Mr Chislett.

In addition to seeing this musical, the students also undertook an intensive French lesson in Paddington; visited the French exhibit *Circus Factor*, created by French scenographer Gérard Cholot and designer Alban Le Henry, at the **Powerhouse Museum**; and even had time for a typical French breakfast at a *boulangérie* in Surry Hills on Saturday.

#### *FrenchClass* in Paddington



By embracing the philosophy of Active Learning, this French school in Paddington offers small, intensive classes for students. Students were put into groups of 10 and all students (from years 9-12) made tremendous gains in both their confidence and proficiency in their 1.5 hour lesson. Students themselves spoke for the majority of the lesson – and thanks to the enthusiastic approach of the teachers Martine and Miriam, the time flew by and the students covered and applied a range of complex grammatical points without even realising it!

Students and staff alike were very impressed with FrenchClass, and we would highly recommend this for any French school group heading to Sydney. It is an accessible way of immersing students into the French language and culture.





### ***Les Misérables* at the Capitol Theater - Review By Luke Coombe, Year 11**

“Les Mis” was a complete and utter spectacle, from the stage direction, to the vocal range of each of the actors, to the scenery of the theatre. This production is one that will remain with me, and all of the other students and teachers, for many years to come. The show was gripping from start to end and, when we left the theatre, all we could talk or think about was the show.

If I could describe the whole show in only two words I would use the words “Emotional Rollercoaster”. The plotline was very dense, the play being set after the French Revolution, during the Napoleonic Wars. This show features all of the different aspects of the French lifestyle and the struggles of being a peasant during times when food was very scarce. It also, however, features the themes of love, honesty and fighting for what is right. We were drawn into the life of Jean Valjean, and the mysterious love triangle of Cosette, Marius and Éponine. This show was an amazing experience and I will never forget it. I think that Mr. Hugo would be very proud to know that his legacy of *Les Misérables* has lived on even after his death.





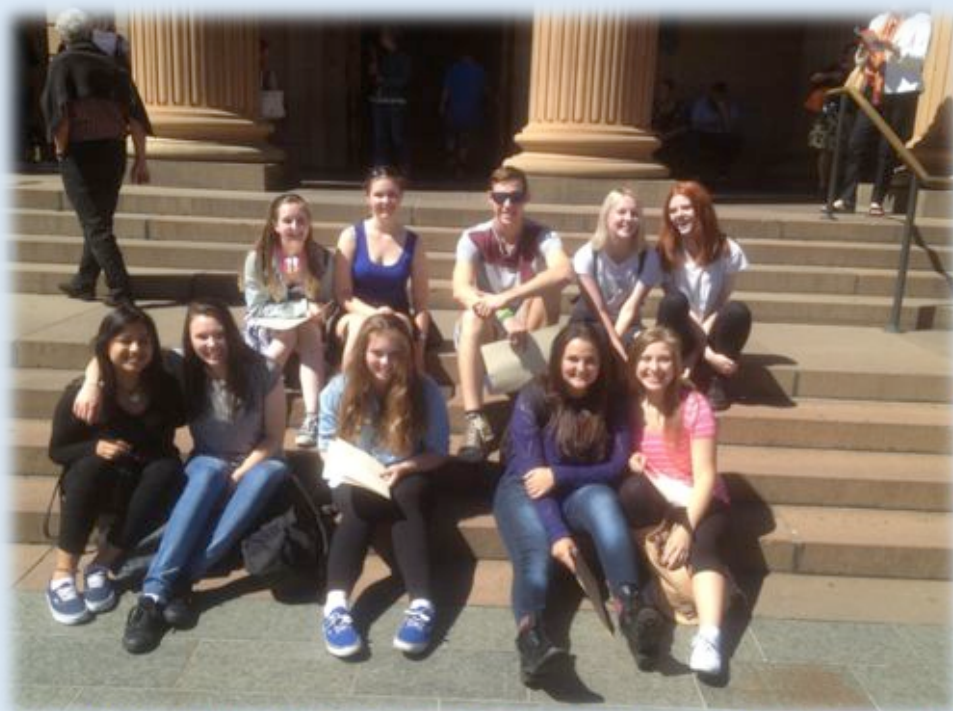
## NSW Art Gallery visit by Cailey Snabel, Year 11

The group of Year 11s and two esteemed Year 10s went with their guide, Mr Chislett, to the NSW Art Gallery on the first day to see the Collection of French paintings. It was a day of learning for all of us.

By far the largest painting we saw was “**Vive L’empereur**” by **Edouard Detaille**. This amazing painting comes from a period where war was glorified in such vivid detail you can almost hear the thundering of hooves and shouts of men. My personal favourite was a painting by **Monet**, a name I am sure many of us are familiar with. It was a small painting of the waves crashing against the rocks – a typical example of the impressionist desire to capture fleeting moments of life. As Mr Chislett put it: the impressionists wanted to capture the idea that they were the only person who would ever see that sight as they were seeing it exactly in that moment. Monet certainly did an excellent job of this.

We learnt a lot about not only French Art, but also saw the Art Express exhibition of all the best HSC works for 2014. We were sufficiently bowled over. To think that people our age could produce such amazing works with such depth. One of my personal favourite works was called **Silenced** by **Emilee Jane Spargo**. It was a series of paintings that depicted the constant silencing and objectification of women. Aside from being amazing pieces of artwork, they really struck a chord with me - and judging by the vigorous whispers of some of the people behind me, the pieces affected a lot of other people too.

Overall we came out with a little more culture, a little more appreciation for art, a little more knowledge about European artists, and a little more French language skills to talk about it. As we say in French; ***c’était magnifique!***



## Fiona Arthur



It is with deep sadness that we advise you that our friend and colleague Fiona Arthur passed away on Friday 19 June. Fiona had been receiving chemotherapy for lymphoma and after a very brief illness was transferred to palliative care at Clare Holland House. Many of us had the chance to work with Fiona and will remember her as a vibrant person, a passionate and inspiring educator and a fervent advocate for languages. Fiona was an accomplished colleague as a teacher of French, Italian, English and ESL and as a school leader in a broad range of roles. Fiona is a former President of the Modern Language Teachers' Association of the ACT and she was for many years a member of MLTA Committee. In recent years, she worked at Gold Creek School, Lake Ginninderra College, in the International Education Unit, at Narrabundah College and in ACT Education and Training Curriculum Section. She also contributed to ACT and Australian education as panel chair for BSSS accreditation panels and as a member of an ACARA BSSS working party for senior years Australian Curriculum. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Fiona.

**Frank Keighley, MLTA ACT Webmaster**

## Obituary

We express our feelings of loss that Jacqueline de Montmollin, member of the MLTA ACT Inc. died suddenly of stroke in March this year. Jacqueline was a Swiss French journalist, a poet, a French language teacher in several schools and colleges and lastly a tutor for CIT Solutions.

Her passion for meaning and precision in the use of language is anecdotal: When Michelle Grattan in 2005 was reported in a Swiss French newspaper on the Australian debate about the use of "mate", when a Parliament House official tried to ban security guards calling visitors "mate" and the edict was withdrawn after protests led by Prime Minister John Howard, Jacqueline was reported as saying: "Mate" translates into the French "mon pote", but "mon pote" does not properly convey the Australian meaning of "mate", and doesn't do much for Mr. Howard's image abroad either. It makes our Prime Minister sound like a rather vulgar man who thinks we should treat other people with an extraordinary familiarity. 'Mon pote' would never be used to address somebody you met for the first time. A better way to translate 'mate' would certainly be 'mon ami'.

**Meri Dragicevic, Italian Teacher  
Yarralumla Primary School**

## **Three of our colleagues retired this year**

When is the right time to stop working and contributing to the workplace you love and to the system in which you believe? Our members Karin Nagorcka, Pam Rosser and Lea Chapuis do not have this dilemma. They all decided this year to call it quits.

Karin, Pam and Lea were language teachers for years and, through their dedicated work and vision for improvements in our schools, they all climbed to the Principal's position.

Karin was a German language teacher and the German Network leader for years before she became a Principal at Wanniasa School. Karin was the AFMLTA Conference Convener in 2000 and an Honorary Life member of the MLTA ACT Inc.

Pam taught Japanese and became a Co-Principal at Kambah P-10 School. She was the President of the MLTA ACT Inc.

Lea was a French language teacher and as she loved IT soon became more involved in this area of education. She was a Learning Objects Project Officer. Lea was the Vice-President of the MLTA ACT Inc. For the last three years she was Principal of Yarralumla Bilingual Primary School.

## **Term 4 Dinner – Claim the Date**

**THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 – Venue TBA**



## MLTA ACT 2015

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For further reading about languages teaching in Australia, please visit the following website:  
<http://www.afmlta.asn.au/>



@MLTAACT



MLTA ACT Inc.

**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 MLTA ACT Inc. 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](mailto:Ludivinele-gal@mcc.act.edu.au)

We look forward to hearing your stories!



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