



Semester 1-2023

CONTACT

MLTA-ACT Inc. Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Prudence Roveta

Executive President of MLTA-ACT

Hello and welcome to our first issue for 2023 of CONTACT, the newsletter of MLTA-ACT. Thank you to Myriam Davies, our Editor, for bringing this issue to us. I trust that you have all been very busy finalising Semester 1 reports for your students with some of you having just commenced and others looking forward to the Winter break. To our new student members, we wish you well in your final studies and remember that we are here to support you in your language journey.

We started the year off with our annual Meet and Greet on Friday 24 February, which was held at the Pavilion on Northbourne. At this event we awarded Kirsten Stobbe, teacher of Indonesian, the Fiona Arthur Teaching Award with her nominee, Amber Turner, and her Principal, Brian Downton celebrating with her.

This year has brought a few changes to the MLTA-ACT. Annemarie Power, teacher of Spanish, has stepped down from the role of

Secretary but is staying on as a general committee member. I would like to thank Annemarie on behalf of all of us who have worked with her over the past years, she has done a magnificent job.

Thank you very much to Elysia Teh, teacher of Indonesian, who was a general committee member and then Vice-President over the past two years. We wish Elysia all the very best in her new, rewarding role.

We welcome Jo Chilver, teacher of Indonesian, as Vice-President. Jo has worked on the committee in the past, involved in several projects, especially co-ordinating the professional learning program for the Community Language Schools Association (CLSA) of the ACT. Jo, it's great to be working with you again.



Prue Roveta and Kirsten Stobbe

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...(CONTINUED)

Welcome and thank you to Mei Turnip, teacher of Indonesian, who has recently taken on the role of Secretary. Mei is new to the committee and has been involved in CLSA PLs and other MLTA-ACT events. You will be seeing Mei's name more often as she transitions into the role.

Welcome to Cathy Marot, teacher of French, and Lynden Lawton, teacher of Italian, who have joined the committee this year. Both educators have had a wide range of experience including teaching in language immersion schools. We will value their experience.

Myriam Davies, teacher of French, is continuing the role of Publications Officer which includes being the Editor of our newsletter CONTACT. Myriam has also taken on the role of being our primary representative of the French Section of the MLTA-ACT. I am the second representative of the French Section in the interim while we establish a working committee. For those of you who are unaware, in November 2022 we held a Special General Meeting (SGM) to redefine the membership types as well as allowing for the creation of Language-specific sections of MLTA-ACT. The French Section was formed so that the teachers of French in the ACT could have an independent group in order to join the National association of FATFA. This brings about certain opportunities for these teachers which were previously not available to us. We launched this group on

Wednesday 24 May at the Alliance Française in O'Connor.

We are very fortunate to have Lena Britton, teacher of French, to continue as Treasurer and Frank Keighley, teacher of French, to continue as a committee member and Webmaster. We value your passion and commitment to the teaching of languages.

The search continues to have more general committee members especially from the German, Japanese, Mandarin and Korean language groups. We would also like to have people who are keen to be involved in social media, event preparation and language representation. You may contact us directly via email at mlta.act.inc@gmail.com to discuss what is involved and/or to nominate yourself to be on the committee or have a chat when you next see one of us.

This year we have already delivered one professional learning session to the ACT CLSA as an on-line event. The remaining three sessions are currently being organised. We will be sending an email to all members asking if you would like to be involved in presenting to CLSA.

We held a workshop on Saturday 17 June on the Australian Curriculum v9 Languages. Teachers from Kindergarten to College, from Government, Catholic and Independent schools attended. It was a great opportunity to connect and to work collaboratively.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...(CONTINUED)

There were teachers of French, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Mandarin. Feedback and ideas from the half-day PL will be sent to you soon.

I am concerned that the ACT budget has not addressed the provision of language education for college students for the coming years. As advocates for language education we need to think about how we can best respond.

I would like to wish you all a very rewarding holiday break, whether that be adventure, relaxation or a mix of both. I have already seen two of the films from the Spanish Film Festival which is currently showing at Palace Electric. I encourage you to go along as it's one of the many advantages of living in Canberra. Many members have enjoyed the French and German Film festivals this year too. It's such a buzz being amongst so many poly-linguists. We would love to hear about your language events for our semester 2 issue of CONTACT.



Expo of Education Associations at ACU



Jo Chilver and Prue Roveta represented the MLTA-ACT at the Expo of Education Associations held at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) on Tuesday 18 April. This expo is organised as part of the final year preparations for Education students where some first year teachers also attended. We had some students join MLTA-ACT as Associate members.



Entrance to the new building at ACU where the Expo was held:



Vice-President Update

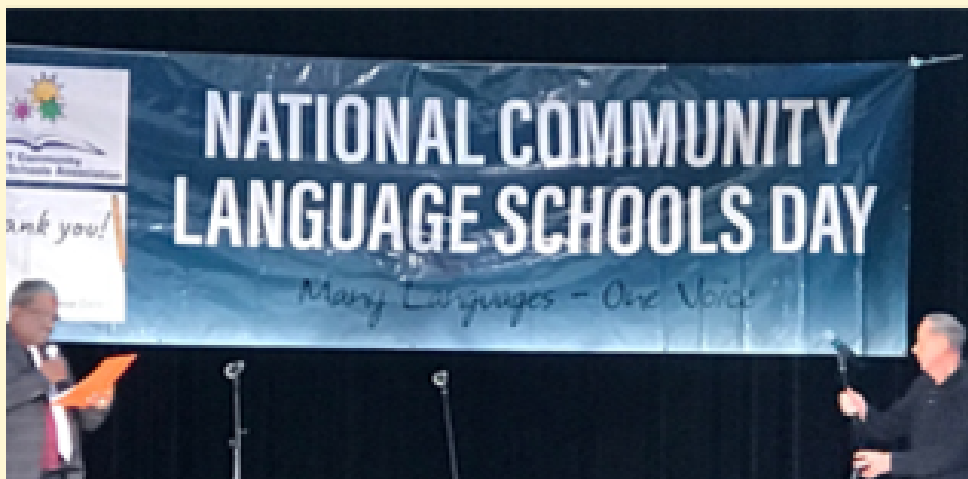
by Joanne Chilver, Canberra Grammar School

Supporting our MLTAACT

I am very happy to be involved with the MLTAACT once again. I was a committee member for a few years until 2020. This time, as vice-president, I am working with Prue and the others to grow the committee so we can spread the load and look for new opportunities to support MLTAACT members. We would love to have representatives from all the languages taught in the ACT. It does not need to be a huge commitment as many hands make light work! Please email mlta.act.inc@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

Community Language Schools Association ACT Open Day

On the 20th May, I attended the CLSAACT Open Day at The Albert Hall. It was a chilly morning but the performances by the students from various community schools were entertaining and much appreciated by the audience. After the event, Mandy Scott of the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) hosted a round table which was attended by several representatives from different community schools, to discuss accreditation and resourcing.



Vice-President Update..(continued)

Call for presenters for the Community Language Schools Association ACT

The MLTAACT has been providing professional learning workshops for the CLSAACT teachers for many years, as part of an agreement put in place by the ACT Education Directorate. Each year, the MLTAACT committee organises four 90-minute workshops and in recent years these have been online rather than in person. Presenters are paid \$450 for the time put towards preparing a workshop. If you are interested in presenting a workshop, email me at mlta.act.inc@gmail.com and please type CLSA Workshop in the subject box.

Workshops are usually held on Thursday evenings from 18:30-20:00. The proposed dates for this year are:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
8 June (week 7)	10 August (week 4) 14 September (week 9)	26 October (week 3)
Workshop Title: Lesson Planning and Delivery using high-impact teaching strategies	TBC	TBC

Many of the CLSA teachers are not qualified teachers, and as such, they appreciate practical, easy to apply presentations. We have received feedback from CLSA teachers regarding their preferences, and they are particularly interested in the following areas.

- IT tools for teaching
- Differentiation
- Hands-on activities, including assessment tasks

Well, that's all from me for this semester. I wish you all the best for the upcoming holidays. Time to rest and recharge. Stay warm!

From the German Network

by Selina Jaeck- German Network

We started the year with a network meeting in Week 3 of Term 1 to plan events for this school year.

The German language immersion day “Tag der Deutschen Sprache”, which couldn’t happen last year, took place on Thursday, 27th April, at the Swiss Embassy in Forrest. Over 120 German-learning students from seven different schools came together to learn about different dialects and aspects of all three German-speaking countries – Switzerland, Austria and Germany. All three embassies planned interesting and fun language activities which allowed our students to use their great German skills. The highlight was the lunch – specialities from all three countries were presented, such as sauerkraut, pretzels or apple strudel. We are already looking forward to coming together again for this event in 2024!



Another highlight was “Kino for Kids”, supported by the Goethe-Institut. Students from several schools went to the German Film Festival to view films in German. It’s always a great opportunity to experience the language in an authentic way and we can’t wait to see the film selection for next year.

On Thursday, 15th June, the annual NATG (National Australian Teachers of German) meeting with German teachers from all over Australia was held online which Heike and Selina attended. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibilities of promoting the learning and teaching of German in Australia. The group discussed possible future project ideas that could happen nationwide. We talked about a letter project for Year 7 & 8 and a National German Language Week.

For later in the year, we are hoping to plan a Kirmestag (carnival day) for Year 9 & 10. Also, the German teacher network is planning to come together for a German Mini Conference again. The aim is to promote broader culture in German teaching.

From the French Network

by Cathy Marot- representative for the French Network

This semester the French Language Teachers' Network had a good show of teachers for each of our Term meetings. It is always good to meet everybody and share the latest news about French.

Term 1 was busy with the French Film Festival and the Francophonie week.

The Alliance Française French Film Festival took place from 9th of March to 6th of April 2023. It was very successful with a lot of audience every day. There were school screenings organised for five different films: Belle et Sebastian 4, A la belle étoile (Sugar and stars), le Pharaon, le sauvage et la princesse (The Black Pharaoh), Tempête (Ride above) and Tenor. Pedagogical/study kits were available, and bookings were done through Palace Electric Cinema.

La semaine de la Francophonie (the Francophonie week) took place between the 20th and 24th of March. It was concluded with the Marché Francophone on the 24th of March, where several francophone Embassies and High Commissions organised some stalls, as well as the prize ceremony for two events: the posters of a Francophone country produced by Primary schools and the Dis-moi dix mots for secondary schools. There was also a Francophone passport with questions to encourage students' engagement with the Embassy staff.

This year the schools participated and engaged with the following Francophone countries: France, Vanuatu, Suisse, Maroc, Belgique, Nouvelle Calédonie, Liban, Canada and Ile Maurice. The contribution from Miles Franklin Primary school is now decorating the Embassy of Lebanon.



From the French Network...(continued)



French teachers with their schools' certificates for participating in the Semaine de la Francophonie competition.



Francophonie Day at the Alliance Francaise



French teachers at the Alliance Française de Canberra

Term 2 was more quiet with events organised by the Alliance Française and MLTA. In semester 2, the French network will again organise the Poetry Recital Competition, professional learning specific for French teachers, workshops for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum v.9, Conversation Group for French teachers as well as celebrations for the International French Teachers' Day.

French section of MLTA-ACT

by Myriam Davies, Aranda Primary School

We are thrilled to bring you some exciting updates from the MLTA ACT. In recent weeks, the MLTA ACT launched its French Section, marking a significant milestone for French language educators in the region. The introduction of this dedicated section aims to ensure effective representation at the federal level and unlock valuable funding opportunities from the French Embassy.

Previously, the ACT had been represented by NAFT (the New South Wales Association of French Teachers), but it was felt that this arrangement did not accurately reflect the needs and interests of the ACT. Furthermore, the French Network, while organised by the Directorate, could not act as an independent association representing the ACT at the FAFTA (Federal Association of Teachers of French in Australia). To address this, establishing a French section within the MLTA ACT was deemed a favourable solution, providing an independent body for the ACT's representation.

An important aspect of joining FAFTA is the access to various benefits and advantages, including reduced registration fees for FAFTA's bi-annual conferences and becoming part of FIPF (Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français), which offers reduced fees for the CarteProf, access to resources, and conferences.

Myriam Davies and Prudence Roveta attended the FATFA (Federal Association of Teachers of French in Australia) Annual General Meeting. While Prudence currently acts as the temporary representative for the ACT, the MLTA ACT-French Section will soon be seeking another dedicated individual who can attend all meetings alongside Myriam.

Looking ahead, the MLTA ACT French section is also seeking enthusiastic teachers to join on a working committee responsible for organising various events, both large and small, within the French section. This is a fantastic opportunity to actively contribute and shape the future of French language education in the ACT. Stay tuned for more updates and announcements regarding the working committee in the near future.

French section of MLTA-ACT...(Continued)

Now, for some truly exciting news! The FATFA and the French Embassy are currently finalising a special New Caledonia immersion professional development program for non-native French teachers who wish to enhance their language skills. The program will offer a two-week immersion experience, featuring French lessons at INSPE, immersion in a local school, and staying with welcoming New Caledonian families during the second week. In addition, cultural activities will enrich the participants' experience. It's important to note that this exclusive opportunity is available only to members of the MLTA ACT and its French section. Furthermore, if the initial training program proves successful, it is likely to be repeated in the coming years. Native French speakers can also anticipate future opportunities tailored to their needs.

We kindly request your assistance in spreading the word about this remarkable opportunity. If you know any French teachers who are not yet members of the MLTA ACT, please ensure they receive this information so they can join and participate in the program.

We are truly excited about the positive developments taking place within the MLTA ACT and the new opportunities that lie ahead for French language education in the ACT. We encourage all French teachers to get involved, join the French section, and seize the chance to enhance their professional development through the New Caledonia immersion program.



Some of the attendees at the launch of the MLTA-ACT's French section on 24 May held at the Alliance Française de Canberra in O'Connor.

Dante Alighieri Society

by Lisa Bourne- St Claire College



On 22 May the Director of the Education and Cultural Office at the Italian Embassy, Valentina Biguzzi, and Franco Papandrea from the Dante Alighieri Society visited the College to present certificates to 2 of our Year 11 Italian language students. Chloe Roughley and Siena Goodwin who were recognised for passing the test late last year. This is an official diploma issued by the Dante Alighieri Society, internationally recognising Italian language proficiency. The girls were also able to give Valentina a tour of the College in Italian and this was her first experience of an Australian school setting since her appointment.



Francophonie Competition and Embassy Visit

by Cathy Marot- Miles Franklin Primary school



This year, Miles Franklin Primary School was associated with Lebanon, for the Francophonie project. The Y2 to Y6 classes were involved in the project, and we studied and learnt a lot about Lebanon. We created a collective artwork, around the Lebanese flag:

Y2 made the hands to go in the red parts of the flag, Y3-4 created the creative cedar tree in the centre of the flag, with the tree dissolving into birds and Y5-6 created collages about Lebanon to go all around the flag.

The students learnt so much and had so much fun.

Then we started to work with the Lebanese Embassy.

Mrs El-Hassan came to our school to give a presentation about her country, Lebanon.

Finally 4 students from our school were invited to meet with the Lebanese Ambassador at the Embassy. Everybody at the Embassy was very welcoming, and the 4 students had the chance to interview Mr Ambassador.

They learnt a lot as well on that day, and they will cherish the memory for a long time.

A Bilingual Puppet Show and Flamenco workshops.

by Oriella Escobar Rodriguez de Johnson, Sts Peter and Paul
Primary School



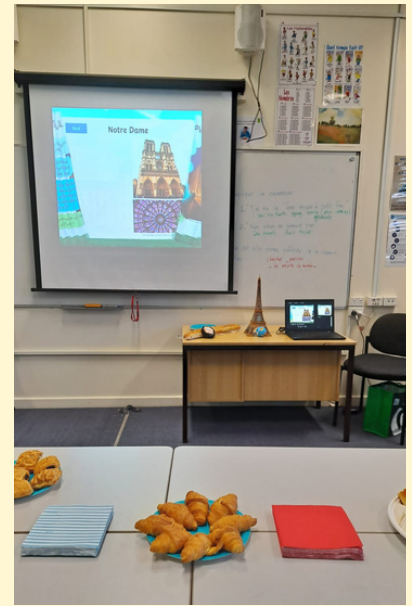
Since 2022, I planned to incorporate extra curriculum activities for my beautiful students of Sts Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School. This year, during terms 1 and 2, I could provide them with two Flamenco workshops guided by a flamenco teacher. The students participated in various musical games from Spain's southern region of Andalusia, which included the use of Spanish fans and some percussion instruments. They also learnt about a variety of flamenco rhythms. It was a source of much enjoyment for all students.



During term 2, Carrousel Theatre visited Sts Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School and performed a wonderful Spanish-English puppet show (“Aladino y la lámpara mágica”). The students really enjoyed the show and put into practice their Spanish knowledge. It was a great way to finish the school term.

Open Night at Dickson College

by Cathy Marot- Dickson College



Setting up the French classroom for Dickson College open night

Adult Classes Enjoying their End of Semester Party.

by Katrin Matthews - ACT German Language School

At the end of every semester the adult section students (levels A1-C1) and teachers come together for a well-earned and much enjoyed end of semester party at the Turner Scout Hall. We enjoy a smorgasboard of foods, German cakes and sausages and most of all a chance to catch up with fellow students, teachers and partners to celebrate the end of a semester of learning German. This semester the weather gods and COVID were good to us and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Many thanks to all involved and contributing to the smooth running of the event and the fun time we had!



Canberra Grammar Primary School's BRIDGE Partnership with Cor Jesu School in Malang, East Java, Indonesia

by Joanne Chilver and Nicola Barkley, Canberra Grammar Primary



Last November, one of the English teachers at Cor Jesu, Ibu Amanda, visited CGS for a week. Since then, we have shared photos, videos and zoom calls with her and her students. The Year 3 students at CGS have been extra motivated to work on their Indonesian language skills and prepare spoken and written texts to share. Nicola and I are enjoying watching their excitement and we are planning our return visit for later this year.



Murid-murid kelas 3 membuat sandwich roll saat pelajaran Bahasa Inggris.

Caption: Year 3 students making rolled sandwiches during their English lesson.



Professional Learning with Joe Dale

by Myriam Davies, Aranda Primary School

Earlier this year, the MLTA ACT gave its members the opportunity to attend two TQI accredited webinars led by Joe Dale, an expert in educational technology. These webinars focused on fostering language skills through creativity and promoting inclusivity through accessible technology. Let me provide you with a summary of the key highlights from each webinar, offering valuable insights for educators and learners alike.

Webinar 1: "Promoting Listening and Speaking Skills through Creativity" In this webinar, Joe Dale showcased a range of innovative techniques to enhance listening and speaking skills in a creative manner. The techniques covered various aspects, including:

- Utilising online tools to improve listening abilities.
- Creating talking avatars using Chatterpix Kid, Adobe Animate with Audio, and Snapchat filters.
- Incorporating learning apps for text-to-speech and listening comprehension exercises.
- Generating animated dialogues with free avatar creators using Text Chat Animator.
- Engaging learners in speaking activities with emojis and animated drawings.
- Harnessing the power of AI for generating prompts to practise speaking.
- Practicing sentence building using spinnerwheel.com.
- Providing audio and video feedback using tools like Mote and ScreenPal.



Participants left with a treasure trove of creative ideas to develop listening and speaking skills, making language learning an engaging and interactive experience.

Webinar 2: "Promoting an Inclusive Approach with Tips on Accessibility Using Technology" Joe Dale's second webinar focused on leveraging technology to create an inclusive learning environment that benefits all learners. The session covered a range of tools and techniques, including:

- Utilising Naturalreader in Chrome and iOS to support learners with text-to-speech functionality.
- Using Immersive Reader on websites to enhance accessibility and comprehension.

Professional Learning from Joe Dale...(continued)

- Exploring Helperbird for Chrome and Google Docs, offering accessibility features for diverse learning needs.
- Digitising worksheets with Microsoft Lens to enable students to access content digitally.
- eExtracting text from images using Google Keep and PhotoScan's Grab Image Text feature.
- Leveraging Word and Immersive Reader for improved reading experiences.
- Using online voice recorders and generating transcripts in Word for enhanced language practice.
- Harnessing voice typing in Google Docs and Dictate in Word for accessible writing experiences.
- Implementing closed captions (CC) in tools like Google Slides, PowerPoint/Slide, and Flipgrid.
- Exploring accessibility features in Book Creator to create inclusive digital books.
- Utilising text-to-speech tools for enhanced learning experiences.



Attending these webinars opened up new horizons in language learning and inclusive education. Participants gained insights into fostering listening and speaking skills through creative approaches while also learning how to make learning materials more accessible for diverse learners. By embracing these innovative techniques and tools, educators can create engaging and inclusive learning environments that empower all learners to thrive.

Following these two webinars, I decided to attend the recent four-part webinar series on incorporating AI tools in language teaching, also offered by Joe Dale. These new webinars provided an immersive learning experience and introduced participants to the power of AI in language education.

The focus of the series was the exploration of ChatGPT, a powerful platform developed by OpenAI. In the first webinar, Joe introduced us to ChatGPT's language capabilities and demonstrated how it can be leveraged to create engaging language resources. We

Professional Learning from Joe Dale...(Continued)

learned how to generate reading texts, pen pal letters, and fill-in-the-blank activities using ChatGPT. Additionally, ChatGPT proved to be a valuable tool for marking work based on rubrics, providing feedback, practicing tenses in different languages, generating model answers, and offering tutoring features. It even facilitated speaking practice conversations between students and the AI model. The possibilities seemed endless as we discovered how ChatGPT can be integrated into learning apps and platforms like CLOZEit or Wordwall to create interactive gap-fill exercises. We also explored the fun aspect of language learning by translating text into emoji sentences with ChatGPT.

The second webinar delved into advanced techniques for language resource creation with ChatGPT. Joe began with a recap of ChatGPT's capabilities and then took us through its integration with various tools. We learned how to use Flippity manipulatives, quiz show features, randomizers, and crossword tools in combination with ChatGPT to create interactive and dynamic language activities. The webinar also covered utilizing popular formative assessment tools such as Quizizz, Quizlet, Blooket, Gimkit, Socrative, Microsoft Quizzes, and Quizalize to create activities quickly and easily. Furthermore, we explored the use of ChatGPT-generated activities in Spinner Wheel and Wheel of Names to add an element of surprise and engagement to language lessons.

In the third webinar, Joe shifted the focus to creating visual language resources with ChatGPT. We discovered how to create visual maps in Google My Maps by importing tables generated by ChatGPT and generating related questions. We were also introduced to mind map creation using tools like diagram.net and termboard.com, integrated with generated content from ChatGPT. Chrome extensions such as Canned Replies, ChatGPT Chatonai, ChatGPT Chrome Extension & YouTube Summary, and Save ChatGPT were highlighted as useful resources for language resource creation. Finally, we explored the integration of ChatGPT-generated summaries into Edpuzzle, an interactive video platform, with comprehension questions to enhance listening and reading skills.

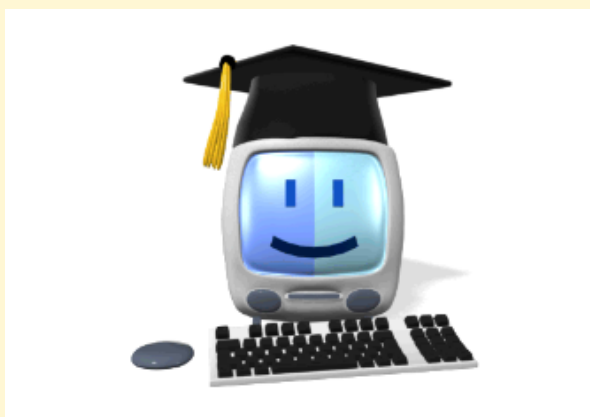


The final webinar in the series took us beyond ChatGPT and introduced a variety of other AI tools that can be used in language teaching. Joe provided an introduction to Adobe Express Animate from Audio, Adobe Podcast Enhance, Audiopen, Animated Drawings , Autodraw, Text to Images tools like Clipdrop.co, Microsoft Bing Image Creator Playground AI, and Padlet's "I can't draw" feature, Magic Eraser, Remove.bg, Curipod, and Twee. We discovered how these AI tools can enhance language lessons and create engaging activities. Each tool was explained briefly, showcasing its unique features and potential contributions to language education. This webinar provided attendees with a wealth of options to explore and incorporate into their teaching practices.

Throughout the webinar series, we gained practical strategies and skills for incorporating AI tools in our language lessons. We learned how to create efficient and engaging language resources, whether it be through the use of ChatGPT or other AI tools. The webinars expanded our understanding of the possibilities that AI brings to language education, empowering us to take our teaching to the next level.

By participating in this webinar series, I not only acquired new knowledge and skills but also became aware of the latest trends and advancements in language education. The integration of AI tools has the potential to revolutionise language teaching, making it more dynamic, interactive, and personalised for learners.

In conclusion, the four-part webinar series on incorporating AI tools in language teaching provided attendees with an exceptional opportunity to explore the vast potential of ChatGPT and various other AI tools. The webinars equipped us with practical strategies for creating engaging lesson plans and activities, using ChatGPT with other tools, and incorporating visual resources into language teaching. If you want to stay ahead in language education and discover how AI can revolutionise your teaching practice, make sure not to miss similar opportunities in the future!



to contact Joe Dale:

@joedale

joedale@talk21.com

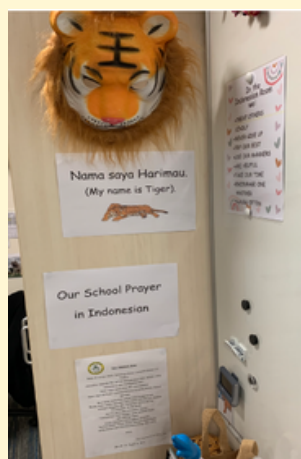
Check out also his YouTube channel!

Indonesian News

by Debra Reed- St Jude's School



It's been a very exciting semester at St Jude's School, Holder with the K-6 Indonesian classes moving into a new Indonesian Room. We have engaged in so many hands-on activities and opportunities to practise the Indonesian language and learn about aspects of Indonesian culture. We learn through songs, drawing and designing, technology, games, food, classroom props and role-plays.



Languages at Campbell High

by Lena Britton- Campbell High School

LANGUAGES FUN DAY

On Wednesday 26 October, the Year 9 and Year 10 French and Japanese students at Campbell High School organised a “Languages Fun Day” for the Year 7 and Year 8 students to encourage them to continue their languages studies. We were privileged to receive funding from the FIPLV Scholarship distributed by MLTA ACT Inc. which made buying games, dress up clothes, material for the painting and ingredients for cooking possible.

Activities organised included playing pétanque, Japanese watermelon smash, a chopstick race, making rice ball and French toast, dress up/ photo booth, build an Eiffel Tower and painting an impressionist painting to decorate one of the walls in school. It was great to see the students coming together and doing things which are outside the normal language learning, but so much a part of understanding different aspects of the cultures around the world.

The students’ ability to play pétanque well has been remarkably improved after the Year 8 class received instructions by Canberra Pétanque Club. We learnt the proper French names for the different items, how to score and the proper way of flicking the wrist to get the boule exactly where you want it – either if you want to move the Jack (which used to be called le cochinet- the piglet) or your competitors’ boules. Canberra Pétanque Club is very approachable and happy to visit schools in the ACT.



Languages at Campbell High...(continued)

EXCURSION TO SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM

The Year 10 French students at Campbell High School took the train to Sydney for the Year End Excursion. The students chose to visit Sydney Jewish Museum to get a better understanding of what happened in France and Europe during the Second World War. We were given a presentation by a lady who had survived the Shoah in the Theresienstadt Ghetto, the concentration camp in the Czech Republic. She shared her memories and told us how for the longest time she was not able to talk about what had happened. It was not until the 1990s, that she felt able to talk to her children about her time in the ghetto. These are some comments from the students:

‘Such a great experience that allows you to hear someone who has survived the holocaust talk about her experience.’ “The Museum was quite an eye opening and gives a different perspective on the events during the war and before.”

It was a deeply moving experience for us all, and it felt important to hear victims’ first-hand experiences as so few people who were in the camps are still alive. I am very happy that we were able to do this and recommend for both languages and HASS teachers to consider taking their students.

EASTER EGG HUNT

To encourage the Year 7 students at Campbell High School to revise what they learnt the first term, the Year 10 students organised an Easter Egg Hunt with revision questions covering counting to ten, colours, naming different fruits and items in the pencil cases.

It is always great to see students of the different year group interact.



CANBERRA ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES

by Frank Keighley | Convener, Canberra Academy of Languages,

Update June 2023

CAL staffing

In the MLTA Contact Newsletter for June 2022, there was an overview of our staffing arrangements that we had in place last year. In 2023, we have recruited Elissa Burt from the start of Term 2 for the CAL Korean program, to take over from Stella Lee, who has additional commitments this year in her day job at Narrabundah College. We thank Stella for her highly capable work with CAL from the commencement of the program in CAL Korean last year until the end of Term 1 this year. Beth McArthur also has additional work commitments this year, and we are currently finalising recruitment plans for the CAL Japanese program. We are fortunate that Beth is able to continue in her part-time role as CAL Director of School.



CAL programs

In 2023, as for last year, languages currently taught are French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil, with 70 students enrolled at the time of writing. In most of these languages, we have one or more students enrolled at beginning level; 40 are in continuing level, and in two languages in 2023, we have one or more students enrolled at advanced level.

CAL budget proposal for the ACT 2022-23 budget

To ensure long-term continuity in program delivery, Canberra should have a government-run, centrally delivered facility for languages education to complement language programs in day schools. Facilities of this kind exist in most other jurisdictions in Australia (NSW, Victoria, SA, NT and Qld). Students' options in language study should not be limited by the location of the school they attend or by the district in which they live. Our first submission about this was at the end of 2017, as part of the Future of Education planning process. We have lodged a new iteration of the proposal as part of the 2023 budget consultation process. A copy is on the budget consultation website. It is also available from the News page on CAL website.

CANBERRA ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES...continued

Venue

Our venue for all CAL programs, as noted in the previous updates in 2022, is Ainslie School, where our classes meet for their face-to-face sessions on Wednesday evenings (French, Spanish and Tamil) and Thursday evenings (German, Japanese and Korean). The remaining time commitment for students is met through set work for students to do from home, supported through online systems including Languages.Org.Au and Google Classroom. We are fortunate to have a collaborative partnership there for our CAL programs. Potentially, if program delivery expands with more languages, Tuesday evenings may be considered for additional face-to-face sessions. We have stayed away from Monday evenings because of public holidays and Friday evenings because some of our students have part-time work commitments, and families may want flexibility to depart at the end of the week for the weekend.

CAL programs

In 2023, as for last year, languages currently taught are French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil, with 70 students enrolled at the time of writing. In most of these languages, we have one or more students enrolled at beginning level; 40 are in continuing level, and in two languages in 2023, we have one or more students enrolled at advanced level.



CAL Information Evenings

An online information evening for students wishing to commence studies from Term 2 of this year was held on Monday 27 March, and an online CAL Information Evening about programs for 2024 will be held on Thursday 21 September.

CAL Wi-Fi Mesh

To supplement access via the “ONE” Wi-Fi government school network, last year, we installed an Optus mobile broadband facility. The broadband signal varies in strength and bandwidth. Further work on the facility this year included installation of an XPOL antenna and tripod for the antenna, to strengthen signal capture from mobile towers.

CANBERRA ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES...continued

Class excursions and other languages events

CAL German students attended a program of German language activities at the Swiss Embassy on 27 April this year for senior (Years 10 to 12) ACT students of German.

We thank the organisers, including Das Zentrum, the Swiss, Austrian and German embassies, Spielwelt, the ACT German Language School, the Goethe Institut, and Heike Craig at Daramalan. Members of the CAL German class remarked on the large number of participating students from several



different Canberra schools, which affirmed for them the significance of the German language and cultural connection in the ACT community. We look forward to offering our students other excursion opportunities in the second semester.

CAL and ACTBEA (ACT Bilingual Education Alliance) participated in the ACT CLSA Open Day on Saturday 20 May. The Community Language Schools Association organises an annual open day, community language schools present performances. There is also a round table session at the end of the day's program, where leaders of community language schools discuss matters of current interest. This year, topics for discussion included funding arrangements to be introduced after the recent review, and resources suitable for use in programs.



Another event, The Canberra Festival of Languages, was held on Saturday 18 June. It was organised by ACTBEA, with the support of the ANU's Centre of European Studies, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics (CASS) and School of Culture History and Language (CAP), Canberra Multicultural Community Forum and an ACT Government 2022 Participation (Multicultural) Grant.



It was highly successful, with an estimated 100 participants in the course of the day, and a range of workshops and exhibits, including a display of Georgian scripts and opportunities to try writing the script with a tutor on hand, and a poster depicting the major languages spoken in the Canberra community, as revealed in an update from the 2021 Census. Second-largest group was Nepali, with 5859 speakers.



CI DOWN UNDER- Sydney

Unlocking The Power of Comprehension-Based Language Teaching

January 15-19, 2024



Annabelle Williamson



Adriana Ramirez



Diane Neubauer

Morning Language Labs: Observe expert TCI teachers working with Australian primary and secondary students.

Afternoon Workshops: Learn from US and Australian CI Language teachers sharing their practice.

5 day conference rates:

Early, early bird \$400 (closes June 30)

Early bird \$475 (closes August 31)

Full price \$575

Group Booking (5 people) and student teacher discount available on request



Book now!

For further details, email cidownunder24@gmail.com