



SEMESTER 1 2024

CONTACT

MLTA ACT INC. Newsletter



A word from our president

BY PRUDENCE ROVETA

Hello and welcome to the 2024 Semester 1 issue of CONTACT, the newsletter of the MLTA-ACT. Thank you to our contributors and to our Editor, Myriam Davies, for bringing this issue to us. There was a busy start to the year with five MLTA-ACT members attending a 5-day workshop from 15 to 19 January held at the MacArthur Anglican school in Cobbity, NSW, on Comprehensible Input (CI). It seems like a long time to stay focussed especially when it is in the middle of our Summer holidays but everyday was engaging and purposeful. Four of our members received FIPLV Congress 1988 scholarships from MLTA-ACT to go towards their attendance.

Once again, we kicked off the teaching year with our Meet and Greet event held at No. 10 at Abode in Belconnen on Thursday 22 February from 4:30 pm until 6-ish. Many of our members attended as well as some new faces from our local language teaching community. There was a fabulous buzz as we all reconnected in such a lovely space. Congratulations to Sonia Conte, teacher of Italian, who was presented with the annual Fiona Arthur Language Teacher Award.



Sonia Conte (centre) receiving the Fiona Arthur Award.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held around the third week of March each year, this year it was in person at Campbell High School on Thursday 21st. All current financial members were invited to attend and as a result we gained some new committee members – Welcome to Nicola, Margo and Laurie. Thank you, Lynden, for your contribution in 2023. The MLTA-ACT advocates for all the languages taught in the ACT schools, however, our committee is comprised of French and Indonesian teachers, and we really do need representation for our members from all eight languages taught. Please see the list of committee members further into this newsletter.

A word from our president (continued..)

Our commitment is to provide four events each year, the first being the Meet and Greet. In Term 2 we provided professional learning (PL) on Comprehensible Input – A practical approach to building intrinsic motivation in the classroom. This was held on Saturday 1 June at the Snow Centre at Canberra Grammar School. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Liam Printer, well known for The Motivated Classroom podcast. Dr. Printer presented on-line from Switzerland. We followed with two separate CI presentations, one for Primary teachers by (Bu) Cathy Elliott and for Secondary teachers by Mei Turnip. Some of our scholarship recipients also presented on their experiences at the CI conference held in January.

Financial members will have received the Babel magazine, produced by AFMLTA, which is the umbrella organisation of the various state/territory MLTA/LTAs. Through AFMLTA, we are affiliated with NZALT and FIPLV, who held a joint conference in Auckland during the first week of our July holidays. The AFMLTA Assembly was held on Saturday the 6th, prior to the conference. This is an annual meeting where the AFMLTA committee and the Presidents of the MLTA/LTAs report on their respective associations and discuss issues of concern for the different states/territories. I am pleased to report that the capitation fee to AFMLTA will remain the same for this year.

Drum roll please ... the committee has been working on the MLTA-ACT Conference which will be held on 20 and 21 September this year. We sent emails to members with a Save the Date and in the coming week we will send an email with more details including the Early Bird price. In the past the MLTA-ACT held conferences every one or two years but during and after the Covid period this hadn't happened. This year we will have a guest speaker with entertainment at the Friday night reception followed by a catered full-day conference with a variety of presenters on the Saturday. The theme is Celebrating Language through Music and Culture and will be held at the National Museum of Australia (NMA). Please look out for the email over the coming week. We have two time slots available for members to present especially if you have a passion for using music and culture in your language classroom.

Congratulations on completing the first semester of 2024 and best wishes for the remainder of the year. Enjoy the newsletter and see you at the Conference!

Prudence Roveta - Executive President



2024-2025 Presidents of MLTA/LTAs : NT, Tasmania, SA, Victoria, WA, ACT, Queensland, NSW (L to R)

2024 MLTA-ACT Committee
Executive Committee Members
President- Prudence Roveta
Vice President - Joanne Chilvers
Secretary - Mei Turnip
Treasurer - Lena Britton
Webmaster - Frank Keighley
CONTACT Editor - Myriam Davies
Public Officer - Annemarie Power

General Committee Members
Nicola Barkley
Margo Smith
Laurie Kahoul
Cathy Marot

The MLTA-ACT
Scholarship
applications are
due by 5pm on
Friday 26 July
2024.

Editor's Note: You'll notice that this edition of Contact features a significant number of French and Indonesian articles. Unfortunately, we haven't received many submissions from other languages. We encourage teachers of all languages to contribute—if you submit an article, we'll publish it!



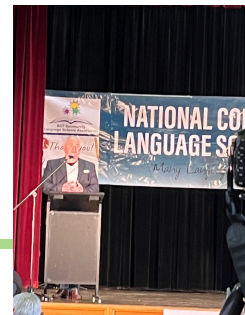
A word from our vice-president

BY JOANNE CHILVER

Community Language Schools Association of the ACT (CLSAACT)

It was a rainy day on Saturday 11th May 2024, when I attended the Community Language Schools Association (CLSAACT) Open Day at the Albert Hall.

Fortunately, the weather did not impact the event and the hall was packed with parents and friends enjoying the performances by the students from various community schools and the food and activities available at various stalls.



Call for Presenters for CLSAACT Workshops

The MLTA ACT committee coordinates professional learning workshops for CLSAACT teachers, as part of an agreement put in place by the ACT Education Directorate.

Workshops are held on Wednesday evenings from 17:30-19:00.

Workshops are in-person at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre in Civic.

Many of the CLSA teachers are not qualified teachers, and as such, they appreciate practical, easy to apply presentations.

Presenters are paid \$450 for the time put towards preparing a workshop.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop, complete the form [Expression of Interest for PL presenters for the CLSA](#)

Saturday 1 June 2024
from 8:30am to 12:30pm

- CI workshops with Bu Cathy Elliott and Mei Turnip
- Presentations from CI scholarship recipients
- 4 hours TQI

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED GUEST SPEAKER
DR. LIAM PRINTER
OF "THE MOTIVATED CLASSROOM"

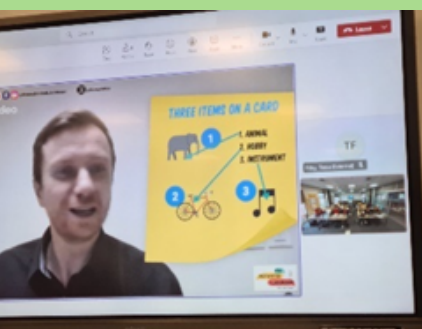



Term 2 PL - Comprehensible Input - A practical approach to building intrinsic motivation in the classroom.

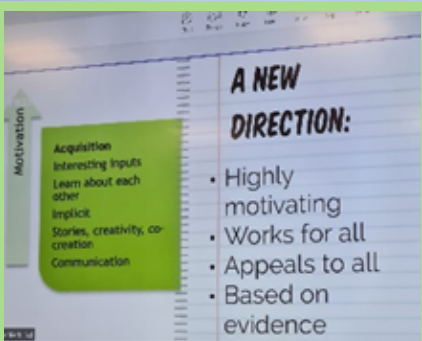
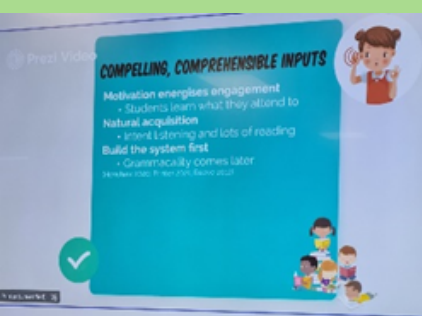
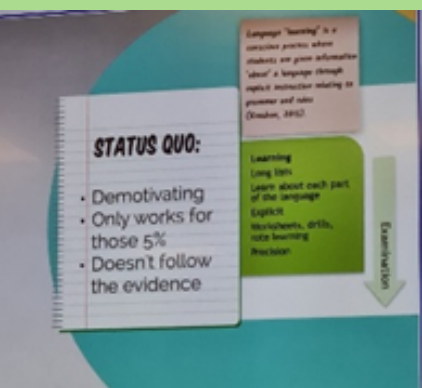
BY PRUDENCE ROVETA

There was a great turnout for our Term 2 PL, especially as it was bright and early on a chilly first day of Winter. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Liam Printer, internationally renowned for his practical and insightful podcast, "The Motivated Classroom". The half-day PL was TQI accredited for 4 hours which included Dr. Printer's presentation live from Geneva, Switzerland, with a short question and answer session. We then broke into two groups to see how CI can be implemented, one for Primary School teachers and the other for Secondary school teachers. Bu Cathy Elliott ran the Primary session where we actively participated both laughing and learning; the Secondary session was run by our own Secretary, Mei Turnip. We could hear that they were having a great learning session too.

Two of the scholarship recipients, Richard Gallagher and Prue Roveta, shared some of their take-aways from the January CI course held in Sydney, together with details of how they have implemented CI at their schools.



Liam Printer and some of his slides.



Jo & Margo (Primary Indonesian teachers)



Laurence & Chrystel
(Primary French teachers)

COMPREHENSIBLE INPUT WORKSHOP - SYDNEY
15 to 19 JAN 2024

Learning Spanish with La Maestra Loca!

- Every morning a Spanish and Mandarin class was held
- The students were teachers attending the PL
- The teachers used CI strategies
- Other PL attendees observed the lessons
- It was fantastic

Brain breaks

BRAIN BREAKS

- FAST! Short! NOT LENGTHY!
- Everyone NEEDS them!
- Don't WAIT too long!
- GET UP!

More powerful brain breaks, using French and English, have been implemented at my school.

Language prompts

Brain Breaks and High Frequency Language



CI at my school so far	What aspects I have introduced	Specific strategies / goals
SCHOOL SETTING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New to school as FT Language specialist Diagnosis of students' knowledge Instructions in TL Moving from class to class 	Urban Unlocks	Started with "Omnibus, papier, papier" Added "Evolution", "Disco en français" ...
	TL instructions	Started with basics: "Stand up", "Sit down", "I sleep", "I eat" ... Adding new instructions each week
	CI - little steps	Choosing colours: "Simon says", "Heads, shoulders, knees & toes"
	CI - discussion	Maps, flags, physical appearance, family
	Goals	Understand more CI PL, observe other teachers, design more CI in the Units of Inquiry

How do other teachers implement CI in an IB setting?

Slides from Prue's presentation

**NZALT
FIPLV**
6-9 JULY 2024

Biennial
Conference
World
Congress

Fédération
Internationale
des Professeurs
de Langues
Vivantes

2024-2025 Presidents of
MLTA/LTAs: NT, Tasmania, SA,
Victoria, WA, ACT,
Queensland, NSW (L to R).



NZALT / FIPLV conference and AFMLTA Assembly – Auckland July 2024

BY PRUDENCE ROVETA

Each year the AFMLTA Assembly is held, where the Presidents or another representative of each MLTA/LTA from the states and territories attend together with the AFMLTA executive. Each President prepares a report on the operation, celebrations and concerns of their association over the past year. The group votes on things such as the constitution, capitation fees and upcoming events. Many of the positions in other MLTA/LTAs are for a defined period so there will often be new attendees at the Assembly.

Every two years the AFMLTA holds a conference usually for 3 days, the Assembly will be held the day prior to the conference starting. This year was the off year for the AFMLTA conference, however, all members of the Australian MLTA/LTAs were invited to attend the NZALT/FIPLV conference as we are affiliated with both these organisations. Our NZ neighbours are doing well with language education so it was a wonderful opportunity to listen to, meet and connect with them as well as the international speakers and attendees. This year there was a large group of language teachers from Finland. I was very appreciative to learn about Te reo Māori and how it is being implemented into NZ classrooms and society.



NZALT / FIPLV dinner – MLTANSW member, MLTAACT President, MLTANSW President, MLTAWA president, SA Education reps.


Many members of the Australian language associations attended but I was the only one from the ACT. It would be worthwhile for you to consider attending the upcoming AFMLTA Conference to be held in Adelaide from 11 to 13 July 2025.

In past years MLTA-ACT members have been awarded scholarships to assist them in attending these conferences. Please check your emails regularly as details of AFMLTA and MLTA-ACT events as well as other opportunities are sent to you. For more information about AFMLTA please visit: <https://afmlta.asn.au/>


If you think you may not be receiving emails, then you may need to check if mlta.act.inc@gmail.com is in your safe senders list. We are aware that the algorithms used at some schools for checking emails for spam sometimes block our emails.




Newly elected AFMLTA executive committee





**AFMLTA International
Languages Conference**



Save the date!
25th AFMLTA International Languages Conference 2025

 **Date:** 11 - 13 July 2025

 **Adelaide (Venue TBA)**



From the French Section of the MLTA ACT

BY MYRIAM DAVIES

Inaugural Rencontre Francophone

The French section is eager to encourage new connections and explore French-speaking countries. We are pleased to introduce a series of events called "Rencontre Francophone," (Francophone encounter) where our members can learn about Francophone countries through informal presentations by native speakers.

On Friday, May 10th, the French Section of the MLTA ACT hosted the first of our "Rencontres Francophones" at the Alliance Française. Our inaugural guest was Felix Allender, a Swiss teacher on sabbatical, who is exploring Canberra and its surroundings. Felix introduced us to his country and the education system in Switzerland, providing an insightful comparison between Australia and Switzerland. He also shared a project promoting exchange and mobility between the two countries, encouraging those interested to visit this website: [Movetia School Education](https://www.movetia.ch/school-education). It was a very informative discussion, and we are very grateful to Felix for accepting our invitation. Stay tuned for our next Rencontre Francophone!



Felix presenting Switzerland



Expo at ACU

BY PRUDENCE ROVETA

ACU Early Childhood and Primary final year Education students attended an expo of professional associations on Thursday 18 July at the Blackfriars building of the ACU Canberra campus. MLTA-ACT was represented by Prue who spoke briefly about the benefits of joining associations as well as the career path of becoming a languages educator and how that might look in a primary school setting. It was uplifting to meet some of the 'about to be' teachers and to let them know that they will be supported by these associations. Final year university students of Education and/or Languages can become Associate Members of MLTA-ACT at no cost.



ACU Early Career and Primary final year plurilingual students.

From the French Network

BY LENA BRITTON

The French Language Network has had a busy semester. There has been the Alliance Française French Film Festival, meetings with the Curriculum team within the ACT Education Directorate to assist with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum v 9.0 across the school as well as ensuring there was time for collaboration between the schools to lighten the workload. Staff have also engaged in professional learning about New Caledonia, social media in France and the upcoming Olympic Games in France.

French Film Festival

We started the year with the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival where many colleagues met to enjoy the diversity of French cinematographers. Palace Electric Cinema also organised school screenings that several of our schools attended. My year 7 students at Campbell High School loved the film 'Princes of The Desert' or 'Zodi et Tehu, frères du desert' and were able to understand quite a bit of the dialogue.

La semaine de la Francophonie

Every year, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (the IOF) celebrate the week of the French language. Among this year's events was an evening with short film presentation at the ANU. There was a selection of great films from different countries showing off the local sense of humour. A quiz was organised about the countries and won by one of our French teachers. The Swiss Embassy invited to a concert of French classics by two visiting Swiss performers. During the week, there were also dedicated evenings to films from Canada and Belgium. France was, of course, centre stage with the Film Festival in Australia being the most visited film festival outside France.

The final event of the week was the fabulous Francophone market at the Alliance Française with stands presenting the French-speaking world of Belgium, France, Switzerland, Canada, Morocco, Lebanon, Maurice and New Caledonia to the general public. The grounds of the Alliance Française in Turner were crowded with people getting a taste of food from the participating countries. To support student learning, visitors were given a passport with questions which answers could be found by visiting the stands.

Our primary school students participated through being assigned a French-speaking country and presenting it by displaying a poster at the Alliance Française. This year, many of the schools were able to receive the visit of representatives of the Embassy or High Commission. This provided a fabulous occasion for the students to speak directly with a native of the researched country. The following primary schools participated: Telopea Park School, Aranda Primary School, Weetangera Primary School, Hawker Primary School, Red Hill Primary School, The French-Australian Preschool, Amaroo Primary School, Miles Franklin Primary School, Macquarie Primary and Burgmann Anglican school. It was great to see so many schools take part.



From the French Network (continued...)



Secondary students participated in the local version of ‘Dis-moi dix mots’ which is an international competition where students are asked to select and illustrate one of ten words chosen by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. This year, the theme for the competition was the Olympics as they are taking place in France later this year. In the ACT, students from Burgmann Anglican School, Campbell High School, Canberra High School, Canberra Grammar School, Lyneham High School, St John Paul II College and Dickson College took part and were rewarded with books from the Embassy of Belgium.

Professional Learning

This semester's professional learning was focused on New Caledonia, social media in France and of course the upcoming Olympics. We were lucky to have New Caledonian native Yorick Betfort preparing separate materials about New Caledonia suitable for both primary and secondary students. New Caledonia's history is similar to Australia's with a past as a penal colony during the height of French colonisation. New Caledonia's indigenous population consist of many different tribes, all with their own languages just like in Australia. Given the events during these last few months, Yorick spent time explaining the background to the riots taking place. Laure Kahoul presented on the Olympic Games which will take place in Paris later this year. She gave us an overview of what the Games will look like with swimming in Le Seine, equestrian sport at Versailles whereas Break Dance and Skateboarding will take place at Place de la Concorde. Laure also updated us on what is happening in the social media sphere in France.



Implementation of the Australian Curriculum version 9.0

The French Network has been privileged in working with the Curriculum team within the ACT the Education Directorate to progress discussions on the implementation of the newest version of the Australian Curriculum – version 9.0. Time was given to the government-school teachers to set up a Google Drive to share units across the ACT to help with time pressures and provide support to new teachers. We will continue to work on this, and also to get a smoother transition between primary and secondary schools. One of the issues raised for both primary and secondary schools was how students arriving after the start of the language program should be assessed given that they may not have been taught the same language before joining our school. We will continue to build on our joint units to facilitate moderation in the future.

Editor's note: Regrettably, we are unable to provide news from other ACT Language Networks this semester, as we have not received any articles from them. We hope to include their updates next semester.



Canberra Grammar School Indonesian BRIDGE Partner School Visit

BY NICOLA BARKLEY AND JOANNE CHILVER

vocational school with the Australian Consul- General in Surabaya also joining us. We spent three days visiting all, and teaching many, of the primary school students during their English lesson time. We watched traditional dances performed by students and joined them learning to play bamboo instruments called 'angklung'. We were also taken on daytrips to nearby towns and even visited the tomb of Indonesia's first President and founding father, Sukarno.

We learnt so much from our Cor Jesu colleagues, and by way of giving back, presented a workshop to the teachers in which we shared the teaching and learning models embodied at CGS.

We thank the MLTA ACT for awarding each of us a FIPLV scholarship which enabled us to purchase resources and DFAT, through their BRIDGE Competitive Grant Scheme, which awarded us funds to cover our airfares. This term we have been fortunate to host Adissya, an Indonesian education student from Surabaya University, organised under the auspices of the Indonesian Embassy.

In February of this year, we were finally able to visit our BRIDGE partner school, in Malang, East Java. Like Canberra Grammar, Cor Jesu is a K -12 co-educational school

with boarding facilities. It was established by the Ursuline Sisters in 1900, and while it still has many of its older Dutch style buildings it also has many modern buildings and features.

During our week-long stay, we were treated as honoured guests by the primary school principal and her staff. The school arranged a room for us in a Catholic guesthouse nearby and provided our breakfast and lunch on the days we attended school.

We toured the 125-year-old senior school campus with Sister Regina, the principal of the whole school, joining English and Art classes and sharing a welcome platter of local treats with some of the students from other regions in Indonesia who attend as boarders. We experienced a delicious lunch prepared by the students at the



Year 9 French Students Learn the Art of Cheese Tasting

BY RHIANNON RICHARDS

In Semester One, the Year 9 French classes were hosted by “Le Cheeserie”, the newly opened cheese shop in the Belconnen markets. Having studied food shopping and French markets as part of their first Unit of the year, our Year 9 students were keen to put into practice what they had been learning.

The team at “Le Cheeserie” devised a menu of four different cheeses to sample: a Camembert, a Brie, a Comté and a Basquitou. We were ably taken through this cheese masterclass, accompanied by menu and stickers, by Kaitlyn, who invited us to look and smell before tasting. There was even an opportunity to use a special piece of equipment to shave off a sliver of the final sheep’s-milk cheese. We learnt a good deal of new information along the way and a good time was had by all. We look forward to continuing this relationship with “Le Cheeserie” in the future and would like to thank the team for setting up this opportunity for our students. I for one will be back, to sample some more of their range in the near future!



French at North Ainslie primary school

BY CHRYSTEL WILLE

This semester, students from year 2 to year 6 learned about Switzerland as part of our Francophonie project .

Students from different classes created collaborative art works.



Year 2 classes



Year 3 classes



Year 5/6 classes

We were fortunate to have two representatives from the Swiss Embassy come to our school and give a fantastic presentation about Switzerland to the year 4 classes.

We all enjoyed learning about Switzerland culture with a focus on food, animals, sport and landmarks.





Indonesian Hip Hop

BY REBECCA BATTAGLINI AND NOR IDRIS

On 16 May, Indonesian classes at Melrose High School were very lucky to have their own private concert with Indonesian Hip Hop star Presiden Tidore during his visit to Canberra. Students clapped, cheered, and joined in enthusiastically throughout the performance. Although the words/lyrics were very quick (hip hop style!), students were surprised just how many words they could pick out.

Possibly the best part of the concert was when Year 9 and 10 students got to stay behind at the end and chat with Presiden. They were delighted to see just how much they could understand and reply in return, using Indonesian. We thank the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia for their continued support and enrichment of our Indonesian program.



Italian at St Clare College

BY SONIA CONTE



Two St. Clare's College families warmly welcomed their WAATI Italian exchange students last weekend. Chiara and Sara are set to spend the next 8 weeks immersing themselves in Australian daily life and attending St. Clare's alongside their host sisters next term. As part of our welcoming initiative, families, teachers, and exchange students gathered for a barbecue at the home of one of our host families. The students had the opportunity to make damper, which was baked in the bonfire, and also prepared some delicious lamingtons for dessert. The evening concluded with a quintessential Aussie barbecue. These students are part of the same program in which St. Clare's students participated over the summer holidays, spending 8 weeks on an Italian exchange.



French at Macquarie primary school

BY LAURENCE BARTHELEMY

In term 1, at Macquarie Primary School, we participated in the Francophonie competition.

We were allocated the country of Mauritius. To help us prepare our poster, we had the visit of M. Ramgoolam from the High Commission of Mauritius.

He gave the Year 3 to 6 an informative presentation about his country. He talked about the geography, some historical facts, explained what the colours of the flag mean, talked about the mild tropical climate, made us hungry showing us the beautiful food of Mauritius!

We all wanted to go at the end of his presentation !



Traditional Pakaian



Indonesian at St Clare of Assisi primary school

BY MARGO SMITH

This term the Embassy of Republic Indonesia in Canberra has sent St. Clare of Assisi Primary School teacher assistants to work with us teaching Bahasa Indonesia Classes language and culture. This is an exchange with Indonesia to promote collaboration and understanding with both countries.

The Education and Cultural Attache of the Embassy, Prof. Dr. Mukhamad Najib. S.T.P. M.M. has sent five people to some schools in Canberra. There are one of each in Burgman Anglican School, Canberra Grammar School, Trinity Christian School, and two of them here in St. Clare of Assisi Primary School.

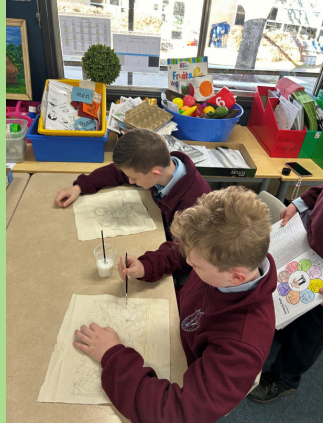
Our exchange students are Fadina Zahra and Zefanya Annabella, who study at Universitas Negeri Surabaya (UNESA). They provide support in teaching and facilitate cross-cultural interactions with our classes and community.

We are grateful to Prof. Dr. Mukhamad Najib. S.T.P. M.M., and UNESA for this opportunity to participate in this program.



UNESA EXCHANGE at SCA

To immerse the SCA student cohort Fadina and Zefanya showed traditional culture of Indonesia with various activities. During the term we have a great many activities to practice:- With Year 6 and 5, we have a Batik Production, it is a traditional textile originally from Indonesia. We provided the understanding of Batik so the students were able to make their own natural design.



Preparing with wax



Putting dye onto material



Traditional Attire

Fadina & Zefayna reading to Kindergarten



Batik painting

Indonesian at St Clare of Assisi primary school (continued)...

On the 28th of June, The Borobudur Dance Troupe will perform and introduce traditional dances from Indonesia.

Borobudur Dance Troupe was founded in 2018 to preserve and share Indonesia's rich and diverse culture and dancing traditions with Canberra and beyond. The Troupe performs at various events such as multicultural festivals, formal Indonesian Embassy occasions and other community gatherings, both in ACT and NSW. The Troupe is named after Borobudur Temple, an Indonesian icon and the world's largest Buddhist temple located in Central Java.

The troupe will be performing Tari Burung Enggang (the Hornbill bird) from East Kalimantan and Tari Saman from Aceh which is also known as the dance of a thousand hands. This will be a fitting end to a very language rich and culturally successful Term 3 at SCA!

Burung Enggang Dance (7 minutes)

Dancers: Ayu, Retno and Ifa

Synopsis: Tari Burung Enggang is a traditional dance of the Dayak Kenyah tribe in East Kalimantan. The dance depicts the daily life and movements of the Burung Enggang (Hornbill bird). The Dayak Kenyah tribe believe their ancestors came from the sky in the form of the Hornbill. The dance is therefore an expression of worship of the Hornbill and is performed at all traditional ceremonies of the Dayak Kenyah tribe.

Saman dance (8 minutes)

Dancers: Ayu, Retno, Alya and Ifa

Singer/Sheikh: Tim Lakaseru

Synopsis: The Saman dance, which is also known as the dance of a thousand hands, is part of the cultural heritage of the Gayo people of Aceh. The word "saman" comes from Sheikh Saman, an Acehnese cleric. Sheikh Saman developed the dance to spread Islam in Aceh. In 2011, UNESCO officially recognized the Saman dance as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Dancers clap their hands, chests, thighs and the ground, click their fingers, and sway and twist their bodies and heads in unity with the shifting rhythm. These movements symbolize the harmonious daily lives of the Gayo people and their natural environment. Today, the Saman is performed to celebrate national and religious holidays.

The SCA classes also practised some traditional games of Indonesia. The children loved playing Cublak-Cublak Suweng and Congklak, while dressing in the traditional attire such as Sarung, Jarik, and Kebaya, giving them an awareness of historical costumes of Indonesia.



Batik



Playing Cublak Cublak Suweng



Teaching children Cublak Cublak Suweng



Traditional clothing

We incorporated the novel 'Secrets Hidden Below', which is set in Bali, Indonesia and is written by Sandra Bennett. The students in Grade 3 enjoyed the author visit and studying this novel.



Author Visit - Sandra Bennett 'Secrets Hidden Below'

COMMUNITY NORMS

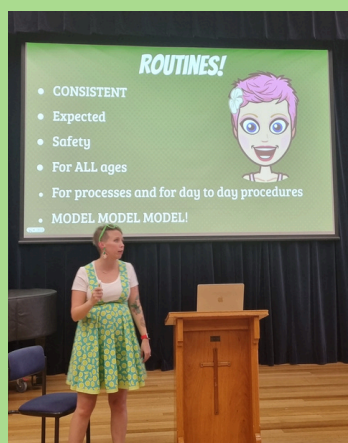
1. Be Respectful
2. Listen the first time
3. Be A Confident Risk-Taker
4. Try your best
5. Be Responsible



La Maestra Loca - Spanish teacher and workshop facilitator



Mei running a coaching session



Annabelle Williamson, aka La Maestra Loca



My Recount of the Comprehensible Input (CI) Down Under Conference

BY MYRIAM DAVIES

In January 2024, I attended the CI Down Under Conference in Sydney, supported by a scholarship from the MLTA ACT to help cover the costs. The conference spanned five intense days. Each morning, some attendees played the roles of students in two classes (one Spanish class, lead by Annabelle Williamson, and one Chinese class lead by Diane Neubauer), while others observed. The lessons lasted about three hours, with a break. I participated as a student in the Spanish class, receiving around 15 hours of Spanish instruction by the end of the week.

My Background with CI

I first encountered Comprehensible Input (CI) a few years ago and have since attended several conferences, some online and some in-person (in Brisbane and Melbourne). Over the years, I've dabbled in CI, mostly implementing activities like story-asking, storytelling, and character creation. Although I was aware of other CI activities, I hesitated to implement them, fearing I wouldn't execute them correctly. However, attending this conference, especially watching Annabelle Williamson, aka La Maestra Loca, elevated my understanding of CI, showing me there's much more to it than just stories.

My Experience as a Spanish Learner in a CI Classroom

Annabelle used numerous strategies to make learning comprehensible: point and pause, drawing, translation, gestures, comprehension checks, and repetitions. She also used high-frequency words and cognates, which quickly made us feel capable of communicating in basic Spanish and understanding her. By speaking slowly and using many repetitions, she ensured we were not overwhelmed.

Annabelle created a sense of community by assigning us jobs, celebrating our efforts with high fives, using humour, and being very enthusiastic about our participation. She made us feel successful and willing to take risks. She built personal connections and made the class feel like a dynamic conversation that could change direction based on our responses and understanding. She also used check-ins at the beginning of classes with words and pictures to gauge the class's mood.

Annabelle is a master of brain breaks and introduced us to many that can be easily applied in our classrooms. If you're interested in learning more about brain breaks, she has many free videos on YouTube and her website, most of which require no preparation. She also uses gamification extensively in her classroom, introducing us to games like Trashketball and Six, and promoting sportsmanship and kindness.

Annabelle also demonstrated ways to differentiate within the class and within games.

My Recount of the CI Down Under Conference (continued...)

What I Am Implementing in My French Classes

- **Country Names:** Each class is named after a Francophone country and has a president. When possible, I find resources linked to that country.
- **Calendar Talks:** At the beginning of each lesson, I discuss the date, weather, saint of the day, and any significant events in France or French-speaking countries, adding cultural insights.
- **Character Creation:** I continue using character creation with my classes, encouraging students to draw or create the character at the end of the lesson, providing an opportunity to review high-frequency words.
- **Write and Discuss:** At the end of the lesson, I model sentences about our discussion, and students copy them into their books or Chromebooks. These short paragraphs can be used for reading later.
- **Brain Breaks:** I include brain breaks in my lessons, rotating them every few weeks. Annabelle has about 200 brain breaks, and I'm experimenting with some of them.
- **Class Call:** Inspired by Annabelle, I use a class call related to French culture to recenter or regroup the class. (I say: "Un, deux, trois," and students respond: "Orangina.")
- **Rejoinders:** I incorporate rejoinders—expressions used in everyday language—into my classroom, such as "What a pity!" and "You're kidding!" Students are assigned specific expressions to use at appropriate times.
- **Personal Connection:** I strive to create personal connections with my students while staying in the target language, using high-frequency words.
- **Special Person/Star of the Day:** I invite a student to sit on my chair, and the class asks personal questions related to our learning topics, which can be used for writing and reading activities.
- **Picture Talk:** I use interesting pictures to discuss various topics, often incorporating them into calendar talks or cultural insights.
- **Card Talk:** Students draw pictures on a given topic, and I use these cards to provide personalised input during the lesson.
- **PQA (Personalized Questions and Answers):** This strategy focuses on making students the centre of

content, allowing them to engage with the material more meaningfully.

- **Class Jobs:** Every student has a class job, fostering a sense of community (e.g., president, board eraser, door opener, etc).
- **High-Frequency Vocabulary:** I focus on using and reusing high-frequency vocabulary, adhering to the principle that less is more.

If you're interested in learning more about CI and discovering additional strategies, here are some people to follow on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and X (Many also have their own website or blog):

- Liam Printer (The Motivated Classroom)
- La Maestra Loca (Annabelle Williamson)
- Bu Cathy
- Claudia Elliott (Growing with Proficiency)
- Grant Boulanger
- Martina Bex
- Comprehensible Input On
- CI Liftoff (Tina Hargaden)
- IFLT/TPRS/CI Teaching
- CI for French Teachers
- Annemarie Chase (Señora Chase)
- Bill Van Patten
- Blaine Ray
- Bryce Hedstrom
- Mike Peto
- Ben Slavic

Presenters,
organisers &
Myriam, Mei,
Prue



Myriam Davies,
Mei Turnip and
Annabelle
Williamson

CIT SOLUTION CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES

BY ORION LETHBRIDGE

Celebrating our first semester of Senior Secondary Languages!

As we wrap up Semester 1, 2024, the team at CIT Solutions' Centre for Modern Languages (CML) wishes to extend our congratulations to our students for their achievements! We also wish to extend our warm thanks to our college partners and the broader community of Canberra.

This year, CIT Solutions' Centre for Modern Languages (CML) took up the mantle from the Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) as an external provider of Board of Senior Secondary Studies-accredited senior secondary language courses.

Our organisation and our teachers are deeply committed to helping young people build their interpersonal, cultural, and communicative capabilities through language learning.

Schools in Canberra provide a rich array of language programs taught by skilled and knowledgeable teachers. However, there is not always continuity in language offerings across different levels of schooling and regions within Canberra, so students are not always able to make the most of their prior learning as they progress from primary school to high school and college study. Moreover, students interested in learning a particular language may not be able to access that language in their area.

CML aims to supplement the excellent language offerings already provided at ACT colleges. Our aim is to give students otherwise unable to study the language they are interested in with the opportunity to complete a language course as part of their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate.

Our programs are provided through a hybrid-model. Each week, students complete two hours of independent study, and two hours of face-to-face learning. To avoid interfering with students' day school timetables, classes are held in the evenings, kindly hosted in a central location by our colleagues at Ainslie School. We currently offer Beginning, Continuing and Advanced language courses for the following languages: French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Tamil.

CIT Solutions is planning to hold an Information Evening Session on 23rd September 2024, target segment are 2025 student applicants for Year 11 and 12 Senior Secondary Studies for 6 foreign languages – Korean, Japanese, French, German, Spanish and Tamil. – More details to be shared at a later stage.

CIT Solutions is currently accepting new student enrolments for Semester 2, 2024 for Senior Secondary Studies for Languages in ACT for Year 11 and 12. To enrol, please email us your expression of interest at CitsolLanguages@cit.edu.au.

Transformation through learning

At CIT Solutions, we believe in the power of education to transform lives. As a subsidiary of CIT, one of Australia's oldest and most respected Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions with a 95-year legacy in the Capital City of Australia, we are proud to introduce our Centre for Modern Languages.

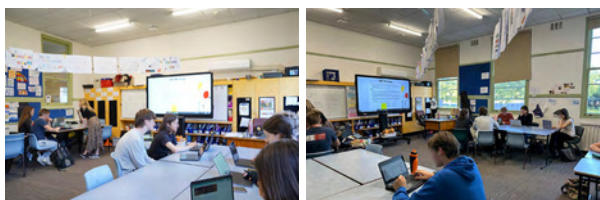
Purpose

CIT Solutions Centre for Modern Languages is a trusted partner for high-quality language training and learning development services in the Canberra region and beyond. With a rich heritage and a commitment to excellence, we empower individuals to unlock their full potential and thrive in the 21st century.

Values

We stand by a set of core values that guide our every action:

- ✓ Trusted
- ✓ Result-oriented
- ✓ Adaptable and agile
- ✓ Collaborative
- ✓ Customer centric
- ✓ Entrepreneurial



Accreditation

CIT Solutions Centre for Modern Languages is accredited by the ACT Board of Senior School Studies (BSSS) as a Specialist Education Provider. Our teachers are registered with the ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI), ensuring the highest quality of education.

Who will benefit

Our programs are designed for senior secondary students with a passion for learning languages. We provide a unique opportunity for those who cannot study their preferred foreign languages during regular school hours.

Venue and class time

The classes are held at Ainslie School, 33 Donaldson Street, Braddon.

- ✓ French, Spanish and Tamil: Wednesday evenings, 5 pm to 7 pm.
- ✓ German and Japanese: Thursday evenings, 5:15 pm to 7:15 pm.
- ✓ Korean: Thursday or Tuesday evenings (tbc) 5 pm to 7pm.



Buenos días

Bonjo u ri!

こんにちは

Guten Tag

Vaṇakkam

안녕하세요



Why learn languages

Unlock a world of benefits by learning languages, including:

Intellectual advantages

- ✓ Improved cognitive skills Better understanding of languages structures, including English
- ✓ Enhanced ability to learn more languages
- ✓ Direct access to literature and other expressions of other cultures
- ✓ Broader perspectives from which to understand and interpret the world.

Social benefits

- ✓ Ability to interact more effectively in diverse situations
- ✓ More capacity for intercultural understanding Greater appreciation of diversity
- ✓ Insight into your own identity, values, heritage, and culture
- ✓ Enriched community culture and enhanced social cohesion.

Functional benefits

- ✓ Expanded career opportunities, locally and globally Empower yourself to navigate the globalised world effectively
- ✓ Greater community capacity in international relations, trade and strategic negotiations.

Languages offered

Course accreditation

Language courses are selected from those accredited by the ACT BSSS. Students receive credit towards the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and will receive credit towards the ATAR if their languages score is among their best four course scores.

Courses for 2024

In 2024, CIT Solutions Centre for Modern Languages will be delivering language studies in six languages – French, German, Spanish, Korean, Japanese and Tamil. Choose from three proficiency levels: Beginning, Continuing and Advanced.

Course fees

In 2024, all students enrolled with CIT Solutions Centre for Modern languages can enjoy our courses for \$625 per course per term. Affordable and accessible language learning at your fingertips.

How courses are identified to run

Classes are identified to run based on four criteria:

- ✓ Availability of a BSSS-accredited course
- ✓ Sufficient enrolments for sustainable programs
- ✓ Availability of qualified and dedicated teachers
- ✓ Absence of a comparable centrally delivered ACT program.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to unlock your language potential and broaden your horizons. Join CIT Solutions Centre for Modern Languages and embark on a journey to linguistic excellence!

Ready to enrol?

Let us know your contact details and the language you'd like to study, and we'll guide you through the process.

For individual inquiries, please reach out to us at CitsolLanguages@cit.edu.au.

For inquiries from school, please contact our Account Manager, Katia Baddur at katia.baddur@cit.edu.au.

Click on the [link](#) to download the new student enrolment form.

Click on the [link](#) to download the new BSSS Language Eligibility Form from 2024.



Other contact details:

CIT Solutions Centre for Modern Languages

📍 Building J, Vowels Crescent, Bruce ACT 2617

✉ PO Box 226, Jamison ACT 2601

📞 6207 4444

🌐 <https://citsolutions.edu.au>