



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

December 2020

ACT NEWS

1. CANBERRA LANGUAGES NETWORK

Canberra Region Languages Forum (CReLF) is one of the umbrella organisations that have been meeting four times a year since 2009 to share information and encourage and facilitate cooperation across sectors to promote language learning in the ACT area.

The goal of the group, now known as the Canberra Languages Network (CLN), is to review emerging issues in languages education on an ongoing basis and establish a consensus among members, as key stakeholders, about recommendations for policy and strategic directions; and to communicate these recommendations to government and the community.

Chaired by the ACT Education Directorate, other members include representatives from the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, ACT Community Language Schools Association, ACT Modern Language Teachers' Association, University of Canberra (TESOL and Foreign Language Teaching), Canberra Academy of Languages, ANU (School of Culture, History and Language in CAP, and School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics in CASS), Canberra Multicultural Community Forum, and an Indigenous languages organisation.

The Terms of Reference for CLN have recently been officially endorsed and can be seen at http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/terms_of_reference_-_canberra_language_network_final.pdf

2. LANGUAGES AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (ANU)

Despite major budget challenges caused by the COVID pandemic, the ANU remains committed to providing courses in an impressive range of languages. All languages previously offered, including many not taught at any other Australia university, will continue to be taught in 2021. Prospective students should also note that language units now fall under the lowest fee band for Commonwealth supported places.

For a complete list of languages offered at the ANU and information about various enrolment options see: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/languages>

Diploma of Languages has been approved for a new intake in 2021

Usually studied part-time over 3 or 4 years, the Diploma of Languages can be studied alongside any Bachelor program or taken as a stand-alone program for those who already have a degree. Online or on-campus options available depending on choice of language.

For more information and/or to register an expression of interest for 2021, see; <https://cass.anu.edu.au/degrees/diploma-languages> You can also email the academic contact, Ash Collins, at Ashok.Collins@anu.edu.au for more details.

3. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PATJI-DAWES LANGUAGE TEACHING AWARD

This annual award publicly recognises an outstanding teacher (or team of teachers) who have inspired the learning of languages other than English in Australia. The teaching may take place in any setting – school, university, private language school, government department or Indigenous community. What matters is that the learner is led, by the teacher's inspiration, to a high level of mastery in the chosen language.

Deadline for submission of nominations is 8 March 2021. For more details see: <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/education-and-outreach/dawes-award/>

4. TASTE OF LANGUAGES COMPETITION

This was a very successful competition that clearly demonstrated the multicultural and multilingual nature of life in our city. Many of the 19 different languages associated with the dishes chosen were spoken in, or associated with, the family. Others were being learned in school, shared by friends or neighbours, or experienced when living or visiting overseas.

Prizes for the four categories (Pre-school to year 2, Years 3-6, Years 7-9 and Years 10-12) plus certificates for shortlisted finalists were presented at a COVID-safe event at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre by Mr Chris Steel MLA on Monday 2 November. The winning entries plus details of all the prize winners and shortlisted finalists (schools attended, dishes chosen and languages featured) can be seen on the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) website at <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/news.html>

The competition was organised by ACTBEA with support from Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc and funding through an ACT government 2019-2020 Participation (Multicultural) Grant.

5. CANBERRA ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES (CAL)

The Academy is a not-for-profit Specialist Education Provider for Senior Secondary Languages in the ACT. In 2020, it delivered programs in continuing and advanced French, German, Spanish and Tamil. Certificates of completion for Year 12, including the first for Year 12 Tamil, will be presented by VIP guests representing the students' day schools at a graduation ceremony later this month.

In 2021, CAL will add Japanese to the range of languages it offers at continuing and advanced levels, and may also offer Arabic, Indonesian, Italian and Korean if sufficient numbers of students are interested.

For more information, see <https://www.cal.act.edu.au/news.htm> or email frank.keighley@cal.act.edu.au

Teacher of Japanese sought

CAL is currently seeking a suitably qualified teacher of Japanese for its 2021 program. Information about requirements and salary can be found in the posts of 7 August and 30 November 2020 on the CAL website page listed above. If you are interested, please contact CAL by close of business Friday 11 December 2020.

6. ACT COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

The ACT Community Languages Schools Association (ACTCLSA) organised a very successful Open Day on Saturday 14 November. Over 150 people attended, enjoying an hour of cultural performances by students from nine community language schools around Canberra. The program for the day also included an innovative round table discussion, in which over 20 schools participated. This proved a valuable forum for schools to compare their experiences during this extraordinary year and to discuss future plans and ongoing challenges.

ACTCLSA and individual community language schools were also very involved in various consultations organised by the Strategic Development Group (SDG) and the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council as part of the Independent Review of ACT Community Language Schools commissioned by the ACT government. The review is now in its final stages and the final report is due to be handed to government soon.

7. GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AWARD FOR ACT LANGUAGE EDUCATOR

Congratulations to Shunichi Ikeda, ANU academic and long-time supporter of languages education in the ACT. Ikeda sensei has been awarded The Order of the Rising Sun (旭日章, Kyokujitsu-shō) in recognition of his contribution to furthering Japanese language education and Australia-Japan relations.

More details at: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html>

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

8. THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGES IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

An international call to action (see statement at <https://www.humanities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Joint-Statement-on-Languages-Final.pdf>) has just been jointly issued by the Australian Academy of the Humanities (AAH) and five of the world's leading Learned Academies.

Former AAH President, Professor Joe Lo Bianco, who played a key role in shaping the statement, believes the time has come for Australia to embrace its diversity and for the adoption of a bipartisan approach, requiring a commitment to a concerted and consistent approach to language learning in our schools, universities, workplaces and at home.

“We must also accept and build on the fact that, through their languages, migrants to Australia and our Indigenous communities present a special gift to the nation. These Australians should be supported in sharing their languages across generations, to help safeguard their traditions and be protected from discrimination on the basis of their language and culture.”

(from [AAH media release 1/12/20](#))

9. THE ROLE OF LANGUAGES IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Australia has pursued a policy of multiculturalism for almost 50 years, but the crucial role of languages in a multicultural society has not always been recognised. Professors John Hajek and Phil Benson, directors of research centres on multilingualism at their respective universities in Melbourne and Sydney, will engage in a dialogue with the aim of clarifying what languages contribute to a multicultural Australia. Why is multilingualism important to Australia's future? And what can we do to ensure the maintenance and growth of our many languages?

- Free online event 4pm-5.30pm Thursday 10 December 2020.

For more information and to register <https://forms.gle/W2KymL8ikFRBmiPt9> or contact Dr Alice Chik at alice.chik@mq.edu.au

10 NATIONAL LANGUAGES PLAN AND STRATEGY FOR LANGUAGES EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Funded by the Australian Government, the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) is undertaking a project with key stakeholders to support Government efforts to increase the uptake of language learning in schools.

Teachers of languages in all schools, both mainstream and community based, from K to year 12, are encouraged to help in the development of the national plan and strategy by participating in a series of 3 online surveys. Surveys 1 and 2 are now available online. Each should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

If you are a teacher of a language, including community languages and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, please consider taking part if you have not already done so. For more details see <https://nlps.afmlta.asn.au/#about>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at <https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>