



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

January 2020

1. LANGUAGES AT THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL (NMF)

- Friday to Sunday 21 - 23 February
- Canberra city centre, including Glebe Park

Languages will again be the focus of several activities at the festival this year. These include:

- Languages Competition (major prize \$250). Free and open to all:
https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/2020_nmf_languages_competition.pdf
- Languages Showcase, Sunday 23 February 2–5pm, Stage 6. Map and program at:
https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/languages_showcase_nmf_2020.pdf
- Bilingual story times and fun language activities. Civic Library, Saturday and Sunday 22 and 23 Feb: <https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/entertainment/childrens-sanctuary>

Keep your eye on the NMF website for more details: <https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/>

2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING AND PRACTICE

Want to start studying a new language or continue developing a language you already have some knowledge of?

Many courses and programs are starting in January or February. Here are some links to help find one to suit you.

- University Languages Portal Australia. You can search by language or by university:
<https://ulpa.edu.au/>
- Language programs for adults in the ACT area: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/other-language-programs.html>
- Programs for children in the ACT area <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html>

3. BILINGUAL STORY TIMES AT ACT LIBRARIES

Story times now offered in over 12 languages at various library branches around Canberra: Arabic, Bangla, Cantonese, Farsi, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Tamil, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Usually 10.30am to 11.30am on selected Saturdays or Thursday mornings. A chance for children to learn about other languages and cultures and/or to hear and develop their own language skills.

For more information, and to see link to 2020 program: <https://librariesact.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRNGEN/WPAC/BST>

4. FRENCH AND SPANISH TEACHERS NEEDED

The Canberra Academy of Languages is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified teachers to help deliver classes in French or Spanish.

For more information see <https://cal.act.edu.au/news.htm> or contact info@cal.act.edu.au.

5. COMMUNITY LANGUAGES EDUCATION NEWS

a) Community Language Multicultural Grants.

The federal government has recently announced \$10 million over 2 years to

- Support the maintenance, development and acquisition of languages other than English (including Aboriginal languages).
- Connect young Australians to the languages and cultures of their community.
- Enhance cross-cultural awareness and respect for cultural diversity.

Stream One funding includes a base payment of \$1,500 plus a per capita amount based on student enrolment numbers, capped at a maximum of \$30,000 per school.

Closing date for applications: Monday 17 February 2020 (11pm AEDT). For details see: <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/community-languages-multicultural-grants-stream-one>

b) Independent review on investment in ACT Community Language Schools

The ACT government announced this review as part of the Second Action Plan of the ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-2020 (see Priority Action 17 in the section: 'Capitalising on the Benefits of our Cultural Diversity').

c) Sydney Institute for Community Languages Education Report

A recent report that demonstrates how evidence-based policy and action can build on the potential of community language schools to contribute to languages education in Australia:

https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/sicle_report_november_2019_1.pdf

d) International conference on community/heritage language education

- Thursday to Saturday 2 - 4 July
- Sydney Institute of Community Languages Education, The University of Sydney

A free conference to explore community/heritage language education and its key role in maintaining and developing intergenerational linguistic and cultural understandings. The conference will bring together researchers, school leaders, teachers, community members, parents and students.

Keynote speakers include: Joseph Lo Bianco, Melbourne Graduate School of Education; Maria Carreira, University of California and National Heritage Language Resource Centre; Vicky Macleroy, University of London,

For more details and to register, see: <http://icchle.org/>

Proposals for papers, symposia and posters on the following topics are welcome:

- maintenance and revitalisation
- intergenerational transmission
- community languages at early childhood/ primary/ elementary, secondary and/or tertiary levels
- heritage/ complementary/ community languages schools
- Indigenous/ minority languages
- languages and identities
- languages policies and planning
- languages assessment
- attitudes to community languages
- media representations
- other related topics

All submission proposals – paper, poster or symposium – should be emailed to sicle.seminars@sydney.edu.au by Sunday 1 March 2020.

6. LANGUAGE POLICES IN CANBERRA

Interested in ACT government policies and commitments to languages education and recognition of local language needs, assets and resources?

See a summary at: <http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/>

7. PODCASTS

a) Tongue tied and fluent: exploring Australia through the many languages we speak

If you missed these five radio programs on ABC RN in late 2019, they are now available as podcasts: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/features/tongue-tied-and-fluent/>

b) For language lovers in Australia and beyond

Coordinated by Penny and Bec, who “can’t tell you how to get fluent in fifteen days... But they can tell you about the small wins, the mental blanks, and all the things that inspire them to keep learning languages as adults while living in Australia”.

Find out more at <https://www.language lovers.com.au/podcast>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

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