



# CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

JANUARY 2019

## 1. LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN CANBERRA

Was learning or improving a language one of your new year resolutions? Plenty of opportunities in Canberra. Here are some them; and they are enrolling now.

### Chinese

- Several local community language schools offer courses for adults. These include the TACA school, which has programs using traditional characters, the FCCCI Chinese school, and the Australian School of Contemporary Chinese, which also offers accredited Year 11 and 12 programs. For more information about these schools: <https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/community-language-schools.html>
- If you are already studying Chinese or have learned it in the past, you can register for a free Mandarin Community Tutoring Project. This offers the chance to practice one-on-one with a native speaker living here in the ACT. <https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/mandarin-community-tutoring.html>

### Professional communication and Academic Skills courses in English at CIT

- Evening courses: English for Business Communication, English for Employment, English for Science and Technology.
- Short courses: Academic techniques, Chemistry Fundamentals and Mathematics tutorials. [https://cit.edu.au/courses/short\\_courses/academic\\_skills](https://cit.edu.au/courses/short_courses/academic_skills)

### French

- Courses for all levels and ages from pre-school up, plus innovative and fun opportunities to practice and use the language and learn more about French culture. See the Alliance Française website at <https://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

### Indonesian

- Fun vocational classes for a range levels from novice to advanced. \$10 early bird discount for payments made by 30 January 2019. For details: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=459660&>

### Modern Greek

- Language and Culture Classes for adults from beginner to advanced levels: <https://hellenicclub.com.au/community/modern-greek-language-culture-classes/>

### More language learning opportunities

- See <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-adults.html> for links to various programs for adults and <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html> for children's programs

## 2. LEARNING AND TEACHING LANGUAGES AT ANU

The ANU offers an outstanding variety of programs in a wide range of languages, some of which are not taught at any other university in Australia. On campus and/or innovative online courses are offered from beginning to advanced levels, and various enrolment options provide for different student needs and goals. For complete list of languages and more information: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/languages>

The CAP School of Culture, History and Language at ANU is seeking expressions of interest from suitably skilled lecturers and/or tutors for courses in Burmese, Hindi, Literary Chinese (Classical Chinese), Mongolian, Sanskrit, Tetum (Timor Leste), Thai, Tibetan and Vietnamese with course offerings expected to become available throughout the 2019 teaching year.

Details at <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/cw/en/job/527011/casual-sessional-academic-asia-pacific-languages> and <https://www.seek.com.au/job/37958440?searchrequesttoken=e984cd12-a80a-4bdc-ba6e-08e6899afdc0&type=standard>

### **3. MOTHER TONGUE MULTILINGUAL POETRY**

#### Summer Tongues

- Monday 28 January 7pm-9pm
- Smith's Alternative, Alinga Street, Canberra City
- Free admission

A relaxed yet heartfelt night of poetry in many languages. In recognition of their status as the first peoples of this country, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers and poets will have priority for open mic spots, for poetry in English or any language. Next will be poets reading or reciting in languages other than English.

Interested in performing? Sign up on the night, or reserve a spot in advance by emailing [mothertonguemic@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonguemic@gmail.com)

For more details: <https://mailchi.mp/ebdee6a79954/say-marhabanamaskarislamholan-hohello-to-2019?fbclid=IwAR1EZMZCQgqrHshlu72ZvmfB7zInUDB907qz27nU2tWwcDxHVpveMzeYmnY>

#### Languages Showcase

- Saturday 16 February 2pm–5pm,
- Stage 2, National Multicultural Festival, Canberra City

Organised in partnership with the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, the showcase will include multilingual poetry with Mother Tongue, the PNG Peroveta Singers and Ekushey Radio.

Special feature performer, all the way from Brazil via Sydney, will be Mestiça, a performer who represents the Brazilian essence: a mixture of Indigenous, African and European background. With multiculturalism and diverse ethnicity as the foundation of her work, Mestica will share her poetry and Brazilian songs.

Would you like to participate by sharing your own poem, or a favourite from your country or culture, in any language other than English? Each poet will have 4 minutes to read or recite, and to give an introduction or translation in English. Any style of poem is welcome – traditional, contemporary, slam, hip-hop or sung.

For more information, or to sign up, email [mothertonguemic@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonguemic@gmail.com). You are also encouraged to have a practice or warm up at Summer Tongues on 28 January (see above).

### **4. LANGUAGES AT THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL (NMF) Friday to Sunday 15-17 February**

Languages will be highlighted at several activities at the NMF this year. These include:

- Languages Showcase, 2–5pm, Saturday 16 February, Stage 2 (see above)
- Bilingual story times and language activities, Civic Library, Saturday 16 February
- Say G'Day competition, Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 February (major prize \$250),
- Language-related stalls in Civic Square, Sunday 17 February
- Bilingual tours of EuroVisions, Contemporary Art from the Goldberg Collection, at CMAG on Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 February (family friendly, free admission).

Keep your eye on the NMF website for more details: <https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/> or check for new posts at <https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/>

## 5. YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages in order to raise global attention on the critical risks confronting indigenous languages and their significance for sustainable development, reconciliation, good governance and peace building.

For more information see <https://en.iyil2019.org/>

## 6. LANGUAGE KEEPERS: PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE PACIFIC

This conference at the National Library of Australia is both the closing event of its Cook and the Pacific Exhibition and the Library's first event in association with the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Over two days, experts from Australia and the Pacific will reveal how European travellers recorded the languages of the Pacific, and how the revitalisation of Indigenous languages is supporting cultural practice and healing. The conference will be opened with a keynote address by award-winning writer Professor Kim Scott, focusing on his involvement with the Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project.

- 9.30am Saturday 9 February to 5pm Sunday 10 February
- Cost \$100 for two days/\$60 per day (includes morning and afternoon tea)

More information:

[https://www.stickytickets.com.au/79798/language\\_keepers\\_preserving\\_the\\_indigenous\\_languages\\_of\\_the\\_pacific.aspx](https://www.stickytickets.com.au/79798/language_keepers_preserving_the_indigenous_languages_of_the_pacific.aspx)

## 7. PATJI-DAWES LANGUAGE TEACHING AWARD

Nominations are now open for this award which honours outstanding and inspiring teachers 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.

If you would like to honour your teacher, we ask that you tell us (and the world) what it was about their practice that inspired and enabled you to unlock the rewards of learning another language despite all the difficulties involved.

Deadline for nominations: 19 March 2019. More details at:

<http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/education-and-outreach/dawes-award/> or contact Martin Blaszczyk on 02 6125 6122 or at [Martin.Blaszczyk@anu.edu.au](mailto:Martin.Blaszczyk@anu.edu.au)

## 8. CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2019

The locally-based International Mother Language Movement will again be organising a walk to celebrate International Mother Language Day (21 February). The aim of the day, declared by UNESCO in 1999, is to promote world-wide awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to celebrate multilingualism.

The Canberra Walk will take place on **Sunday 24 February**.

For more details contact [imlm.21feb@gmail.com](mailto:imlm.21feb@gmail.com)

## FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>