

# CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM (CRLF) UPDATE

## NOVEMBER 2018

### 1. LANGUAGE STUDENTS SPEAK OUT!

#### Threatened closure of Indonesian language program at Narrabundah College

Two Year 11 students certainly gained local, national and international attention when they started a petition on discovering Narrabundah College was planning to drop its long-running Indonesian language course.

- For the SMH article see [https://www.smh.com.au/education/why-a-canberra-school-dropping-indonesian-sparked-international-uproar-20181115-p50g4v.html?fbclid=IwAROfGn\\_cXm1dGaczPsJGUCzaWNY89EdDyUcOg3vrKLe7P6dmfDC6VIEOXys](https://www.smh.com.au/education/why-a-canberra-school-dropping-indonesian-sparked-international-uproar-20181115-p50g4v.html?fbclid=IwAROfGn_cXm1dGaczPsJGUCzaWNY89EdDyUcOg3vrKLe7P6dmfDC6VIEOXys)
- and for coverage on Indonesian-language ABC: <https://www.abc.net.au/indonesian/2018-11-13/satu-sekolah-australia-hendak-hapuskan-bahasa/10493350>

The issue also led to discussion of languages education more generally, especially on ABC Radio Canberra on 15 and 16 November. For audio links see

- [https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/indonesian\\_in\\_canberra\\_2018-11-15\\_at\\_64kbps.mp3](https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/indonesian_in_canberra_2018-11-15_at_64kbps.mp3)
- [https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/indonesian\\_in\\_canberra\\_2018-11-16-intro.mp3](https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/indonesian_in_canberra_2018-11-16-intro.mp3)
- [https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/indonesian\\_in\\_canberra\\_2018-11-16.mp3](https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/indonesian_in_canberra_2018-11-16.mp3)

#### ANU Diploma of Languages Organising Group

This group was formed by ANU students to lobby for the reinstatement of the Diploma of Languages, which the university is no longer offering due to Federal government funding cuts. The Diploma increased the accessibility of language learning for all students, no matter what degree program they were enrolled in. The group is working with the ANU Student Representative Council and supportive academics to try to revive the program.

For more information, see the group's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1831626313592122/about/>

For an article in Woroni, the ANU student newspaper, see:

<https://www.woroni.com.au/words/anus-diploma-of-languages-has-been-removed-due-to-federal-government-funding-cuts/>

### 2. CELEBRATING AND PROMOTING MULTILINGUAL CANBERRA

#### At the National Multicultural Festival (NMF)

CRLF has been working with ACT Bilingual Education Alliance and Canberra Academy of Languages to promote languages and the value of bilingualism at the NMF, which will be held from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 February 2019.

The NMF is an ideal opportunity to showcase and celebrate the many languages spoken in Canberra. The NMF probably brings together more speakers of more languages in one place than any other Canberra event. For a copy of the rationale and suggestions we sent to NMF organising group see:

[https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/the\\_potential\\_role\\_of\\_the\\_nmf\\_to\\_promote\\_languages\\_education\\_in\\_the\\_act.pdf](https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/the_potential_role_of_the_nmf_to_promote_languages_education_in_the_act.pdf)

The NMF organising group is still considering possibilities for clustering language-focussed stalls together, and have allocated a 3 hour slot for Language-related performances on Stage 2 on Saturday 16 February from 2pm-5pm. As yet, however, there is no indication that languages or multilingual Canberra are being highlighted alongside cultures, food, dance and music in any publicity.

## Languages as a resource for all – a position paper

Following a meeting with the ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs in October 2018 and discussions with organisations and other groups involved in promoting languages and language learning in the Canberra region, CRLF helped develop a position paper 'Languages as a resource for all'.

It is hoped that the ideas and recommendation in the paper will contribute to policy discussions and actions in the ACT to build social capital, enhance educational outcomes, promote equity, and foster a more inclusive and cohesive society.

A copy of the paper can be downloaded from:

[https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/languages\\_as\\_a\\_resource\\_for\\_all\\_position\\_statement.pdf](https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/languages_as_a_resource_for_all_position_statement.pdf)

### 3. SOME LANGUAGE HAPPENINGS AT THE ANU IN NOVEMBER

- 'Three Languages - Three Cultures: Narratives from the Middle East'

An interdisciplinary conference for anyone with an interest in Arabic, Persian and Turkish and their respective cultures.

- Thursday 22 November and Friday 23 November

<http://cais.cass.anu.edu.au/events/conferences/three-languages-three-cultures-narratives-middle-east-conference>

- Summer School: ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language

A five day event bringing together leading national and international scholars to present the latest research in the field of the science of languages.

- Date: 26-30 November

<http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/news-and-media/events/article/?id=coedl-summer-school-will-be-happening-again-in-2018-26-30-november>

- Persian Summer short courses

- 29 October to 6 December

<http://cais.cass.anu.edu.au/news/persian-summer-short-courses>

### 4. UPCOMING EVENTS IN SYDNEY

#### 2018 Michael Clyne lecture: What kind of public good is language maintenance?

- Wednesday 5 December, 5pm – 7pm
- University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW 2050
- Speaker: Professor Jo Lo Bianco
- Followed by Q&A session.

Professor Lo Bianco discusses the range of activities that can be included in the term 'language education'. The teaching of languages foreign to their learners is a radically different activity from efforts to maintain spoken community languages across generations. Using a multidisciplinary approach, he develops a robust account of why Australian language education efforts should make intergenerational language maintenance a central feature of language policy. Should it be a right to learn one's heritage language? Specific reference will be made to indigenous bilingual education in the Northern Territory, language reclamation by urban Aboriginal people, and intergenerational maintenance of immigrant community languages.

Free, but registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sicle-research-seminar-series-michael-clyne-lecture-tickets-52381963864>

### **Multilingual Sydney: New people, new city**

- Metcalfe Auditorium, Ground Floor, NSW State Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000
- Saturday 15 December, 10am-12noon
- Cost: FREE but registration required

Migrants and their languages are the lifeblood of successful global cities. To coincide with the publication of their book, *Multilingual Sydney*, an expert panel will address two questions:

- What is the value of languages in a multicultural city?
- How can we nurture our language heritage for the future prosperity of the city?

Short presentations from an expert panel, with members from Macquarie University, University of Technology Sydney, NSW Federation of Community Language Schools, and Ethnic Community Services Co-operative, will be followed by followed by a Q&A.

Copies of the book: *Multilingual Sydney* (Routledge) will be available from the Library Bookstore and [online](#).

To register and for more information: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/multilingual-sydney-new-people-new-city>

### **FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME**

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