

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update August 2018

1. Mother tongue multilingual poetry workshop

- Sunday 5 August, 2pm – 5pm, Civic Library
- This is a FREE event

In the lead up to the Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry Night at Smith's Alternative on 13 August (see next item), spend an afternoon exploring writing and performing poetry in languages other than English - or a mix of languages!

You might speak another language as your first language or mother tongue. Maybe you are a language learner. But if you are interested in expressing yourself poetically, come for an afternoon of writing activities with a multilingual focus, and performance exercises to build your confidence and expression.

It is also a great opportunity meet other writers who are interested in the power of words beyond the limits of the English language.

Email mothertonguemc@gmail.com to register for this event, or with any questions. You can also find details on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/242184043272331/>

2. Mother tongue multilingual poetry evening

- Monday 13 August 2018, 7pm - 9pm,
- Smith's Alternative, 76 Alinga St, Canberra
- Entry for audience - \$5 payable at the door.
- Free for those who sign up in advance to read

Come along to hear work in Russian, Mongolian, Sinhalese, Cebuano, Mandarin, Hindi, Dari and many more languages. Each poet will also give a brief explanation or introduction to their poem in English, or a full translation.

They have a great line up already, but there is still room for a couple more poets or readers:

- All languages are welcome.
- You can read your own original poetry, or a work by another poet.
- Any style of poetry – e.g. traditional, modern, slam, rap
- The work can be all in your other language, or a mix with English.

To sign up, or for more information, email mothertonguemc@gmail.com

3. ACT Libraries expanding bilingual story times

Building on regular Bilingual Story Times in Hindi and Mandarin on Thursdays, ACT Libraries are adding Saturday Bilingual Story Times in Vietnamese, Farsi and Arabic. This follows the successful recruitment and training workshop of Bilingual Story Time presenters from each of these language communities. Families who speak any of the story time languages with their children and/or who want to expose their children to languages other than English are welcome. All sessions are all held from 10.30am to 11.30am

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| • Hindi | Thursday 2 August | @ Gungahlin Library |
| | Thursday 6 September | @ Gungahlin Library |
| • Arabic | Saturday 4 August | @ Gungahlin Library |
| • Mandarin | Thursday 16 August | @ Gungahlin Library |
| | Thursday 20 September | @ Woden Library |
| • Vietnamese | Saturday 25 August | @ Belconnen Library |
| • Farsi | Saturday 8 September | @ Woden Library |

For other ACT Libraries events in August and September:

https://www.library.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1225244/180839_Aug-and-Sept_WhatsOn_WEB.pdf

NOTE: All programs and events are FREE, but booking usually essential

4. Canberra Moon Festival

- Friday 21, Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September
- Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC)

All are invited to this community celebration of the Moon Festival - also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival. An important festival in many Asian cultures, there will be fun and educational programs for all ages. These include a talent contest, professional and community performances, cosplay party, food/drink stalls and family-friendly activities.

ACT Libraries are coordinating story telling in a variety of Asian languages on Saturday 22 September 11am – 4pm and Sunday 23 September 11am – 3pm.

For more information see: <http://www.canberramoonfestival.com.au>. We will also put details of the bilingual story telling sessions on the ACTBEA website when the program is finalised.

5. Talk and Discussion on Language Revival

- Monday 24 September, 5.30pm for 6pm until 8pm
- Function Room, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, 180 London Circuit, Civic Square
- Refreshments provided

Organised by the Canberra-based International Mother Language Movement.

More details of the program available nearer the date. Keep an eye on the ACTBEA website for details.

6. Highlighting languages at the 2019 National Multicultural Festival (NMF)

ACTBEA is joining forces with other groups with an interest in languages to raise the profile of languages at the multicultural festival. Attended by more than 240,000 people over 3 days every February, the NMF is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the many languages being used and learned every day in the Canberra region, to emphasise the value of these linguistic resources, and to highlight the role that sharing languages can play in fostering a more inclusive, cohesive and creative society.

To meet these goals, ACTBEA has approached the organisers of the Festival with the following ideas:

- To specifically mention languages in NMF promotion (e.g. on the NMF website, in the program, at the festival launch, as part of the 2019 slogan)
- To have a festival-wide languages competition with prizes for both stall holders and festival-goers who participate
- To have a 'Taste of Languages' area with a stage featuring spoken word and musical performances with a focus on languages, and a cluster of stalls promoting languages and/or language learning.

If you have any comments about the above or would like to be involved in some way, please contact us at canberrabilingual@gmail.com

7. ACT Bilingual Education Alliance - Facebook page

Keep up-to-date with language-related news and events, and share information and ideas by following the [ACT Bilingual Education Alliance](#) Facebook page.



FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous ACTBEA Updates can be downloaded from

<http://actbilingual.weebly.com>