

Convener's Report for 2019

Canberra Academy of Languages

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ABN: 73 256 637 048 ACT Incorporated Entity / Association Number: A05776 (September 2016)

Registered as a Specialist Education Provider with ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies to 31/12/2022



CAL events schedule for 2019

As of 8 January 2019, our new-look Canberra Academy of Languages calendar for 2019 went live on [our Events page](#). Included for 2019 are icons/logos for CAL events, CAL assessment tasks and external events; colour-coding for CAL events and CAL assessment tasks; and assessment task dates listed in advance for both semesters.

CAL French program in 2019

The Canberra Academy of Languages French program for Years 11-12 has continued in 2019. Four students who commenced as Year 11 students in 2018 studied with us in 2019 with a view to completing a major (two years of study) in French. An additional student enrolled with us in Year 11 this year. For unit details, see the item about CAL plans for 2020 and 2021.

CAL German program in 2019

During Term 1 of this year, we received a response to our invitation to teachers of German, posted on CAL website last year, to send an expression of interest in delivering a German program with us. The program commenced with a half-unit from the start of Term 2 of this year. For more information, see the April news item below.

ACT Multicultural Framework Second Action Plan 2019-2020

Following input from the Canberra Academy of Languages, Canberra Region Languages Forum and ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, priority actions were included under Strategic Objective 3 of a proposed Second Action Plan for the ACT Multicultural Framework to foster recognition and use of languages other than English.

Together with Dr Mandy Scott, Convener of the Canberra Region Languages Forum and Dr Fuxin Li, President of the ACT Community Languages Schools Association, I consulted with Kirk Zwangobani, Chair of the ACT Multicultural Advisory Committee, on ways to assist the ACT Education Directorate and the ACT Community Services Directorate with the next steps. Following this, Dr Scott, Dr Li and I wrote to Mr Zwangobani on 19 March, outlining our offer of assistance.

Registration Evening

At our **registration evening on Thursday 7 February 2019**, held from 6 pm at the Alliance Française de Canberra, 66 McCaughey Street, Turner, we finalised enrolments and provided an overview of this year's program.



Multilingual Canberra Stall at National Multicultural Festival, 17 February 2019

On Sunday 17 February, the Canberra Academy of Languages, ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACT BEA) and Canberra Region Languages Forum were some of the organisations represented on the Multilingual Canberra Stall in Civic Square at the National Multicultural Festival (NMF).



There were also other languages-related stalls nearby on the Sunday, as well as other languages-related activities on the weekend of the NMF, such as the Languages Showcase on Stage 2. There were excellent responses to the greetings in multiple languages competition - more than 100. Great to see Azra Khan, festival organiser, who visited the stall. Thanks to all the ACT BEA members who helped at the stall with enquiries from stall visitors.



Mother Language Walk, 24 February 2019

The [Mother Language Walk 2019](#) took place on Sunday 24 February 2019. The walk commenced at 10:30 am, at the International Flag Display near Questacon carpark and finished at Kings Park, near the Police Memorial. The first photo below is from the ceremony held at the International Flag Display at Commonwealth Place on the shoreline of Lake Burley Griffin. The ceremony was followed by a walk via Kings Avenue Bridge with songs from around the world performed by the Lyneham High singers and by Thomas Laue at the National Carillon and a sausage sizzle in Kings Park.



French Film Festival, 15 March 2019

The CAL French class visited Palace Electric Cinema in New Acton on Friday evening 15 March to see *Au Bout des Doigts* as part of the Alliance Française French Film Festival. Students agreed that the choice of film for Years 11-12 was a good one.



ACT BSSS Modern Languages courses draft for consultation to 22 March 2019

Draft ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) courses developed during 2018, including those written under the Modern Languages Framework, were available for public consultation until 22 March 2019. Feedback from CAL, including ratings and detailed comments on key elements of the paper, was provided via the online questionnaire.



Supporting language learning, March 2019

Shadow ACT education spokesperson Elizabeth Lee's support of pathways for language learning in schools, was reported in *The Canberra Times* on 25 March (<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/5992203/liberals-plan-to-revamp-act-language-teaching/>). It is a concept that needs effective teacher supply, recruitment and retention provisions to make it work. There also needs to be effective central provision supported by ACT government for language learning. It is available in most jurisdictions except ACT. We wrote to ACT Government about this in December 2017, which CAL followed up with government through a budget submission in October (see below). The online version of a follow-up article in *The Canberra Times* on 9 April on languages education in the ACT (<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6006721/shake-up-in-act-school-language-teaching-planned/>) includes points we raised with CT about this.



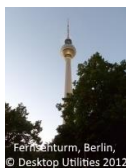
Information/registration evening for Term 2 intake (French and German), April 2019

We held our **Term 2 information/registration evening** on Thursday 11 April 2019, for interested students and their families at the Alliance Française de Canberra, to provide an overview of the program for the remainder of 2019 and plans for 2020. For more information, see CAL plans for 2020 below.



German program commences with Canberra Academy of Languages, April 2019

In April, we announced commencement of a German program with the Canberra Academy of Languages. We are delivering Advanced German and Continuing German for students in Years 11-12. Classes commenced on 24 April 2019 and subsequent classes are being held on Thursday evenings for 2019.



Year 11 students who have commenced with us in the program this year will complete a major in German by the end of Year 12, for which they will gain credit towards their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. We welcome Stephanie Borst, our highly qualified teacher for this program.

CAP Expo, 4 May 2019

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACT BEA), the Canberra Region Languages Forum, the Canberra Academy of Languages participated again this year in the ACT Government's Connect and Participate Expo (CAP Expo), held at the Kingston Bus Depot Markets on 4 May 2019. This was the sixth year of CAP Expo, which ran for the first time in 2014. Thanks to those who ran the stall, including the Convener of the Canberra Region Languages Forum, Dr Mandy Scott and our CAL German teacher, Stephanie Borst. Additional information about CAP Expo is at [the 2019 CAP Expo home page](#).



Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry event, 13 May 2019

One of several Multilingual Open Mic events took place on Monday 13 May 2019 from 7 pm to 9 pm at Smith's Alternative. The feature was Ngunawal (Ngunnawal) language lesson with Tyronne and Jai Bell. Participants learned some basic words and phrases in the language of the traditional custodians of this land with Ngunawal Elder Tyronne Bell and his son Jai. This was a well-attended event, with more than 40 attending the evening.



ACT Multicultural Framework 2nd Action Plan

On 16 May 2019, the ACT Government tabled the ACT Multicultural Framework Second Action Plan 2019-2020 in the ACT Legislative Assembly.



See the Multicultural Framework online page at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/act-multicultural-framework-2015-2020>.

Migrant and Cross-Cultural Story Share - *be:longing*, 22 June 2019

Another organisation for which we have auspiced funding under an ACT government grants program is *be:longing*, which hosted an event from 4 pm to 6 pm on Saturday 22 June 2019 at Smith's Alternative in Canberra CBD, at which 10 contributors performed their creative works for a live audience – poetry and other written works published on *be:longing*.



AFMLTA Conference, 7-9 July 2019

As CAL Convener, I attended the AFMLTA Conference at Wrest Point in Hobart on 7-9 July 2019. There was a fine line-up of keynote presenters on a range of interesting topics. The program is available on AFMLTA website at <https://www.afmlta.asn.au/content/conference-program>. I presented a paper on using authentic resources. An article based on the paper will be published in the December 2019 edition of the ACT Modern Language Teachers' Association journal, which will be available on MLTA website (<https://www.mltaact.asn.au/>).



ANGLS Conference, 15-16 August 2019

The Canberra Academy of Languages hosted the 2019 conference of the Australian Network of Government Languages Schools (ANGLS), which has held meetings annually since 1998 (this was their 22nd annual conference) on Thursday-Friday 15-16 August 2019. The venue was the Conference Room at Telopea Park School, kindly facilitated by Kerrie Blain, Telopea Principal.



We had about 20 participants, most of whom were principals and members of leadership teams from schools of languages and languages centres in Australian states and territories. For more details, see the News page on CAL website.

The program for the conference was about future directions in languages education. In addition to state reports, there were sessions on

- future directions in languages for the ACT public school
- tertiary education perspectives on languages (teacher preparation and supply and avenues for students) with presenters from the Australian National University and University of Canberra; programs
- program delivery and school evaluation in schools specialising in languages with principals of Telopea Park School and Narrabundah College
- capabilities sought and employment opportunities with Australian Government agencies with representatives from TIS National (Home Affairs), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Defence Recruiting, and Department of Education
- languages advocacy with the President of the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers' Associations, the President of the Modern Language Teachers' Association of the ACT and the Convener of the Canberra Region Languages Forum.

Some of the delegates and presenters will be with us at our end of year ceremony.

A media release by ministers Dan Tehan and Ken Wyatt had just recently been published, announcing plans to develop a national languages strategy to support language teaching and learning in Australia. The question of national languages policy was discussed in some detail and ANGLS issued a response on 19 August. See

https://cal.act.edu.au/docs/ANGLS_media_release_2019-08-19.pdf.

Support for concept of language learning centre, 17 September 2019

The ACT Opposition Leader, Alistair Coe, speaking on ABC Canberra Breakfast program on Tuesday 17 September 2019, supported the idea of doing more for [language education in Canberra](#), including Indigenous languages, both in schools and through a language learning centre that is accessible and is in the right location. The Opposition Leader emphasised the importance of the idea of passing on wisdom, knowledge and language from one generation to the next. An audio file is available from the News page on CAL website.



NSW adds new languages to curriculum

[NSW has added five new languages to its curriculum](#) - SBS report. Hindi,

Macedonian, Persian (Farsi), Punjabi, and Tamil will be taught from next year, taking the number of languages on offer to 69. Meanwhile, with the release of new languages curricula for the ACT in 2020, the number of languages has expanded from 8 to 11, including Tamil, which we will be delivering. There is now scope also to add further languages to the ACT senior secondary curriculum more readily than before, because of a new design where language-specific information for each language is located in an appendix for each course.



Information Evening, Thursday 19 September 2019

We held a well-attended information evening for students who will be in Years 11-12 next year (or in following years) and their families, on Thursday 19 September 2019 at the Alliance Française, 66 McCaughey Street, Turner. School languages coordinators and year coordinators were also welcome to attend. There was strong interest in Tamil and interest also from several families in Spanish. As advised on the Enrolments section of our [home page](#), interested families are invited to email contact details and selected language(s) to info@cal.act.edu.au, as soon as possible and before our registration evening, which will be held on Thursday 6 February 2020 (6 pm) at the Alliance Française.



National Community Languages Schools Conference, 5 October 2019

A very successful [National Community Languages Schools Conference](#) was held on Saturday 5 October. Congratulations to the organisers. Opening remarks included talks by Executive Director, Community Languages Australia, Stefan Romaniew OAM; Chairman, ACT Community Languages, Dr Fuxin Li; and ACT Opposition Leader, Alistair Coe. CAL Convener presented a paper on "New senior secondary languages courses from 2020: opportunity for community languages in the ACT" in the afternoon program.



Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry, 14 October 2019

A Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry Night was held at Smith's Alternative (76 Alinga Street, Civic) on 14 October 2019, from 7 pm to 9 pm as part of the Poetry on the Move Festival fringe. The feature for the evening, celebrating International Year of Indigenous Languages, was father and daughter Deveni and Salote Temu. Deveni and Salote who performed traditional Aroma song and dance of coastal Papua New Guinea, and shared Peroveta missionary song in mixed Aroma, Motu and other Pacific languages and discuss knowledge, identity and language.



CAL Business Case for 2020-2021 Budget, 25 October 2019

We sent a business case on 25 October to ACT Government as part of the budget consultation process for the 2020-2021 ACT Budget, with a proposal to strengthen languages education in the ACT. A copy of the submission is available from the News page on CAL website. It is also published on the ACT Government's budget consultation website.



The key point in the submission is the need for the government to underwrite a central delivery strategy for languages education to supplement language learning programs in schools. This strategy would have two components: a second tier of funding for community language schools, and the implementation by government of responsibility for centrally delivered senior secondary language learning programs to supplement those available in colleges, using the model and systems now in place with the Canberra Academy of Languages.

Tamil program for 2020, announced 5 November 2019

The Canberra Academy of Languages has received the target number of enrolment applications enabling us to confirm that the CAL Tamil program will run in 2020. Our thanks to those who have helped to make this possible. Tamil is one of the additional languages that will be available through the new ACT senior secondary courses to be implemented from the start of next year.

தமிழ்

Languages in the news, November 2019

Languages were in the news in November – AFR on need for more Mandarin speakers; and changes in VCE languages in Victoria. Thanks to Tim and John for the links to the media items (see the item on our news page for the links) and to Mandy Scott for the Canberra Region Languages Forum update.

- [AFR report on need for more Australian speakers of Mandarin](#)
- [Changes in Victoria's VCE languages assessment processes](#), to improve incentives for students learning languages
- [Canberra Region Languages Forum for November 2019](#).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

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Concluding remarks

Congratulations to our four graduating Year 12 students, who have all completed majors in French. Chelsea Kennett will speak at the end-of-year ceremony from a learner's perspective about her experiences and motivations in learning French. Chelsea and Mackenzie have also successfully undertaken the French Ministry of Education's Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) exams and will be awarded their diplomas at the ceremony. Mackenzie Willmets plans to undertake the next level during 2020. Grace, who will take up a post as au pair in Paris next year, also intends to do the DELF assessment during or after that. Juliette Nicol already has the B2 diploma from her time in New Caledonia and is considering a candidature for the C1 diploma in the future. Meanwhile, Sarah Twyman, Year 11, has an article published in the latest edition of Canberra en Français. Copies are available from the Alliance Française de Canberra. We look forward to further graduations in French and German in next year's Year 12 cohort, as well as commencement in Year 11 by students in French, German, Tamil and possibly Spanish for 2020. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break and an excellent year ahead.

Frank Keighley | Convener, Canberra Academy of Languages

CAL plans for 2020 and 2021

Programs to be delivered in 2020 may include French, German, Tamil and Spanish. There has been strong interest in particular from the Tamil community. For more information on plans for 2020, see the [Q & A about CAL programs for 2020](#), an overview which is available from the home page on CAL website at <https://cal.act.edu.au>. From next year, senior secondary languages courses in the ACT will follow the new languages curriculum, details of which are available on the BSSS website.

The CAL course implementation plan is the same for each language offered: 2019-S1: The World Around Us; 2019-S2: Lifestyle and Traditions; 2020-S1: The Individual (formerly titled The Individual's Experience); 2020-S2: Society and Community; 2021-S1: The Changing World (formerly titled The World Around Us); 2021-S2: Diverse Perspectives (formerly titled Lifestyle and Traditions).

As noted above, in our business case for the 2020-2021 ACT Budget, we have again drawn attention to the need for a government-supported central delivery strategy for languages education to supplement language learning programs in schools.

CAL team

I would like to thank Stephanie Borst, our highly qualified and talented teacher of German, for her work in implementing our inaugural German program this year; and Uma Ramiah, our prospective teacher of Tamil, who has been a most effective proponent of the Tamil program and who is also a key author for the Tamil sections of the new BSSS languages courses.

My thanks also go to our Advisory Panel members, my wife Rosalind Rice, who is also our director of studies; Dennis Flannery, who is also our Patron, Veronique Canellas, President of MLTA ACT; Mandy Scott, Convener of the Canberra Region Languages Forum. and Rebekah Gupte, whom we wish great success on her imminent move with her husband to Norfolk Island; and to the members of our reference group, particularly Ann Steward and Tim Conway, who have given us their help and advice throughout the year, particularly in preparing the business case for the 2020-2021 ACT Budget.