



澳大利亚学习汉语协会

ALMA News

August 2013

**Last days to register for the
Forum on Mandarin Education in the ACT
- Pathways to Proficiency**

Saturday 10 August 2013

Australian National University

- ✓ **Do you want better outcomes for your children learning Mandarin?**
- ✓ **Do you want better quality programs? More teachers? Better resources?**

Take an afternoon and lend your support and ideas

Registration is essential.

Call Sally Forbes on 6125 6404 (Business hours) or email canberraalma@gmail.com by Monday 5 August

MANDARIN FORUM

Organised by ALMA, in cooperation with the ACT Directorate of Education and Training, and the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP), the forum will bring together early childhood educators, principals and teachers from mainstream and community language schools, local politicians, Chinese community leaders, relevant diplomatic personnel and business people, and lecturers and other academics with an interest and/or involvement in Mandarin education, to discuss how we can further promote Mandarin learning in the ACT.

The Aims of the forum are:

- to create and strengthen networks and
- to lay the foundation for strategic partnerships to deliver better outcomes in terms of student numbers, quality programs. interest in Chinese studies, and Mandarin language proficiency among ACT students.

The morning session is by invitation only. Invited educators, community leaders and decision makers will discuss issues such as sequencing of learning, content and language integrated learning (CLIL), bilingual options, accessing and developing resources, the use of ICT, and teacher training and PD. Guest speakers include Dr Jane Orton, who wrote the 2008 report on Chinese language education in Australia.

The afternoon session is open to all, but registration is essential.

For more information see the draft program at the end of this newsletter or visit the website at <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/news.html>

ALMA is grateful for financial and logistics support for this forum from CAP and the Australian Centre on China in the World.



NEW ALMA MEMBERS

欢迎新会员

ALMA warmly welcomes the following new members:

Renata Bridgeman and family,
Kristyn Worner and family,
Katherine Cole and family,
Cynthia Hegerty and family,
Casey Parker and family

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP A FELLOW STUDENT

Can you help with research on thinking styles, culture and personality?

A young Chinese-Australian student at ANU is doing her Research Honours thesis in Psychology with a focus on Australians, Asians and Asian-Australians. She is looking for people to help her research. The only restriction is that the participants must be over 18 years old (limits imposed by her ethics application).

Participation involves completing an online questionnaire, which should take about 20 minutes to complete. If you would like to help, the questionnaire can be accessed at <http://goo.gl/xavlf>

For more information, please contact the student (Susie) at u4673669@anu.edu.au



LANGUAGE LEARNING SPACE

Language Learning Space (LLS) is a new online resource and service for primary and secondary students of Chinese language and for teachers of Chinese language.

Teachers can sign up to access:

- specific learning challenges and resources that improve students' Chinese language learning
- a student/teacher dashboard that enables teachers to assign, create their own challenges and track student progress.
- Free access for all schools in Australia to an experienced Beijing based tutorial service
- Free access to a range of extended online study modules, including the full suite of Rosetta Stone Chinese resources
- Media rich and contemporary Professional learning modules that can be shared and tracked against teacher Professional learning requirements

ALMA is investigating how it can access this great resource to promote the teaching and learning of Mandarin in the ACT.

For more information about the language learning space see <http://www.lls.edu.au/>



CHINA – NEWS AND WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Asia Society Partnership for Global Learning dedicated to Chinese language and culture programs in schools
<http://asiasociety.org/education/chinese-language-initiatives>

Asia Education Foundation– Australian-based organisation with an excellent website that has links to other relevant sites
<http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/default.asp>

China in the World – the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific's online news
<http://ciw.anu.edu.au/>



CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALMA NEWS AND UPDATES WELCOME

Please email canberraalma@gmail.com

NOTE: Decisions on publication remain at the discretion of the editor

For more information about ALMA and to see past ALMA newsletters visit our website at

<http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/>

FORUM: Mandarin Education in the ACT: Pathways to Proficiency

Saturday 10 August

Australian National University, Canberra

DRAFT PROGRAM

MORNING SESSION (by invitation only)

0830 – 0900 Tea coffee, Registration

0900 – 0930 Welcome, outline of program, introductions,
Keynote Address: Andrew Leigh MP, Federal Member for Fraser

0930 – 1015 Session 1: Overview of current situation
(Dr Jane Orton, University of Melbourne for national picture; Dr Mandy Scott, ALMA, for local picture; Dr Carol Hayes, ANU, Japanese language education)

1. What is the current state of Mandarin education in ACT (public, private and community schools – pre-primary to tertiary level)?
2. How does this compare with the national situation for Mandarin?
3. How does this compare with the situation of Japanese in schools?

1015 – 10.45 Discussion - What have we learnt from the current situation of Mandarin and Japanese how will this inform our way forward?

10.45 – 11.15 MORNING TEA

11.15 – 11.30 Introduction to the working groups: To demonstrate and build on the quality and proficiency outcomes of Mandarin programs in the ACT

11.30 – 12.45 Working Groups

1. Language policy and resources

(Panel: Dr Felicia Zhang, UC; Dr Jane Orton, University of Melbourne; Ms Monica Scully, Principal Huntingdale Primary Bilingual School (Japanese), Melbourne; panellist with experience with bilingual Mandarin programs, community language school representatives).

- Teacher training and quality: how to train teachers of Chinese to primary and secondary students?
- How can curricula be coordinated to allow progression between schools?
- What are the main features of successful immersion/bilingual programs?
- What is the contribution of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning)?
- What is the contribution of community language schools, after school or other programs, and how can the various sectors support each other?

2. Curriculum and content development

(Panel: Mr Chad Birks and Gesar Temur, both Mandarin teachers in mainstream schools in the ACT; Carol Jones as a parent; Dawna Leung, Mandarin Stars, Sydney; Grazia Scottelaro, Educational Technology Advisor, ANU; community language school representatives)

- How to develop teaching materials that are relevant and consistent with each other?
- ICT: how to use technology effectively to support teachers?
- How can proficiency be measured?
- What is the contribution of community language schools, after school or other programs, and how can the various sectors support each other?

12.45 – 1.45 LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION 1.30-3.30pm

(Open to parents, community language school teachers who teach Saturday mornings, Mandarin language students, and anyone else with an interest in Mandarin teaching and learning)

- 1.30-1.45 Registration for afternoon session
- 1.45 – 2.15 Highlights of morning discussions and outcomes
- Reports from working groups on actions to be taken, commitments and time frames
- 2.15 –3.15 Open forum
- Examination of how to increase interest in learning and continuing to learn Mandarin at both regular and community language schools
 - Discussion of how to encourage language maintenance amongst heritage speakers of Chinese
- 3.15-3.30 Close: Summing up, thanks, acknowledgments