



# Member News

## June 2010

### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

会长的话

The Association has been active on many fronts since the last ALMA Update.

Work on the long-planned extension at the Chinese-Australian Early Childhood Centre has commenced, and our advice is that the extension is scheduled for completion by 30 June 2010. Our grateful thanks go to Mawson Primary School principal Ms Amanda Andrews for helping us with staff amenities in the period leading up to, and during, the construction of the extension.

ALMA will need to provide furniture and fittings for the new and refurbished rooms at the CAECC, and this will require us to dip into our reserves in a substantial way. We look forward to much better reception, office and staff facilities.

An unexpected consequence of the extension was that a small strip of the Toddlers' playground had to be given over to the building. This reduction in playground area threatened to bring us into conflict with the licensing requirements for the play area for our toddlers. I am very pleased to report that Mawson Primary School and the Department of Education and Training have agreed to extend the fenceline of the Toddlers play area so that it lines up with the western edge of the building.

The extra area will more than make up for the area lost to the building, and will enable us to install a larger storage shed, as well as provide us with an excuse to remove most of the overgrown shrubbery at the western end of the building and recover and re-install our sign which has long been lost beneath!

Negotiations continue with the University of Canberra about establishing a second centre on the University's Bruce campus to enable ALMA to service the northern suburbs of

Canberra. The University has indicated that it is prepared to offer ALMA a long-term lease of a suitable space, provided we can finance the construction of the proposed centre. The Planning Committee is busily looking for appropriate sources of finance (see ALMA website for more details).

ALMA maintains a watching brief on developments in childcare and on language education policy in Australia.

Implementation of the Commonwealth/State Early Years Learning Framework is now under way. The Framework consolidates, among other things, the move in the sector from childcare to early childhood *education* and care. As ALMA and its CAECC are founded on the recognition of the importance of language education, we welcome this change in emphasis. We welcome also the increased cooperation between Commonwealth and State/Territory regulators.

In another field of Commonwealth/State cooperation, the Australian Curriculum, Reporting and Assessment Authority (ACARA) is developing national curricula for schools. Draft curricula for K-10 English, mathematics, science and history have been issued, and comment sought, while curricula for the same subjects for Years 11-12 have recently been issued for comment. ALMA will look keenly at what is said about languages when draft curricula are issued later in 2010.

Ian Maclean  
President



### UPCOMING EVENTS 活动预告

#### ANU: China Update 2010

The China Update is an annual event at which world leading experts present the latest research on the Chinese economy. ANU has the largest concentration of expertise on China in the world (outside of China).

Topic this year: China's new place in a world in crisis: economic, geopolitical and environmental dimensions.

Speakers: Ross Garnaut, Ligang Song and Wing Thy Woo.

When: 8.45am-5.30pm Wed 14 July 2010

Where: Coombs, Lecture Theatre, ANU

For more information email Denis Cairney at denis.cairney@anu.edu.au or call 6125 6409.

## REPORTS OF ALMA ACTIVITIES

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

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### Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre (CAECC) at Mawson

澳华幼儿中心新闻

Great news! As Ian has noted above, work has started on the long-promised extension to accommodate a new Director's office and reception area. The project is being funded under the Department of Disability, Housing and & Community Services (DHCS) Capital Works Programme.

When the extension is complete, the current office area will become the much-needed staffroom to accommodate eleven to thirteen staff each day.

Our centre is busy developing a new approach to programming to reflect the principles in the Early Years Learning Framework which is part of the National Agenda. There is also a new approach to the Mandarin language programme, with a focus on optimal use of the language by staff throughout the day as well as formal lessons.

In addition, we have gone digital with our documentation in an effort to become more environmentally friendly; in the past it was all done on paper.

A parent information night was held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June from 7.00 pm till 8.30pm to discuss these changes.

To help support Mandarin Language development, the centre produced an 'Early learners of Mandarin' CD that is easy for both

children and adults to understand. The CD is available for \$10 (ALMA Members) or \$15 for non-members.

If you are interested in purchasing a CD or would like more information about the centre please phone Judy Kuzma on 6290 1566 or visit the ALMA website.



### Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

义务辅导计划

Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation, 43 tutors and 34 students have registered for the project so far this year.

A one day tutor training workshop was held on Sunday 28 March at ANU, with an orientation session for students in the afternoon of the same day. About 20 tutors and 14 students attended.

Some of the tutors have expressed interest in volunteering at Mawson primary school, and are speaking to the Mandarin teachers at the school to get further information about this.

To find out more about the project or to register your interest in being a tutor or student, please visit the ALMA website at <http://alma.anu.edu.au>

### NEW ALMA MEMBERS

欢迎新会员

We welcome the following new members:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alexander Corbet         | Alice Hooley & family   |
| Amanda Pitkin & family   | Annette Ransom & family |
| Claire Shannon           | Claudio Piazzoli        |
| Ealias Varghese & family | Eileen Bower            |
| Geordie Lucas            | Gerry An & family       |
| Giang Levan              | Hong Shen               |
| Joanna Maning & family   | Judy Fok & family       |
| Kate Alexander & family  | Kristie Sissian         |
| Kylie Johnson & family   | Leah Marshall & family  |
| Maiomaio Hu & family,    | Marilyn Harris & family |
| Michelle Cleary & family | Nelson Gable            |

- Olivia Rothnie-Jones
- Qiu Ping Chen & family
- Steven Yao & family
- Vincent Han & family
- Xiaojun Cao & family,
- Khalid Mahmood Chauhan & family
- Pamela Proud & family
- Shameen Black & family
- Vanessa Munro
- Wendy Hughes & family
- Yongmei Uksi & family



## LEARNING CHINESE IN CANBERRA

The 'Learning Mandarin' section of the ALMA website has recently been updated and should now provide information about the majority of Chinese language programs available in Canberra.

See <http://alma.anu.edu.au/formal.htm> for formal courses for adults, and

<http://alma.anu.edu.au/children.htm> for courses for children

To help us keep the information current, please advise Mandy at [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com) if you know of other programs or if the information needs amending or updating.



## Mawson Primary School

Reports from the Mandarin Teachers:



## Chinese Partial Immersion Programs at Mawson Primary School

The ability to use a language other than English and move between cultures is important for full participation in the modern world, especially in the context of increasing globalisation and Australia's cultural diversity.

Mawson Primary School is a government school with its unique second language learning program – Chinese Partial Immersion Program. Students from year 3 to 6 can choose to be in the immersion program; they study their curriculum areas in English (3 days) and Chinese (2 days).

Research shows that there are great advantages in learning a second language in the bilingual way.

The goals of Chinese learning for the Immersion programs are:

### Communication

Students learn to communicate in Chinese for many purposes and in many contexts; they are able to extend their social contacts, and have direct access to knowledge, ideas and information written or spoken in the target language.

### Sociocultural understanding

In learning to use the language effectively, students develop an understanding of the cultural contexts in which the language is used, as well as the shared meanings, values and practices of the community as embodied in that language. They learn, for example, about the ways in which speakers change the language they use in different contexts, and the vital role which elements such as gesture play in communication. Through comparison with their own language and culture, students learn that there are many ways of viewing the world.

### Language awareness

Students develop an understanding of the way language works (its structure, the role it plays, and its effects), which they can apply to other languages, including English.

### General knowledge

While learning an additional language, students gain knowledge of and make connections across a range of concepts drawn from other key learning areas.

In Term 2 students in the year 5 & 6 Partial immersion class (MIP) will cover the following topics:

- I like my winter holidays the most
- I like to listen to music
- He plays basketball
- She like to play guitar
- Chinese art
- Chinese songs

The curriculum will be differentiated to take account of the varying Year 5 and 6 students' research focuses and learning requirements.

**Chinese Teacher: Jia Zhu**

### Mandarin Intensive (MIP) 3/4 class

We had a fantastic and extremely busy term one with many highlights which included:

**1. Chinese Language:**

Greeting, Countries, Family members, Languages, Personal introductions, Occupations, Numbers and Dates

**2. Chinese Culture:**

How to celebrate Chinese New Year, Chinese Kungfu, Secrets of The Great Wall

**3. Chinese Songs:**

Happy new year, Congratulation to you, you and me

**4. Chinese Stories:**

Jia er sells apricots, 12 Chinese zodiac animals, Three Little Pigs, Straw Rich Story, Xiao Shun Story

**5. Chinese Crafts:**

Valentine’s sweet heart, Lucky money bag, Easter basket

**6. Chinese Games:**

A maths game called the money game, Silent ball, Heads up and down

**7. PE Games:**

Cats and mice, Table tennis, PE fun, Rope skipping

**8. Chinese Entertainment:**

Chinese magic shows, Circus shows, Chinese umbrella dance

We have bilingual assemblies when MIP classes host the event.

This term all sorts of fun activities are continuing. Our research on “The First Emperor □ The Man Who Made China” is well underway and the students will complete a very productive PowerPoint on their research!

**Chinese Teacher: Jenny Yu**

**For more information about the school’s program, contact the Principal on 6205 8033 or visit [www.mawsonps.act.edu.au](http://www.mawsonps.act.edu.au)**



### Chinese Radio International

C-Radio FM88 is a local radio station broadcasting 24 hours a day – in English during the day and in Mandarin overnight. It aims to provide news, music and talk-shows

of interest to the local Chinese and mainstream community.

For Chinese learners there are teaching and bilingual programs, or you can just let the language flow over you at night – great to get used to the rhythm and sounds of the language or for listening practice for advanced students.

See [www.c-radio.com.au/Home.html](http://www.c-radio.com.au/Home.html) or tune in to FM88 to find out more



### BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Are you raising your children in more than one language, or are you interested in finding out more about bilingualism and the benefits to young minds of learning other languages? See the new website of the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com>



**Contact details for more information about ALMA and its activities**

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### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Articles or announcements for the next issue of ALMA News should reach the secretary by 30 July 2010.

**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://alma.anu.edu.au>**