



Member News
August 2009

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT
会长的话

I have recently returned from a trip to Europe which included a visit to the Loris Malaguzzi Centre in Reggio Emilia, in the north of Italy. The region is world famous for developing a child care method which is based on a high degree of parental involvement.

These methods were developed following World War II when there was a need for female employment and very little by way of infrastructure to support child care. I was struck by the very strong emphasis on broader social issues which in substance did not appear to be very different from the issues surrounding the social emancipation of women in Australia in the early years of the twentieth century.

ALMA is continuing to explore the establishment of a second childcare centre in North Canberra. A meeting was held on 10 August between ALMA and the University of Canberra about the possibility of a new bilingual centre in the grounds of the UC campus. The University of Canberra has asked us to prepare a business plan and undertook to reimburse our costs up to \$3000 in preparing the plan.

Two committee members, Len and Mandy, and a parent, Emma, are working with me on the development of a business plan. Any assistance from other ALMA members would be gratefully received.

Ian Maclean
President

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UPCOMING EVENTS 活动预告

Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

A dinner jointly organised by ACT Chinese community organisations and students' organisations.

The Ambassador of China, Zhang Junsai, and his wife will be in attendance.

- **Saturday 19 September 2009**
- **6:30pm for 7:00pm**
- **Olympus Room, Hellenic Club, Phillip**

Cost: \$40 per person

(Includes three course meal & entertainment)

Want to make up an ALMA table of 10? Contact Mandy at mandy.scott@anu.edu.au or phone 0408 089 235 (m) by Monday 7 September.

Otherwise book with Chin Wong, 0430 488 078 email samsonwong@optusnet.com.au by 11 September. Payment due at time of booking.



China's Mission: Peace, Cooperation, Mutual Benefit and Common Development

A public Lecture, by the Chinese Ambassador to Australia, presented by the Australian Institute of International Affairs

- **Thursday September 3, 12.30pm**
- **AIIA Conference Centre, Level 1, Stephen House, 32 Thesiger Court, Deakin**

Ambassador Zhang will discuss how China's foreign policy is meeting the challenge of an international scene in the process of profound and complex change.

He will deal with the following topics:

- how China sees its role in international and regional affairs
- what role China can see in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, and
- how China works with other countries to meet global challenges and promote peace, development and prosperity in the region and the world at large.

This a free public lecture

For more details and to RSVP (by Wed Sept 2) contact act.branch@aiaa.asn.au or 6232 4978.

Visit to the Chinese Collection at the Braidwood Museum.

- Sunday 20 September, 9am-5pm
- Cost \$45 per person

The ACT branch of the Australia-China Friendship Society is planning this excursion. The cost includes bus hire, entry to the museum and morning tea.

Participants will travel to Braidwood and have morning tea near the museum. This will be followed by a tour of the museum and a short walking tour of the town. You will then be free to have lunch in one of the nearby cafes or in the park if you choose to bring a packed lunch.

The bus will depart Braidwood at 3pm and visit the cemetery before returning to Canberra by 5pm.

For more details and to book contact Teck Lee at 6254 6814 or teklee@hotmail.com by 31 August.



The New Purple Forbidden City Orchestra

This 10 piece orchestra, created by 10 virtuoso traditional instrument players engaged in education and performance at Beijing's famous conservatories of music, will be visiting Canberra from 11 May until 14 May 2010

They will be performing at the National Library on Friday the 14 May 2010

During their stay the orchestra may be available for other activities. For details contact Chris Latham, Director of the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, on 0408 440 426 or email c.latham@optusnet.com.au

For more information about the orchestra see: www.maximaltd.com/downloads/new_purple_forbidden_city_orchestra.pdf

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Would you like to host a teacher from China?

Around 30 teachers from universities or colleges in China, mainly from Human Resources or the heads of colleges, schools or divisions, will be undertaking leadership training in the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the ANU from 11 September to December. Several are still looking for accommodation.

If you have a spare room and would like to help, or you would like more information, please call Guobing on 0410925440 or email him on guobing.chen@anu.edu.au

REPORTS ON ALMA ACTIVITIES

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre (CAECC)

澳华幼儿中心新闻

Our centre is currently operating at full capacity on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with only a few places available in the preschool room on Monday and Friday.

Yongmei, the Preschool teacher, returns at the beginning of September after 3 months leave. During her absence, Louise was with us until the end of July. Lyn, with a Diploma in Children's Services, has been helping out for 2 to 3 days per week during August; the Director, Judy, has been covering the remaining days.

In February 2009 the new ACT Children's Services Licensing Standards came into effect. A major change relates to child to staff ratios, which now need to be maintained throughout the day. This required the employment of an extra staff member, bringing our staff total to 13.

Due to the number of staff and shortage of space, we are using a room in Mawson Primary School as a temporary staff room. This arrangement is working well, and we thank Mawson Primary School for making this possible.

Extensions to the centre are yet to commence. We are awaiting approval notification from ACTPLA so that final construction plans can be drawn up and the tender process occur. It has been a very slow process, much of it beyond our control. The extension is being funded by the ACT Dept of Housing and Community Services, and they are in charge.

Other improvements to the centre have included new lockers for children in the Infant and Toddler room and the erection of a wall and door in the hallway to provide a more secure and private area for the younger children.

Enrolments for 2010 will be organised in October.

For 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

Over 50 participants have registered for this project this year – with about equal numbers of volunteer tutors and students.

A day-long tutor training workshop in May was attended by 14 tutors. Any student who had registered for the project but did not yet have a tutor was invited to come along at the end of the workshop to meet a prospective tutor and arrange their first meeting.

Thanks once again to Mimi Zhang and Zhang Yanyin, who helped to plan and run the tutor training workshops, and the China and Korea Centre at the ANU for providing the venue for the training.

We hope to arrange a follow-up workshop in September. Mandy has also recently surveyed participants about their experiences of the project and will write a report based on their comments for the next newsletter.

If you are interested in registering as a tutor or student, or if you just want to find out more about the project, please visit the ALMA website at <http://alma.anu.edu.au>

NEW ALMA MEMBERS

欢迎新会员

Welcome to the following:

Bridget O'Connor and family; Cheng-Ying (Ruby); Christa King and family; Deborah Keung; Elizabeth Warner and family; Emma Lovett and family; Greg Lee-Shoy; Hou Leong and family; Hua Ouyang; Jain Shekleton; Lane and Ng family; Laura Bennetts Kneebone and family; Lily Chan and family; Linda Edgerton and family; Maggie Xin Shao and family; Martin Callaghan and family; Michelle Earnshaw and family; Michelle Khaw and family; Michelle Lander and family; Nehal Trivedi and family; Oneeka Robb and family; Rachael Andrews and family; Rebecca Devitt and family; Richard Singer and family; Robert Ryan and family; Rowena McCarthy and family; Sarah Mills and family; Siew Lai Grace Tan; Sue Mathams and family; Valentino Magro and family; Vanessa Bakker and family; Vera Hou and family; Wai Kwen Lim; Wendy Garmtai Chan and family; Wenjing Lai; Zhiying Wen and family.

An article from Lauren Ryan, parent of two children who attend the CAECC

On a recent trip to the Sydney Aquarium with my son Alex, we wandered through China town. On our way we happened to come across an elderly Chinese man who was selling fruit and vegetables from a stall.

Alex promptly stopped to examine the fruit before pointing to the apples and confidently saying 'Pingguo' (苹果). He then continued to point to and name in Chinese each fruit on display. A look of amazement appeared on the man's face as he excitedly called to a few people nearby to come and listen. They all praised Alex for his pronunciation and told me that they had never before heard such a young non-native Mandarin speaker articulate so well.

Alex was so pleased with himself that for the rest of the day he continued to speak to everyone we passed in Mandarin, whether they understood him or not.

It is to the credit of the CAECC and its staff that they have given a child who comes from a family that is unable to speak Mandarin, the confidence to use a second language in everyday situations.



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MANDARIN IN THE ACT

Bilingual Kindergarten Class

The FCCCI Chinese school, which meets at Lake Ginninderra College on Saturday mornings, has started a new bilingual class this year.

I attended the class on the last day of term in June and was most impressed. It is a small class with two teachers and runs for two hours from 10am to noon with a break in the middle. Most children are kindergarten age but one was younger and a couple were in Grade 1 and 2.

The class has been designed for families who do not speak Mandarin, so although you hear mostly Mandarin in the class, English is also used to make it is easy for everyone to understand what is going on. Parents do not have to stay, but most do and some join in!

Activities included songs, stories, games, and learning how to write Chinese characters. The children were fully involved, usually sitting on the floor in a semicircle in front of the teachers, as is common practice in Australian schools.

They were expertly helped by the teachers to lead the songs or actions themselves and to act out the stories. Even the shyest was encouraged to take the lead.

It is possible to only attend one of the two hours, but the morning I went all the children and their parents attended both – they really enjoyed it.

For more information contact the principal, Lihong Rambeau at lihongr@bigpond.net.au or see www.fccci.org.au/en/cs.php

Mandy Scott
ALMA Secretary



Mandarin Language program at Mawson Primary School

Mawson Primary has a new teacher!

Hi, I'm Xiao Min Yu, a native speaker of Mandarin. My major is Chinese Language & Literature.

I've been teaching Chinese for 15 years at several schools in China and Melbourne. I currently teach 3/4 Mandarin Intensive Programme at Mawson Primary School.

Mawson Primary School has an excellent programme for Mandarin and I really enjoy working with my students!

For more information about the school's program, please contact the Principal on 6205 8033 or visit www.mawsonps.act.edu.au



Australian School of Contemporary Chinese (ASCC) Open Day

- 10-11.30am Saturday 5 September (Woden)
- 10-11.30am Sunday 6 Sept (Belconnen)

Campus tour with displays of students' work and teaching resources (10:00-10.30am), Presentation: Dr Fuxin Li: The Scientific Rationale for Language Learning and ASCC Courses in and beyond 2009 (10:30-11.15), Group performance (11:15- 11:30am)

For more information about the school see www.standardchineseschool.act.edu.au and for the open day phone 6176 0528 or 6255 7710 or email ascc@trilong.com.au

Happy Learning Mandarin.

Christina, a native speaker of Mandarin, can offer a language development program as part of family day care (full time, casual, or part-time). Children over 2 years old preferred.

Registered for FDC and endorsed by Communities@Work, families are entitled to Government rebates for child care.

For more details phone 62923471 or 0431 588 488 (mobile), email christinatij@yahoo.com.cn or contact Communities@Work on 6231 2835



Conversation for adults

The monthly Chinese-English conversation organized by the Australia-China Friendship Society ACT Branch will take place on:

Sunday 13 Sep 2009 7.30-9.30pm

One hour is spent speaking English for Chinese speakers who wish to improve their English, and the other hour speaking Chinese. For more details please contact Shirley on 6254 4305 (after hours).



Chinese Radio International

C-Radio FM88 is a new 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 is a teaching program each morning, 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 <http://www.c-radio.com.au/Home.html> for program details or tune in to FM88 and have a listen.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Articles or announcements for the next issue of ALMA News should reach the secretary at mandy.scott@anu.edu.au by 15 October 2009.

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>