



# ALMA News

## January 2011

Best wishes to all ALMA members and friends for a happy, healthy and successful 2011.

Good wishes also for the Chinese New Year, the year of rabbit, which begins on 3 February 2011. You can find more information about Chinese New Year and the characteristics of people born in the year of the rabbit at the end of this newsletter.

Also featured in this newsletter are details of upcoming events in Canberra related to Chinese language and culture, and reports of ALMA's recent activities.

Until next time,

再见 (*zai jian*)

Mandy Scott  
Newsletter Editor



### UPCOMING EVENTS 活动预告

#### Chinese New Year in the City

- 11am-5pm, Sunday 13 February
- Petrie Plaza, Canberra City

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of traditional Chinese celebrations

This is part of Canberra's annual National Multicultural Festival. For other festival events visit: [www.multiculturalfestival.com.au](http://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au)



#### Chinese – English conversation

The ACT branch of the Australia-China Friendship Society (ACFS) holds Chinese – English conversation meetings once a month at a member's home in Macgregor.

One hour is spent speaking English to help Chinese speakers who wish to improve their English, and the other hour speaking Chinese.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 6 February 2011 from 7.30 to 9.30 pm.

If you would like to attend, please phone Shirley on 6254 4305 (after hours).



### Lantern Festival Events

Organised by the ACT Australia-China Friendship Society

#### Lantern-Making Workshop

- 1.30 – 3.30pm Sunday 13 February
- Griffin Centre, Genge St, Civic

Adults and children are invited to come and make a lantern to take to the Lantern Festival (young children need to be accompanied by parents).

Bring a cutting board, scissors, ruler and pencil.

Bookings essential: phone Jean on 6254 7732

#### Lantern Festival

- 6pm-9pm Saturday 19 February
- Commonwealth Park near Gallipoli Reach (west of Rond Terraces, below ANZAC Parade)

Bring your own rug and picnic and enjoy this FREE colourful spectacular event in the park. Bring your own lanterns or buy one there.

Prizes for best children's lanterns.

For further information and bookings:

- phone Carol on 6247 8231, or
- call Teck on 6254 6814 (leave message if you get the answering machine), or
- Email [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com)

## REPORTS OF ALMA ACTIVITIES



### Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre (CAECC)

澳华幼儿中心新闻

Children from the centre put on an impressive performance at Mawson Primary School's China Day celebrations on 24 November 2010.

Invited guests in the audience included the Principal of Melrose High School, officials from the ACT Department of Education and the Taipei Cultural and Economic Office (TECO) in Canberra, and representatives of Canberra's Chinese community.

The children also delighted an excited audience of proud parents and grandparents at the Centre's end of year concert on Friday 3 December 2010. It was a truly memorable ending to a successful year at the centre.

Congratulations to Judy Kuzma, the Director, and her staff for all their wonderful work. We look forward to another great year in 2011.



### Canberra Panda Centre

A hardworking planning group continues to seek funds and other support for ALMA's proposed new bilingual early childhood centre at the University of Canberra.

Progress has been slower than anticipated, but we hope to have positive news to report in the near future.

For more information about the new centre, see [http://alma.anu.edu.au/childcare\\_northside.htm](http://alma.anu.edu.au/childcare_northside.htm)



### The Sound and Form of China

On 28 November 2010, we were privileged to hear Wilson Wee perform some beautiful music on a range of Chinese flutes and to find out some fascinating facts about the Chinese flute's history and traditions.

All who attended also enjoyed some fragrant Chinese tea and learned a lot about collecting and restoring old furniture from China.

A big thank you to the Silk Road Gallery in Kingston for hosting this event.



### Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

义务辅导计划

This project will get into full swing in early February as the 2011 academic year begins.

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>



### CHINESE NEW YEAR

Also called the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival 春节 (chun jie), this is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese calendar.

The first day of the New Year falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice. Festivities traditionally continue for 15 days, ending with the lantern festival 元宵 (yuan xiao).

There are various versions of how the Chinese zodiac developed, but all are based on a race called by an Emperor. The cunning Rat hitched a ride on the back of the Ox to win, followed (in order) by Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Ram, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

It is said that people born in the year of the rabbit are warm hearted and compassionate. Generally cautious, they only take decisions after weighing up all the facts.

Rabbit people get on well with everyone, but at heart are fairly reserved and are happy in solitary pursuits. They may take while to find a life partner, but once they commit themselves they are very faithful. Most compatible signs: Ram, Pig, or Dog.



新年快樂

Happy New Year of the Rabbit to you all!



For more information about ALMA and to see past ALMA newsletters visit our website at <http://alma.anu.edu.au>