



ALMA Update

快讯

May 2014

It has been a while since our last ALMA News but much has been happening over the past few months thanks to our enthusiastic ALMA committee

This update brings news of some of the activities ALMA has been involved in, plus some information about China-related news and events that may be of interest.

Mandy Scott
ALMA secretary



REPORTS OF ALMA ACTIVITIES

Follow up to the one-day forum at the ANU on Mandarin Education in the ACT

ALMA held two small follow-up meetings after the forum in August 2013 and organised an event at the new China in the World building at ANU in April 2014: *Championing Chinese Studies in the ACT*. See report on the ALMA website under the 'Activities and Events' tag.

Weekly Mandarin language radio program

ALMA has teamed up with the 'Mandarin for Fun' group to present this program, which aims to encourage children to use and practice their Mandarin speaking and listening skills. See <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/weekly-radio-show.html> for more information or listen to community radio 2XX (98.3 FM) on a Friday evening from 6.30pm - 7pm or hear it online at www.2xxfm.org.au

Community Tutoring Program

Over 40 participants are registered for this project in 2014. A number of volunteer tutors are still looking to meet learners to help them with their Mandarin studies. Most are in the Civic, Belconnen or Gungahlin area. If you are interested in meeting one of these volunteers, please download a registration from the ALMA website (click on the 'Mandarin Community

Tutoring' tag) or contact Mandy at canberraalma@gmail.com.

Extending the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre

ALMA has had a meeting with the ACT Directorate of Education and Training to explore possibilities for extending the centre to better cater for, and increase the numbers of, babies and toddlers at the centre. Watch this space for more news.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Story book reading and songs in Chinese and other languages

This is one of the FREE fun activities for children at the Languages Potluck being organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance

- Sunday 18 May. 11am to 1pm
- Function Room, Theo Notaras Centre, North Building, Civic Square, Canberra

All interested in raising children in more than one language and/or bilingual education in general are also welcome

Bring along your favourite foods to share

Email canberrabilingual@gmail.com or see <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/> for more details

Art exhibition by Chinese artist Ying Zhang

14 May-1 June 2014 in the Foyer, Belconnen Arts Centre, 118 Emu Bank, Belconnen

- Opening of the exhibition by Louise Haigh, Art Consultant: 2pm Saturday 17 May
- Meet the artist: 2pm Sunday 25 May
- Gallery hours: 10am-4pm Tuesday-Sunday
- RSVP: info@belconnenartscentre.com.au

Ying Zhang's new body of work explores the idea of cornucopia or abundance, pondering society's ever expanding and systematic consumption of resources.

Events organised by the ACT Australia China Friendship Society (ACFS)

Chinese– English conversation evening

Each month on a Sunday evening. One hour is spent speaking English to help Chinese speakers who wish to improve their English, and the other hour speaking Chinese. For details, phone Shirley on 6254 4305 (after hours).

Film screening: *Lost on the Journey*

7.30pm Monday 12 May at the Southern Cross club, Jamison

A comedy about a chaotic journey across China for the Spring Festival, the film follows a businessman and a migrant worker as their paths cross and many complications arise.

For more details and to book, email acfsevent@gmail.com by 8 May.

Teaching English in China – talk on 11 June

ACFS Member Jan Curren will speak about her recently published book *China Chalkie*, about her experiences in China. Venue to be advised. For more details email acfsevent@gmail.com or see <http://www.acfs.org.au/>

Events organised by the Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW)

There are a series of interesting events on offer at the new China in the World Building at ANU (Building 188, Fellows Lane, ANU).

For example, on Monday 5 May, there is a free concert *Voice and Guzheng performance* by Wu Fei at lunchtime and a lecture by Beijing-based architect Gerald Szeto, *A Celebration of Space & Sound: The Architecture of Education in Canberra and Beijing*, in the evening.

For more information see <http://ciw.anu.edu.au/events/> or contact ciw@anu.edu.au, 02 6125 7086



OTHER NEWS

Mandarin at Mawson Primary School

The school now offers Mandarin Immersion classes from Kindergarten to Year 6, with more than 60% of the student population participating in the bilingual program.

Three of the Mandarin teachers at Mawson were involved in the trialling of the draft Australian Curriculum Languages Chinese in 2013 (A copy of the draft document can be accessed through the ALMA website)

One teacher flew to Sydney to be part of the national group of teachers which provided feedback on the draft. The school is using the document to align its MIP curriculum with the skills, knowledge and understandings outlined in the curriculum but at a higher grade level for each of their groups. The school will wait for the release of the new document to see how the content has been finalised.

Vacancies in Tuesday after-school Mandarin class, Tuesdays in Belconnen

Two places are available in this after-school class organised by the Mandarin for Fun group. This class aims to help school age kids with little or no Chinese background to learn Chinese in a relaxed and fun environment.

See <http://mandarinforfun.weebly.com/> for more details or contact Lucia Lu on 0410 981 788 or mandarinforfun@gmail.com

Term Two starts 6 May.



NEW ALMA MEMBERS

欢迎新会员

We welcome the following, who have become new members in recent months:

Family memberships

Malini Radha Krishnan, Elsie Farrelly, Stella Naiju, Manju Abraham, Joshy Justin Pereira, Bitcy Martin, Sarah Cramond, Tracy McRoberts, Xuting Yu, Brian Kaio, Nerida King, Bo Wang, Maher Aladdin, Neetha Jose, Aurore Lynn Chow, Anna Skorobogatowa, Po Heng Tu, Sarah Marshall, Marion Carey, Samantha Chin, Antonio Balaguer.

Individual memberships

Emily Jane Green, Yanxia Xu, Cheng (Bess) Cheng, Wanrong Dong, Caroline Whittaker Blas Pinero Martinez, Leslie Bryant



CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALMA NEWS AND UPDATES WELCOME

Please email any contributions to: canberraalma@gmail.com

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

For more information about ALMA, its goals and activities, and for copies of past ALMA newsletters, visit the ALMA website: <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/>