



ALMA Update

快讯 October 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When? 2-3.30pm Saturday 30 October

Where? Chinese-Australian Early Childhood Centre, 50 Ainsworth St, Mawson

- Come along to find out more about what ALMA does
- Meet other ALMA members and the ALMA committee
- Take the opportunity to visit ALMA's bilingual childcare centre if you have not yet done so
- Hear about progress on planning for ALMA Panda, the bilingual Mandarin/ English early childhood centre ALMA hopes to establish at the University of Canberra

For more information, contact:

Mandy on 0408 089 235 or email canberraalma@gmail.com

NOTE: Members of ALMA will be contacted with more details shortly

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### ALMA in the news

Did you see the excellent article about ALMA and its vision for Mandarin/English bilingual education in the ACT in the free weekly paper, *The Chronicle*, on Tuesday 28 September 2010?

The article 'Bilingual education for northside' is on page 2, and features an excellent photo of the children and one of our bilingual teachers at our centre in Mawson.

A copy of the article can be seen at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/news.html> and will shortly also be available under 'childcare northside' on the ALMA website

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Talks at Asia Bookroom

Unit 2, 1-3 Lawry Place, Macquarie, ACT

1. New Views of Tibetan Culture

The editor, David Templeman, will be in conversation with one of the authors, Ruth Gamble.

They will discuss how the book came into being and the intriguing background and motivations of several of the contributors.

They will also talk about the exciting new approaches to Tibetan studies which have recently emerged in Australia.

When: 6pm Thursday 14 October 2010

2. The Fast Pace of Life in Suzhou

Hear Dr Pamela Jackson, an Australian born consultant and business women, talk about her book *Social Development of Entrepreneurs in Contemporary Suzhou*.

The book is based on interviews and conversations over many years with Suzhou residents who have taken the decision to become home-grown entrepreneurs.

When: 6pm Wednesday 27 October

Bookings for these talks essential:

Phone 6251 5191 or email books@AsiaBookroom.com by

- Wed 13 October for the Tibetan talk and/or
- Tues 26 October for the Suzhou talk

Cost? Gold coin donation

All money raised will go towards the excellent work of NTA East Indonesia Aid

For more details visit:

www.asiabookroom.com/AsiaBookRoom/events.cfm

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## An Afternoon of Traditional Flutes, Furniture and Chinese Tea

This ALMA event at the Silk Road Gallery in Kingston has been postponed until November.

More details will be available later in October

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Cultural Performance – ‘Embrace China’

The visiting Kongzheng Performing Art Troupe will present a performance which includes revolutionary content, acting, classical and modern dance, and unique music, lighting and set design.

This aim is to further the development and dissemination of Chinese culture, strengthen contact with overseas Chinese communities, and promote cultural exchange at home and abroad.

When: 7:30pm, Wednesday 13 October 2010

Where: Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

Cost: \$35

For more details and to book, contact:

Bamboo Zhang, 0402 597 533 or (02) 6248 9890, or email bamboo@c-radio.com.au

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## Chinese Language Learning and teaching

### Struggling to master written Chinese?

Don't despair - you are not alone.

According to a recent article by Judith Evans, *Wired youth forget how to write in China and Japan*, young people are forgetting how to write characters due to the widespread use of computers and mobile phones, which generally allow writers to use alphabet-based input systems.

The Chinese term for this is *tibi wangzi* ‘take pen, forget character’.

A poll by the China Youth Daily in April 2010 found that 83% of the 2,072 people surveyed reported problems with writing Chinese characters.

For a full copy of the article, see:

[www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jz3FEk2KJw3NEUyDhbMITQ00IOW](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jz3FEk2KJw3NEUyDhbMITQ00IOW)

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New ‘Mandarin for Fun’ learning group in Belconnen

TUESDAYS 9:30am to 11:30am

Open to families from any background, the group aims to teach both children (from 18 months – 5 years) and their carers so that both can go back home and practice.

Booking is essential as numbers are limited.

For more information contact:

mandarinforfun@gmail.com or phone Lucia on 0410 981 788.

Note: This project was made possible by the support of the ACT Government's Multicultural Language Grants Program

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### Interested in teaching in Shanghai for a year?

For more information, contact Jerry Zhang, Rich Talent (Shanghai) Co., Ltd at [jerry@richtalent.com.cn](mailto:jerry@richtalent.com.cn)

For information about the company see [www.richtalent.com.cn](http://www.richtalent.com.cn)

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Inventor of hanyu pinyin alive and well and living in Beijing!

According to an article in the *Spectator* on 7 August 2010, the person who devised the system now used in China and around the world to write Chinese using the roman alphabet, *hanyu pinyin*, is 105 year-old Zhou Youguang.

Mr Zhou was interviewed by Stephen Fry for a TV documentary on world languages. Apparently this was the first such interview the 105 year-old has given, and he speaks excellent English!

Thanks to Len Waugh for drawing this interesting article to our attention.