



ALMA NEWS FEBRUARY 2018

Association for
Learning
MANDARIN
汉语
in Australia Inc

澳大利亞學漢語協會

Chinese New Year's Day in 2018 is on February 16, 2018. Chinese New Year (春節 or 春节 [Chūnjié]; 農曆新年 or 农历新年 [Nónglì Xīnnián], 過年 or 过年 [Guònián] is also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival. It is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays.

Next year is the year of the dog. You can celebrate the New Year at the National Multicultural Festival, taking place in Civic from 16-18 February 2018. The Federation of Chinese Associations of ACT and the Austfeng Group are organising several events at the Chinese Village. About 20 art troupes from China and performers from local Chinese organisations will entertain you with dancing, singing, martial arts, lion dancing, dragon dancing, acrobatics and magic.

- When: Friday 16 February 5pm-10pm, Saturday 17 February 10am-10.30pm and Sunday 18 February 10am-5.15pm.
- Where: Stage 3, City Walk, Canberra City.
- Cost: Free.

For the full program see

https://www.multiculturfestival.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1162069/CSD-SL-Chinese-New-Year.pdf

For more information about the Multicultural Festival and other cultural programs see www.multiculturfestival.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

LANTERN WORKSHOP AND LANTERN FESTIVAL

ACFS LANTERN FESTIVAL - FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

In Chinese culture the Lantern Festival is held two weeks after Chinese New Year and marks the formal end of those celebrations. The Australia-China Friendship Society will again be organising a Lantern-making workshop and Lantern Festival in

2018. The workshop will be on Sunday, 25 February at the Cook Community Hall.

This year the ACT Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society will hold the Lantern Festival on Saturday 3 March 2018. The main activity will be the Lantern Parade along the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. Bring your own lantern (there is judging of the best hand-made lantern), or buy one at the Festival. There will also be performances of folk dancing, a Lion Dance, and martial arts. Bring a picnic and enjoy an evening by the Lake. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.

- When: Saturday 3 March 2018, 6pm – 8.15pm
- Where: Beijing Garden - part of Lennox Gardens, Flynn Place, Yarralumla (behind the Canberra Hyatt Hotel)(In case of rain the Festival will move to Lancaster Hall, 20 – 22 National Circuit, Forrest)
- Cost: Free event. No booking or registration required.

More info: email: acfsevent@gmail.com or phone Carol on 6247 8231

For more details, check the Activities and Events page of the ALMA:

<https://learningmandarin.weebly.com/>

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY TOURS IN MANDARIN

The National Portrait Gallery is conducting free tours of the highlights of the gallery in Mandarin. The tour introduces the history of the Portrait Gallery and the stories of selected portraits.

- When: 3-3.45pm, Sunday 18 February, and 3-3.45pm Sunday 18 March
- Venue: National Portrait Gallery, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, Canberra

For more information, see the National Portrait Gallery website.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been another busy period for the ALMA Committee. On behalf of ALMA, Vice-President Dr. Mandy Scott submitted a proposal to the ACT Commissioner for International Engagement for \$40,000 to fund a project officer for 6 months to explore the scope, feasibility, benefits and costs of promoting Canberra as a China-friendly city. We look forward to learning the outcome of that proposal.

The Committee has agreed to undertake a number of IT-related upgrades that will include new and refreshed ALMA and CAECC websites.

In regards to the CAECC, the Committee decided to use some of ALMA's retained earnings to conduct a considered and carefully planned refurbishment and 'refresh' of the CAECC and its educational resources. This will be the first time in many years that a planned, rather than ad-hoc, staff-led resource renewal process has been undertaken.

Whilst this will be welcome news to ALMA members with children attending the CAECC, I am sad to report that after many years of discussion, the ACT Government has formally declined to allow ALMA to expand (at its own cost) the CAECC. The reason given was enrolment growth at Mawson Primary School. This is a disappointing outcome as many previous Committees had worked diligently and planned for the eventual expansion of the CAECC.

The Committee will carefully consider next steps and options, including setting up a second CAECC in the medium to long-term. In the short-term however, the Committee remains focused on upgrading the facilities and resources at the CAECC.

The last CAECC-related matter for this newsletter is to welcome Alyce Hawkins as the new full-time

Assistant Director and Jingjing Liu as the new Pre-School Room and Educational Leader.

Alyce is an experienced Assistant Director who has also worked as a Director. She will focus on the financial and administrative management of the CAECC, and will also work closely with the ALMA Secretary to manage non-CAECC related matters.

Jingjing Liu holds Master of Education (Birth to Five years) degree and will work closely with the CAECC Director, Ms Bao Qin, in developing best-practice bilingual education programs across the CAECC.

Regards

Jaan Murphy

ALMA ACTIVITIES

FREE MANDARIN LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR CAECC PARENTS

ALMA continues to work with Mawson Primary School (MPS) to deliver before-school Mandarin classes. These classes are for parents with little or no Chinese language skills. Taught by MPS teachers and CAECC educators, the classes help to provide parents with skills and knowledge to support and encourage their children with their Chinese studies. Parents will be contacted about the project in February 2018. This project is funded by an ACT Government grant.

ANU AMBASSADOR/MENTORING

PROJECT TO PROMOTE AND ENRICH CHINESE STUDIES IN ACT SCHOOLS

Since 2015, ALMA has cooperated with the Australian Centre on China in the World at the ANU (CIW) to organise and administer this project. In 2017, eight ANU mentors visited six ACT schools,

some on a regular ongoing basis. The mentors helped stimulate interest in the classes they visited by sharing their experiences of learning Mandarin, living or travelling in China, and/or areas of research and expertise. Mentors with younger classes helped with activities such as songs, dances, traditional games, art and craft.

Although ACT government funding for this project ceased on 30/6/17, ALMA is continuing to work with CIW to promote and administer a similar mentoring project funded through a grant obtained by the ANU Postgraduate and Research Students' Association (PARSA).

For more information contact Mandy at anuchinamentor@gmail.com

BILINGUAL RADIO PROGRAM

ALMA helps to plan and present a Mandarin language program on community radio 2XX every Friday from 7pm -7.30pm. The aim is to promote the use and learning of Mandarin in the ACT and to inform the community, especially the Chinese speaking community, about local events and other information of interest. The program always includes a short story read in Mandarin as well as Chinese children's songs. You can listen in to the program on FM 98.3. Podcasts are also sometimes available online from the 2XX website:

<http://www.2xxfm.org.au/>

For more information contact Mandy on Canberraalma@gmail.com

MANDARIN COMMUNITY TUTORING PROJECT

ALMA continues to coordinate this project, which brings together fluent speakers of Mandarin and other members of the ACT community who wish to improve their knowledge of Mandarin and/or understanding of Chinese culture. The Mandarin speakers volunteer an hour or so a week to help others learn Chinese. In return they can practice their English skills, make local friends, and learn

more about language teaching and learning. In 2017, there were 50 participants: 24 learners and 26 tutors.

For more information, visit the Tutoring page on the ALMA website at <https://learningmandarin.weebly.com/>

PROMOTING ALMA'S BROADER VISION FOR CHINESE EDUCATION IN THE ACT

ALMA is exploring ways to make Canberra a more China-literate and China-friendly city in order to increase the ACT's engagement with China and other Chinese speaking countries. Attracting and better catering for tourists, overseas students and ACT and China-based business not only assists the ACT economy. It also highlights the value of knowing Mandarin and understanding Chinese culture, which should increase demand for proficient speakers of the language. ALMA hopes this will encourage ACT students to start and/or continue to learn the language - one of ALMA's major goals.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

澳华幼儿教育中心

新闻

From the Director

Ms. Bao Qin



The CAECC has been operating since 1984. The Centre provides quality long day-care for up to 47 children under 6 years old in a bilingual (Mandarin / English) and multicultural environment.

The two rooms at the Centre are the Infant/Toddler Room and the Preschool Room. The Infant/Toddler

Room age group is from 3 months to 3 years old. Twenty children and six permanent educators attend this room.

The Preschool Room age group is from 3 to 6 years old. Twenty seven children and four permanent educators attend this room.

Each week both rooms provide their weekly room plan for extending children's learning using both languages based on their interests and record their learning progress.

Upcoming events are:

- Family welcome BBQ social event will be held on Friday 16 Feb 2018 from 4.00pm to 5.30pm at the Centre
- CAECC performance at the Multicultural Festival

Preschoolers from the Centre will be performing at the Children's Sanctuary at the Festival on Saturday 17 February. This activity is supported by an ACT Government 2017-18 Participation (Multicultural) Grant. Come along to hear them sing two songs and find out how the traditional Chinese flute sounds.

- When: 11am-11.20am, Saturday 17 February
- Where: Theatrette, Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG), Civic Square

The Children's Sanctuary runs throughout the weekend of the Multicultural Festival in Civic: Saturday 17 February, 10 - 4pm at Civic Library and CMAG, and Sunday 18 February, 11 - 4pm at CMAG. Come and enjoy a place where children and their families can play, create and take part in a range of free fun cultural and language-related activities.

For more details:

https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1160966/2018-National-Multicultural-Festival-Childrens-Sanctuary-program.pdf

MAWSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

By the Deputy Principal

Ms. Laurel Rodrigues



Congratulations to Amanda Andrews, Principal of Mawson Primary School 2007-2017 who will be retiring at the start of the 2018 school year. Amanda has been a key supporter of the unique Mandarin Immersion Program at Mawson Primary School over the last 10 years.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Courtois as the new principal of Mawson Primary School. Through leadership roles in a number of international education settings, Ms Courtois has developed a strong understanding of best practice in bilingual education that will ensure that Mawson Primary School can continue to grow the successful Mandarin immersion program. Her commitment to building the capacity of staff and the community will ensure that this model can benefit other schools in the ACT Education Directorate. In her role as deputy principal Wanniasa School, Ms Courtois has developed a visible learning approach that ensures that all teachers are skilled in using feedback and formative assessment to differentiate learning and ensure growth for every student. Ms Courtois appreciates the value of all staff and the importance of building strong relationships. She is committed in building a successful learning community where all students are valued and all members of the community have an active voice.

We hope to continue to work with staff from the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre this year to offer before school classes for parents in our community who would like to learn Mandarin.

IN MEMORIAM

ALMA learned with deep sadness of the passing of Mr Peter Pan on Sunday 14 January 2018. Peter was a great ALMA supporter and a former member of the ALMA committee. In the early mid 2000s, he assisted with the establishment of our Mandarin Community Tutoring Project and helped with beginner Mandarin language classes for CAECC parents. Right up until his death, Peter was a key member of the ACT Community Language Schools Association, which he helped to establish. He was the long time Principal of the Canberra Community Chinese School, formerly known as the EAAS Chinese School, attended over the years by many children from the CAECC and Mawson Primary School. Peter worked tirelessly to promote Chinese language and culture to the broader community, and will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends for their loss.

ALMA MEMBERSHIPS

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW

MEMBERS:

Arun Arun and family, Satya Baral and family, Natalie Torres and family, Makuri Nishani and family, Chandrasiri Lindamullage and family, Kelly O'Hara and family, Li Chen and family, Chiew Lee and family and Sitong Lu and family. And welcome back to Alison Keyes and family.

RENEWALS

As the ALMA membership year ends on 31 December, many members will soon be contacted about renewing their memberships.

CONTRIBUTION TO ALMA NEWS AND UPDATE WELCOME



Please email canberraalma@gmail.com.

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 www.learningmandarin.weebly.com

INFORMATION

The ALMA website provides information about formal and informal Mandarin learning opportunities for both adults and children. ALMA's quarterly newsletter also lets members know about ALMA activities, other Chinese-related events, particularly in the ACT, and opportunities to learn more about Chinese culture and to hear and use Mandarin.

THANK YOU

ALMA WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL THE EDUCATORS OF CHINESE PAST AND PRESIDENT FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OVER THE YEARS.

WITHOUT YOUR PASSION AND COMMITMENT, GENERATIONS OF CANBERRA STUDENTS MAY NOT HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO LEARN AND EXPLORE SUCH A WONDERFUL RICH CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND TRADITION.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

衷心感谢大家！祝大家春节快乐！