



# ALMA News

## August 2012

It's hard to believe it's been four years now since Beijing hosted the Olympic Games. Various data analysts have sought to predict which country will win the most medals at the London Olympics – China was ranked second by most analysts, after the United States.



### UPCOMING EVENTS 活动预告

#### ALMA AGM

The next ALMA Annual General Meeting will be held in October. More details will be provided closer to the time. All members are welcome to attend.

#### TOURS TO CHINA

The Australia China Friendship Society is advertising a trip to China, retracing part of the old Silk Road route, from Urumqi to Beijing, from 31 August to 14 September. For more information contact: [info@travman.com.au](mailto:info@travman.com.au).



### REPORT ON ALMA ACTIVITIES

#### Visit by the Hon Kevin Rudd MP to CAECC and Mawson Primary

At ALMA's invitation, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, visited the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre and Mawson Primary School on 22 May.

ALMA President Ian Maclean, committee members and CAECC staff met with Mr Rudd during the visit, and outlined to him the Centre's efforts in encouraging bilingualism in young children. We also raised with him our hopes for a second CAECC on the north side of Canberra. (See next section for more information on Mr Rudd's CAECC visit.)

Ms Amanda Andrews, Principal of Mawson Primary School, introduced Mr Rudd to the school's Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP), and a number of MIP students spoke to Mr Rudd in Chinese, introducing themselves, and asking him some questions about his own studies of Chinese.



#### CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

##### 澳华幼儿中心新闻

Mr Rudd's visit to the CAECC in May was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the language skills of the children at the Centre, and to highlight the value in language learning from a very young age.

Children from the preschool room performed a few songs and dances for Mr Rudd, and presented him with a framed Chinese paper cutting with all their names written alongside it.

Mr Rudd led the children in singing a traditional Chinese children's song '两只老虎' (*liangzhi laohu* – 'two tigers').

Students and staff alike enjoyed the opportunity to engage with Mr Rudd, in both Mandarin and English.

Some photos of the visit are available on the ALMA website at:  
<http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/activities--events.html>



### CAECC PLANNING DAY

The ALMA Committee and CAECC director and staff will hold a planning day for the Centre later this year (date TBC). Agenda topics will range from operational issues to Mandarin learning.

We would welcome any questions or suggestions, which can be forwarded directly to planning committee members Len ([lenwaugh@gmail.com](mailto:lenwaugh@gmail.com)), Janaline ([janaline@nfrac.org](mailto:janaline@nfrac.org)), or Alison ([Alison\\_keys06@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Alison_keys06@yahoo.com.au)), or placed in a box to be set up at the Centre.

We also encourage any interested parents to participate in the planning day.

More information will be provided closer to the time.



### NEW ALMA MEMBERS

#### 欢迎新会员

We welcome the following new ALMA members:

Wendy Li and family

Marilyn Hutchinson and family

Lucy (Xiaohong) Zhang and family

Jenny Sutherland and family

Kate-Louise Jacey and family



## MANDARIN COMMUNITY TUTORING PROJECT

### 义务辅导计划

Would you like to meet a volunteer tutor to help you improve and practice your Mandarin skills?

Or are you a Mandarin speaker who would like to share your knowledge of Chinese language and culture and make new friends in the community?

For more information about this tutoring project, or to register as either a volunteer tutor or as a Mandarin learner wishing to improve your language skills and knowledge of Chinese culture, visit the ALMA website:

<http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/> or contact the project coordinator, Mandy Scott, on [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com).



## OTHER LANGUAGE LEARNING OPPORTUNITES

### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

#### 1. 'Mandarin for Fun' Playgroups

These playgroups aim to teach both children (from 18 months to 5 years old) and their carers so that they can go home and practice together.

The playgroups use different fun ways to teach so that everyone is learning without knowing. The objective is to help children build up a solid Mandarin language foundation and keep their interest up for further second language development.

One playgroup meets every Tuesday afternoon at Holt and the other meets fortnightly at Cook on Saturday morning. A small fee applies and booking is essential as numbers are limited.

## 2. 'Mandarin for Fun' Immersion Program

Starting in Term 3, this will be held every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm. This program is designed for a very small group of 4 or 5 children who attend each week for a long term engagement in this program.

Starting with both English and Chinese, the program will eventually use Chinese only. Interactive software, fun pictures, actual objects, and games will be used to help the children learn Chinese in an effective and interesting way.

Once children have a certain level of Chinese understanding, the program aims to follow a curriculum comparable to that used by mainland Chinese students.

To book and/or more information, contact [mandarinforfun@gmail.com](mailto:mandarinforfun@gmail.com) or phone Lucia on 0410 981 788.

## BILINGUAL STORY TIME

As part of the National Year of Reading, the ACT Gunghalin Library will be conducting a free Mandarin-English bilingual story time, aimed at children aged 2-5.

Details are yet to be confirmed, but more information may be available from [www.library.act.gov.au](http://www.library.act.gov.au).

## SCHOOLS TEACHING MANDARIN IN THE ACT

A full list of Canberra schools that teach Mandarin is available on the ALMA website:

<http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/programs-for-children-in-act-area.html>

## MANDARIN EVENING CLASSES FOR ADULTS

1. ANU is running evening beginner Mandarin classes on Mondays (full) and Wednesdays (taking enrolments), and an intermediate class is available on Thursdays.

For more information about the ANU course, see, <http://www.anu.edu.au/cce/cecourses/languages.php>.

2. Learn Mandarin in a relaxed and fun atmosphere with highly qualified language teachers.

Levels: Beginner 5:30-6:20pm Wednesday; Focuses on accruing basic vocabulary and grammar (Taught by Chad Birks).

Intermediate 6:20-7:10pm Wednesday; Focuses on speaking and listening (Taught by Chad Birks and Liu Shih Yi).

Advanced 7:10-8:00pm Wednesday; Focuses on communicating independently and basic writing skills (Taught by Chad Birks and Liu Shih Yi).

- When: Wednesday nights beginning 25th July
- Where: Belconnen Art Centre, 118 Emu Bank, Belconnen

Cost: \$120 per term (once a week for 10 weeks) Course content can be found at [www.loteonline.com](http://www.loteonline.com)

For more details, contact Chad Birks at [chad.birks@gmail.com](mailto:chad.birks@gmail.com) or call 0405 050 420 after 3:30pm



## OTHER NEWS AND VIEWS

An article on the Asia Society's website highlighted the benefits of learning Mandarin to a range of cognitive abilities from motor skills to mathematics, in particular because of the tones and script:

<http://asiasociety.org/education/chinese-language-initiatives/learning-chinese-pays-dividends-characters-and-cognition>

The web page has additional links to Chinese language learning in the early grades, and to what works in Chinese language immersion programs.

## BOYS GRAMMAR SWEEPS THE FIELD

Congratulations to Calvin Dicker, Nicholas Kochinos, Stuart Kiemann and Alex Vuong, the top placed contestants in the 5th “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Secondary School Students in the ACT. All four are students at Canberra Grammar School.

Each contestant had to give a three minute speech in Mandarin and then a performance relevant to Chinese culture – for example a musical piece or a martial arts, calligraphy, or painting demonstration.

Winning the ACT competition entitled the four winners to go with their teacher, Ms Shabai Li, to compete in the national competition in Adelaide in late July.

The ACT part of the competition was organized by the Canberra Chinese Language Teachers Society and held on Saturday 16 June 2012.



## AUSTRALIA-CHINA YOUTH DIALOGUE

The Australia China Youth Dialogue is seeking delegates for its 2012 conference in Chengdu (delegates must be aged between 18-35 and from Australia or China).

The ACYD is a youth-driven bilateral week-long conference held annually, alternating between Australia and China. The ACYD aims to promote sophisticated cross-cultural understanding between emerging leaders from Australia and China between 18 and 35 years of age.

Fifteen Australian and fifteen Chinese delegates are brought together with established experts and leaders from government, business, university and NGOs. The dialogue challenges delegates by exposing them to ideas and issues from a wide range of fields and disciplines.

The ACYD is supported by the Australia-China Council (DFAT), the Australian National University, Rio Tinto, Qantas, the Australia-China Business Council, the M Restaurant Group, and a number of Associate Partners.

This year, the Australia-China Youth Association, in partnership with the China University Media Union and the All-China Youth Federation’s “Dialogue with the World” series, will present the 2012 ACYD from Beijing and Chengdu, China from 19 to 24 October.

For more information on the ACYD and 2012 ACYD, please see [www.acyd.org.au](http://www.acyd.org.au).



## Contributions to ALMA news and updates welcome

Please email [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com) by 30 September 2012.

*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](http://www.learningmandarin.weebly.com)