

Association for
Learning
MANDARIN

汉语

in Australia Inc

ALMA NEWS DECEMBER 2022

HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE (DONGZHI) FESTIVAL

The Winter Solstice Festival, or Dongzhi (冬至), is a festival celebrated in East Asia (including in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Vietnam) and observed by people of East Asian heritage across the world. This year, the Dongzhi Festival falls on Thursday 22 December. Traditionally, it is a time for families to get together. In southern China, people typically eat tangyuan, a dessert made of glutinous rice shaped into a ball that is served in a hot broth or syrup. Many believe eating tangyuan symbolises growing one year older. In northern parts of China, families will eat dumplings.

In Australia, although we are now in summer, many families of Chinese or East Asian heritage still celebrate the Winter Solstice Festival.

YEAR OF THE RABBIT

Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year) is only a few weeks away. It is the most important festival of the year for every Chinese. It also marks the transition between zodiac signs. We will be sending off the Tiger and welcome the Rabbit as the new year animal on Sunday 22 January 2023.



Tangyuan 汤圆

NEW ALMA MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Arun Arun and family
- Timothy Yap and family

Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia Inc (ALMA) 50 Ainsworth St, Mawson, ACT 2607
A non-profit community organization "Helping Australian to learn Mandarin" ABN: 99 625 121 550
Website: <https://www.learningmandarin Canberra.org/>

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

And December is here! I am not quite sure how that happened but as we all know this is a busy time of year.

In October, we held the ALMA Annual General Meeting (AGM). For the first time since 2020, we met face-to-face. Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you and welcome to all our new and continuing committee members.

The new ALMA Committee for 2022-2023 is:

- Mrs. Charlotte Foster – President
- Mrs. Cassandra Estrin – Vice President
- Ms. Tina Nien-Ting Jong – Secretary
- Ms. Chiew Yi Lian – General member
- Dr. Amanda Scott – General member
- Ms. Adelina Tan – General member
- Ms. Margareta Sugianto – General member

I am looking forward to working with our new committee over the next 12 months. If you are interested in joining the ALMA Committee, we welcome any new members.

As we head into the holiday season, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy end to 2022.

Charlotte Foster

ALMA President

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Chinese Australian Early Australian Centre (CAECC) is now collecting donations of foods (non-perishable) and gifts to help Communities at Work complete their Christmas Hampers. We will be collecting donations from 29 November to 15 December and will drop off the donations at Tuggeranong Community Centre on 16 December.

Please find a list of suggested items at the Communities at Work website <https://www.commsatwork.org/get-involved/christmas/> or download the poster [here](#). Your donation will help make a meaningful difference to people in need, knowing they will have food on their tables at Christmas.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

The end of year is approaching rapidly, this means our children and educators were busy rehearsing for our End of the Year concert. They performed so well at the concert, they were so proud and I'm sure their parents were too.

It will be sad to see some of our children going off to primary school next year, some of these children have been with us since they were babies, those children graduating from our Centre are:

Veeraj Chaudhary, Ava Foster, Mattias Hatala, Max Henschke, Mathew Hu, Brooklyn Igama, Ellie Liu, Eleanor Mayer, Dylan McDonald, Isabela Millis-Field, Henderson Pang, Allen Row, Eureka Wong and Fletcher Zhu.

We have been so grateful to have the children and their families at the CAECC we will miss them.

This year we added a music to our program with Zen Music coming to our Centre on Mondays. We also have had several incursions from our first nations people and other members of our community.

This year our special guest attending the concert was Johnathan Davis MLA, member for Brindabella and ACT Greens Spokesperson for Education. We would like to thank him for being able to spend some of his valuable time to come and see our children perform.

I would like to thank Jingjing Liu our Assistant director for supporting me in 2022, all of our educators who work continuously so hard to ensure a high quality education and care for our enrolled children.

We have been fortunate enough this year to have a good utilisation rate, thanks to our Centre families who we are so grateful for as they continue to support our Centre.

Annette Chemin

Director, CAECC



ALMA ACTIVITIES

Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

This project coordinated by ALMA introduces adult learners of Mandarin in the ACT area to fluent speakers of the language who have volunteered to share their knowledge of Chinese language and culture. In return, the Mandarin speakers make more local contacts and friends, practice their English skills, and learn more about teaching Mandarin. Tutors and learners make their own arrangements to meet, usually for one or two hours a week on a one-to-one basis.

For more information about the project and how to get involved, as either a tutor or a learner, visit the [Mandarin Community Tutoring page](#) on the ALMA website.

Mandarin radio program on community radio 2XX

This weekly program is presented bilingually by Mandy from ALMA and Xiaohui from the ACT Chinese Australian Association. A major aim is to promote the use and learning of Mandarin in the ACT area, especially among young families.

Each week we read a short story in Mandarin and talk about the vocabulary and meaning in both Chinese and English. We also play fun children's songs, share Chinese music and discuss local news. In addition, we welcome recordings from listeners, especially children - singing a song or reading a short story or poem in Mandarin for inclusion in the program. Hearing themselves on the radio is a great way to encourage children to speak and practice the Mandarin they are learning at home, preschool or school. Just send the recording (MP3 preferred), with a transcript if possible, to canberraalma@gmail.com.

To hear the program, tune in to Radio 2XX on 98.3 FM every Friday evening from 7pm to 7.30pm or listen online at <https://www.2xxfm.org.au/shows/mandarin/>. You can also hear previous programs through the 'On Demand' link at the same web address.

ALMA gratefully acknowledges the support of community radio 2XX and the Community Broadcasting Foundation for helping us to produce and present this weekly Mandarin language program.

MANDARIN RESOURCES

ABC iview

Do you know on the ABC iview streaming service, there is a selection of mandarin TV programs for your kids? This includes Australia's favourite Bluey as well as Peppa Pig, Luo Bai Bei, Octonauts and Moon and Me.

Access here: <https://iview.abc.net.au/collection/1298>

OTHER NEWS

Lu Yang's Screen Bodies Exhibition

- 29 August–16 December 2022, Weekdays 9am–5pm
- Gallery, China in the World Building (ANU building no.188), Fellows Lane, Acton
- Free entry

A solo exhibition by Lu Yang, one of the most highly acclaimed new media artists in China today. Working in a range of digital forms from motion capture performances to video games, 3D animation, virtual reality, and augmented reality, the artist draws on references as diverse as Japanese manga, science fiction, video games, Buddhist philosophy and iconography, as well as biotechnology and the neurosciences.

For more details see <https://ciw.anu.edu.au/events/lu-yangs-screen-bodies> or contact chin-jie.liu@anu.edu.au or 02 6125 9267.



Still from 'LuYang Delusional Mandala', 2015, courtesy of the artist and COMA, Sydney

Lunar New Year celebration in Dickson in January 2023

The City Renewal Authority is planning an event at Woolley Street, Dickson on 21 January 2023, supported by small-scale preview performances and activities on 13 and 14 January 2023. This is part of the Authority's strategy to raise awareness of Dickson as a destination dining precinct for people to visit throughout the year. The 2023 event will build on the 2022 event, which was successful despite the limited audience capacity due to COVID restrictions.

For more details, keep an eye on the City Renewal Authority website: <https://www.act.gov.au/cityrenewal/whats-on> or contact cityrenewal@act.gov.au.

MANDARIN TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Chinese classes for seniors

Native speakers of Mandarin required to help with a Chinese language class for a group of lively seniors.

- Wednesdays 10am to 12noon
- Canberra Southern Cross Club, Jamison (corner Catchpole & Bowman Street, Macquarie).

This is a voluntary position, there is no payment involved. If you are interested in helping, please email Claire at pingpingdandan8@gmail.com.

Call for volunteers to help with reading at Mawson Primary School

Mawson Primary School is looking for native speakers of Chinese to help with children's reading at the school. The students are in the Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP), where fifty percent of the curriculum is taught in Mandarin and fifty percent in English. Mawson Primary is the only public school in the ACT with such a program.

For more information contact Constance at Constance.Chen@ed.act.edu.au.

Note: All volunteers in government schools must have a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. There is no cost for these cards for volunteers.

Mandarin Friendship Hub 中文之友会

A free online conversation club for learners of Mandarin who have at least intermediate proficiency. It brings together learners from all walks of life who share a passion for connecting with others around the world through Mandarin.

Anyone interested needs to contact the coordinator, Stanley, via Facebook messenger. He will then arrange a time for a 15-minute interview in Mandarin to ensure you have an appropriate level. More details at <https://themandarinhub.wixsite.com/zhongwen/join-us>.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALMA NEWS?

Please email items for the next newsletter to canberraalma@gmail.com by 15 February 2023.