



# ALMA NEWS MARCH 2019

Association for  
Learning  
**MANDARIN**  
**汉语**  
in Australia Inc

## 澳大利亚学汉语协会

### CHINESE ZODIAC

The Chinese Zodiac, known as Sheng Xiao, is based on a twelve-year cycle. Calculated according to the Chinese lunar calendar, each year in that cycle is related to an animal sign. These signs in order are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. There exists a story, in Chinese mythology, of a great race that decided which animals made it into the Zodiac and in what order.

In one version of the story, a long, long time ago, before his departure from earth, Buddha decided to have a grand race, and all the animals in the kingdom were invited. Unfortunately, only 12 animals showed up at the event. Grateful for their efforts, Buddha rewarded them by naming each year of the Chinese Zodiac calendar after these 12 animals. And it was arranged according to the order of their arrival – as listed above, the rat came first, followed by the ox, and the pig was last.

### YEAR OF THE PIG

2019 is the Year of the Pig according to the Chinese Zodiac. This is a Year of Earth Pig, starting from the 2019 Chinese New Year on February 5 and lasting until 2020 Lunar New Year's Eve on January 24 2020.

Despite some of the less-favourable traits we typically associate with swine, in fact, in Chinese culture, pigs represent wealth and treasure, because of their importance within an agrarian society.

From an astrological perspective, people born during the year of the Pig (which includes 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, and 2019) are believed to be philanthropic and generous, but also disciplined and hard-working. Pigs are very social and friendly, enjoy entertaining, and have a love for life.

## ALMA ACTIVITIES

### BILINGUAL RADIO PROGRAM

ALMA continues to assist with the Mandarin language program on community radio 2XX every Friday evening from 7pm -7.30pm. The program aims to promote the use and learning of Mandarin in the ACT area and to inform the community, especially the Chinese speaking community, about local events and other information of interest.

Each program usually includes a children's song and short story in Chinese and is presented bilingually to help develop the language and cultural understanding of both Chinese and English-speaking listeners. You can hear the program live on FM 98.3 or through the 'listen back' system on the 2XX website:

<http://www.2xxfm.org.au/>. Look for the program on the Program Guide page and click on 'Mandarin'.

Parents and teachers are encouraged to send a recording (MP3 format preferred) of children singing a song or reading a short story or poem for broadcast on the show. This has proved to be a good way to encourage interest in practicing Mandarin. It may also be possible to invite children to broadcast live from the 2XX studio in Civic on a Friday evening.

For more information, contact Mandy at [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com)

### MANDARIN COMMUNITY TUTORING PROJECT

This free community project brings together fluent speakers of Mandarin and learners of the language who wish to further develop their knowledge of Mandarin and/or understanding of Chinese culture. Mandarin speakers volunteer an hour or so a week to help learners improve their Chinese language skills. In return, the tutors can practice their English skills, make local friends, and learn more about language teaching and learning.

For more information about the project, or to register as a tutor or learner, please visit the tutoring page on the ALMA website.

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The ALMA Committee is continuing its discussions with various Chinese community language schools about classes for intermediate-level students who are learning Chinese as a second language. The level of support provided by ALMA is yet to be

determined. The long term goal is to ensure that students from a non-Chinese speaking background have the support they need to continue to learn the language in classes that are appropriate to their level of ability.

The Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre (CAECC) continues to be the main focus for the Committee. In January we saw Alyce Hawkins move on to take up the role as the Director of the Early Learning Centre at Googong. This is a great opportunity for her and we wish her all the best. At the same time the Committee recruited a very experienced Assistant Director – Claudia Gelonese. If you see Claudia around please make her feel welcome.

The CAECC management team is actively managing the waiting list and enrolments. The centre saw a sharp decline in enrolments in February as students transitioned from CAECC to Mawson Primary School. The management team along with the Committee are working hard on rebranding the centre to assist with the development of the social media and marketing campaign. Some families may have already noticed an increased presence on various social media apps including Facebook and WeChat. We anticipate the increased focus on marketing the centre will enviably lead to increased enrolments for the centre.

Kind Regards

Kristyn Worner

## WELCOME TO NEW ALMA MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Bo Wang and family  
Chenyi Jiang and family  
David Sheridan and family  
Elka Wakefield and family  
Jane Miller and family  
Katie Treble and family  
Meng Wang and family  
Na Li and family  
Ping Yang and family  
Sandra Amoah and family  
Scheherazade Rogers and family  
Wei Mao (Amy) and family

# CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

澳华幼儿教育中心新闻

From the Director Ms. Bao Qin



*Making dumplings*

## SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE CENTRE

### Lunar New Year celebration

On 24 January 2019, the Preschool room and Infant/toddler room invited families to come to the Centre and celebrate the Chinese New Year with the children.

The Preschool room celebration started with children singing the traditional Chinese songs "Gongxi gongxi" (Congratulations) and "Xin nian hao" (Happy New Year), then the Room Leader Jingjing read a story regarding the Lunar New Year.



*Making lanterns and window grilles*

All children enthusiastically participated in making lanterns and window grilles. The children's creative artworks were displayed on the walls of the room in order to increase the festive atmosphere of the celebration.

The most popular activity was making jiaozi (dumplings); parents and children worked together to create various shapes of dumplings.

We also invited a Canberra Times reporter to our celebrations. She sent a photographer and The Canberra Times published the Centre's Lunar New Year celebrations on 3 Feb 2019.

The children from the Infant/toddler room went to the Preschool room and office to "拜年 (Bàinián)" (wish a happy New Year) and to wish everyone a healthy and happy Year of the Pig.

### Celebrating the Lantern Festival 19 February 2019

Preschool children learnt a new song: 卖汤圆 (Mài tāngyuán) "Selling Sticky Rice Dumplings". Children found the song very interesting and some said they have tried 汤圆 before. The Educator also taught another Mandarin nursery song about the Lantern Festival to the children.

The highlight was actually making the sticky rice dumplings 汤圆 (tāngyuán)! The children showed their great interest in rolling the sticky rice dough into many small balls and shared their happiness with their peers and educators. "Yummy 汤圆(tāngyuán)!" commented several of the children as they ate their creative rice balls.

The Infant/Toddler room children made strawberry 汤圆 (tāngyuán) to celebrate the Lantern festival.

## MANDARIN PROGRAMMING

### Game play in Mandarin teaching

老狼老狼，几点了？(Lǎoláng lǎoláng, jǐ diǎnle?)

What is the time, Mr Wolf?

This game is one of the most popular games for the children in the world. Our Preschool children showed their understanding of the rules in counting their steps to match the number in both languages.

### Chinese lessons

- 我饿了，我要 Wǒ è le, wǒ yào (I am hungry, I want ...)
- 买东西 Mǎi dōngxī (Buying things).

### Music Lessons

- 新年好 Xīn nián hǎo (Happy New Year)
- 恭喜恭喜 Gōngxǐ gōngxǐ (Congratulations)
- 声律启蒙 Shēng lǜ qǐméng (Rhythm enlightenment)
- 你好 Nǐ hǎo (Hello)

## OTHER NEWS

### CANBERRA COMMUNITY CHINESE SCHOOL

This is the oldest after-hours Chinese school in Canberra. The school aims to introduce Chinese language and culture to the broader community, so caters for children from non-Chinese speaking families as well as students with a Chinese background.

Classes are small, aim to be friendly, interesting and fun, and are held on Sunday afternoons at Canberra College in Phillip. Fees are kept to a minimum and enrolment is welcome at any time.

For more information

- visit <http://eaaschineseschool.org.au/> or
- contact the Principal, Raymond Chan at 0416 545 687 or [contact@eaaschineseschool.org.au](mailto:contact@eaaschineseschool.org.au)

### AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE (ASCC)

In addition to providing an extensive range of Mandarin programs for adults and children, the ASCC is a test centre for HSK (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi), a worldwide standardised test of Standard Chinese language proficiency for non-native speakers.

For more information about HSK, see <http://www.standardchineseschool.act.edu.au/content/hsk-test-structure/>

For local test dates and enrolment procedures, see <http://www.standardchineseschool.act.edu.au/content/hsk-schedule-2019/>

### CHINESE CONVERSATION FOR ADULTS

There are now two groups at Woden Library on Fridays:

- for beginners at 11.30am-12.30pm and
- for more advanced learners 12.30pm -1.30pm.

All welcome. There is no charge for this community organised activity.

For details, contact Claire at 0412 305 538

Over 50 years old?

Claire is also offering a beginner's Chinese course in Cook through U3A. For details, contact Claire at 0412 305 538

### RESOURCES AT ACT LIBRARIES

Libraries ACT has a range of resources for both children and adults learning languages.

Parents raising children bilingually may be particularly interested in

- Bilingual Story Times: <https://www.library.act.gov.au/whats-on/programs-for-families/story-time>
- Bilingual picture books and other books in the different language collections at the various branches: explore the library website or ask a librarian for more help
- International Digital Children's Library: children's books from other countries, cultures and languages in digital format (<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>)

Resources for adults include

- Books, CDs, newspapers and magazines in Chinese (and other languages) at various branches
- English learning resources
- Free English conversation groups

For more information about the above, <https://www.library.act.gov.au/services/multicultural-services> and click on 'Children' or Adults'

## ANU CHINESE CLASSICAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE

The ensemble is based at the ANU School of Music. They play traditional, and occasionally modern, Chinese music on traditional Chinese instruments, which include erhu, guzheng, ruan, pipa, dizi, xiao, hulusi, liuqun, yangqin, guqin and daji.

Members are drawn from ANU students and staff and members of the wider Canberra community. So if you can play a Chinese instrument, or a Western instrument and would like to learn a Chinese

instrument and Chinese notation, please contact the ensemble at [anu.ccme@gmail.com](mailto:anu.ccme@gmail.com).

The ensemble practises on Monday evenings at the ANU School of Music and usually performs at least four times a year. If you have an event you would like them to perform at, please contact them at the above email address.

For more information, see their website at <http://anuccme.com> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/anuccme/>

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ALMA NEWS WELCOME



Please email items to [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com) by 30 May 2019

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 [https:// www.learningmandarincanberra.org/](https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/)

## 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.