

LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE OX



The Year of the Ox began on 12 February 2021. The ox is a valuable animal in Chinese culture because of its important role in agriculture, and its intelligence and hardworking nature.

During new year celebrations, also known as the Spring Festival, it is considered auspicious to eat a special cake made with glutinous rice flour because the Mandarin word for New Year Cake *niángāo* 年糕 is a homonym of *niángāo* 年高, which means “prosperous (new) year.” Niangao can be sweet, made with sugar, dried fruit and nuts or bean paste, or savoury, with scallions, meat and cabbage. It is provided as an offering to the Kitchen God and can be traced back to the Northern and Southern Dynasties (386-589AD).



**ALMA
NEWS
MARCH
2021**

Association for
Learning
MANDARIN
汉语
in Australia Inc

澳大利亚学汉语协会



Qīngmíng jié 清明节, or the Tomb Sweeping Festival, is when Chinese people visit the burial sites of their ancestors to pay respects and tidy the grave sites. Chinese

families also enjoy taking a picnic to enjoy the spring warmth after winter. Ritual offerings to ancestors include joss sticks and joss paper, and *qīngtuán* (青团), green dumplings made from glutinous rice and barley grass or Chinese mugwort. The Qingming Festival falls on 4 April 2021.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year of the Ox!

I hope all our community had a happy new year celebration and were lucky enough to spend it with family and friends. I prepared my first 'noodle tossing salad' for our family and it was such a success we had it twice! Tossing with interstate family via video call was a very 2021 moment! My family is also enjoying watching Bluey in Mandarin, which is available on ABC iView along with many other children's programs.

While some community events are occurring this year with significant changes to make them COVID-safe, unfortunately the National Multicultural Festival in Civic was cancelled for 2021. I hope our children are able to perform at the 2022 festival, as it was such a success last year.

Your new ALMA committee are featured in this newsletter. Now you are able to put a face to the name, you're always welcome to say hello if you see us out and about.

Gong Xi Fa Cai!

Kate Friend
ALMA President



YOUR 2020/2021 ALMA COMMITTEE



President:
Kate Friend



Vice President:
Mandy Scott



Treasurer:
Victor Yee



Secretary:
Rosanna Harber



Assistant Secretary:
Cassandra Estrin



General Committee Member:
James Marr



General Committee Member:
Charlotte Foster



General Committee Member:
Alexandra Zhang



General Committee Member:
Cherie Rogers (newsletter)

NEW ALMA MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following new members of ALMA:

Jenny Eather and family
 Meng Pang and family
 Yanrong Yang and family
 Jing Tai and family
 Xiao Ting Chen and family
 Angelique Burguez and family
 Tina Jong and family
 Iresha Perera and family
 Adeuna Tan and family
 Malith Ramasundara and family
 Joselin Joseph and family
 Ruth Chau and family
 Shengye Chen and family

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

澳华幼儿教育中心新闻

Two end of year concerts were held in December, one for the infant/toddlers and the other for the pre-schoolers. Although modified to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions, the children had fun performing for their families.

Our centre reopened on 4th January for 2021 and we enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with the children.

Our centre is currently being audited by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACEQA); our last audit was 5 years ago. Much has changed since our last audit at the centre and how ratings are established. We've really focused on the quality of education and the supporting documentation. We're looking forward to receiving feedback on areas we can further improve and our strengths.

Annette Chemin
 Director, CAECC

ALMA ACTIVITIES

Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

With the start of another academic year, we are now receiving registrations from university students and other adults in the Canberra region interested in practising the Mandarin they are learning in various language learning programs. We then introduce them to fluent speakers of Chinese living in the ACT, and they make their own arrangements to meet, usually one-on-one once a week. All the tutors are volunteers; there is no payment involved. The project is open to everyone who is learning Chinese, or who has learned the language in the past and would like to keep up their skills. In return, tutors make more local contacts and share their skills and knowledge.

For more details about the project, or if you would like to register - as either a learner or volunteer tutor - visit the [Mandarin Community Tutoring page](#) on the ALMA website.



Mandarin radio program

ALMA continues to help present the Mandarin language program on Friday evenings on community radio 2XXFM from 7pm to 7.30pm. One of the main aims of the program is to encourage children and their families to learn and practice their

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 A non-profit community organization "Helping Australian to learn Mandarin" ABN: 99 625 121 550
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Mandarin skills in a fun way. There is always a short story and songs in Chinese, which are discussed in English and Mandarin, followed by some bilingual community announcements. Parents and teachers are invited 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.

To hear the program, you can tune into FM 98.3 at 7pm on Friday evenings or listen live online on <http://www.2xxfm.org.au/>. You can also access past programs by clicking ON DEMAND on the website and finding the Mandarin program in the program guide. More information about the program, plus links to videos and/or words to some of the Mandarin songs we play, can be found on the '[Weekly radio show](#)' page on the ALMA website.

OTHER NEWS

Chinese Culture Camp for children and adults

Organised by the ASCC Chinese Language School, the camp will assist learners to expand their study of Chinese language and culture. Activities include Chinese Recitation, Calligraphy, Painting, Handcrafts, Flute, Guzheng and dance. Participants will have the opportunity to showcase the results of their learning at the closing ceremony.

- Tuesday 6 April to Saturday 10 April and Monday April 12 to Friday 16 April
- Registration for single day or specific activity/activities possible
- Venue: UC Senior Secondary College Lake Ginninderra, Emu Bank, Belconnen
- Program will strictly follow COVID-19 safety protocols
- Special classes for pre-schoolers or adults may be available

For more details see the [Activities/Events](#) page on the ALMA website or call ASCC on (02) 6176 0528, 0404 266 506, 0415 762 723 or 0419 541 336

Mandarin Programs on ABC iView

Did you know that there is a range of programs on ABC iView that have Chinese subtitles or can be accessed in spoken Mandarin? Just go to <https://iview.abc.net.au/> and put 'Chinese' in the search bar to see what is available.

For children's programs in Mandarin, including Bluey, Peppa Pig and Moon and Me, see <https://iview.abc.net.au/collection/ABCKids-mandarin-language>



Australia China Youth Association (ACYA)

ACYA is a vibrant community of young Australians and Chinese interested in promoting cross-cultural understanding and developing lasting friendships, academic and business partnerships, and professional and educational opportunities.

The ANU chapter is an active group that organises various activities. These are aimed primarily at university students, but others are welcome to get involved. Activities in first semester 2021 include a weekly language exchange and mahjong, karaoke and careers nights. For more information, follow their Facebook page [@ACYAANU](#)



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Other opportunities to learn and practice Mandarin in the ACT region

The ALMA website has information about many programs and other opportunities in the ACT region to learn and develop Mandarin language skills - for both children and adults. For details see <https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/learning-mandarin-in-australia.html>

If you know of other programs or find that some of the information listed is out of date, please let us know at canberraalma@gmail.com.



China in the World (CIW) at the ANU

The Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) at the ANU (中华全球研究中心) brings together scholars from a wide range of disciplines to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the Chinese world — the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and the Chinese diaspora, addressing both its traditions and contemporary developments in a rapidly changing world.

CIW offers a range of interesting talks, discussions, news and commentary about all things Chinese. For more information, see <http://ciw.anu.edu.au/>



ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble

The ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble will perform for the City Renewal Authority's Lunchbox Acoustic program in City Walk near the Carousel in Civic. Performances will be from 12 noon to 1.20pm on the third Monday of each month until June. The dates are March 15, April 19, May 17 and June 21.

The Ensemble is a non-profit group which provides an opportunity for people who play (or are interested in learning to play) Chinese traditional instruments to get together for regular practice and a chance to perform. Membership is free and available to anyone with an interest in joining, but particularly students and staff of the Australian National University. For more information see <http://anuccme.com/>

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALMA NEWS

Please email items for the next newsletter to canberraalma@gmail.com by 15 May 2021.

