

## THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT (AND THE CAT)

Welcome to 2023 – the year of the rabbit (or the year of the cat for the Vietnamese community).

The Chinese New Year is a festival of reunion. This year's Chinese New Year was on Sunday, January 22, and before the school year started. So many in Canberra, and around the country, took the opportunity to travel interstate or overseas to celebrate with family and friends, many of whom met for the first time since the pandemic.

Families usually get together on the eve of the Chinese New Year to have the reunion dinner. The celebration often runs for 15 days and kids' favourites include playing sparklers, receiving red packets and watching lion dances.



Lion dance 舞狮



Lanterns 灯笼

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### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year of the Rabbit!

I hope everyone had a glorious time welcoming the new lunar calendar. I feel this year, we are already seeing the Rabbit's positivity coming through in this post-COVID world we find ourselves in. I know many people have been able to travel and reconnect with family and loved ones after a very long time apart. May we see the rest of this year follow suit!

It was wonderful to see some many people attend and participate in the various community events celebrating the new year and most recently the Multicultural Festival.

ALMA responsibilities to CAECC remain of the highest importance, ensuring that the dedicated staff are able to provide the high level of care we know our community seeks. As you are aware, there are significant strains taking a toll on families across the ACT, due to the increased cost of living. All staff have received salary increases and will be due for further increases in the new financial year. This means the flow on effect to the families of CAECC is a fee increase, we need to ensure that CAECC remains viable due to the rising costs.

I would like to welcome all our new members who have joined since our last newsletter. If you are interested in joining the committee, or wish to get more involved in some of the association's activities, please get in touch via the ALMA website or email.

Gong Xi Fa Cai!

**Charlotte Foster**

**ALMA President**

### NEW ALMA MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Andrew Lapworth and family
- Hayley Nagel and family
- Jin Chan Yum Wai and family
- Jing Zhao and family
- Jordan Nagel and family
- Katherine Wojcik and family
- Stephen Blake and family
- Yiu Chung Vincent Tang and family

### CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

A new year full of hope and many exciting things planned for the children and their families. Our enrolments are very full for this time of the year with many siblings born last year, our COVID babies.

A full Centre means we need additional educators, this is why we have been recruiting. If you know any educators in the community who would like to join our team, please let them know about us.

We have just finalised our events calendar and we will have the return of all the celebrations which families are invited to.

Our chicks hatching program has just arrived and the children are eagerly waiting for the eggs to hatch.

Having stimulating activities such as the hatching program gives the educators the opportunity to introduce new words and sentences to children in both Mandarin and English. We will be holding our parent information night for our families on the 21 and 22 March.

We welcome all our new families this year and wish the all the best for the lucky year of the rabbit.

cǐ zhì jìng lǐ (此致敬礼)

**Annette Chemin**

**Director, CAECC**



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### 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>

## ALMA ACTIVITIES

### Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

We are anticipating more participants in the project this year now that language classes are back to face-to-face mode and international students are beginning to return to Canberra for their tertiary studies. The project is open to all adults who are currently learning Chinese or have learned the language in the past and would like to keep up their skills. We introduce learners to fluent speakers of Chinese who have volunteered to share their knowledge of Chinese language and culture. Tutor and learner then make their own arrangements to meet, usually one-on-one, once a week, at a time and place to suit both sides.

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: <https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/mandarin-community-tutoring.html>.

### Mandarin radio program on community radio 2XX



ALMA is continuing its involvement in these weekly broadcasts. Presented bilingually, a major aim is to promote the use and learning of Mandarin in the ACT area, especially among young families. Each program usually includes a short story, read in Mandarin. We 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.

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 [www.2xxfm.org.au](http://www.2xxfm.org.au). You can also hear previous programs through the 'On Demand' link at the same web address.

We welcome recordings from listeners for inclusion in the program, especially children, singing a song or reading a short story or poem in Mandarin. 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, with a transcript if possible, to [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com).

## OTHER NEWS

### **Volunteers still needed to help with reading at Mawson Primary School**

Mawson Primary School is looking for native speakers of Chinese to help once a week 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](mailto:Constance.Chen@ed.act.edu.au).

### **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.

If you are interested, contact the coordinator, Stanley, via Facebook messenger. He will 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>

### **China in the World (CIW) at the ANU 中华全球研究中心**

CIW at the ANU has discussions and information about all things Chinese. Most events are free and open to the general public. Upcoming events include:

#### Going solo: China's 'singles economy' and the date-renting industry

- 9 March 2023, Online
- Pan Wang will unpack China's growing 'singles economy' through a case study of the date-renting industry in China

#### Daring to Struggle: China's Global Ambitions under Xi Jinping

- 22 March 2023, CIW Seminar Room
- Dr Bates Gill will discuss the principal themes of his new book, Daring to Struggle: China's Global Ambitions under Xi Jinping.

Keep an eye on the CIW website at [http://ciw.anu.edu.au/](http://ciw.anu.edu.au) for latest events.

## OTHER NEWS

### **Australia China Youth Association (ACYA)**

ACYA fosters a supportive and inclusive community for young people interested in the Australia-China space, and seeks to highlight youth voices through its various initiatives and publications.

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. For more information, follow their Facebook page @ACYAANU

### **Panda Competition 2023**

The Panda Competition is conducted every year by the Australia China Friendship Society and is open to students from Pre-schools, Primary schools and High schools in the ACT and Queanbeyan. The topic for this year's competition is:

#### **The Dragon Boat Festival**

Students can do a drawing or painting, create works such as a collage or 3-dimensional construction, a poem or other creative work, appropriate to the student's age and school grade. Pre-school, Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 students can also enter a colouring-in piece.

The entry should preferably be the work of a single student. If a joint entry for more than 1 student is submitted only a single prize will be provided. If the entry is in Mandarin, an English translation must be provided.

Entries must be received by 5pm Sunday 23 September 2023.

Further information available here: <http://acfs.org.au/panda-competition/>.

## DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALMA NEWS?

Please email items for the next newsletter to [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com) by 15 May 2023.