



ALMA NEWS SEPTEMBER 2019

Association for
Learning
MANDARIN
汉语
in Australia Inc

澳大利亚学汉语协会

TEACHERS' DAY IN CHINA

10 September is an official holiday in China. On this day, the whole country fetes educators and teachers. This holiday, in various guises, has existed in China since as early as the Middle Ages. Teachers and coaches have always been honoured and respected in China. Very often teachers act as mentors throughout the whole life of their students. This is especially true for traditional Chinese martial arts.

The modern holiday was awarded national status on January 21, 1985. The urgent need for this holiday arose from the fact that the "cultural revolution" in China had reduced the number of intellectual workers – teachers in particular. So the main purpose of Teacher's Day as a public holiday stems from the Chinese authorities' desire to increase the prestige of this profession. Since then, on 10 September, festive events in honour of specialists in the educational sphere have been held annually

throughout China. These events include celebrations, meetings, and award ceremonies. Pupils give flowers and gifts to their mentors. Thousands of schoolchildren and students thank their teachers for their important work. Teachers' Day in today's China has become one of the most important festive dates.

ALMA ACTIVITIES

COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRALIA-CHINA YOUTH ASSOCIATION (中澳青年联合会)

ALMA is one of the sponsors for the Second Language Speech Competition (第二语言演讲比赛) being organised by the ANU branch of the Australia-China Youth Association (ACYA) on Wednesday 2 October 2019. This competition will provide a platform for ANU students to make speeches in their second language – whether this be

English or Chinese. The competition aims to recognize the achievements of both English and Chinese language learners, encourage students to start or continue their learning, and create cultural connections between Australia and China by sharing stories in the languages that the contestants wish to practice.

ALMA is helping to provide judges for the competition, who will be unrelated to either the ANU or the ACYA. ALMA is also assisting with the printing of the Award Certificates for finalists and winners.

For more information about the ACYA see <http://www.acya.org.au/> and for the competition, you can contact Sophia at education_anu@acya.org.au

BILINGUAL RADIO PROGRAM

Have you listened to the weekly Mandarin language program that ALMA helps to present on community radio 2XX 98.3FM? One of the program's main aims is to support families whose children are learning Chinese – either within or outside the home. Each 30-minute program includes at least one song and short story for children in Chinese. These are then discussed bilingually to help develop the language and cultural understanding of both Chinese and English-speaking listeners.

The program is broadcast on Fridays 7pm-7.30pm. You can hear it live on FM 98.3 or online at any time through the website at <http://www.2xxfm.org.au/>

MANDARIN COMMUNITY TUTORING PROJECT

This free community project introduces learners of Mandarin to fluent speakers living in the Canberra area. Tutors and learners usually meet one-on-one, at a time and place to suit both sides. It is a voluntary project. No payment is involved. The project helps learners to practice their speaking skills, receive assistance with their Chinese studies, and increase their understanding of Chinese culture. Tutors benefit by being able to practice their English skills, expand their social networks, and learn more about language teaching and learning in general.

We have recently had an influx of interest from volunteer tutors, so if you are interested in improving

your Chinese language skills, you can find more details about the project and about how to participate at:

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

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

澳华幼儿教育中心新闻



From the Director, Ms Annette Chemin

Both the Preschool room and the Infants/Toddlers' room have been busy learning about volcanoes, space, mixing colours, planting sunflower seeds and making bubble mixture; all part of Science Week. Actively engaging in these activities facilitates the children's learning of both Mandarin and English.

We celebrated book week by inviting grandparents and parent to read stories to the children. The stories included The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Little Red Riding Hood, The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly, the Race to the Moon and PJ Mask.

Some of the stories are easy to tell in Mandarin, such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar (好饿的毛毛虫, hǎo è de máo mao chóng). The children are familiar with the story, and this makes it easier for them to learn it in another language.

The preschool children made craft items for Father's Day, and the infants and toddlers learned the following Rhyme.

爸爸好，好爸爸 (bà ba hǎo, hǎo bà ba)
爸爸力气真不少 (bà ba lì qì zhēn bù shǎo)
干得多，说的少 (gàn dé duō, shuō de shǎo)
爸爸是我的骄傲 (bà ba shì wǒ de jiāo' ào)

I can't wait to celebrate my first Mid-Autumn Festival;
I hear the Moon cakes are delicious.

OTHER NEWS

ANU CHINA SEMINAR SERIES

A forum for discussion of China and the Sinophone world. Speakers include senior scholars from within and outside the ANU, younger academics, post-doctoral research fellows, and advanced graduate students. The Seminar Series aims at a broad audience. Interested members of the public are welcome.

The seminar usually runs between 3.30pm and 5.30pm on alternate Thursdays during the ANU's teaching term. All attendees are invited to the CIW Tea House for informal discussion with the guest speaker before the seminar at 3.30pm.

The Seminar Series is supported by the Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) at the ANU's College of Asia & the Pacific.

For details of upcoming presentations, see: <http://chinainstitute.anu.edu.au/events/anu-china-seminar-series>.

MANDARIN CONVERSATION AT WODEN LIBRARY

A free community event organised by one of our ALMA members.

- Fridays 12.30pm-1.30pm
- Intermediate level, but all welcome
- Free
- You can bring your lunch

For more details, contact Claire at 0412 305 538

MANDARIN CLASSES WITH U3A

Claire also teaches two classes of Mandarin with U3A (University of the Third Age).

People attend for a variety of reasons, including to talk to in-laws, refresh fading skills and to fight dementia. The focus is having fun. They laugh a lot, use apps, have excursions and incursions. People study what they want, some stay with pinyin whilst others tackle characters.

If you are interested and are over 55, contact Claire at 0412 305 538

LANGUAGE EXCHANGE AT THE ANU

- Held at the new Kambri Marie Reay Teaching Centre
- Tuesday 12 noon-1pm, Room 3.02
- Thursday 12 noon-1pm, Room 3.05

This weekly Chinese/English language exchange is organised by the ANU branch of the Australia-China Youth Association (ACYA). They discuss different themes and have language games every week. The aim is to provide a casual and comfortable environment for practicing English and Chinese language skills.

All language levels can attend, and food is usually provided. While most attendees are ANU students, anyone from the wider community is welcome.

For details: <https://www.facebook.com/ACYAANU/>

STUDY IN TAIWAN 6 January – 17 January 2020

Funtensive Chinese Language and Culture Program

- National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), Taipei, Taiwan
- Fee: \$850AUD (see details below)
- Open to all college and university students

Professional Development Program in Taiwan

- 6 January – 17 January 2020
- NTNU, Taipei, Taiwan
- Cost \$400 AUD (see details below)
- Open to Chinese Language Teachers in Australia and New Zealand

For both programs

Fees cover tuition, accommodation, breakfast, lunch, transportation for planned activities during weekdays. Not included are airfares, transportation to and from airports, dinner and costs for weekend activities.

Applications close 27 September 2019

These programs are organised by the Department of Chinese as a Second Language and Mandarin Training Centre at NTNU, and co-organised by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia.

For more details, contact Dr Chi Crawford at Australia@mail.moe.gov.tw or (02) 6120 1022

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANBERRA MOON FESTIVAL EVENTS

“Moon and Me” Story Times

- 10.30am Monday 9 to Thursday 12 September
- Various ACT library branches
- Free and all welcome

These story times will include:

- Asian Moon Festival cultures and customs
- Shadow puppet show: legend of Chang'e
- Modern stories about the moon
- Songs about the Moon
- Craft time

Organised by Libraries ACT, Sprouts Mandarin Playgroup and Playschool & Rudongfang holiday program. For more details, see:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanberraMoonFestival/>

Canberra Moon Festival

- Friday 13 to Sunday 15 September
- City Walk, City ACT 2601, Australia
- Free entry and all welcome

Also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, this is a celebration of harvest and reunion in many Asian cultures. The 2019 Canberra Moon Festival features a Giant Moon Lantern, food stalls, Canberra born SBS star Andy Trieu, lion dances, kung fu demonstrations and many other activities, performances and games.

For more information, visit Facebook page above or <https://www.canberramoonfestival.com.au/>

CHINESE CULTURE CAMP HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Led by specialist teachers from Gansu Province, activities include Chinese calligraphy, traditional painting, music, dance, craft and martial arts.

- Mon 30 Sept – Sat 5 Oct and Tues 8 Oct – Friday 11 Oct 2019
- 9.30am – 5.30pm (whole day, half day or single course enrolment possible)

- Snow Centre, Canberra Grammar School, Red Hill, ACT
- For students 5 to 23 years old (pre-school and adult classes may be possible)
- Early bird fees for payment by 22 September

This program is co-organised by Gansu Overseas Association and the Australian School of Contemporary Chinese.

For more details: (02) 6176 0528, 0412 873 400 or <http://www.standardchineseschool.act.edu.au/content/>

TAIWAN STUDIES LECTURE SERIES TALK

- ‘A Southern Perspective on Things: China, Climate Change, and Ghosts’
- Thursday 26 September 5.30pm (refreshments) 6pm - 7.30pm (lecture)
- The Auditorium, ANU CIW, Building 188, Fellows Lane
- Free, but registration requested.

The speaker, Professor Lung Yingtai 龍應台, is a celebrated Taiwanese writer, cultural critic and historical activist. She also served as minister of Culture in Taiwan until 2014 and has written 30 books.

Her latest book, *Forever and Ever: Letters to Mei-Jun* (2018), reflects on kinship, the impermanence of life and cross-generational discourse. In 2017, Lung Yingtai moved to a small town in southern Taiwan to take care of her aged mother. During her two-year stay in the rural community, she discovered that the Weltanschauung of her southern compatriots is quite different from that of the city people or policy makers of Taipei.

The Taiwan Studies Lecture Series is an initiative under the Taiwan Studies Program at ANU supported by the Ministry of Education, Republic of China (Taiwan).

For more details and to register: <https://bit.ly/2Y5a8tq>

AUTHOR EVENT: THE MERCENARY MANDARIN

- Asia Bookroom, Unit 2, 1 - 3 Lawry Place, Macquarie, ACT
- Thursday 3 October, 6pm – 8pm
- Entry by gold coin donation to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation

Author David Leffman, a British travel writer who first visited China in 1985, talks about his new book: *The Mercenary Mandarin*.

The Mercenary Mandarin is based on 15 years of research about William Mesny (1842–1919), a British adventurer who lived in China for 59 years. He became a salt smuggler, a prisoner of the Taipings, a customs official, an arms dealer, and a Qing general. He spoke fluent Chinese, was twice married to Chinese women, and spent five years travelling around China. He wrote newspaper articles about everything he saw, and served as an advisor on modernisation. He eventually settled in Shanghai and published a weekly magazine about his experiences.

RSVP by noon Thursday 3 October to books@AsiaBookroom.com or 6251 5191.

CHINESE CLASSICAL MUSIC

The ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble will be joining with members of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Chinese Music Ensemble for two performances in October.

Annual Concert

A program of music with a focus on Jiangnan, the area south of the Yangtze River.

- Sunday 6 October, 2pm - 4.30pm
- ANU Australian Centre on China in the World
- Tickets: Adult \$20, Concession/member \$15, Student/child \$10, Family \$35.

Performance at Floriade

- Monday 7 October, 12.45 - 1.45pm
- Stage 88, Commonwealth Park, Canberra

For more information about the ensemble and its performances: <http://anuccme.com/>

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ALMA NEWS WELCOME**

Please email items to canberraalma@gmail.com by 15 November 2019

NOTE: Decisions on publication remain at the discretion of the editor

For more information about ALMA, and to see copies of previous ALMA News, visit

<https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/>