

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

The Mid-Autumn Festival (*Zhōngqiū Jié* - 中秋节) falls on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar *nónglì* 农历, which this year is Tuesday, 21st September.

The roundness of the full moon symbolises reunion and togetherness. Mooncakes *yuèbǐng* 月饼 are popular gifts for friends and family. If you are looking for a fun family activity in lockdown, why not try making snowskin mooncakes *bīng pí yuèbǐng* 冰皮月饼 together. See the recipe here:

<https://redhousespice.com/snow-skin-mooncake/>



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our AGM is scheduled for 6pm Tuesday 19th October. Last year we had the option of joining via Google Meet or in person at the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre in Mawson. We expect a similar format this year and will communicate the details via our social media and member email list.

Thank you to the current committee for seeing us through the last 12 months. We faced many challenges and have achieved some great milestones despite the changing environment. I have personally really enjoyed working with you all!

We will be dissolving the current committee at the AGM and nominations for the next committee are open now. All nominations must be received prior to the AGM and nominees will be voted in during the meeting. This year our committee has been a balance of new and previous committee members and I'm hoping the next committee will be similar.

ALMA NEWS SEPTEMBER 2021

Association for
Learning
MANDARIN
汉语
in Australia Inc

澳大利亚学汉语协会

Over the past two years we've utilised our members' experience in policy writing, HR, recruitment and IT. Consistently we need finance/accounting, management and administrative skills and will certainly be needing a volunteer with finance, accounting or bookkeeping skills to join the 2021/2022 committee. If you have these skills and the time, we warmly welcome your nomination!

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have questions or would like to know more about the ALMA committee please reach out to myself or any of the current committee members. I hope the future is healthier and filled with international opportunities for us to use our Mandarin language skills!

Kate Friend
President, ALMA

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

澳华幼儿教育中心新闻

It has been a challenging a few weeks for everyone during lockdown but at CAECC we are keeping it all positive for our children and our educators. We are still educating and caring for enrolled children of essential workers.



Before the lockdown we celebrated the Olympics by holding our own mini one. It was a lot of fun for the children and educators. This gave the opportunity for the children to learn wonderful words in Mandarin like *tiàoyuǎn* 跳远 (long jump), *pāo qiú* 抛球 (throwing), *jǔzhòng* 举重 (weightlifting), *pǎobù* 跑步 (running) and *báhé* 拔河 (tug of war). At the closing ceremony all children received a special gold medal that they had made themselves.

We interacted with children staying at home during lockdown on Google Meet and shared songs and stories. Through our app StoryPark we can record and communicate learning by sharing stories, photos, videos, and daily events with our families.

During Science Week the children took part in many scientific experiments. In one of these experiences, the children used absorbent paper to make a rainbow bridge. They used water, food colouring and paper towels, which gave the children another occasion to learn more Mandarin words and recognise the colours: 红色 *hong se* (red), 蓝色 *lan se* (blue), 黄色 *huang se* (yellow), 绿色 *lü se* (green), and 粉红色 *fen hong se* (pink); and also count the numbers *yí, er, san, sì, wu* (1 2 3 4 5). Let's not forget there has been a lot of play as children learn as they play.

Keep safe everyone.

Annette Chemin
Director, CAECC

ALMA ACTIVITIES

Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

We have had fewer tutors registering for this project since the beginning of 2020 due to the absence of many international students from China, a major source of our volunteers in the past. Nevertheless, we have had over 25 learners meeting volunteer tutors so far this year. The current lockdown has again forced many meetings online, but we hope it is not too long before face to face tutoring sessions can start up again. We recently received a very nice email from one of our tutors who moved to Sydney in June. She reported: "The mandarin learner I have met is [MH]. I had a really good experience with her, and we already became good friends. I want to thank this community tutoring project that gave me an amazing experience". If you would like more details about this project, or would like to register as a learner or volunteer tutor visit the Mandarin Community Tutoring page on the ALMA website.

Mandarin program on community radio 2XX

We have changed some arrangements recently since the founder of the program, Lucia from the Mandarin for Fun group, has had to step back for the rest of the year. The program is now being run by ALMA with the help of Xiaohui, a volunteer from the ACT Chinese Australian Association. Although we have had to pre-record programs and schedule them remotely during lockdown, our Mandarin language program continues to be broadcast on community radio 2XX on Fridays from 7pm to 7.30pm. It can be heard at that time on the radio at 98.3 FM or online at www.2xxfm.org.au and later through 'On Demand' via the same web address. More information about the program, including the words of some of the children's songs we play each week, can be found on the 'Weekly radio show' page on the ALMA website. We welcome recordings of your own children singing a song or reading a short story or poem in Mandarin for broadcast on the show. This is good way to encourage interest in learning and speaking Mandarin. Just email the recording (MP3 preferred) to canberraalma@gmail.com.

Finally, ALMA would like to acknowledge the continuing support of community radio 2XX and the Community Broadcasting Foundation which enables local voices like ours to be regularly heard on the airwaves.

NEW ALMA MEMBERS

We welcome the following new ALMA members:

Peter Lindenmayer
Wendy Batcheldor and family
Natarsha Mitchell and family
Clare Dahlstrom and family

OTHER NEWS

Learn Mandarin + a Taiwan Cultural Experience

There is a new course from the TACA Mandarin Language School for adults and students over 16 years old who want to learn about Taiwanese culture and practice basic conversations on selected topics in Mandarin. This will be in a small class with 10 limited places per class. Cost is \$10 per class for adults and \$5 for students, and includes learning materials, morning tea and treats.

First term: 4 September - 2 October 2021

Second term: 9 October - 6 November 2021



These classes were planned to be held face to face on Saturdays 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. For information about

arrangements in view of the current COVID situation please contact Julie Tsai at tacaschool@gmail.com.

For more details about the classes plus links to some free online learning resources and information about studying in Taiwan, see the latest 'Study in Taiwan' ENews at:

https://www.roc-taiwan.org/uploads/sites/8/2021/08/TECO_Study_in_TW_Aug_Enews.pdf

Australian Capital Wine Tasting Club

澳大利亚首都红酒品酒协会

A former member and long-time friend of ALMA, Mimi Zhang, is one of the founders of this interesting new association. The aim to promote local agricultural products, specialities and culture among the local Chinese community and Chinese speaking visitors from further afield.

The group has forged links with – and organised trips to – a local beef producer, a truffe farm and a vineyard. They also enjoyed a special meal at a new Japanese restaurant in Canberra that incorporated



some of the products. Future events will involve wine tasting and visits to an oyster farm and a chestnut farm. If you are interested in finding out more about this lively bilingual group, contact Mimi at: mzhang@iinet.net.au

Photo: At the truffle farm

China in the World (CIW) at the ANU

中华全球研究中心

The Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) at the ANU provides a wealth of interesting talks, discussions, news and commentary about all things Chinese. The majority of their events are free and open to the general public. Keep an eye on their website at <http://ciw.anu.edu.au/> for more information.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALMA NEWS

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

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