

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL 中秋节

Once upon a time, on the moon were a beautiful and kind lady living in a palace (Chang'e 嫦娥), a jade rabbit (玉兔) as her companion, and a wood cutter trying to chop down a self-healing tree (Wu Gang 吴刚)

These are Chinese traditional folklore about the moon. While no living things were found when Neil Armstrong and other astronauts landed on the moon in 1969, these stories are still being told and passed down between generations.

This year's Mid-Autumn Festival falls on Friday 29 September. It's a time to get together with family and friends, eating mooncakes, appreciating the moon and having a lantern walk.

Kids can also make their own lanterns:
<https://shopee.sg/blog/diy-lanterns-for-kids-mid-autumn-festival/>.



Mooncake 月饼



Chang'e and Wu Gang 嫦娥和吴刚

NEW ALMA MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Sarah-Jane Phillips and family

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is finally here, and I am so pleased. This is such a beautiful season to watch unfold across the diverse landscape we have here in Canberra.

The end of the year is drawing closer, and it has been a very productive and somewhat of a calmer year for the ALMA Committee, in comparison to the last few years.

October will see our Annual General Meeting (AGM) take place. At the AGM we will look to dissolve the current committee. This means we are now looking for new members or interested parties to join the next ALMA committee. Stay tuned for the date and we hope to welcome some new faces on board. The work undertaken by the committee ranges from recruitment to finance, administration and policy reviewing.

It has been a great pleasure to be part of the committee over the last 4 years and I have enjoyed working with such a diverse range of individuals to help guide and support the CAECC and further promote the learning of Mandarin.

Many thanks,

Charlotte Foster
President, ALMA

MANDARIN RESOURCES

ABC iview

Do you know that 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>

SBS News In Mandarin

SBS News is now available in Mandarin. SBS's bilingual reporters provide coverage and analysis of major national and international issues and events, each weeknight at 8.30pm.

Access here: <https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/news-series/sbs-news-in-mandarin>.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

In the last few months, children at the CAECC have been very busy with so many things and we have so many stories to share with you.

We continued to have our Music Program and Carina introduced our children to songs from all over the world. Our children especially enjoyed exploring all kinds of different percussion instruments and dancing to their beat and rhythm. The stories she brought in to share with us accompanying the instruments were also great fun and our children loved listening to them.

We also celebrated NAIDOC Week, during which Duncan Smith a Wiradjuri man came to share with our children the Aboriginal culture. We listened to Aboriginal Dreaming stories, did Aboriginal dance, and painted with Aboriginal symbols. It is very important for our children to have opportunities in engaging in learning experiences that promote their understanding of culture of the First Nations people and our centre is committed to build strong partnerships with Aboriginal communities.

During Science Week and Book Week, our children investigated a range of science concepts and read a wide selection of books. The hands-on science experiences our educators set up for both preschoolers and Infants/Toddlers supported them in developing an interest in science from a young age, and the sparkles in their wide-open eyes clearly showed this. Meanwhile, the most exciting part of Book Week has always been dressing up as your favourite character in a book. Our children were so eager to show their educators who they had dressed up as every morning.

On 1st of September, we held our Father's Day afternoon tea to celebrate all the loving and caring relationships our children have with important adults in their lives. This lovely community event not only provided our parents with an opportunity to get together, but also further build a sense of community in our centre and extend our relationships with our families. We are hoping to organise more community events in the future to bring our families together.

We will be celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋节zhōng qiū jié) later this month and we are so looking forward to sharing some of the very famous Chinese folklore with our children, and of course, also tasting delicious moon cakes (月饼 yuè bǐng).

Annette Chemin

Director, CAECC

ALMA ACTIVITIES

Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

Our volunteering project has been pretty quiet over the past few months but continues to be available to anyone interested.

Registration is free and open to all adults in the Canberra area who are learning Chinese or have learned the language in the past. We introduce learners to a fluent speaker of Mandarin who has volunteered an hour or so each week to share their knowledge of Chinese language and culture.

If you know of any Chinese international students or recent arrivals to Canberra, please let them know about the project. It is a great way to make more local contacts and practise English.

For more information – for learners and tutors - see the Tutoring page on the ALMA website or email us at canberraalma@gmail.com.

Mandarin radio program on community radio 2XX



We are delighted to add a third presenter to the program, Stephen, an ALMA member with a keen interest in Mandarin language and all things Chinese. While continuing the program’s dual aims of promoting the use and learning of Mandarin and keeping Chinese-speaking listeners informed about local events and other information of interest, Stephen will add his own voice and ideas, which we hope listeners will enjoy. Tune into the program on Friday evenings from 7pm to 7.30pm on 98.3 FM or listen online - live or later as a podcast - at www.2xxfm.org.au and let us know what you think by emailing us at canberraalma@gmail.com.

We continue to welcome recordings of children in Canberra singing a song or reading a short story or poem in Mandarin for broadcasting on air – a great way to encourage them to speak and practice the Mandarin they are learning at home, preschool or school. Just send the recording (MP3 preferred), with a transcript if possible, to the email address above.

OTHER NEWS

Intensive Chinese Network Conference 2023

The second annual Intensive Chinese Network (ICN) conference will be held on 12-14 October 2023, and will be hosted by Mawson Primary School.

The Intensive Chinese Network is an informal network of schools in Australia that are committed to the teaching of Chinese beyond the standard recommendation for mainstream Languages curriculum. ICN schools are located across various Australian states and territories, and the ICN serves as a platform for professional development tailor-made for the unique contexts and challenges of ICN schools.

For more details about ICN and the conference see <https://www.intensivechinesenetwork.org/>.

Sailing to our Dreams 让梦想启航

- Saturday 23 September 2023 6.30pm-9pm
- Sydney Town Hall, 483 George Street Sydney NSW
- Tickets \$50 - \$80

Conceived and organised by Canberra-based and long-time ALMA supporter Zhang Xiao Jun (Mimi), this concert brings together Mimi's friends from Australia and all over the world to celebrate with her the publication of her latest book and to enjoy an exhilarating evening of entertainment. The program will feature poetic lyrics, song, dance and other performances - in English, Mandarin and other languages. The aim is to share Mimi's inspiring life story and show that all things are possible - we can all sail to our dreams.

For more details contact Mimi at mzhang@iinet.com.au or phone 0402 399 637.

ANU Australian Centre on China in the World events

Immersia 2023: Chinese Tea Tasting

- Tuesday 19 September 2023, 1pm-2pm
- CIW Tea House, Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU
- Register: <https://ciw.anu.edu.au/event/immersia-2023-chinese-tea-tasting>

Immersia 2023: Chinese Talent Show

- Friday 29 September 2023, 3pm-5pm
- Australian Centre on China in the World Auditorium
- Register: <https://ciw.anu.edu.au/event/immersia-2023-chinese-talent-show>

OTHER NEWS

Upcoming events by the ACT Australia China Friendship Society (ACFS)

Talk on Chinese Humour

- 7.30pm Wednesday 27 September
- Catchpole Room, Southern Cross Club, Jamison.
- Entry by gold coin donation. All proceeds go to Project Hope

The speaker is Professor Jocelyn Chey, co-author and co-editor of two books that explore whether there something special or unique about humour in Chinese life or literature. In this illustrated talk, she will give a brief introduction to how humour has been recorded in Chinese writing over the centuries and how it is being expressed in the present digital age. The special qualities of Chinese humour relate to the written and spoken language, but there are also universal qualities that are shared with Australians and others around the world.

For more information or to book, email acfsevent@gmail.com by 25 September.

Traditional Chinese music Concert: 'Travelling with Clouds'

- Sunday 1 October 2-4.30pm
- Cook Community Hub, Templeton St, Cook.
- Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 ACFS members and concessions, \$10 students, \$5 children under 10
- Booking via <https://trybooking.com/CKQOO>

Presented by the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble. Afternoon tea will be served.

Any profits will be shared between the Ensemble, for their instrument purchase fund, and ACFS to support the 7 Project Hope students they sponsor to stay at school in the remote mountainous area of Beijing.

For general information about ACFS see <http://acfs.org.au/>.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALMA NEWS?

Please email items for the next newsletter to canberraalma@gmail.com by 15 November 2023.