



## Member News

### January 2010

## UPCOMING EVENTS 活动预告

Talks at Asia Bookroom  
Lawry Place, Macquarie, ACT

### 1. Contemporary China & Chinese

6pm Thursday 4 February, 2010

Drawing from their lives in Beijing for the last 9 years, Haihua (Helen) Zhang and Geoff Baker, co-authors of 'Think Like Chinese' will have a conversation with the audience about:

- What is happening now in China:  
New trends and findings — Generation Y and the Shanzhai Spirit — the culture of imitation/piracy
- Born Connectedness vs Born Equal — why Chinese think differently.

This is a follow-up talk to a previous one by Geoff Baker last year. This time Haihua will also be present to give a Chinese viewpoint.

Entry by Gold coin donation (all money raised will go towards NTA East Indonesia Aid)

RSVP: by Wed 3 Feb to 6251 5191 or email [books@AsiaBookroom.com](mailto:books@AsiaBookroom.com)

### 2. Message from an Unknown Chinese Mother

6pm Tuesday 23 February 2010

The author, Xinran, will talk about the stories of Chinese mothers forced to give up their daughters due to China's one-child policy, destructive age-old traditions or hideous economic necessity.

The book sends a heartbreaking message to Chinese girls who have been adopted overseas to show them how things really were for their mothers, and to tell them that they were loved and will never be forgotten.

Born in Beijing in 1958, Xinran was a journalist and radio presenter in China before moving to London in 1997. She is the author of several books including 'The Good Women of China'.

RSVP by Monday February 22 to 6251 5191 or email [books@AsiaBookroom.com](mailto:books@AsiaBookroom.com)

Entry by Gold coin donation (all money raised will go towards NTA East Indonesia Aid)

For more information on both talks see [www.asiabookroom.com/AsiaBookRoom/events.cfm](http://www.asiabookroom.com/AsiaBookRoom/events.cfm)

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### 会长的话

The 25th anniversary celebrations of the Chinese-Australian Early Childhood Centre in November 2009 were a great success and a major milestone for our Association.

We were pleased to have as guests Minister-Counsellor WANG Yongda, representing the Chinese Ambassador; Mr ZHANG Jide, Second Secretary, Education Office, Embassy of the People's Republic of China; Mr Steve Doszpot, Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly; Mr Nic Manikis, Director of the ACT Office of Multicultural, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs; Ms Amanda Andrews, Principal, Mawson Primary School; and members of the Board of the School.

It was a magnificent occasion. I am sure everyone was impressed with the enthusiasm and facility with Mandarin which our very young children displayed. A very big thank you to Judy and her staff for their dedication and commitment to putting on such a wonderful concert.

ALMA is continuing to negotiate with the University of Canberra about establishing a second childcare centre to service the north of Canberra, on the university campus at Bruce. ALMA provided a business plan for the proposed centre to the University in December. The plan allowed for 70 places, and was weighted towards the under three age group, as that is where the greatest demand for childcare in Canberra appears to be. Negotiations based on this plan will take place early in the New Year.

At its meeting in December, the ALMA Committee agreed some ground rules for the financial arrangements between the two centres, should the UC childcare centre come into existence. In short, they are to be financially separate, but both will operate with ALMA as operator, i.e. holder of the licence to operate the childcare centre.

*Ian Maclean*  
ALMA President

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

In 2010, Chinese New Year begins on Sunday February 14.

Chinese New Year is also called Lunar New or the Spring Festival 春节 (chunjie). It is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. The festival traditionally begins on the first day of the first month 正月 (zhēng yuè) in the Chinese calendar and ends 15 days later with the Lantern Festival 元宵 (Yuan-Xiao).

This year will be the year of the Tiger 虎 (hu). Since it is a twelve year cycle, previous tiger years were 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986 and 1998.

For more information about New Year customs and some free children's activities check out <http://www.squidoo.com/chinesenewyearunitstudy>

According to some sources, people born in the year of the Tiger are courageous, powerful, sensitive, given to deep thinking, and capable of great sympathy. They can, however, be extremely short-tempered and suspicious of others. They are said to be most compatible with people born in the year of the Horse, Dragon, or Dog.



## Chinese New Year Banquet

The ACT Chinese Australian Association Inc is hosting a Chinese New Year Banquet to welcome the Year of the Tiger on Chinese New Year Eve or 除夕 (Chúxī)

**When:** Saturday 13th Feb 2010,  
6pm for 6.30pm

**Where:** Italo Australian Club, Forrest

**Cost:** \$40 per person

Please contact Mandy if you are interested in joining the ALMA table of 10.



## Chinese New Year in the City

**Where:** Petrie Plaza

**When:** Sunday 7 February, 11am–5pm

Come and see the sights and sounds of traditional Chinese New Year celebrations.

**FREE EVENT – All welcome**

Part of the ACT Multicultural Festival — see [www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/program](http://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/program) for more details.

## Australia-China Friendship Society (ACFS) activities

### Lantern Exhibition

A free exhibition of Chinese lanterns and prize-winning entries from ACFS's 2009 Panda Competition.



**When:** Tuesday 9 Feb—Tuesday 16 Feb

**Where:** Civic Library, Civic Square,  
London Circuit



### Lantern making workshop

A chance to be creative and make a lantern.

**When:** Saturday 20 February 1-4pm

**Where:** Griffin Centre, Genge St, Civic

For adults and children (young children will need to be accompanied by parents).

Bring a cutting board, scissors, ruler and pencil

**Bookings essential to Jean 6254 7732 or Siew-Gim on 6161 3703**



### Lantern Festival

A great family event not to be missed. Come and enjoy the colour and spectacle.

**When:** Saturday 27 Feb 2010 6-9pm

**Where:** Commonwealth Park near  
Gallipoli Reach (west of the  
Rond Terraces, below ANZAC  
Parade)

Bring your own rug and picnic in the park and your own lanterns or buy one there. Prizes for best children's lanterns.

For further information contact Carol on 6247 8231 or Teck on 6254 6814 or email [acfsact@hotmail.com](mailto:acfsact@hotmail.com)



### Chinese – English conversation

**When:** Sunday 7 February 2010

**Time:** 7.30 to 9.30 pm

One hour is spent speaking English for Chinese speakers who wish to improve their English, and the other hour speaking Chinese.

If you would like to attend please phone Shirley on 6254 4305 (after hours).

### Shanghai World Expo tour Auspiced by ACFS

11 September – 2 October 2010

Tour will visit: Chengdu (pandas), Lhasa (Potala Palace and Norbulingka Palace), Gyantse, Shigatse, Chongqing, Yangtze River cruise, Luoyang (ancient national capital), Shaolin Temple (martial arts), Kaifeng (another ancient National Capital), and Shanghai (World Expo).

Cost (\$6590.00 per person twin share, \$2350.00 single supplement) includes airfares, land content, Yangtze River cruise, World Expo tickets for two days, China visa, most meals, tips and taxes.

For more details contact Teck Lee on 6254 6814 or 0419 971 209 or [tekclee@hotmail.com](mailto:tekclee@hotmail.com)

## ALMA NEWS and ACTIVITIES



### Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre (CAECC)

澳華幼兒中心新聞

*The following short report on the centre's bilingual program was provided by by Ling Lin, the assistant in the preschool room.*

Language development is extremely rapid during early childhood. Children's vocabulary increases very quickly so by age 6 they can communicate well with adults. Children learn language through listening and speaking, which provides the possibility of learning a second language in an environment like the CAECC where the children hear and use Chinese as part of their daily life.

Most children arrive at the centre at 8:00am and stay until 6:00pm. There is always one native Chinese speaker and one native English speaker so children can learn from both teachers. Children learn as native speakers would, as part of their everyday experience rather than in a formal lesson.

For example, when the children arrive at the start of the day, the Chinese teacher will welcome them with 早上好 *zao shang hao* 'Good morning'. After a few days the children will begin to understand and copy this greeting.

All activities are accompanied by the English and Chinese phrases. In this way children associate the activity with the phrase. E.g. hand washing time would be described in Chinese as 请洗手 (*qing xi shou*).

Children learn more during Chinese lesson time. For example, children will learn the Chinese names for different parts of the body by drawing, cutting out pictures, and saying the words after the teacher.

Songs are also used, for example the English and Chinese version of 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' 头发, 肩膀, 膝盖, 脚 (*tou fa, jian bang, xi gai, jiao*). Children learn quickly in this fun way.

Some of the common English and Chinese phrases and activities used at the centre are listed in the attachment to this newsletter.

### Note from the Director:

Our centre is currently operating at close to full capacity but has a few places for over 3 year-olds on Mondays and Fridays.

*For more information about the centre, please phone the Director, Judy Kuzma, on 6290 1566 or visit the ALMA website*



### Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

义务辅导计划

This project offers Canberrans learning Mandarin the chance to meet regularly with volunteer tutors who are Chinese speakers living in the ACT.

To find out more about the project or to register your interest in being a tutor or student, please visit the ALMA website at <http://alma.anu.edu.au>



### Multicultural Grant

ALMA is delighted to announce that it has been awarded \$880 under the ACT Government's Multicultural Grants Program 2009-10 for its project 'Sharing the Lotus', the aim of which is to spread information and knowledge about the Mandarin language and Chinese culture in the community.

One of the ways we will do this is by organizing a Chinese flute performance featuring a concert-level Chinese flute player.

More details will follow in the next newsletter.



### NEW ALMA MEMBERS 欢迎新会员

#### Welcome to the following new members

- Aaron Gardiner,
- Jesse Twomey and family,
- Kirston Vizjac and family,
- Lisa Parolin and family,
- Megan Smith and family,
- Shelly Cheung and family,
- Simon Pollock and family,
- Tory Khanthavivong and family,
- Wai Liu



### Mawson Primary MIP Kids dux Melrose High

For three years in a row, graduates of the Mandarin Intensive Program (MIP) at Mawson Primary School have been awarded dux at Melrose High School.

The duxes were:

- 2007 – Amanda Maclean
- 2008 – Alex Green
- 2009 – Catriona Bisset

The MIP Program started at Mawson Primary in 2000, and 2007 was the year in which the first group from the MIP Program graduated from high school.

For more information about Mawson Primary School's program, please contact the Principal on 6205 8033 or visit [www.mawsonps.act.edu.au](http://www.mawsonps.act.edu.au)



### INTERESTED IN RAISING CHILDREN IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE?

ALMA Secretary, Mandy Scott, is helping to organise a seminar for families involved in, or interested in, raising children in more than one language.

When: Sunday 21 February, 1.30 – 4.30pm

Where: University of Canberra.

This is a free event, funded under the ACT Government's Multicultural Grants Program 2009-10.

Contact Mandy for more details.

21 February is also International Mother Language Day. A major aim of the day, proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999, is to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, to develop fuller awareness of traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.



### Contact details for more information about ALMA and its activities

#### 联系我们

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### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Articles or announcements for the next issue should reach the secretary by 15 March 2010.

NOTE: Decisions on publication are at the discretion of the Editor

For more information about ALMA and to see past ALMA newsletters visit our website at <http://alma.anu.edu.au>



新年快樂

Happy New Year of the Tiger!