

Convener's Report for 2018

Canberra Academy of Languages

Canberra Academy of Languages

Mailing address: GPO Box 1627, Canberra ACT 2601

Reception phone number: +61 – 2 – 6152 9140

Organisational website: <https://cal.act.edu.au> Resources website: <https://languages.org.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CanberraAcademyOfLanguages>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CBRlanguages>

ABN: 73 256 637 048 ACT Incorporated Entity / Association Number: A05776 (September 2016)

Registered as a Specialist Education Provider with ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies to 31/12/2022



A not-for-profit organisation

The Canberra Academy of Languages is a not-for-profit organisation. Like any not-for-profit organisation, we need to secure revenue to carry out the activities that relate to our purpose. The purpose of the Canberra Academy of Languages is outlined in our charter, which is in Schedule 2 of our Articles of Association. The charter is available via the home page of our website. Some not-for-profits derive their revenue mainly from membership fees – an example being the Modern Language Teachers' Association (MLTA). In our case, our major revenue source is enrolment fees. These enable us to cover the cost of program delivery, including teacher salaries, venue hire, public liability insurance and teaching resources including online support via our resources repository (see above), language manuals *Entre Nous* 3 and 4, and Google Classroom.

Registration evening, our students and our program for this year, Wednesday 7 February 2018

It was good to meet with students and families for our 2018 at our 2018 registration evening, held at Civic Library. I appreciated the interventions of past students and of the colleges in bringing to the attention of those interested the opportunities available for them to participate in this year's French programs. All our students in our first two years of operation have demonstrated an appreciation of language and culture, a commitment to their language learning and a strong belief in the value of investing in that learning. By way of illustration, consider the items they wrote this year for the magazine *Canberra en français*. In 2018, we covered the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies Continuing/Advanced French units *The Individual's Experience* (Semester 1) and *Society and Community* (Semester 2), with five students from four ACT schools.



Confirmation of new venue, Friday 16 February 2018

We were pleased in our first week of classes (Week 2) to confirm our venue, the Alliance Française de Canberra, for CAL French in 2018. This venue offers an authentic French ambiance, on-site café, wifi access), AF resource centre and information on French community events.



CAL at the National Multicultural Festival, Sunday 18 February 2018

We were on Stall E6, the Learning Languages in Canberra stall at the National Multicultural Festival, on Sunday 18 February 2018, with the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance and the Canberra Region Languages Forum.



Program for DELF examiners, 3-5 April 2018

On 3-5 April 2018, I participated in the program for DELF examiners at the Alliance Française de Melbourne. The Diplôme d'Études de Langue Française is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. We invite CAL French students to do the exams for this credential in the final term of Year 12 as evidence of their language proficiency.



CAL Charter update endorsed 14 May 2018

The updated Articles of Association, including [the Charter](#) at Schedule 2 of the articles, were endorsed at the Special General Meeting of the Canberra Academy of Languages on Monday 14 May 2018.

The CAL charter includes details about the CAL values: excellence, equity and a civil society.

1. Excellence in language learning requires scope for continuity. In the interests of continuity, it is imperative that students should have access to continued learning in their chosen languages as part of their senior secondary education.
2. Equity in language learning requires that the option to continue learning a language as part of a senior secondary education program should be available to students throughout the educational jurisdiction.
3. A civil society gives recognition and active support to linguistic and cultural diversity and recognises the importance of language rights, including the right of learners to aspire to, or to maintain and develop, bilingual or multilingual capabilities.

Multilingual Poetry Showcase, 2 June 2018

CAL is the auspicing organisation for Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry for ACT government grants. There was a highly successful Multilingual Poetry Showcase on Saturday 2 June at the community centre in Woden including poetry in Acholi and English by Jackline Okot. Pictured: Saturday's performers.



Pasi Sahlberg flags Gonski's missed opportunity on languages, 3 June 2018

Finnish education expert Pasi Sahlberg, now Professor of education policy at the Gonski Institute for Education, UNSW, advocates a 24th Gonski 2.0 clause for right to learn a language, as reported in an [article in SMH](#) and Canberra Times on Sunday 3 June 2018. This view accords with the CAL Charter, which states "equity in language learning requires that the option to continue learning a language as part of a senior secondary education program should be available to students throughout the educational jurisdiction". Sahlberg's view was supported by Professor Ken Cruickshank, director of the Sydney Institute for Community Language Education.



Open Night, 14 June 2018

CAL Open Night was held from 6 pm on Thursday 14 June 2018 at the Ainslie Arts Centre, Elouera Street, Braddon. We outlined our purpose, programs and enrolment process. Senior secondary (Years 11-12) Continuing and Advanced courses will be offered for 2019 in French, German and Indonesian, subject to viable numbers to fund teacher recruitment for these programs. Additional courses may also be delivered, subject to negotiations with colleges.



Soirée littéraire, 21 June 2018

A "soirée littéraire" was held on Thursday 21 June, with author Karen Viggers reading extracts from her writings and Flavie Alvarez reading French translations. Nancy Waites launched the second edition of the magazine Canberra en français. Three CAL French students had items included at page 13 of this edition, under the title "témoignages", alongside an item about CAL. Two other items were held over for the October edition, for reasons of available space.



Multilingual Poetry Workshop, Sunday 5 August 2018



As noted in an earlier news item, Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry is auspiced by CAL for ACT Government funding applications. They ran a workshop at Civic Library on Sunday 5 August and a Multilingual Poetry Night on Monday 13 August 2018 at Smith's Alternative, in languages including Mandarin, Cebuano, Hindi, Bengali, French, German, Shona, Dari, Farsi, Japanese, Mongolian, Sinhalese, Serbian and Spanish.



ANGLS Conference, 23-25 August 2018

The ANGLS Conference, an illuminating and valuable event, was hosted from 23 to 25 August 2018 at the new headquarters of the NSW School of Languages in Petersham with colleagues participating this year from languages centres in SA, Victoria and NSW. See the News page on CAL website for more details.



Meeting about National Multicultural Festival, 12 September 2018

On Wednesday 12 September, Dr Mandy Scott and I met with Azra Khan, Senior Manager in the Community Services Directorate, who coordinates the National Multicultural Festival. We put several suggestions, one of which related to the inclusion of references to languages in publicity for the festival.

It is excellent to see that, as of December, languages are included on the festival home page, so that they are reflected in online messaging as an important dimension of multiculturalism.



Information Evening, Thursday 20 September 2018

We held an information evening on Thursday 20 September at the Ainslie Arts Centre to provide students and their families with advice on learning languages in Years 11-12, receiving credit for languages studies towards the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and towards the ATAR, and programs offered.



Meeting with Minister for Multicultural Affairs 10 October 2018

A discussion about language resources in the ACT was held with the ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Chris Steel, on 10 October, with myself and with the President of the Community Language Schools Association of the ACT; the President of the Modern Language Teachers' Association; and the Convener of the Languages Forum of the ACT.



Launch of the October 2018 edition of Canberra en français magazine, 26 October 2018

The launch of the October 2018 edition of Canberra en français magazine on 26 October was held at Mount Majura Vineyard. In this edition, there are items written by two of our CAL French students. Three others had items published in the June edition. Pictured are Nancy Waites and Flavie Alvarez with two of the guests, from Parkes NSW.



Languages as a resource for all, 20 November 2018

A position statement on "[Languages as a resource for all](#)" was endorsed on 20 November by ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, Languages Forum of the ACT and the Canberra Academy of Languages. The statement was tabled by us at the meeting of the Canberra Languages Network, on Thursday 22 November 2018.

Multicultural Summit, 22-23 November 2018

At the launch of the ACT Multicultural Summit in the new building at ACU's Watson campus on Thursday evening, one of the speakers was Andrew Barr, ACT Chief Minister. The Chief Minister said that Canberra is uniquely placed to be an exemplary internationally-focused community and to model inclusivity. Dr Mandy Scott and I discussed the future of languages education for the ACT with the Chief Minister and with the leader of ACT Greens, Shane Rattenbury. Pictured: Deputy Chair and Chair of Multicultural Advisory Council; Chief Minister Andrew Barr; Minister for Multicultural Affairs Chris Steel.



Languages received a high profile in reporting at the end of the summit. We understand a report of the summit will be circulated to participants in the near future. Pictured with me here: Veronique Canellas, President of the Modern Languages Teachers' Association of the ACT; Dr Mandy Scott, Convener of the Canberra Region Languages Forum.

Languages education discussion on ABC Canberra, 28 November 2018

On the Mornings program on Radio ABC Canberra with Adam Shirley today, I discussed future directions for languages education in the ACT. We have an mp3 extract and summary of points on the News page of CAL website. Key points discussed in the interview were:

- If you want to learn a language, how available is it in the ACT?
- Scope of employment opportunities related to languages skills and the range of languages spoken in Canberra households.
- Budget constraints on schools in offering languages programs.
- Opportunity for diverse provision for languages learning, adding to school programs with central programs, as in other jurisdictions.
- Integration of teacher education and higher education in languages – needs attention in the ACT.
- Teacher supply – difficulty in creating full-time teaching positions that prioritise expertise in languages.
- Language rights: access to high-quality programs in languages of choice for students.
- System leadership can enable students to develop languages skills to use in the community and at work.



Be:longing – Talking Migration and Nostalgia, 1 December 2018

This year, CAL became the auspicing organisation for the editors of be:longing, an online magazine, to apply for ACT Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program funding for ongoing publication associated with a live event to be held in May 2019. Meanwhile, on 1 December 2018, be:longing hosted an event at Smiths Alternative, "Talking Migration and Nostalgia".



CAL End-of-Year Ceremony, 18 December 2018

The CAL End of Year Ceremony for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 18 December from 2:30 pm at the Alliance Française, 66 McCaughey Street, Turner 2612. Notices went out via the CAL's website, Facebook, Twitter and email.



Plans for 2019

From the two-year cycle of four semester units, we will deliver "The World Around Us" and "Lifestyle and Traditions" in 2019, for credit towards courses in Continuing or Advanced French. Students in either Year 11 or Year 12 may participate, provided the units do not duplicate the ones they have already completed. Indonesian was under consideration for 2019, but the two colleges which could have been the main sources of enrolments now have arrangements in place to collaborate on program delivery on one of their sites, which is a good outcome for them. For German, there were four expressions of interest, but we need twelve enrolments to recruit a teacher. We have a teacher interested in this role, if the numbers become viable.

For Indigenous languages, arising from my proposal to ACT BSSS that a course should be written, BSSS proceeded to work on an Indigenous languages and culture course under the Humanities and Social Sciences course framework. Implementation awaits further consultation with UNEC (elders' council). Given the course framework, it is unlikely to be suitable for a specific focus on language acquisition.

At the end of 2017, we contributed to the Future Education Conversation, proposing a plan for stronger provision in languages learning in the ACT. With like-minded organisations, we have continued our advocacy for this throughout 2018, including a meeting with the Minister for Multicultural Affairs; and discussions in the Canberra Languages Network, at the Multicultural Summit, and on ABC Radio. In 2019, the conference of the federal organisation of community language schools will be in Canberra and there is a possibility that Canberra may host the ANGLS Conference. We also hope that within a year or two, ACT will have a new languages education policy, to complete the story alongside the ACT languages services policy.

Concluding remarks

Congratulations to Elizabeth Milligan, our highly successful Year 12 student in our second year of program delivery, who, along with our Year 11 students, will speak at the end-of-year ceremony from a learner's perspective about their experiences and motivations in learning about French language and culture. Elizabeth has also successfully undertaken the exam for the DELF B2 (see the April news item about DELF) and has been awarded the diploma. This diploma assists in qualifying to study at universities in France.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break and an excellent year ahead for 2019.

Frank Keighley | Convener, Canberra Academy of Languages