



Where language and culture come together



COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

Where language and culture come together

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MEDIA RELEASE

VICTORIAN 2014 STATE COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS - RECORD NUMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Theme: Community Languages Schools Where language and culture come together -Strengthening quality provision

Victoria's community language schools teachers and instructors came out in force to attend the 2014 State Community languages school Conference held on Saturday July 5 2014 at RMIT Storey Hall.

Stefan Romaniw Executive Director of Community Languages Australia welcomed participants and highlighted the important role community language schools play in delivering languages education and multicultural policies.

He reinforced the Conference theme "*Community Languages Schools Where language and culture come together - Strengthening quality provision*" that schools must continue to provide quality programs.

The Conference organized by Community Languages Australia and the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria attracted a record number of participants.

Over 470 participants were addressed by *Hon Matthew Guy Minister for Planning and Multicultural Affairs* . In opening the Conference, Minister Guy highlighted the Victorian State Government's commitment to languages education . The Victorian Government provides per capita funding support to schools, funding for Professional development and training. Community languages schools add to Victoria strength in diversity and contributed to a harmonious society.

Inga Peulich Victorian Government Cabinet Secretary also spoke about the importance of languages and that the State Government must continue to support language education as it is an asset for all Victorians and Australians.

Telmo Languiller, MP Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition and Multicultural Affairs also offered strong support for community languages schools. He highlighted that there must continue to be a bi partisan approach to languages education and multicultural affairs .

Tassos Douvartzides Chair of AFESA offered a vote of thanks to all speakers and thanked the teachers for their commitment.

The program was both interesting and thought provoking. The workshops gave participants a hands on approach to teaching methodologies.

The keynote address was delivered by *Prof. John Hajek - Director, Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication (RUMACC) at the University of Melbourne - Trends in Languages education - Role of community languages*

This was followed by a Suite of presentations - *Theme - Partnerships offer new opportunities Working with partners to strengthen our work in community languages schools*

*Modern Languages Teachers Association , Andrew Ferguson
President Modern Language Teachers Association of Victoria*

*Museums as a spark for languages education -Cam Hocking
Community Engagement Manager Immigration Museum*

*How we further community and the volunteering spirit Tracey Windley
Partnership, Starlight Children's Foundation*

Claudia Escobar gave an interesting presentation - Drama - No barriers to language

*This was followed by long time German community language schools teacher Dr Irene Bouzo PhD,
who presented a paper titled Bilingualism, Adaptation and Identity – case study of a displaced
community*

*Dr Irene is a Senior Policy Officer at the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria and Principal,
Bayswater Boronia Templer German School.*

The afternoon was a smorgasbord of workshops

Session 1:

Drama in your classroom - Claudia Escobar

*ICT Tools And Resources For The Languages Classroom: a resource to invigorate language learning
Cathie Bradford*

*Keeping students on track to learn: Reducing student dropout
Dr Teresa De Fazio*

*'Constraints on Second Language Acquisition and their impacts on linguistic variation in multilingual
communities'. Presenters: Dr Hossein Shokouhi, School of Education and Dr Michiko Weinmann,
Deakin University.*

Session 2:

*An introduction to the Accelerative Integrated Method (AIM)
Margaret Fuary Monash University*

Positive Identity Formation and Language Learning - Dr Irene Bouzo

*ICT Tools And Resources For The Languages Classroom: a resource to invigorate language learning
Cathie Bradford*

Keeping students on track to learn: Reducing student dropout - Dr Teresa De Fazio

The conference was inspiring and practical. It gave participants an opportunity to network, hear what works in other schools and how to deal with challenges.

Many thanks to our Members of Parliament, our presenters for their efforts. Thank you to Fahry Abubaker and his team of helpers for their organization and support.

Conference photos can be found on

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/98064791@N08/sets/72157645273772410/page2/>