



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM

UPDATE

September/October 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Bilingual Story Times at Libraries ACT

Supporting young children from bilingual families to maintain and value their heritage languages, while also offering all children the opportunity to develop curiosity, empathy, and awareness of other cultures. Fun sessions with stories, songs, rhymes, and playful activities.

Nepali Bilingual Story Time

- Woden Library 10.30am – 11:30am
- Saturdays 27 September, 18 October and 29 November 2025

Mandarin Bilingual Story Time

- Gungahlin Library 10.30am – 11:30am
- Saturdays 27 September, 18 October, 8 November and 29 November 2025

Free and all welcome but registration is required via <https://bit.ly/BilingualStoryTime2025>

2. Alliance Française Canberra Spring Camp

Make the most of your children's school break by enrolling them this themed holiday camp, all in French immersion!

- 29 September-10 October - one- or two-week options
- Monday to Friday (except public holiday) 9:30am to 4:30pm
- Alliance Francaise in Turner
- Cost , from \$550 per week

More information at <https://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

3. International Translation Day 30 September

A day to acknowledge the role of language professionals in connecting nations and fostering peace, understanding and development. The UN chose 30 September as it celebrates the feast of St. Jerome, who translated Greek manuscripts of the New Testament into Latin, and parts of the Hebrew Gospel into Greek. St Jerome is considered the patron saint of translators.

For some events associated with the day in 2025 - online and open to all -

<https://centerforinterculturaldialogue.org/2025/09/23/international-translation-day-2025/>

4. Bilingual Toastmasters Club for Canberra

The aim of Toastmasters International is to empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. There are plans to establish a bilingual club in Canberra. To find out more, come along to a presentation by a team of Toastmasters members who will showcase how both languages can be seamlessly integrated into a Toastmasters meeting.

- Sunday 12 October 2025 11am - 12.30pm
- Ainslie Football and Social Club, Wakefield Avenue, Ainslie
- Free and all welcome

Contact Jo at tsai.ying.jung@gmail.com to register or for more details

<https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/activities--events.html>

5. 2025 Canberra Writers Festival

As well as being the centre of the nation's decision and policy making, Canberra is also a city of poets, authors, journalists, artists and experts. The festival's perennial theme 'Power Politics Passion' captures the depth and breadth of what makes Canberra unique.

- Thursday 23–Sunday 26 October
 - Full program at <https://tickets.canberrawritersfestival.com.au/Events>
- Sunday 26 October
 - Inaugural Kids and Young Adults Day at National Museum of Australia
 - More details at <https://www.canberrawritersfestival.com.au/schools>

6. Official Launch: *Itstetl Tonatij: Obsidian Sun*

- Saturday 1 November, 1 pm – 2:30 pm
- Smith's Alternative (Upstairs), Alinga Street, Canberra

A new poetry collection by acclaimed Nahua poet and educator Juan Hernández Ramírez, whose work bridges Indigenous traditions and contemporary voices. This unique edition presents each poem in its original Nahuatl, with Spanish, English and Chinese translations.

The event will feature a conversation with Gabriel Covarrubias, Sydney-based artist and founder of Paper Waves Books, known for cross-cultural projects linking Mexico, China, and Australia. There will be live readings and a discussion of the book's connection to Day of the Dead themes of memory, language, and continuity.

For more details: gabcov.studio@gmail.com

Book link: <https://paperwavesbooks.com/books/itstetl-tonatij-obsidian-sun/>

OTHER NEWS

7. Centrally-delivered senior secondary languages programs in the ACT

The Convenor of the Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL), the former Specialist Education Provider for Senior Secondary Languages in the ACT, has advised that a decision about the future of the programs they pioneered may be announced in the very near future after a meeting between representatives from CIT and the ACT Education Directorate.

During the upcoming school holidays, the convenor plans to be available to discuss the situation with students and families, who are among the key stakeholders who will be affected by decisions about arrangements for course delivery in 2026 and later years.

For more information: <https://www.cal.act.edu.au/> or email cal.convenor@cal.act.edu.au.

8. National Snapshot of Community Language Schools in Australia - Survey

A survey for principals, coordinators and committee members of community language schools in the ACT and all around Australia. Organised by AFESA Community Languages Australia, the aim is to build a clearer picture of the community language school sector. The results will help guide national priorities and future support for the sector.

- For link to the short (10-15 minute) survey: <https://nationalcls.scoreapp.com>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Contact Mandy at languagesact@gmail.com