



The Advocate

Modern Language Teachers Association of South Australia

Newsletter Number 1

<http://www.mltasa.asn.au>

March 2009

From the President ... Kris Paul

Welcome to the first edition for 2009 of "The Advocate", a newsletter representing the voice of the Modern Languages Teachers Association of SA. I take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting me with the role of President of MLTASA. I look forward to meeting with you, hearing about your work and representing our shared voice, over the coming two years.

May I invite you to become actively involved in the work of MLTASA by attending meetings, participating in professional development events and encouraging others to become a member? Your contribution to future newsletters is also warmly welcomed.

In the current political climate and with a National Curriculum on the horizon, MLTASA is **the most effective way** that you can have an impact and influence on state and national agendas.

MLTASA offers support to teachers through:

- Information in this newsletter
- Languages professional learning programs and bi-annual conference – discounted for members
- Sponsorship at the bi-annual AFMLTA conference (see pages 4 & 5)
- Recognition of your students' achievements (see page 3)
- The MLTASA website with access to language specific pages, planning & programming aids, professional readings etc.
- Automatic membership of the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Association Inc (AFMLTA), a national body
- Automatic subscription to *Babel*, the journal of the AFMLTA.

MLTASA offers teachers an opportunity to:

- Interact professionally with teachers of other languages
- Provide input into the education debate at both state and national levels
- Make connections with languages educators from all education sectors, primary, secondary and tertiary
- Be acknowledged for outstanding contributions to languages education through the MLTASA awards for excellence.

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MLTASA Priorities for 2009

1. Ensure that MLTASA functions effectively as a peak state association
2. Advocacy and political representation
3. Quality communication and promotion strategies
4. Professional development
5. Relationships
6. Increase membership
7. National Curriculum

Committee Action

- Ensure that the constitution, the roles of committee members & the working rules of the committee are reviewed annually
- Respond collectively to any invitations for consultation from policy makers
- Produce agreed position statements on key issues in languages education
- Produce & distribute the MLTASA newsletter
- Review & update communication strategies
- Discuss strategies to promote the vision & work of MLTASA
- Prepare & implement 2 professional development events per annum & 1 AGM
- Build and sustain relationships with all key stakeholders – local & national
- Present rationale and incentives to attract members, presenting a stronger voice
- Provide an effective voice in shaping the national languages curriculum



**Modern Language Teachers Association of
South Australia**
GPO Box 622 Adelaide SA 5001
ABN: 946 37 674 524

MEMBERSHIP INVOICE 2009

If you wish to pay by electronic funds transfer use the following details:
BSB: 805-007
Account no: 00711080
Account name: S1 Everyday transaction
 Please ensure that you send in a copy of this form and that you use your name online as payment reference.

(If applicable) New member introduced by: _____

Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Dr Other:			
First name:		Last name:	
Language/s taught: Levels: Teaching experience (yrs):		Language teaching experience (yrs): Other affiliation with the teaching of languages:	
Sector: <input type="checkbox"/> CESA <input type="checkbox"/> DECS <input type="checkbox"/> AISSA		Level: <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary	
Home Address:			
Teaching site/s Address/es:			
1.			
2.			
Email Address for receiving MLTASA newsletter and communication:			
Work phone:			
Home phone:			
Fax:			
Mobile:			
<p>MLTASA is not required to be registered for GST. Please remit the full amount.</p> <p>Cheques must be made out to MLTASA</p> <p>Receipts are not issued when payment is made by cheque.</p> <p>If you still wish to have a receipt, please supply a SAE</p>			
Membership group: <input type="checkbox"/> reduced (i.e. student or retired) <input type="checkbox"/> ordinary <input type="checkbox"/> special (combined with LSA) <input type="checkbox"/> corporate			
Ordinary	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	Special	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45
Reduced	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Are you a <u>current financial member</u> of a language specific association (LSA) in SA? "YES" will indicate eligibility for "special" rate			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Language Teachers' Association (CLTA) <input type="checkbox"/> South Australian French Teachers' Association (SAFTA) <input type="checkbox"/> South Australian German Teachers' Association (SAGTA) <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Greek Language Teachers' Association (MGLTA) <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesian Teachers' Association (INTAN)		<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese Language Teachers' Association Of South Australia (JLTASA) <input type="checkbox"/> South Australian Association of Teachers of Italian (SAATI) <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Teachers' Association of South Australia (STASA) <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese Teachers' Association (VTA)	

COMPETITION

INTRODUCE A COLLEAGUE TO MLTASA FOR 2009

Introduce a new member to MLTASA for 2009 and you will go in the draw for a \$100 Dymocks voucher. What a wonderful opportunity to purchase new language resources or something for yourself!

The prize will be drawn and the winner notified by email on April 11.

Please contact Kris Paul: president@mltasa.asn.au or 8226 3219, if further details are required.

Terms and conditions:

- The competition is open to financial individual members of MLTASA who introduce a new MLTASA member.
- New members must not have been a member of MLTASA in the last three years.
- New members must provide the name of the current member who introduced them on the membership form.
- The name of the current member will be placed into the draw when the new membership is processed and paid.

Have your students' achievements recognized!

- *Send in examples of your student's work (actual documents/scanned copies etc).*
- *MLTASA will post the work on the MLTASA website.*
- *MLTASA will also send a certificate of achievement to your school for each student whose work has been received.*

If you wish us to return the documents to you, please accompany them with a stamped addressed envelope.



MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DECS TEACHERS

MLTASA seeks expressions of interest from DECS teachers of languages who are interested in attending the AFMLTA Conference in Sydney in July 2009. For conference details, please see the details printed in this issue.

Dialogue Discourse Diversity
Sydney, July 9-12

MLTASA Sponsorship

- MLTASA will sponsor three (3) applicants with less than 3 years teaching experience by making an \$800 contribution to each successful applicant towards the costs of attending the conference.
- MLTASA will sponsor five (5) more applicants by making a \$520 contribution to each successful applicant towards the cost of attending the conference.

Selection Criteria

The applicant must be:

- Currently teaching a language / involved in languages education.
- A current financial member of MLTASA or be willing to join upon application.
- Prepared to join a MLTASA event and present an SA perspective on their conference experience or write an article for the MLTASA newsletter.

The Selection Committee's decision as to the successful applicants will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Applicant's name: _____

Applicant's email address: _____

Home phone number: _____ Mobile: _____

Language(s) taught: _____

Year level(s) taught: _____

Years of teaching experience: _____

School / workplace: _____

Name of Principal / Line manager: _____

1. How do you envisage your attendance at the conference will enhance your teaching practice?

2. How will you use your experience at the conference to advocate for languages in the future?

Please send your completed application ATTENTION TO: Kris Paul (MLTASA President) Fax: 8226 3830 by 5pm Friday May 1.
Successful applicants will be notified by Friday May 18. No late applications will be accepted.



MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ALL TEACHERS

MLTASA seeks expressions of interest from teachers of languages who are interested in attending the AFMLTA Conference in Sydney in July 2009. For conference details, please see the details printed in this issue.

Dialogue Discourse Diversity
Sydney, July 9-12

MLTASA Sponsorship

- MLTASA will sponsor two (2) applicants by making an \$800 contribution to each successful applicant towards the cost of attending the conference.

Selection Criteria

The applicant must be:

- Currently teaching a language / involved in languages education.
- A current financial member of MLTASA or be willing to join upon application.
- Prepared to join a MLTASA event and present an SA perspective on their conference experience or write an article for the MLTASA newsletter.

The Selection Committee's decision as to the successful applicants will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Applicant's name: _____

Applicant's email address: _____

Home phone number: _____ Mobile: _____

Language(s) taught: _____

Year level(s) taught: _____

Years of teaching experience: _____

School / workplace: _____

Name of Principal / Line manager: _____

3. How do you envisage your attendance at the conference will enhance your teaching practice?

4. How will you use your experience at the conference to advocate for languages in the future?

Please send your completed application ATTENTION TO: Kris Paul (MLTASA President) Fax: 8226 3830 by 5pm Friday May 1.
Successful applicants will be notified by Friday May 18. No late applications will be accepted.

The MLTASA Committee

Executive Committee

President	Kris Paul
Immediate Past President	Louisa Rennie
President Elect	to be elected at AGM 2009
Vice President	Joe van Dalen
Minutes Secretary	Marietta Rossetto
Treasurer	Ly Le
Editor	Joe van Dalen
Web Manager	Kris Paul

**WATCH FOR THE PD EVENT
NEXT TERM!**

Presenting

***The Guide to the Teaching,
Learning and Assessing of
Languages in the 21st Century***

With Associate Professor from UniSA

Angela Scarino

Committee

Angela Benedetti	Andrea Corston
Anne-Marie Morgan	

Language Specific Representatives

INTAN:	Andrea Corston
JLTASA:	Kathy Cleeves
MGLTASA:	Eleni Glaros/Panayoula Parha
SAATI:	Marietta Rossetta
SAFTA:	To be announced
SAGTA:	Heidi Brasse/David Sharp
STASA:	Gyllian Godfrey
VTA:	Phuong Nguyen
CLCSA:	To be announced
CLTA:	To be announced



L to R: Kris Paul, Anne-Marie Morgan, Joe van Dalen (inset), Ly Le, Marietta Rossetto

Committee Meeting Schedule: All meetings held at the Adelaide High School staff room from 4:30 – 6:30pm

Date	Event	Time
Term 2: Week 3: Mon 11 May	Committee meeting 2	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Term 3: Week 3: Mon 3 August	Committee meeting 3	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Term 4: Week 2: Mon 26 October	Committee meeting 4	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Term 4: TBA	Annual General Meeting	4.30pm – 6.30pm

Minutes of meetings are posted on the website within 2 or 3 weeks of the meeting. Members are welcome any time to attend meetings. Please notify the President of your intention to attend:

president@mltasa.asn.au

AFMLTA Biennial Conference 2009

Dialogue
Discourse
Diversity
AFMLTA SYDNEY
9th - 12th JULY 2009



The MLTA of NSW is pleased to be hosting the AFMLTA 17th Biennial Conference from 9th -12th July 2009 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Opening Plenary: **Professor Miles Turnbull, Canada**

Closing Plenary: **Professor Ofelia Garcia, USA**

Conference registration is now open. For further details and to register for the conference go to:
www.mltansw.asn.au

This will be the first time the event has returned to New South Wales after 29 years. The theme for the conference is Dialogue Discourse Diversity. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about new developments, network and share your professional knowledge.

There are limited places at this National Conference, we would encourage you to register as early as possible to avoid missing out.

Early Bird conference registration (\$510) closes on Friday 27th February 2009.
Normal conference registration (\$550) closes on Friday 26th June 2009.

Conference Registration includes:

Welcome Reception (drinks and canapés) on Thursday 9th July, lunch and refreshment breaks for the duration of the conference.

AFMLTA Welcome Cocktail Reception

The welcome Cocktail Reception will be held on Thursday 9th July from 7pm until 9pm in the Ballroom at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel.

The cost of this is included in your registration fee.

AFMLTA Gala Dinner

The AFMLTA will be hosting a gala dinner on Friday 10th July from 7pm. Tickets to this exclusive evening will include a 3 course sit down dinner, all beverages and entertainment. This event will be held at the Star Room, Darling Harbour and is \$85 per ticket.

More details on the Conference and the MLTA of NSW Conference Committee's planning: go to:
www.mltansw.asn.au

David Vale

MLTA members will be saddened to hear of the passing of David Vale in late 2008. The AFMLTA medal was presented to David posthumously at a ceremony held in David's honour in Adelaide. Past AFMLTA Presidents Angela Scarino and Lia Tedesco were able to speak about David's contribution to the teaching and learning of languages in Australia.



The citation included these words:

The AFMLTA Medal for Outstanding Service to Language Teaching in Australia has this day, Tuesday, November 25th, 2008, been presented posthumously in recognition of David Vale's contribution to languages education.

David began his career in languages education in the mid 1960s at Nuriootpa High School in South Australia. As a young teacher of German, David quickly displayed leadership potential and soon after gained a promotion position as Senior Master at Findon High School where he then spent the next ten years. He subsequently became a Special Senior in Languages, a role designed to ensure that excellent teachers would continue to provide leadership, beyond their school, in their specific curriculum area. It was in this role that David contributed to the work of the Principal Education Officer in Languages in a number of ways e.g. welcoming teacher into his classes on observation of excellent teaching, assessing colleagues for promotion, conducting school visits to advise teachers.

David's knowledge and classroom expertise was recognised when he was selected to join a small team of language educators on a federal government initiative, known as the Australian Language Level (ALL) Project, to develop a national curriculum framework for languages.

As a member of the ALL team, David developed a national profile as a provider of in-service to teachers of languages and as a co-author of the materials. In particular, he was responsible for the now famous Pocket ALL.

David's work in senior secondary education in languages was extensive, contributing to all aspects of syllabus design and assessment both in languages in general and in German in particular, including being the Chief Examiner for PES German for five years.

David's talents in editing were brought to the fore when he was elected in 1991 to the position of Subeditor and Production Manager of Babel, the national journal of the Australian Federation of Modern Languages Teachers Associations. It was in this role that David contributed most significantly to the AFMLTA.

He worked as Editor between 1997-2002 and continued until November 2008 as the Production Manager of the journal. During his time in these roles, David's trademark has been to produce a high quality journal, both in content and production, and render it accessible and appealing to classroom teachers.

David was much respected by teachers and colleagues for the strength of his teaching. Throughout his career and contribution to the profession, David has been well known for his attention to detail, particularly his love of grammatical accuracy, his general love of languages, leadership in the field, and his keen wit.

UPDATE ON SOME PROJECTS

Investigation into the state and nature of languages education in Australian schools: Conducted by the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures Education at the University of South Australia. The report is now published and available at:

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/investigation_languages_in_schools.htm. This project attempted to build on previous research to generate a comprehensive national picture of the current state and nature of languages education in Australian schools. The aim was also to recommend strategies to increase the effectiveness and quality of school-based languages programs.

Develop and distribute a guide to the teaching, learning and assessment of languages in the 21st Century for schools and teachers: Conducted by the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures Education at the University of South Australia. This project developed support materials aimed at languages teachers and school leaders in Australian primary and secondary schools and after-hours ethnic/community language schools, to assist them in planning, resourcing, implementing and evaluating effective languages programmes based on an intercultural approach. The *Guide* will be distributed soon to all schools.

Leading Languages Education Project: The Leading Languages Education website is a resource and professional development site to support principals and schools leaders in leading languages education in Australian schools. It is still going strong and is a “must bookmark” for your office computer. The project’s website is live at www.apapdc.edu.au/leadinglanguages/

Professional Standards Project Phase 2: To be conducted by the AFMLTA, 2009-2010. Approval has been given for the AFMLTA to collaborate with the team at the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures at the University of South Australia to prepare Stream C which will focus on assessment. There will also be more news on further funding for Stream A. Watch for more information coming through from the MLTAs.

Assessment project: This new project, conducted by the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures at the University of South Australia, is designed to collect and analyse data about typical student achievement by program type. The fundamental question it will explore is What is it that children and young people in Australia actually achieve as a result of learning languages as part of their education, at any point along the K-12 continuum? This work will complement and inform current policy discussion in Australia and the development of the National Curriculum for languages. It will provide important information, given that there is no nationally and jurisdictionally agreed baseline data or reference point that adequately describes what students actually learn in languages education at different points along the K-12 continuum.

Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools: As part of the ‘Building the Education Revolution’ plan, the Prime Minister announced on 3 February 2009 that schools could be in line for a share of the 1 billion dollar funding set aside to build language centres in secondary schools. The plans will commence this year with construction completed by 30 June 2010.

LATEST NEWS:

John Gougoulis has been appointed to fast track the complex process of writing the National Languages Curriculum. Of interest to all languages teachers are issues of :

- a. who should be the eminent writers for the framing paper
- b. who should be on the advisory group
- c. should the curriculum be language specific (if so, which languages, as clearly they can’t do them all); by groups of langs; or just one for all languages?
- d. how will the range of starting points and learner backgrounds be accommodated?
- e. what is the timeline for development? And for expected implementation?
- f. what will the implications be for the current CCAFL syllabi and exams?