



# LTANT

LANGUAGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## NEWS

[www.ltant.org](http://www.ltant.org)

February 2024

### WELCOME TO 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the LTANT Newsletter for 2024. In this edition, we reflect on the year that was 2023 as well as what plans LTANT holds for 2024.

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### NEWS FROM THE LTANT AGM

The LTANT AGM took place on the 15th February 2024, where it was discussed what occurred in 2023 as well as appointing a new Committee for 2024. The LTANT Committee serving members for 2024 are as follows:

#### **President**

Kevin 'Darcy' Fitzgerald

#### **Secretary**

Candice Slingerland

#### **Treasurer**

Chee Hock Tan

#### **Publications Officer**

Akane Tschirpigg

#### **Chinese Representative**

Hui Ling 'Chloe' Swee &

Bee Huang Khoo

#### **European Representative**

Olga Aryan

#### **Indonesian Representative**

Pak Sahar

#### **Japanese Representative**

Yuto Tsunoda

#### **General Committee**

**Member**

Virginia Price



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report is to highlight the achievements of the year that was, as well as outline what we have learned from the year moving forward into 2024.

In 2023, we had 88 members from 14 different schools in the NT over 12 different languages. Through the institutional membership, we have been able to disseminate information about LTANT and its events to more language teachers within the Northern Territory. This helps us to learn, upskill and put our best practice forward together. We also have more remote members in Alice Springs. One of the biggest challenges is ensuring that these members feel connected. Where possible, LTANT is making Professional Learning opportunities available to our remote members either via Teams, sessions run in Alice Springs or allocating grant funds to our remote members to travel to Darwin or interstate. I would like to thank Lynn-Maree Harvey, located in Alice Springs, who has been a huge help in assisting our members across the NT to connect.

A large proportion of our membership comes from the Alice Springs Language Centre and the Darwin Language Centre. LTANT along with both of these centres advocate for language learning from primary through to senior secondary language providing more opportunities for schools to work together and to promote events. Thank you to Alice Springs Language Centre and DLC for your ongoing partnership in assisting in the growth of language programs within the NT.

In 2023 we had a range of teachers join the LTANT Committee, many of who were new to the LTANT Committee, so it has been refreshing to have some new input and points of view within the association. A special mention to Zoe, Pak Sahar, Darcy, Akane, Yuto, Ilaria, Chloe and Lynn-Maree. Without you volunteering your time, effort and wisdom, we would not have been able to achieve what we have in 2023. So, let's discuss what those achievements included:

LTANT's AGM in 2023 took place on the 16th February at DLC and from here we planned out the year.

We ran a number of workshops this year:

- Auslan Workshop with Clayton
- Balinese Dance with Ibu Putu
- Japanese Teachers Day with the Japan Foundation (thank you Yuto for facilitating)
  - ChatGPT in the Languages Classroom with Oceana
- Developing a Whole School Languages Policy with Andrew Scrimgeour (4 sessions)
- Success with the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Curriculum with Luke Carter
  - Interactive ICT Games in the Languages Classroom with Chee and Jing
  - Celebrating Linguistic Diversity with Darcy & Candice
  - Flippity in the Language Classroom with Joe Dale
- Behaviour Management in the Languages Classroom, Adobe Firefly in the Languages Classroom, v9 AC: Languages.



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Once again LTANT ran the annual Language Fest competition in Term 3 as an online video entry competition. This year the competition had a total of 445 entries over 9 languages (Filipino, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Malayalam, Mandarin, and Spanish) from 18 different schools within the Northern Territory. This year, we opened up a poster component to the competition to also provide students a different way to showcase their language skills. The standard of this competition was incredibly high, with the best from each school sending in their videos and posters to compete in the competition.

The adjudicators made their decisions based on the matter, manner and method the contestants employed in presenting their speeches and also how the student's posters aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We would like to thank the time and effort put in by the adjudicators of the competition. Without your support this event would not run. We would like to congratulate all participating students and their teachers for the commitment they put into their submissions as well as give special acknowledgement to those who achieved a place or commendation. We also thank our members for the feedback provided as we have been able to make some adjustments for the competition in 2024. Our sponsors that we would like to thank this year include The Japan Foundation, The Indonesian Consulate and the Confucius Institute for their support and wonderful prizes.



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Annual Conference in Term 4 was very successful with a record number of attendees. We had members attend and present from Alice Springs and two interstate presenters from Adelaide and Perth discussing Achieving Success and Differentiation. We also had workshops from a linguist from the University of Melbourne and 3 sessions run by the Department of Education. 3 LTANT members present hands-on workshops based on learning that they have received over the course of the year or good practice within their own classrooms. We also had members attend the AFMLTA Conference held in Perth this year and they presented on what they learned at the LTANT Conference.

These members had received grants from LTANT to support their professional development and part of the grant requirements is to share their learning with other members. Feedback from participants was very positive and we have been able to see that our members in 2024 would like to be able to access more ICT related sessions. During our Conference we were able to celebrate the Kevin Northcote's life membership and the Outstanding Languages Educator Award in 2023. It was heart-warming to read the nominations about all the good things happening in language classrooms within the NT and were pleased to present the 2023 award to Olga Aryan of Good Shepherd Lutheran College.

Many of the events of 2023 are due to the grants that we have received, so thanks need to go to PTANT and our sponsors of Languages Fest 2023. Also there needs to be a big shout out to Akane for her work in 2023 on the LTANT website. She truly makes our association look very professional.

Moving into 2024, we have learned a lot and have some goals for the incoming committee ranging from further collaborating with CDU on Language pathways and working on updating the LTANT Constitution. We are also finalising a calendar of events which include a Teachers in Action in Semester 1 (look out for updates about this), the Japan Foundation Day, Language Fest 2024 and the LTANT Conference. For my final note, Many of our events for 2023 came together because of the time and effort that LTANT members put in to presenting their expert knowledge and looking after each other as fellow language teachers.

## 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS

I found the annual LTANT conference very informative. Since I'm relatively new to Darwin, it gave me insight into how and which languages are taught in NT schools. It was also an opportunity to meet other passionate language teachers from all over the Territory and exchange pedagogical strategies and tools with them. It's always a fantastic experience to learn from colleagues.

The conference highlighted the importance of shifting from a monolingual to a multicultural mindset in motivating students. Darwin and the NT are rich in cultural diversity, making it an ideal place for learners to explore various languages and cultures. Embracing multiculturalism allows students to learn new languages and appreciate diverse cultures.

Language classrooms that adopt a pluricultural approach provide students with a more holistic and immersive learning experience. This approach helps learners develop cultural competency, a crucial skill in today's interconnected world.- **Maxime Dejardins**



The conference was a fantastic experience.

The venue was excellent, the speakers were very knowledgeable, and the opportunity to connect with so many language educators was invaluable. As an early-career language teacher, the conference reinforced some key aspects of the profession, such as discerning use of technology and the need to be able to differentiate, as well as raise my awareness of other issues.

Among them was the fact that while language teachers can and should be responsible for communicating cultural awareness, it is also critical to recognise that understanding and teaching the history and politics of a country is a different skillset to teaching a language, and that it is still necessary to insist on the importance of language learning, not primarily for national security, but for personal growth and interpersonal connection.

In terms of developing my practice, I especially appreciated the workshop given by Yuta Masuda on practical strategies for differentiation – this workshop showed me that it is indeed possible to significantly differentiate activities for separate groups even in a primary class, given that the groups are consistent, the next activity to undertake is clear, and that the teacher can evenly split their time between groups. This is something I have already put into practice while assessing my students, by leveraging engaging technology like Education Perfect to extend one group while I work directly with another

**Jessica Bryan-Brown.**

## 2024 MEMBERSHIP

2024 membership is now open Renew or join now to ensure you continue to access the benefits of LTANT membership until the end of February 2025.

Benefits for members include:

### Professional learning

Enjoy member discounts for paid events and gain access to our annual conference.

### Networking opportunities

Connect with other language teachers to give and receive collegial support.

### Stay connected and up to date

Receive regular email updates and a hard copy of AFMLTA's journal Babel (3 issues / year).

### Contribute to your profession

nominate to join the LTANT Committee, become a mentor, participate in online or in-person PL or write a newsletter article.

Both Individual Membership and Institutional Membership forms are attached to this newsletter. 2023 membership expires on **Feb 28th 2024.**



## 2024 SEMESTER 1 EVENTS

**14th March** Teach Meet - Darwin Languages Centre 4pm

**26th April** 'Teachers in Action' Professional Development Day - Darwin Languages Centre

**9th May** - Committee Meeting - Mitchell Centre 4pm

**24th May** - Japan Foundation Professional Learning Day

**6th June** - Committee Meeting - Dripstone Middle School 4pm

**6th-9th July** World Congress of Language Teachers - FIPLV, NZALT, AFMLTA - Auckland

**15th July** - Language Fest 2024 Opens



## TEACHERS IN ACTION



On the **26th April**, Darwin Languages Centre and LTANT will be holding the professional learning day named Teachers in Action. Bring along a group of students to Darwin Languages Centre and some successful teaching activities or pedagogies to hold an open classroom for teachers to learn from each other. This is LTANT's big event for Semester 1. Let your school know the date for you to be able to attend. Grants will be available to apply for in order to attend. There will be more information about this event in the very near future.

**50**

**NZALT** Biennial Conference  
**FIPLV** World Congress  
**6-9 JULY 2024**

**FIND OUT MORE**

**Celebrating 50 years of NZALT**  
HONOURING THE PAST, EMBRACING  
THE PRESENT, SHAPING THE FUTURE

**NZALT** **fiplv** **UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND**

World Congress is being held in the Southern Hemisphere this year! FIPLV, NZALT and the AFMLTA are hosting World Congress in Auckland. Visit <https://nzalt2024.org/> for more information. Call for papers is open until 14th April 2024.

**This is LTANT's second newsletter. If you have some exciting language news to share in future, please send the details to [ltantconnect@gmail.com](mailto:ltantconnect@gmail.com)**