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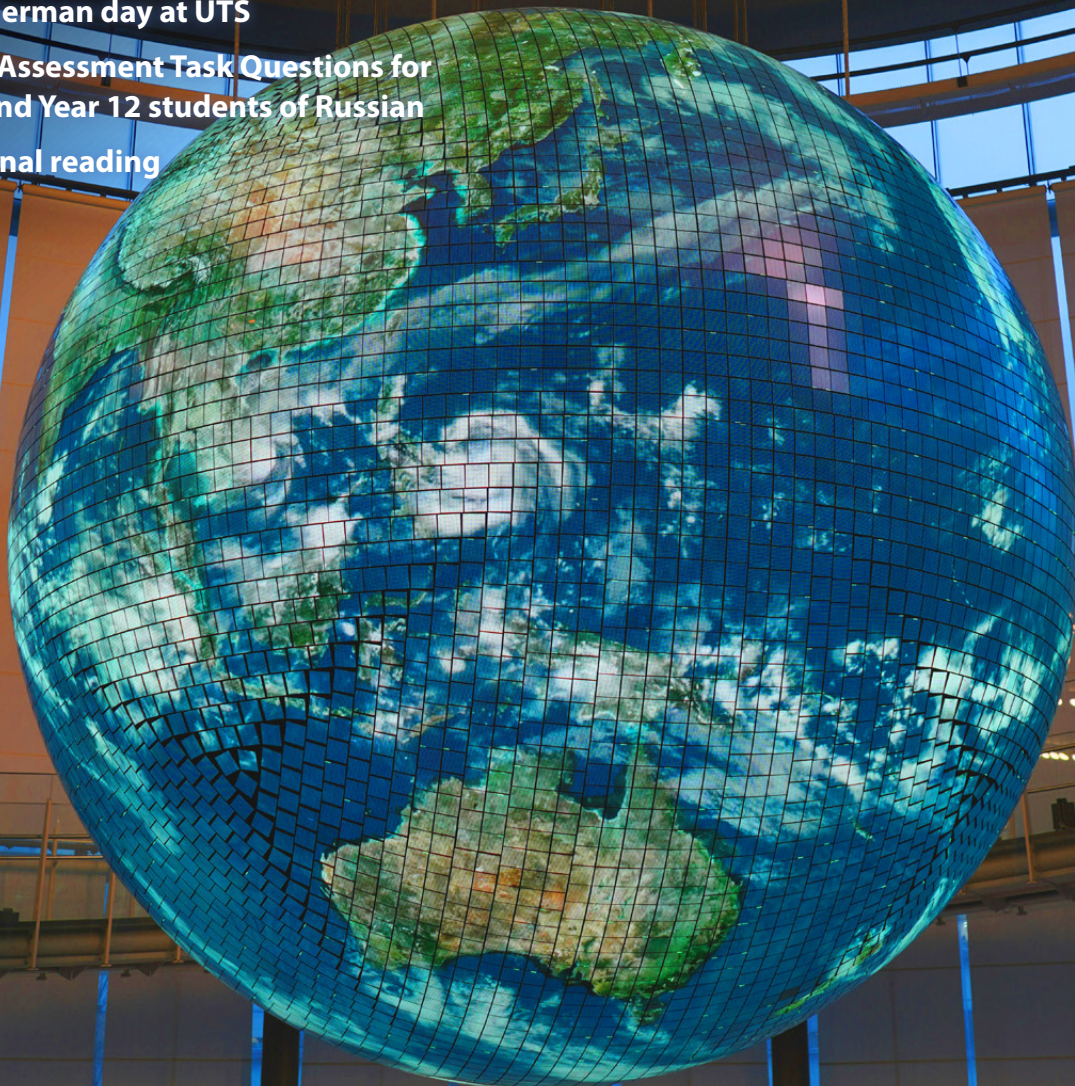
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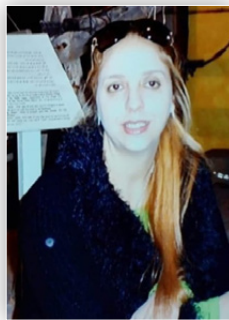
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President's Report

Enaam Darido

Serving as President of the MLTA NSW over the past year has been a privilege. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each executive and committee member for their dedicated roles.

Working with such a committed team has given me a profound appreciation for their efforts and support. I extend my sincere thanks to all for their unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions. Balancing personal and professional commitments presents significant challenges, and I commend each member for their exemplary commitment to our association.

The strength and unity of MLTA NSW as a language teachers' association are direct results of the dedication, passion, and hard work of its committee members. Each member brings their skills, expertise, time, and commitment to collaboratively drive various initiatives and accomplishments.

Although it has been an honour to serve as President, I have stepped down for personal reasons. I look forward to supporting Janelle Byrne, our next President, and continuing to contribute to the invaluable initiatives of MLTA NSW for the language teaching and learning community.

Acknowledging outstanding service: In February at the **Professional Teachers' Council Awards Dinner**, our treasurer, Mary-Anne Bianchin, received the Outstanding Professional Service Award, acknowledging her dedicated service to our association. Congratulations Mary-Anne.

Grants, awards and scholarships: This year, MLTA NSW proudly offered various grants, awards, and scholarships to support both teachers and students. **The Denise Soos Scholarships**, awarded to Year 10 students intending to study languages in Stage 6, exemplify our commitment to fostering language education. Congratulations to the recipients of this year's award **Matthew Hamilton from** St Dominic's College – Italian Continuers **Katia Norman from** Macarthur Anglican School – Indonesian Continuers **Benjamin Zeng from** North Sydney Boys H.S. – German Continuers

Recognising Outstanding Languages Educator: we honoured two remarkable educators with the Outstanding Languages Educator Award for High-Quality Classroom Teaching and Learning, acknowledging their exceptional contributions to language education.

The award recipients are **Kavita Sood**, a Hindi language teacher at Hindi School Inc Indo Australian Bal Bharathi Vidhyalaya IABBV, and **Chloe Ye**, a Chinese Mandarin teacher at St. Andrew's Cathedral School. Congratulations to both recipients!

President's Report

Delving into professional learning opportunities

To support ongoing professional development, MLTA NSW provides a variety of sessions each term to meet our members' evolving needs. In Term 1 of this year, Coreena Allen, Languages Adviser for Curriculum Secondary Learners, presented a session on *the impact of the Modern Languages K-10 Syllabus*. The presentation covered:

- *The objectives of the new syllabus for language classrooms*
- *The necessity of going beyond merely swapping outcomes*
- *Aligning outcome content points with teaching and learning activities*
- *Adapting existing activities to align with the new syllabus outcome content points*

The professional learning session received highly positive feedback from participants. Attendees praised the session for its relevance, clarity, and practical insights, highlighting how it effectively addressed their needs and provided valuable strategies for implementing the new syllabus.

The 2024 MLTA NSW face-to-face conference

The 2024 MLTA NSW conference: *Innovation, Integration and Inclusiveness* was held on Friday June 14th at Rydges World Square. Our esteemed keynote speaker was Melissa Gould-Drakeley, Director of Curriculum Development 7-10 at NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Melissa was formerly the Curriculum Inspector, Languages, at NESA.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley introduced the central themes of the conference: *'innovation, integration and inclusiveness'*. She outlined what innovation looks like in language learning and the reasons for embracing innovation. She highlighted aspects of integration in language education and provided a clear overview of inclusive practice in language classrooms.

The conference featured an exciting lineup of workshops covering a diverse range of topics. These included the latest advancements in educational technology, as well as collaborative and impactful methodologies designed to enhance teaching and learning.

During the conference, educators had the opportunity to connect with their peers, exchange ideas, forge partnerships, and expand their language teaching networks. Additionally, attendees received four hours of NESA Accredited Professional Development.

Following the June conference, we conducted a survey to gather feedback from attendees. We consistently consider and utilise their suggestions to enhance the quality of our services.

The conference garnered enthusiastic feedback from participants, who appreciated the wide range of workshop topics and their relevance to current educational practices.

A sincere expression of gratitude to our presenters and corporate sponsors for their invaluable support towards advancing languages education and the success of our conference.

President's Report

Executive Roles & Names

Following the AGM on 14.6.24 the 2024-2025 committee members are as follows:

President

Janelle Byrne

Vice-President

Lyndall Franks

Treasurer

Mary-Anne Bianchin

Media Liaison Officer

Sana Zreika

Secretary

Miyako Matsui

PD Officer

Anthea Wawryka

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Noor Elias

Varsha Daithankar

Marian Botros

Wafa Saboune

Mala Mehta

Sri Rahasti

Jannan Assaad

An Ngo

Swati Doshi

Professional Learning and Conference 2024

Anthea Wawryka, MLTA PL Officer

Professional Learning for 2024 got off to a great start. Term 1 saw over 50 participants register to hear Coreena Allen talk about the new curriculum. It was fascinating to hear about why the changes were necessary as well as what we have to change in our practice to achieve the Syllabus outcomes. Teachers were able to network with others and discuss how to make tasks align with the new syllabus as well as coming away with practical take-aways that could be immediately used in their classrooms. It's always great when we can hear from, and learn from such passionate educators.

Speaking of which, Term 2 saw us hold our biannual MLTA NSW Conference. The theme for 2024 was "Innovation, Integration, and Inclusiveness". Over 120 MLTA NSW members came together to listen to a variety of speakers talk about topics such as AI, differentiation, Critical thinking, Aboriginal pedagogy, Metacognition and much much more. Our Keynote Speaker, Melissa Gould-Drakeley got the day off to an enthusiastic start, exploring innovative and integrative education and what this looks like for languages, now and in the future. Sessions discussing ChatGPT, AI in general and TikTok were some of the most popular for the day, demonstrating that Language teachers are keen to stay up to date with new technologies. There seemed to be a real buzz in the air at the end of the day as teachers came back together for lucky door prizes and to discuss all they had learnt throughout the day. Thank you to all presenters and participants for coming together at our annual conference, it would be nothing without you all.



Professional Learning and Conference 2024



Thank you to all our MLTA NSW members for Semester 1. You have been hugely supportive of all we have done, and I look forward to seeing you all at one of our events in the near future. As usual, if you have any ideas for Professional Learning that you would like to see, please reach out to pl@mltansw.asn.au.

NZALT / FIPLV Conference 2024

Miyako Matsui MLTA NSW Secretary,
AFMLTA President-Elect

New Zealand Association of Language Teachers (NZALT) / Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (International Federation of Language Teachers Associations) (FIPLV) Conference was held on 6-9 July 2024 at the University of Auckland. NZALT celebrated its 50th Anniversary in partnership with FIPLV, which concurrently co-hosted its World Congress, with AFMLTA also participating as a partner. This conference attracted over 400 language teachers and academics from around the world, featuring over 100 presentation sessions.



On the first day, 6 July, AFMLTA National Assembly was held before the opening of the conference. It was attended by AFMLTA executive officers and M/LTA Presidents or liaisons from all states and territories. Enaam Darido, Immediate-Past President of MLTA NSW, attended representing MLTA NSW (Picture).

At the conference opening, we were warmly welcomed by a group of young Samoans who performed a traditional dance accompanied by songs in the Samoan language (Picture). It was dynamic—we felt the vibration (literally!) throughout the hall, and it certainly reminded us of the importance of passing our languages on to the younger generation.



NZALT / FIPLV Conference 2024

Professor Anne-Marie Morgan and Andrew Scrimgeour represented the AFMLTA as keynote speakers pointing out the importance of maintaining indigenous and home languages and learning additional languages at school. It was difficult to choose which sessions to attend as they all sounded interesting. Of the many sessions I attended, Katy Gilles, a teacher of Japanese from NSW, showcased a practical session on realia and *shuwa* (also refer to her article on Accents Vol11, Issue2). Many realia introduced in the session were hand-made and an hour of interactive session did not seem to be enough for the participants (Picture). Other sessions offered include German-focused stream, language teaching strategies and ideas, identities, heritage language, benefits of early learning, and language policy. Attending sessions from different languages or sectors (e.g., primary, secondary, tertiary) also helped broaden my knowledge.



I had the opportunity not only to attend these inspiring sessions but also to meet other dedicated language teachers from across Australia and other countries. As an executive member of the AFMLTA, the opportunity to meet and to know members of partnered associations like NZALT and FIPLV was important to me, as we work closely with them. Attending events like the conference dinner, where attendees dressed up, enjoyed delicious meals and local wines, engaged in casual conversations, and watched some dance movements on stage, was also a highlight of the conference. Over a month has passed since the conference but I still remember this valuable experience as if it was yesterday. In 2025, we look forward to welcoming dedicated languages teachers to the AFMLTA conference which will be held from 11-13 July in Adelaide.

Tips and Inspiration for your 2024 Linguafest Submission

Sophia Higgins, Linguafest Convenor

We look forward to receiving the films you have 'cooked up' in your 2024 Linguafest adventure on **Friday 20th September**.

Here are some useful tips to help you and your students finalise the masterpiece you have been working on.

Film Prerequisites

- 2 minutes is the time limit.
- Films should be in MP4 or AVI format.
- They must be in the target language/s
- Films must contain **a frypan** and reflect the theme of **adventure**.
- English subtitles are required.
- Films must be G-rated. Please avoid violence and coarse language.
- All music must be copyright-free.

Judging criteria

- Creativity and interpretation of the theme, storyline, characters etc.
- Language accuracy
- Film quality: sound, picture, editing etc
- Is it 'big screen' material?

Tips

- Keep to the time limit, but don't go too far under 2 minutes either.
- Avoid submitting your film on the last day.
- Films are accepted until **11:59 pm** on the **20th September**.
- Film with landscape orientation.
- Ensure subtitles are legible.
- Use costumes to enhance your plot and characters.

Are you looking for inspiration?

You can check out the finalist films from previous years on the MLTA NSW YouTube channel. Here are a few to get you started.

Primary film + documentary

[Merherbai, the Original Feminine](#)

[Icon of India](#)

IABBV Hindi School

Primary film + comedy

[Je suis une célébrité, sortez moi de là!](#)

Queenwood Junior School

Best Plurilingual Film

[Mission Accompli](#)

St Peter's Anglican College Broulee

Stage 5 Winner 2023

[Ossi Wessi Brudi](#)

Smith's Hill High School

Please get in touch with Sophia Higgins, the Linguafest Convenor, at linguafest@mltansw.asn.au if you have any questions.

The screening of the finalists will be on **Friday 22nd November**.

LINGUAFEST



Modern
Languages
Teachers'
Association
of NSW Inc.

MLTA NSW LINGUAFEST short film competition announces the 2024 theme is ADVENTURE... & the signature item is a FRYING PAN.

Entries close: Friday 20 September 2024

Virtual Screening & Awards Presentation: Friday 22 November 2024

Further information & entry submission

www.mltansw.asn.au/linguafest

HSC Extension Languages Workshop

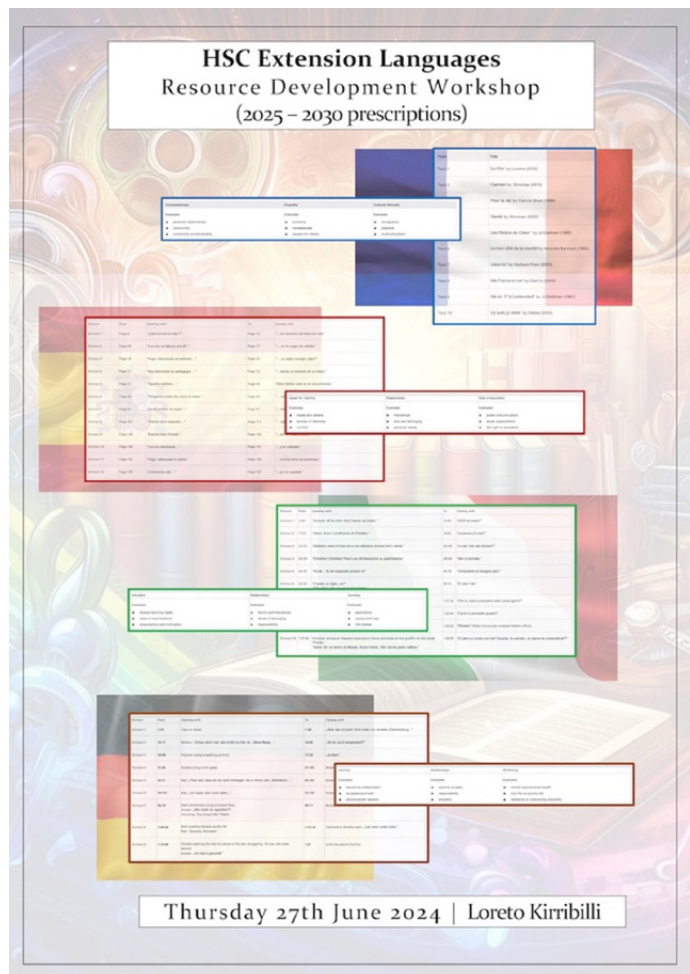
Thursday 27th June 2024 | Loreto Kirribilli

Alison Dean, Event coordinator,
ADECS Educational Consultancy Services

To prepare for the implementation of the new HSC Extension language prescriptions in Term 4, a group of 31 highly experienced HSC French German Italian and Spanish teachers came together at the end of Term 2 for a day of collegial learning and resource creation around the new prescribed texts.

From songs, to books, to movie extracts, each new prescribed text type necessitated slightly different fields of analysis depending on each language, so each group began the day by customising a generic template to suit their particular needs. From there, the groups began making their way through each extract, discussing its content and populating the template fields as they went. The final result is a set of highly practical teaching resources, which will be made available and freely accessible to all over the course of Term 3.

The opportunity to engage deeply with the new texts, in beautiful surrounds and in the company of experienced colleagues, was appreciated by all who attended. Sincere thanks to Head of Languages Liana Trevisan and her team at Loreto Kirribilli for hosting this event.



Stage 5 German Day

@ UTS | Friday 14th June 2024

Following the success of the inaugural event in 2023 at the University of Sydney, this year's iteration of the Stage 5 German Day saw 160 students and 14 teachers from 11 schools across the Sydney Metro and Illawarra regions converge on the University of Technology Sydney for a day of learning and interacting with fellow students of German.

The idea for the event arose in 2022 from a desire to make the ongoing study of German in Stage 6 and beyond more attractive to secondary students, by providing a first-hand opportunity to learn about post-school, tertiary pathways in the study of Languages. From the teachers' perspective, it would provide an all-important excursion opportunity at a point when subject selections are front-of-mind, while students would be enthused by the prospect of free German food and the opportunity to mingle with students from other schools 😊

Opened by the General Consul Felix Schwarz, students were initially addressed by representatives from Macquarie University, UNSW, USYD and UTS, before learning of available study opportunities in Germany from spokespeople from the Goethe Institut and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Following a morning tea of pretzels and refreshments generously provided by the German Consulate, DAAD and USYD, the students moved in mixed groups to breakout areas to participate in teacher-led speaking activities. In the two years of this event, this component has consistently rated the highest amongst students in their post-excursion surveys, for the opportunity it provides them to use their German in a realistic setting. The sense of camaraderie amongst the groups, even after such a short period of time (1 hour), has been palpable and is something the organisers are looking to build upon in next year's iteration. After lunch (BYO), each student group was taken on a campus tour led by student leaders organised by UTS, before departing the campus at 2pm to return to school.

While the format of the day is relatively straightforward, its success stems from a mutual commitment from all stakeholders to provide an authentic, informative and above all, enjoyable experience for our students. Teachers of Stage 5 German (including from schools interstate) interested in being part of next year's event are encouraged to get in touch.

Alison Dean

alison.dean@adecs.com.au

NSW Representative | National Association of Teachers of German
Professional Learning Advisor | Goethe Institut, Sydney



Andrea Simmelbauer from the Goethe Institut addresses students on study opportunities in Germany |
📷 Dominik Lack

Creating Assessment Task Questions for Year 11 and Year 12 students of Russian

Marina Anokhina, NSW School of Languages /
Secondary College of Languages

I have created and collected a bank of assessment task questions that are aligned with the Russian Continuers Stage 6 Syllabus (2023) objectives and outcomes. I would like to share a few of them.

1. Interacting in Russian (20%)

The student:

1.1 applies a range of strategies to interact and sustain communication appropriate to different audiences, purposes, social and cultural contexts

E.g., What changes could be made in the Australian / Russian school system to prepare students for real life?

1.2 discusses and justifies opinions and ideas on prescribed topics and perspectives

E.g., What would you do if they were to offer you a job? / How would you behave in this or that situation and why?

2. Analysing in Russian (50%)

The student:

2.1 identifies and conveys the gist, main points, and supporting details in texts

E.g., How does this interview encourage people to attend the art gallery? Support your answer with reference to the text.

2.2 compares perspectives and synthesises information and ideas and perspectives in texts

E.g., How do the speakers' attitudes differ? / Compare Marina and Ivan's views on what is a healthy lifestyle.

2.3 interprets and evaluates how language features shape meaning in texts

E.g., How effective is Olga's speech? / Assess the language used by Natasha in her posts in the forum. / How does the director of the Pushkin Museum try and engage the audience when promoting the new exhibition? Support your answer with reference to language and content.

2.4 analyses how beliefs, values, culture and identity are expressed in texts

E.g., Explain why Svetlana would prefer to live either in the city or the country.

Creating Assessment Task Questions for Year 11 and Year 12 students of Russian

3. Creating meaning in Russian (30%)

The student:

3.1 applies knowledge of language features and structures to create meaning in texts

E.g., You have been asked to write an article to your school newspaper about social media addiction of teenagers and how it might affect their life.

Вас попросили написать статью в школьную газету о подростковой зависимости от социальных сетей и о том, как это может повлиять на их жизнь.

3.2 structures and sequences texts appropriate to different audiences, purposes, social and cultural contexts

E.g., You decided to take a gap year and travel to Russia before commencing your course at a university in Australia. Now that you have returned from your travel, write a blog post reflecting on your experiences and explaining your readers why you made the decision not to go to university immediately after finishing high school.

Вы решили взять годичный перерыв и поехать в Россию, прежде чем начать обучение в университете в Австралии. Теперь, когда вы вернулись из путешествия, напишите заметку в ваш блог, отражающую ваш опыт и объясняющую читателям, почему вы приняли решение не поступать в университет сразу после окончания средней общеобразовательной школы.

3.3 creates texts to express opinions, ideas and perspectives

E.g., Write an email to your friends explaining the possible tourist places they could visit in Russia, making comparisons between the different options, which ones you would recommend and why.

Напишите электронное письмо своим друзьям, объяснив возможные туристические места, которые они могли бы посетить в России, сравнив различные варианты, какие из них вы бы порекомендовали и почему.

Professional reading

Two research articles have been published this year looking at the state of languages in Australia. These articles make interesting reading and broaden our understanding about language learning.

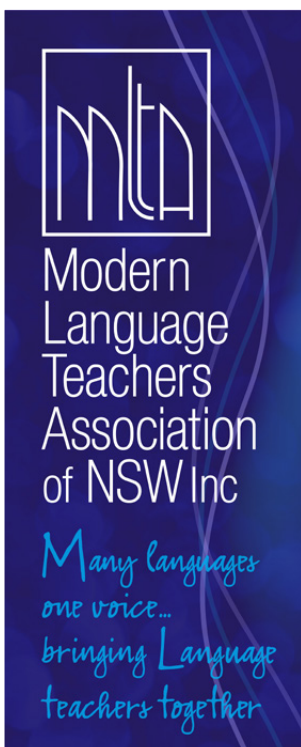
The first article is about the possible reasons for the decline in Asian language student numbers in Australia. It is by Louisa Field and Ken Cruickshank, University of Sydney Camperdown Campus and Rachel Wilson, University of Technology, Ultimo and is published in *Curriculum Perspectives*.

[Prioritized but declining: an analysis of student participation in Asian languages courses in secondary school 2001–2021 | Curriculum Perspectives \(springer.com\)](https://www.springer.com/journal/10079/issue/1)

The second article is about the importance of a state Languages policy and a comparison with NSW (no policy) and Victoria (policy). *The impact of policy settings on language education in Australian schools: a comparative analysis of language enrolments and attrition in New South Wales and Victoria* is by Antonia Rubino, University of Sydney and John Hajek, University of Melbourne. The article is published in the journal *Current issues in language planning*, Vol.25, 2024-Issue 3.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14664208.2024.2305514>

Both articles can be accessed via the link provided.



Follow Us ...



The MLTA of NSW is a dedicated group of educators who are committed to furthering Languages Education in NSW.

The association covers a range of languages and sectors. We are dedicated to the study of Languages in NSW and enthusiastically work to support NSW language teachers.

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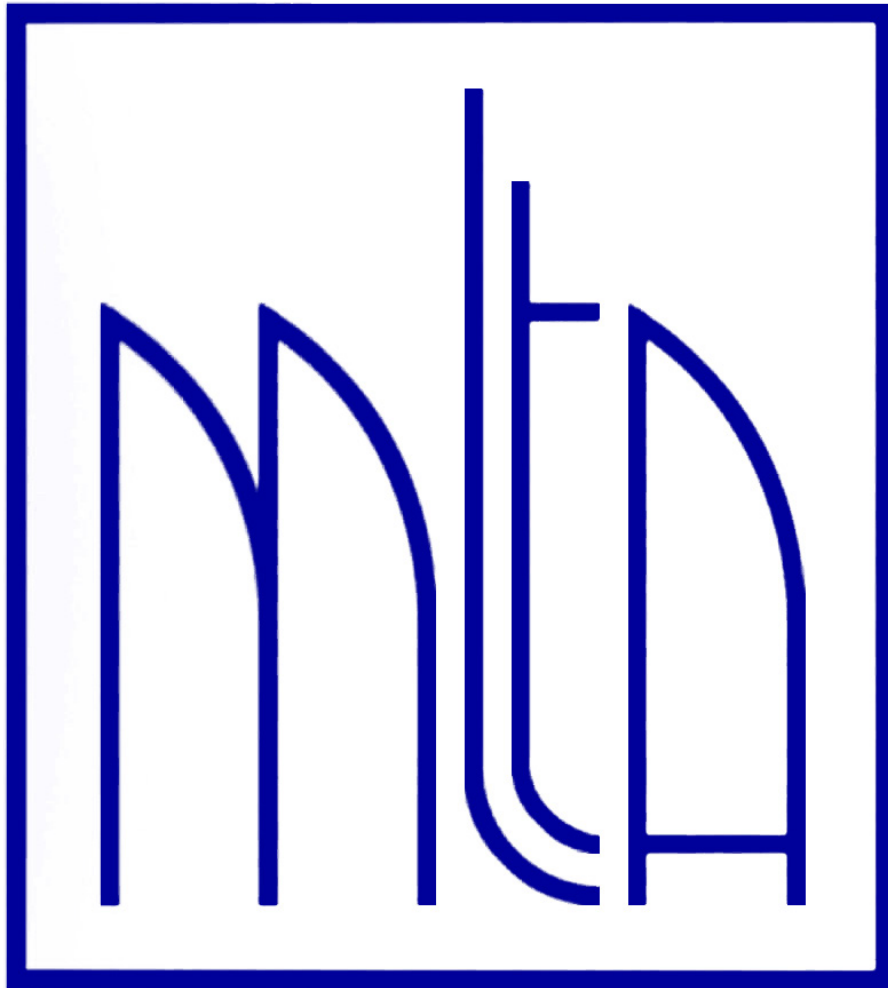
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