

# NEWS IN BRIEF



**AFMLTA:** the national voice for teachers of languages  
Providing vision, leadership, representation, advocacy and support for quality teaching and learning of language

**December 2023**



AFMLTA Executive Officers wish everyone a positive end to the year, and all the very best for the holidays. We look forward to working with you again in 2024.

## From the President

As 2023 draws to a close, AFMLTA once again thanks all member associations for their tireless work throughout the year supporting teachers and learners of languages across all levels and contexts of schooling.

A highlight of 2023 was the successful 24th AFMLTA International Languages Conference held in Perth on 7–9 July. It was wonderful to welcome attendees to our first face-to-face conference since 2019. Delegates from all states and territories, along with some from overseas, enjoyed reconnecting with colleagues, establishing new networks and being inspired by invited speakers and session presenters. Many of the conference presentations can be found on the conference page of our [website](#).

In 2024 AFMLTA will continue to partner with the New Zealand Association of Language Teachers (NZALT) as they prepare for their biennial conference to

take place from 6–9 July in Auckland. 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of NZALT, so it will be a great cause for celebration! AFMLTA will be well-represented by our sponsored keynote speakers, Andrew Scrimgeour and Anne-Marie Morgan who will share our vision for languages education in Australia and how it relates to policy worldwide, as well as other experiences of languages education practice and research.

Coinciding with their conference, NZALT will also host the 2024 World Congress of the International Federation of Language Teacher Associations (FIPLV). We are excited that this event is coming to our region for the first time since 1988 when the Congress was held in Canberra. We hope many of you will make a note of the dates of the Conference and Congress and consider attending this event in Auckland. We also encourage members to submit proposals to present at this significant event. The call for papers is open until 14 April. All members of state and territory language teacher associations are eligible to register at the member rate. Ultra-early bird rates are available until 1 March. Please see below for further information and registration details.

While we celebrate the successes and achievements of 2023, we continue to mourn the loss of our Immediate Past President, colleague and dear friend Nathan Harvey who passed away unexpectedly on 9 September 2023. We know that Nathan was widely respected for his significant contributions to languages education in his home state of Western Australia, nationally and internationally, and that many of you will be sharing the grief at his loss. We will all sadly miss Nathan's enthusiasm, his dedication to promoting the importance of language learning, his warmth, humility and witty sense of humour.

To honour Nathan's memory, the AFMLTA is currently exploring the possibility of setting up a memorial fund to which contributions can be made with a view to creating a teacher scholarship in his name. More details will be provided early in the new year.

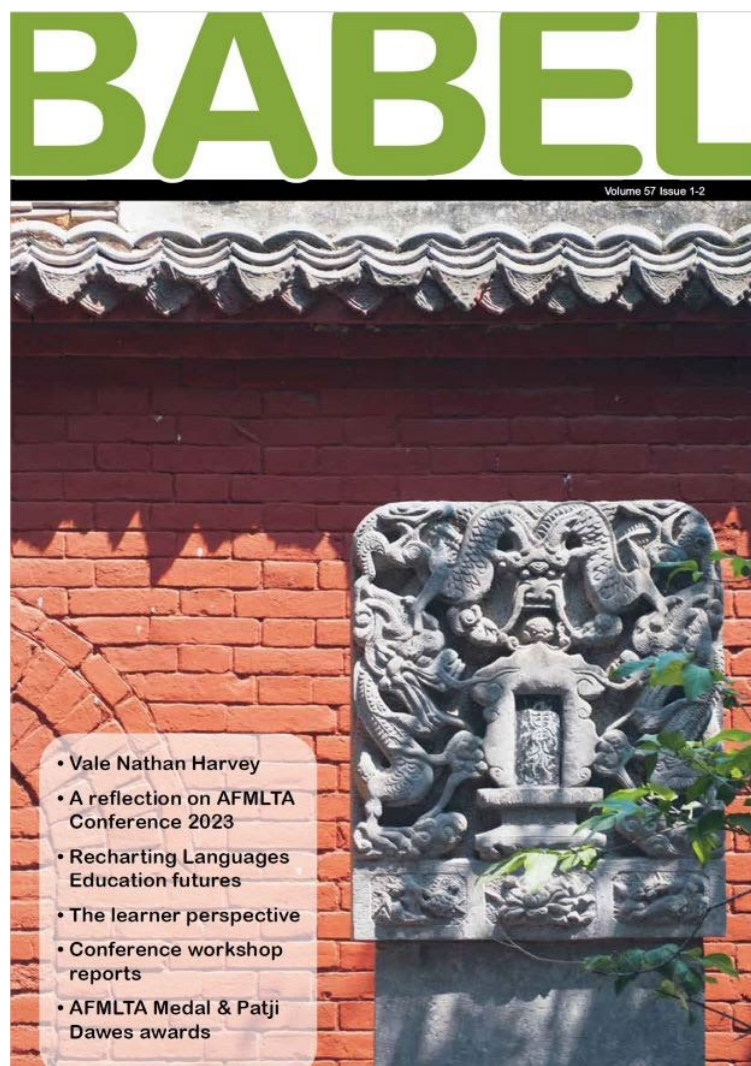
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## New Zealand Association of Language Teachers (NZALT) Conference/Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV) World Congress 2024



- [Keynote speakers](#)
- [Call for papers](#) (closes 14 April 2024)
- Super-low [Ultra Early Bird registration](#) is now open (available until 1 March 2024) - NZ\$100 represents exceptional value for NZALT's premier professional development event
- For more details, see the [conference website](#)

## AFMLTA's *Babel* journal



Vol 57/1-2 of *Babel* is with our printers and nearing distribution.

As always, we invite submissions to *Babel*, the AFMLTA's professionally refereed journal. *Babel* features general and research articles, reviews, and reports about the teaching and learning of languages, and language policy at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. It is provided to all AFMLTA member associations.

For article requirements, information about subscriptions and advertising, follow the link below for more information.

[Find out more](#)

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## Advocacy

In pursuance of our goal to provide leadership, and to influence policy and professional agendas based on the needs of the languages profession, AFMLTA has continued to advocate for languages education at national level in 2023.

In January members of the executive met with Dan Skehan, Schools Adviser to the federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare, to convey our work on the *Towards a National Languages Plan and Strategy* which was undertaken by AFMLTA on behalf of the Australian Government's Department of Education. We continue to seek an opportunity to brief the minister directly and are currently awaiting confirmation of permission to publish NLPS data which will be of interest to the various stakeholders who contributed to the research that was conducted.

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## Professional learning

### **MLTAT Conference**

**Date:** 18 May 2024

**Location:** Hobart

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### **AFMLTA**



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