



La Gazette

de l'Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale

été 2014



Alliance Française
de la Côte Centrale

From the Editor...

Bienvenu et Salut de ma part

Welcome and Hello!

Please enjoy our été (summer) newsletter, and I hope you all had a wonderful Noel and perhaps a vacation as well.

It was lovely to see lots of people at the Christmas Party, enjoying food, company, sun and pétanque. Thank you so much for attending and helping make it such a fun afternoon. Felicitations to the winner of the raffle. I meant to follow you home and help you drink your prize-but I had to take Papa Noel to another Christmas Party....

There is an expression 'the days move slowly but the years go quickly' eek!!! It's well and truly February, so a summer squeeze for this gazette.

A bientôt

Leigh

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★ *Date for contributions to the autumn 2014 newsletter is*

Sat 15th March 2014 ★

emailed to me at lqfirehorse@hotmail.com



Rendez-vous dates for your diary



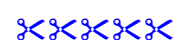
Our monthly conversation groups can creep up quickly, and even remembering that they are the second Saturday of the month doesn't always work when juggling commitments in one's head, the plastic brain or the calendar-so here are the autumn dates in living colour.

Mars: Saturday 8

Avril: Saturday 12

Mai: Saturday 10

We look forward to your company at 10.30am at Erina Leagues Club in Ilya St, Erina



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE LA COTE CENTRALE

Presidents Report 2013-2014

Like the parents who one day realise that their children are now adults, we can look at our group and say "Oh my goodness! **We have grown!**"

On a recent count, membership is now well over 100 and regularly get 30 to 40 members at our monthly conversation get-together.

This year we have introduced a more structured approach to our conversation meetings with fun material suitable for both beginners and intermediate learners.

We have also introduced **two immersion bbq's**, with greater emphasis to speaking, learning and understanding the French language. Our French teachers Patricia and Viviane have produced some excellent material and fun quizzes to the delight of all.

Thanks to Renee's promotional skills we managed a free half page spread ad the June 7 issue of the Express Advocate.

This was followed by many inquiries and new members. It has also brought us to the attention of the **Central Coast Chorale**, which invited us to participate and assist in the organization, promotion and catering for their "**Fabulously French**" Concert in August. The concert was a sell out success and of course produced some great publicity for us. Many thanks to Patricia Sabatier and her team who managed to cater and feed almost 300 patrons and musicians.

Happy to note a special thanks to Hana Cropper who in a busy year of work, study and preparation to her marriage to Sasa, managed to update and maintain our membership register plus offer great assistance at our meetings and events.
I am certain all members will join me in wishing Hana and Sasa a fabulous future.

But success and growth, bring extra work and responsibilities. It is no longer the job of the President and one or two committee members

The closure of FAFA (the Federation Alliance Francaises in Australia) was an unwelcome highlight of 2013. It means that we no longer have a governing body for the 40 or so, AF in Australia.

It also means substantial increases to the cost of our Public Liability insurance, the restructuring of our corporate and financial obligations and the need to conform to both Australian statutes and French regulations.

Further work is also required to streamline our meetings, organize events, maintain our web site and coordinate our French Classes.

Running our group, so that membership is enjoyed by all, is I believe a responsibility to be shared by many.

Please volunteer yourself or nominate someone for the important year ahead. Many thanks to all, for their trust and support during my term as president

Basil Loupis

Alliance Française à la côte de Centrale Committee 2014

President - Ary Kleiberg
Vice President - Leigh Gleeson
Treasurer - Quentin Reynolds
Minutes secretary - Helen Kitley
Membership director - Renee Skinner
Communications and news letter -
Leigh Gleeson
Publicity - Renee Skinner



Meetings and Events Director.

This position is divided into two subcommittees.

1. Monthly meetings and French conversation topics subcommittee: Nareen Edmondson and Ros Brandi
 2. Special Events – subcommittee: Maree Burtenshaw and David Cruikshank
- Teaching Director – Patricia Sabatier
Librarian - Marie Burtenshaw
Webmaster - Rod Gedda

Thank you to outgoing office bearers, a warm Bienvenue to new and returning office bearers and Bon Courage for a wonderful year of French language and fun.

Enjoy French in a variety of ways

Local opportunities to expand and extend your French knowledge in many ways....

Meetup.com

If you speak French fluently (or used to and want to again), join our AFCC member Ary at Erina Leagues Club for more spoken French.

Go to meetup.com and find his Central Coast page, answer 2 questions to ascertain fluency and then speak with like-minded folk to maintain your language skills in a social way. They also meet at ELC on the 4th Saturday. the month.



hosts French language on a rotating basis
11 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy. The next one is on
Saturday 1st March, 2014 at 10am. Please book your
place on **0425 576 606** or find them on Facebook.

à lire:

Go on line <http://www.lcf-magazine.fr/> for **la culture Française** a free French magazine written by French teachers with exercises and articles to listen to!

A great magazine about French culture (already 8 issues) you can enrol online (free).

A new **magazine** about France made in Australia: "**French Living**"

<http://frenchlivingmag.com.au/> you can find it in Alliance Française Sydney or buy it online.

"**le petit journal Sydney**" online informations sur l'Australie en Français

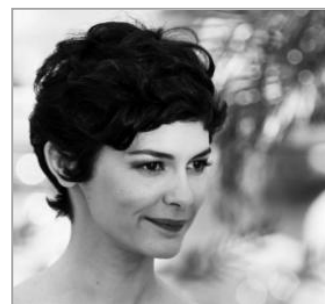
www.lepetitjournal.com/sydney

Alliance Française Sydney has some great events to look forward to...

Contact them at <http://www.afsydney.com.au> and French up your life.

French movie stars photo exhibition

This exhibition showcasing vintage and modern pictures of French movie stars taken by Agence France Presse photographs celebrates the Alliance Française French Film Festival's 25th edition.



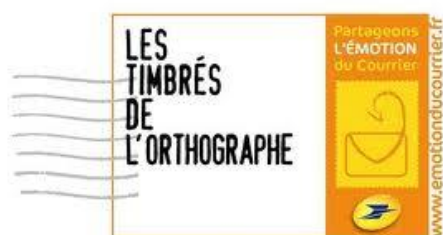
The show, which takes place at the Alliance Française de Sydney **from 10 February to 23 March**, is an exclusive collection of 24 photos of leading figures of 20th century French cinema.

Feast your eyes on some of the screen's greatest beauties and sex symbols: Alain Delon, Juliette Binoche, Gérard Depardieu, Omar Sy, Catherine Deneuve, Audrey Tautou, Jean Reno, Daniel Auteuil and many more..

Jean-Luc Godard said that "all one needs to make a film is a gun and a girl". But in these photos, no need for a gun—they're fatale enough on their own.



Sydney 4–23 Mar
Melbourne 5–23 Mar
Canberra 6–25 Mar
Brisbane 6–25 Mar
Perth 18 Mar–6 Apr
Adelaide 20 Mar–8 Apr
Byron Bay 24–28 Apr



French Spelling Bee

The Opportun publishing house organizes the contest "Les timbrés de l'orthographe".

This spelling bee aims to promote the proper use of French language to the general public in a playful way, and will enable everyone to test his knowledge.

More information coming soon.

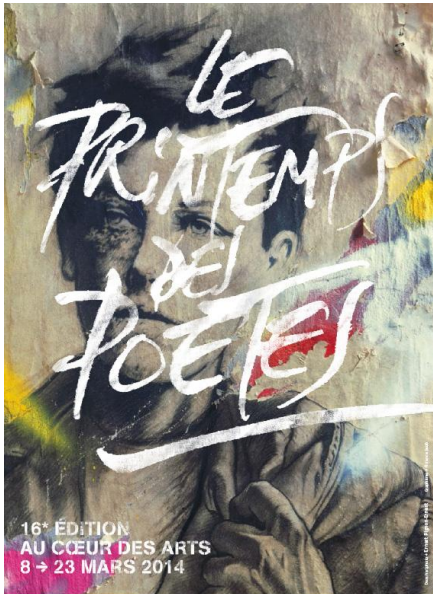
How to get there...

257 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Nearest station: Town Hall

Tel: (02) 9292 5701
Fax: (02) 9267 0717

enquiries@afsydney.com.au

Monday to Thursday: 9.00am to 6.45pm
Friday: 9.00am to 4.45pm
Saturday: 8.30am to 2.15pm
Sunday: Closed



Cultural Information

Poetry, the 5th art

It is of course nearly spring in France and the Northern Hemisphere, so from the 8th-23th March is the Springtime of Poets Festival. www.printempdespoetes.com

The aim of this French language national and international event is to open the public up to poetry in all of its forms.

Created in 1999, *Printemps des Poètes* is a French language event on an international level, which takes

place mostly in France and Quebec. It encourages everyone to celebrate poetry, whatever its form of expression, in the towns, cities and regions of France, much like the Fête de la Musique (also known as *World Music Day*).

Every edition strives to highlight a particular theme that can be used as a source of inspiration to create poetry. And always with the same and only goal: to put a spotlight on the fifth art, poetry. I will bring a poem to the March rendez-vous and read it to the group. Perhaps someone else would like to as well?

à lire:

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www.lepetitjournal.com/sydney



Member profile

I am keen to profile a member or two each Gazette, but I know people are shy about that sort of thing. It's a good way to break the ice amongst the group- you might read a real conversation starter in her one day! So, here is a bit about me and maybe someone else would like to send me the answers to these questions for the next newsletter.

Email me at lgfirehorse@hotmail.com

Name: Leigh Gleeson

Years learning French: On and off (mostly off) since I was in 2nd class

Why did you start learning French? I had a lovely 2nd class teacher; Mrs Mathieu from



Mauritius and she would often speak French to us in class. It sounded so beautiful that I always wanted to learn it.

Have you been to France or a French speaking country?

I am embarrassed to say 'No'; however I will visit France in 2017 for my 50th Birthday and walk as much as possible and ride the towpaths next to canals. I once hitchhiked with a French person in Zimbabwe to catch a plane on time, does that count?

Top tip for language learning? Just speak! The way little children learn their mother tongue without fear of failure. I also listen to CDs and borrow children's picture books with

limited stories in them from the State Library; it's about \$10 through local libraries.

Will you look as elegant as this clipart when cycling in France? Mais oui Mademoiselle!!

Enjoy the rest of summer and we all hope to see you at a rendez-vous soon.

Please send anything you think would be newsletter appropriate to me at

lgfirehorse@hotmail.com by 15th March please.

Merci

Leigh

The next newsletter will hit your inbox at the end of March.

Do you wish to share...

- ♣ Language tips
- ♣ Movie reviews
- ♣ Recipes
- ♣ Travel stories

Please do, and look forward to information about other AF groups in Australia.