

# La Gazette

**af**  
Alliance Française  
de la Côte Centrale

*de l'Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale*

*ISSUE SUMMER 2017*

## **RENDEZVOUS DATES 2017**

**9 December**

### **FILM -THE MIDWIFE**

Claire is a tightly wound midwife who forms an unlikely friendship with Béatrice, her late father's free-spirited mistress. Though polar opposites, the two women come to rely on each other after Béatrice reveals that she has brain cancer.

### **DVDS**

**Contact Maree Burtenshaw for the list of French movies**

### **Important message!**

Please confirm on the Meetup site (Central Coast French Conversation Meetup Group) when attending the 'Meetups' on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month.

## Message from the President

**Summer 2017-** A word from the President:

Most of you will have noticed the work being carried out in our “Meeting alcove” at the Erina Leagues Club. This is now completed. It appears that the purpose of this work was the shift of the TAB from its room at the back of the club to “our” spot. Having been offered the old TAB area, one has to say that this is not a bad swap for us, since we will be the only ones there. Coming into the club you now walk straight to the back, past the poker machines, and right at the end is our new abode to the right. There is no door, so you cannot miss finding us.

As we all know, our proceedings should start at 10.30 AM. This means that, if you need a coffee, you come early enough to be in the room by 10.30. So I propose that we make the official starting time 10.00 AM, which gives everyone a half hour to get their coffee, socialize a bit and we can all enjoy a full 1 1/2 hours to practice our language skills.

As you may know, Saturday October 20 was the annual rendezvous for presidents and other executive office holders in the premises of AF Canberra.

Nathalie and I went there on the Friday, had dinner with the ladies from Wollongong and attended the proceedings which started at 9AM and went through to 6PM. This was followed later by a great buffet dinner from 7.30 to about 10.30 PM. In case anyone covets my job, I must point out that the entire time not a word of English was spoken. It was almost like a high intensity French language immersion day. As most of those present were native French speakers this was fine for them, however, the new D.G. (Directeur General) the big Poobah in AF Australia, spoke at a rate about 3 times faster than the average Francophone. Fortunately I was familiar with most of the topics, so missing about a third of the words he spoke, did not affect my overall comprehension greatly.

First off we had to *present ourselves* and say a few words about our club, which was followed by a detailed explanation of the “*Questionnaire Annuel*”. This comprises 33 pages of questions, which long suffering presidents have to fill out every year. Having done 4 already I did not need to have all the gory details explained. It is an annual cauchemar, because the questions relate not just to the club, financial details and the like, future plans, but also to the classes. The second hat **Charter of the Alliance Francaise**, that the presidents in the smaller Alliances carry, is the function of Directeur (in charge of Education).

Part 2 was about the **Charter of the Alliance Francaise**. This dealt with items such as Goals, Governance, Administrative structure, the AF Trademark activities and a whole lot more.

Part 3 came in the form of “**Synergy 8**”, dealing with communication, presented by folks from AF Melbourne. Happily this was followed by **Déjeuner** and networking. Networking is one of the most important elements of the meeting; the opportunity to speak to people from other Alliances and hear about their experiences. Our AF is one of the smaller ones, since we have no links to a University unlike most. Even so, I feel we run the show as well as any of them.

After lunch we had the lowdown on **Culturethèque**, in which some engineers had not been able to resist changing access to the Administrative part (for me). Anyway, that is now understood and we can all join again. Our next topic dealt with **DEL F** (Diplôme d’Études en Langue Française). This comprises 4 diplomas that correspond to the common European language standard. Levels A1, A2, B1 and B2. (The final 2 levels C1 and C2 are for the DALF diploma (Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française). These exams are not held by us; you have to do them in Sydney. The next segment dealt with **FLE** (Français Langue Étrangère) **Tendances**, primarily about various teaching aids, books, videos and the like.

Finally the new DG Patrice Gilles tried to get us interested in a program entitled “**Service Civique**”. This is fine for the larger AFs, but not terribly interesting in our part-time volunteer-run club, at least for now.

Whilst some of the material was familiar to me, bear in mind that there are often changes in personnel in Alliances, so there are always newcomers, for whom everything is new. To recidivists the importance lies in Networking and also to get a good handle on the new DG. I know of a Deputy who is very good at that.

As you can see the annual Canberra trip is not all sun and skittles. It is hard work, but ultimately very useful. After all, we belong to a community of Alliances and the contacts may serve us well.

I give you all my best wishes for the Festive season and a great 2018.



### **Le Voyage d'étude à Nouméa – 7 to 14 Octobre, 2017**

On the departure board at Sydney Airport, next to Flight No. QF91 to Noumea, are the words in French, “détendez-vous”. This seems a good omen for our study tour! It was very difficult not to follow this directive because of the lifestyle and beautiful weather of La Nouvelle Calédonie.

In our group there were 10 students, one husband and our tour leader, Viviane. All were very happy with the host families with whom we stayed. Two of the group who stayed at a hotel were equally pleased with their accommodation opposite a beautiful beach.

My friend, Linda, and I still cannot believe our good luck with our wonderful host family and the panoramic views from their house on a hill in the suburb of Sainte-Marie. Even our two host dogs were perfect! Our family, Elisabeth and Jean-Paul, were keen to speak mostly in French with us and no doubt our conversational French has improved, peut-être un petit peu! The dogs also spoke French with us and their favourite word was “promenade”! Elisabeth is an excellent cook and spoiled us with delicious dinners as well as charcuterie, fromage and baguettes.

The planned activities in our program were relaxing, fun and educational. We explored the Dumea River by kayak, swam in the river and had a picnic on the river bank. Our kayak guide told us stories of the local people and history.

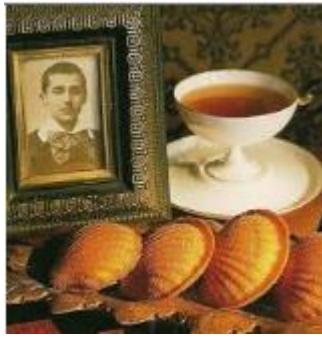
On another day we went by boat de Baie Moselle à l'ilot Maitre where we snorkelled on the reef with les poissons et des tortues. The colours of the water – blue, aqua, cream – are a photographer's delight. A black and gold striped sea snake – le serpent tricot- also shared our picnic spot! Our group visited Musée de Calédonie and the Tjibaou Cultural Centre to learn more about the indigenous culture of the Kanak people. There are 28 Kanak languages. Imagine trying to teach or learn all of these.

My favourite place in Noumea was le GEANT Casino in Sainte-Marie. “Le nouveau marché” had: poissonnier, pâtissier, pain et viennoiserie, boucherie, fromagerie, charcuterie, fruits, légumes, alcool etc.. If you Google this hypermarché it gives the average time people spend here as 20 minutes to 1 hour. I could spend all day here, just looking and salivating!

Were we really there? To me the week is still “un beau rêve”! **Toni**

#### **HAIKU**

Un beau rêve Français  
La nouvelle Calédonie  
J'y retournerai !



## Une madeleine de Proust

### Un micro-événement qui fait ressurgir des souvenirs de jeunesse Un acte mineur porteur d'une forte charge émotionnelle

Cette expression fait allusion à ces petits actes, petits événements, odeurs, sensations qui, brutalement, font ressurgir des tréfonds de notre mémoire de lointains souvenirs, souvent chargés d'émotion.

Et si on les affuble de l'appellation *madeleine de Proust*, c'est parce que, dans "Du côté de chez Swann", le premier tome de "À la recherche du temps perdu", l'auteur évoque une telle remontée de souvenirs.

Alors que, pour le réchauffer, sa mère lui fait boire du thé et manger une madeleine, le goût de celle-ci trempée dans le thé, provoque en lui une sensation intense qui, après une remise en ordre de ses souvenirs, le fera remonter à une époque ancienne où, lorsqu'il vivait à Combray, sa tante Léonie lui faisait goûter un morceau de madeleine trempé dans son infusion.

**Exemple** « Et la vanille est de loin l'arôme le plus en vogue au niveau mondial, mis à toutes les sauces dans les confiseries, shampoings et même parfums. A cela une raison, l'effet "madeleine de Proust", selon Olivier Maubert, directeur du marketing du spécialiste français des arômes alimentaires Robertet : "La vanille est tellement utilisée dans les produits pour enfants que son odeur rappelle aux adultes les moments les plus sécurisants de leur jeunesse." » *Libération - Article du 16 mai 2002*

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«La madeleine de Proust » has become a rather fairly common expression in the French language. It refers to a passage in Marcel Proust's, seven-volume novel, *A la recherche du temps perdu*, or [\*In Search of Lost Time\*](#), also translated as *Remembrance of Things Past*. In this passage, the narrator examines the notion of involuntary memory, a conception of human memory in which cues encountered in everyday life, like enjoying a *petite madeleine* with one's tea, evoke recollections of the past without any conscious effort on the part of the individual. « Proustian memory » to which this type of memory is sometimes referred has since become a part of modern psychology. The expression "*la madeleine de Proust*" then refers to how powerful unconscious memory can be and how it can resurface in a very strong and irrational way.

**Stephen Schnell**

## MEMBER'S CORNER

### David Cruickshank - Créateur de bijoux

Après des études d'orfèvrerie et de design graphique dans une école d'art en Ecosse, David a travaillé quinze mois avec un orfèvre au Danemark (où il a rencontré Lise).

En revenant en Grande-Bretagne, ils se sont installés à Londres. Gagner sa vie comme orfèvre est très difficile, donc David a décidé d'obtenir une qualification supérieure d'enseignement. Après avoir enseigné quelques années il a ouvert un atelier. Utilisant ses compétences d'orfèvre il a commencé à produire des bijoux. Au début il les a vendus sur les marchés, et plus tard dans des boutiques exclusives à Londres.

En 1982 David et Lise ont déménagé en Australie et David a établi son atelier à Erina Heights. Il a vite trouvé des points de vente à Sydney, les meilleurs clients étant des bijoutiers à Double Bay et Mosman. En même temps qu'il vendait son travail dans les boutiques, il faisait des bijoux pour des clients privés et il enseignait à l'Enmore Design Centre à Sydney. Au cours des années, il a été chargé de concevoir et de faire des pièces d'orfèvrerie, par exemple une série de bols en argent pour le Sydney Opera House et un bâton de cérémonie en argent pour l' Université de NSW. Le Powerhouse Museum et des collectionneurs privés ont acheté des créations de David.

### David Cruickshank - Jewellery Designer

After studying silversmithing and graphic design at Art School in Scotland, David worked for 15 months with a silversmith in Denmark (where he met Lise).

Returning to the UK, they settled in London. As making a living from silversmithing is very difficult, David did a post-graduate teaching qualification. After teaching for a few years, he opened a workshop and using his silversmithing skills taught himself to make jewellery, which he initially sold in markets and ended up selling in exclusive shops in London.

In 1982 David and Lise moved to Australia, and David set up his workshop at Erina Heights. He soon found outlets in Sydney, his best customers being jewellery shops in Double Bay and Mosman. As well as selling his work through shops he does private commissions and for some years taught jewellery at Enmore Design Centre in Sydney. Over the years he has been commissioned to design and make pieces of silversmithing, for example a series of silver bowls for Sydney Opera House and a ceremonial silver staff for the University of NSW. The Powerhouse Museum and private collectors have bought David's work.



Engagement/ wedding ring



Titanium ear drops



Moroccan door pendant

## FRENCH JOKES

### Quelques blagues de Toto:

Le professeur demande à Toto :- Toto, voudrais-tu aller au tableau, nous montrer sur la carte géographique, où se situe l'Amérique. Toto va, et pointe du doigt l'Amérique.- Maintenant que vous savez tous où se trouve l'Amérique, pourriez-vous me dire qui l'a découverte? Toute la classe en coeur:- C'est Toto !

La maîtresse demande à Toto de conjuguer le verbe marcher au présent et à toutes les personnes. Toto lui répond : je marche... tu marches... il marche... nous... quand tout à coup, la maîtresse lui demande d'aller plus vite. Alors Toto lui répondit : je cours, tu cours, il court, nous courons, vous courez, ils courent !!!

Maître Dubois demande à Toto:

- Quelle est la différence entre le Soleil et ton travail?
- Je ne sais pas Monsieur,
- Mais c'est tout simple: Le Soleil est un astre et ton travail est un désastre!

## FRENCH IDIOMS

### Tomber dans les pommes=

to fall in the apples

to faint, to pass out

Au dernier réveillon, Sébastien s'est coupé en ouvrant les huîtres, il est immédiatement tombé dans les pommes car il ne supporte pas la vue du sang.

Last New Year's Eve, Sébastien cut himself opening oysters, he immediately passed out because he couldn't stand the sight of blood.

