



La Gazette



SUMMER 2019 ISSUE

RENDEZVOUS DATES-

December 14th

January 11th, 2020

February 8th, 2020

FRENCH FILM REVIEWS/EXHIBITIONS

The Alliance Française in Sydney celebrated 120 years of their existence in NSW. There was a trivia night, a media exhibition, talks on Bilingualism, French food by Gabriel Gaté and more.

On Dec 2nd at 6.15-7.30pm there will be an inauguration of the New Caledonia cultural space in the media section of the Alliance Française of Sydney.

FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

- French news on SBS daily at 8.40am
- TV5monde.com
- Culturethèque online-This website has books, magazines,papers,music and online study materials in French

Important message!

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chers Amis et Membres, Bonjour!

Time flies and Christmas is already around the corner. Sadly it won't be a wonderful Christmas for the poor victims affected by those devastating bushfires that destroyed so many lives. As a Fire Brigade Volunteer I have been called by the Fire Brigade to assist for 2 days. What I have been through was really hard but nothing compared with what our Fire Fighters have suffered and they are "Really Our Heroes".

Now let's turn a more positive page to the Alliance Française Central Coast as we did achieve a lot:

- Bastille Day lunch was very successful, warmly supported and celebrated with very patriotic "bleu, blanc, rouge" decorations.
 - The Melbourne Cup lunch with its "Compétition d'Élégance" was also very successful including some generous prizes to our Winning Ladies. Always an excuse for any social and enjoyable "get together".
 - Late October there was the Alliance Française Annual General Meeting in Canberra celebrating its 75th Anniversary. We were 27 AF Presidents Australia wide attending this special AGM and we were invited by the French Ambassador for our first function at the French Embassy. The next day was a very intensive working day followed by a dinner at the Alliance Française of Canberra where we were all asked to wear "Blue, White and Red" attire.
 - Then back on the Central Coast rushing to organise our very colourful Marquee at the French Country Market. As we all know it is getting bigger and bigger and kept us very busy but gave us the great pleasure to welcome a few new members.
 - To welcome the New Year I plan to organise:
 - * In January, a "get together" French picnic in Avoca Beach
 - * In February, another great music and dancing cruise around the beautiful Brisbane Water.
- For both functions more details will follow.

- Also don't forget our "Culturethèque"... our free francophone multimedia e-library! Access French magazines, books, comics and documents for all ages and interests in just a few clicks! Register Now!

- In the meantime don't forget to book your seat at the Christmas Lunch on the 14th of December just after our AFCC Meeting in Erina as there are very few left.

And finally let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and hopefully..."a fluently French speaking" New Year.

Nathalie Adams

President

QUEBEC IN JULY

In July, I visited Quebec City and surrounds. Although summer holidays in Canada are crowded, the weather was great and the trees and plants in full growth.

Quebec City has a long history dating to the early 1600s and also a connection to Australia – Captain James Cook served there. He assisted with the ferrying of troops and the charting of the St.Lawrence River in 1759 before coming to Australia in 1770.

Of course there were indigenous people there before the Europeans.



A Huron longhouse <https://www.huron-wendat.qc.ca/en/>
Une maison longue Huron

Quebec City is a bustling city of about 531,902 in 2017.
The old town is the main tourist area.



Hotel Chateau Frontenac on the river.,
Château Frontenac, à côté du fleuve.



Ile d'Orléans

Of course in winter it is much colder:



LA GAZETTE

En juillet, j'ai visité la ville de Québec et ses environs.

Bien que pendant les vacances d'été au Canada le pays soit surpeuplé, le temps était clément et les arbres et les plantes en pleine croissance.

La ville de Québec a une longue histoire remontant au début des années 1600 et est également liée à l'Australie - le capitaine James Cook y a servi. Il participa au transport des troupes et à la cartographie du fleuve Saint-Laurent en 1759 avant de se rendre en Australie en 1770.

Bien sûr, il y avait des peuples autochtones avant les Européens.

La ville de Québec est une ville animée d'environ 531 902 personnes en 2017.

La vieille ville est la principale zone touristique.

Les plaines d'Abraham sont une zone historique au sein du parc des champs de bataille, à la périphérie du centre-ville - une belle promenade en été.

L'île d'Orléans, située à proximité, regorge de fermes de fraises et de magasins d'artisanat.

Par Renee Skinner



THE UNEXPECTED BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM (talk) AT THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE SYDNEY.

On Wednesday 2nd of October, there was a very interesting presentation on the above subject by various educators on the benefits of multi and bilingualism.

The principal speaker **Dr. Robyn Moloney** pointed out that bilingualism was proving to be a powerful element to delay the onset of Dementia in most people. It fostered intellectual curiosity, cross cultural language skills and strengthened cognitive abilities.

Additionally, it gave the speaker the awareness of the '**second self**' (use of the 2nd language) as well as providing a **global world view**.

Translation, interpretation, language teaching and other language services globally exceeded US\$50 billion and the sector is growing.

The second speaker **Dr. Alice Chik** spoke about the large numbers of ethnic groups with a second language in the city of Sydney.

There are an estimated **20,000 French speakers** in Sydney city, the inner South, the Eastern suburbs, North Sydney, Hornsby, the Northern Beaches, the inner South west and inner West.

Wine and cold drinks were offered before the talk and there was a very appreciative audience which enjoyed the evening immensely.

Further information can be found on <https://www.multilingualsydney.org>

To read further on this topic please click **control** and **enter** on the website above.



LES GÉANTS DU NORD DE LA FRANCE

Les géants du Nord sont des personnages plus grands que nature; ils sont baptisés, se marient et ont des enfants. Issus d'une tradition du nord de la France remontant au XIV^{ème} siècle, ils sont inscrits au patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité de l'UNESCO.

Origines

Ces effigies sont apparues lors de processions religieuses dans de nombreuses villes européennes à la fin du quatorzième siècle. Toute référence religieuse a disparu lorsque les géants, après une période de lassitude, ont été ressuscités au début du XIX^{ème} siècle. Ils ont alors acquis une immense popularité en endossant l'identité de héros et de personnalités locales.

La région des Hauts-de-France abrite plus de 300 géants dans différentes villes, qui représentent des héros de fiction, des personnages historiques et quelques animaux. Ces géants sont traités comme de véritables personnes — ils n'ont pas été fabriqués mais sont 'nés', baptisés, se marient et ont des enfants.

Héritage vivant

Les géants sont construits à partir d'une ossature légère en bois de saule par-dessus laquelle on applique du papier mâché pour créer le visage et le corps. Lorsqu'ils sont suffisamment légers, ils sont installés sur une sorte de chariot avec un espace permettant à une personne de se glisser à l'intérieur et de se hisser pour actionner le géant qui défile et danse au milieu de la foule. D'autres sont si lourds qu'ils sont promenés sur des chars tirés par des chevaux ou par des équipes de porteurs musclés.

Les géants animent des festivals populaires dans lesquels ils sont les acteurs principaux au moins une fois par an, chacun ayant son propre jour de fête. Ils jouent des épisodes historiques et dansent dans les rues, accompagnés par des fanfares et des personnes costumées. Le spectacle diffère d'une ville à l'autre mais suit toujours un rituel précis dans lequel les géants sont associés à l'histoire, la légende ou la vie de la ville.