



La Gazette



AUTUMN 2020 ISSUE

RENDEZVOUS DATES-

March 14th, Apr 11th, May 9th, Jun 13th, Jul 11th, Aug 8th, Sep 12th, Oct 10th,
Nov 14th, Dec 12th.

FRENCH FILMS -10 March to 8 April

www.affrenchfilmfestival.org

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

Dear friends and members, Bonjour,

First of all I would like to send a special welcome to our new members and also to thank you all for having re-elected me President for another year. I promise to continue to build and maintain a strong relationship and friendship between us in order to create above all an easier way for you to study your French. Also I will still organise happy social events for you to enjoy in the most beautiful harmony.

Now let's recap a bit some of the events that happened since the end of 2019:

- First the Christmas lunch at the Cheeky Charlie's was over- packed and very successful with as usual its very friendly staff, beautiful very fresh and creative food and at the most affordable prices.
- The New Year picnic in Avoca Beach where everybody brought different meals to share and is always a wonderful excuse for a different and very friendly get together.
- The French Country Market in Springfield – an exceptional bi-annual market with exclusively French products e.g. food, furniture, very French style decorated stalls and...of course the "Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale" as the "Window of the French Culture and the French language".

The next French Country Market will be on Saturday 9th of May.

- Then the Cruise on the magnificent Brisbane Waters with a great band on board where everybody could enjoy the fascinating views, some very nice nibbles and for the most courageous a bit of dancing....the next Cruise is already programmed for Sunday 24th of May.

Now great news...Yes...we go to Nouméa!

Departure Sunday 30th of August and return the Sunday 6th of September. Monday to Friday the students go to school three hours in the morning and then free time for exotic lunches, different more than paradisiac excursions and visits. On Saturday we cruise to another island for some much deserved "farniente". This is roughly the program that I am happy to share with you as I'll be there as your guide, mentor...and promise I'll try not to make you suffer too much!

If you are thinking of joining us and having any questions please see me. More information to follow soon.

I think we had a wonderful first quarter of 2020 and I look forward to more of the same for the remainder of the year!

Amitiés à tous et à bientôt,

Nathalie Adams
President

MY TRIP TO SWITZERLAND



Recently I took a trip to Switzerland. I had visited this country very briefly before, on an organized tour, where each stop was generally a whistle stop one, so you were unable to get a good feel for the village/city etc.

However this time there was a particular reason: my daughter plays a game called Floorball. It is an International sport, but it is hardly on the radar in Australia. It is somewhat like hockey, but played indoors on wooden flooring in a small stadium area.

She was competing for Australia in the Women's World Floorball Championships in Neuchatel. Neuchatel, a town in Switzerland, is near the border of France, so the main language spoken there is French. Because I am regularly attending the Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale, and the Red Lime Café at Woy Woy, in order to improve my French speaking capacity, it was a great opportunity to get some practice there.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching the competition between the various nations: Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Poland, Finland, Czech Republic, USA, Japan, Singapore, and several other nations, which I can't quite remember. It was great fun intermingling with so many people from so many walks of life. The Australian contingent were almost the loudest, second only to the home country Switzerland. Considering that the fires had already commenced at home, and that consequently everyone there was asking us about them, I think it was a great testimony to the Australian spirit that we were able to cheer so well, considering we were also one of the minor teams. I think we certainly made our mark. As it turned out, Australia is now the top non-European team in the world.

While there, there were many museums and cultural attractions to visit. I was situated very close to the township, which is quite small, so it's easy to get round on foot. It is situated by a lake, and as most mornings were not too cold, there were opportunities to wander for some way along the lake, with the background of beautiful mountain landscapes.

When one stays in Switzerland, wherever that is, the visitor is usually supplied with a visitor card, which permits access to various special sites of interest. I made use of these, as once again, most of them were within walking distance, and furthermore, if one required public transport, the vouchers enabled a visitor free transportation.

PS I had a great time, and I'd do it again soon-money the proviso!!!

Marie Burtenshaw

Member, Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale



MON VOYAGE EN FRANCE

En octobre_dernier je suis allé en France pendant 5 semaines; c'était_ma quatrième fois en France. J'ai voyagé en train. Il était pratique de séjourner dans les hotels Ibis, car invariablement ils étaient près des gares. Dans chaque cité, ville ou village, j'ai essayé (si possible) de ne pas visiter les châteaux, les cathédrales ou les églises recommandés_pour les touristes, mais plutôt les musées. Généralement, cela a bien marché, mais parfois inévitablement, il y a eu_des moments où les expériences_touristiques les plus banales ont fait irruption.

À **Dijon** j'ai touché la chouette à l'église Notre-Dame, et j'ai visité le Musée des Beaux-Arts du Palais des Ducs de Bourgogne. À **Lyon** j'ai fait des courses aux Halles Paul Bocuse. J'ai aussi visité le Musée des Beaux-Arts, l'amphithéâtre romain et son musée..

Palais des Ducs



Above, Palais des Ducs de Bourgogne and the Tour Philippe Le Bon, Dijon.

La chouette



L'amphithéâtre romain à **Lyon**



Marseille m'a rappelé la Grèce, avec son mélange intéressant de peuples et de bons musées d'histoire locale dans le Vieux Port. J'étais fasciné par un marché antique à **Aix-en-Provence** et le Musée Granet avec les peintures du jeune Cézanne.

Le vieux port de **Marseilles**



Musée Granet à **Aix-en-Provence.**



J'ai eu la chance de regarder un ballet au Théâtre du Capitole de **Toulouse** et de déjeuner sur une péniche-restaurant sur le Canal du Midi. J'ai aussi visité **Bordeaux**, le village de **St Emilion**, **Nantes** où je suis monté sur le grand Éléphant. À **Angers** j'ai vu la plus grande tapisserie du monde, datant de 1382.

Le grand Éléphant à **Nantes**



La Tapisserie de l'Apocalypse au château d'**Angers**



Par **Mel Ferguson**

SEXISM IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

Le français se féminise pour mettre fin à la domination linguistique masculine.

Malgré plus d'un demi-siècle de féminisme, la langue française de la vie active est restée résolument masculine. La plupart des titres professionnels sont automatiquement masculins, à quelques exceptions notables comme **infirmière** et **sage-femme**.

L'Académie, à domination masculine, s'était auparavant féroce opposée au changement, qualifiant les tentatives de recours à l'écriture inclusive dans les textes officiels d'"aberration" mettant le français "*en péril mortel*".

Mais dans une volte-face historique, l'Académie, dominée par les hommes et dont les membres les plus âgés portent un uniforme décoré et une épée, ont approuvé un rapport pro-changement, dont le contenu a été compilé par trois de ses quatre membres actifs féminins.

L'une d'elles, l'écrivaine Dominique Bona a ouvert la voie aux pratiques d'usage, indiquant qu'elle ne souhaitait pas "*dicter les règles selon lesquelles les titres devraient être féminisés*" – ce qui serait "*une tâche insurmontable*". Elle a ajouté que le débat sur l'utilisation de "eure" comme dans "docteure" par exemple "*ne constitue pas une menace contre la structure de la langue, du moment que le "e" final n'est pas prononcé.*"

Cependant, les pays francophones voisins tels la Belgique ou la Suisse ont depuis longtemps trouvé des solutions aux problèmes. L'institution qui régit la langue française au Canada a ainsi réglé le problème en 1979 en poussant la féminisation partout où cela était possible. Là-bas, une femme docteur, peut indifféremment être appelée "**une médecin**" ou "**une docteure**".

En 2015, le Haut Conseil pour l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes a pressé les institutions d'utiliser les formes féminines pour les métiers comme pompier ou auteur, si applicable.

Le Courier Australien