



# Bulletin de l'Alliance Française de Toowoomba

*L'hiver 2020*



## **Bonjour et bienvenue** au bulletin d'hiver.

Thank you to the teachers for working so hard in preparing online classes for term 2. It has been a tremendous effort given that in the 60 years of the Alliance Française de Toowoomba's history, classes have always been delivered face to face in a classroom. There have been many benefits with classes being offered online - no driving to classes, enjoying the warmth in our own homes and saving time with no commuting to venues. However, I appreciate for some members, face to face is valuable and catching up with other members is enjoyable.

A questionnaire has been sent to all students and we ask that, when you have a moment, please complete and forward to the AFT. Some students have indicated they would prefer to have online classes during the winter months.

Thank you to Michael Murtagh for his regular French music show *Radio France* on 4DDB/107.2FM, your local Toowoomba community radio station. Michael is a keen music enthusiast and travelled to France last year to see Patrick Bruel live in concert! AFT is a proud supporter of this weekly show presented every Monday night from 6.00pm and has been a sponsor of 4DDB/102.7FM for many years. Each week Michael prepares a different genre of music. One of the requirements of an ethnic broadcast is to include information for local populations. Michael is interested in any input from French-speaking folks on the Darling Downs. Please send any requests, suggestion, news from pays d'origine to [aftoowoomba@gmail.com](mailto:aftoowoomba@gmail.com).

I would like to thank Fairholme College and Toowoomba Grammar School for becoming corporate members. Remember, if your business or institution becomes a corporate member, then all staff and students automatically become members and are able to avail themselves to classes and events at member prices. Please contact the AFT if you would like to know more.

Distanciation sociale: It seems in France, people need to be at least one metre away from others to stop the spread of COVID-19. In Australia, it is 1.5 metres, in New Zealand it is two metres and in the USA it is six feet.

Thank you to everyone during these unusual times and remember.....**"Keep Calm and Learn French"**

Alexis Tacey, *President*



## **New member offer**

Are you taking a course with us at the AFT? Then why not bring a friend along too?

When your friend enrolls, you will receive a bottle of French wine or a *French Affair* gift voucher!\* To take advantage of this offer, new students need to write the name of their referring friend on their enrolment form or if enrolling online put the name of their referring friend in 'referred by' section.

**So let's spread the word and sign up your friends today!**

\*Terms and conditions apply and full details are available on the AFT website.

## **Bastille Day 2020**

After careful consideration regarding the health and safety of our members we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Bastille Day celebration.

At the present time we are still hoping to be able to hold the 60e anniversaire celebration on 9, 10 and 11 October.

We look forward to celebrating Bastille Day in 2021.



## Culturethèque

We are proud to introduce **CULTURETHÈQUE**, a free online service for all Alliance Française members!

Culturethèque is your very own French e-library, giving you 24/7 access from your personal computer or tablet. It offers French news, comics, novels, current affairs, self-training modules, books for French-language learners, easy/beginner French readings, articles on the humanities, concert recordings and more.

The resources are available via streaming or download (up to 21-day loans for two books simultaneously, limited to a maximum of five books per month), with the possibility of viewing the book via tablet, e-book reader or smartphone.

Alongside the four main sections, 'Read', 'Listen', 'Look' and 'Learn', the 'Youth' section now offers pages dedicated to young children.

To access Culturethèque -

- go to the Culturethèque website at [www.culturetheque.com](http://www.culturetheque.com)
- click on 'Cliquez ici pour vous inscrire'
- create your login—please use your first name and your last name with no spaces as your username ie. JaneSmith. If you are creating a login through a corporate membership please use your first name and your last name along, with the initials of your school, eg. for Fairholme College, JaneSmithFCT or for Toowoomba Grammar School, JohnSmithTGS.

The Alliance Française de Toowoomba will confirm your membership and activate your account provided it corresponds to a valid AF membership.

**Subscribe today! It's FREE for Alliance Française de Toowoomba members.**

## Corporate membership

We are pleased to welcome **Toowoomba Grammar School** to our organisation as a corporate member for 2020. We thank you for your support.

Did you know that each year since 2002, the AFT has presented the *Norma Thomas Prize* to a student of Toowoomba Grammar School in recognition of outstanding accomplishment in French. The AFT also presents this prize to a number of other school in Toowoomba.



### TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

of integrity, honesty, resilience, compassion, friendliness, kindness, empathy, a sense of humour, humility, a solid work ethic, an interest in life-long learning and the desire to improve the welfare of others, particularly the disadvantaged in society.

There are a number of key elements contributing to the attainment of this vision. Clear guidelines of appropriate behaviour for our students are required together with a recognition of the value of the highest of expectations of behaviour and student involvement. Friendly, respectful and supportive relationships between the boys and one another, and between the teachers and the students, are crucial.

The Vision of Toowoomba Grammar School is to provide a "quality education designed for boys". But it is much more than this. We seek to offer an education that will enable our boys and young men to develop life-long values and qualities that will set them apart from others. Behavioural traits of our young men and Old Boys should include consistent demonstration



## Discount offer

Did you know that as an AFT member you can save 10% on *French Affair's* range of authentic French products?

Tablecloths from Provence, Savon de Marseille soaps and a range of unique gifts and homewares from France.

Contact Sue via email at [sue@frenchaffair.com.au](mailto:sue@frenchaffair.com.au) or the *French Affair* website at [www.frenchaffair.com.au](http://www.frenchaffair.com.au).



Fairholme College  
TOOWOOMBA

## Online classes and the internet

The AFT would like to thank students and teachers for their patience during term 2 classes. We understand that from time to time, the internet connection is disrupted. Teachers are very aware of this and have been addressing these moments with added time to the class schedule. Please notify the AFT if you wish to continue with online and or face-to-face classes. If there are sufficient numbers for both modes of delivery, then the AFT will look at this in terms of teacher availability and scheduling.

### Here's what our students have been saying....

"Online classes have been an experience that I have enjoyed. During the height of COVID-19, I rarely left the house and having the social interaction with my class was one of the highlights of my week. Thank you for having this available."

"I'm happy with the classes generally. There have been some internet glitches, but these are short-lived. It has allowed classes to go ahead during lockdown. I do really miss the face to face classes though."

"I found it very handy to be able to come home from work, grab some dinner and sit down to a French class at home. As with anything new, we've been learning together and minor technical difficulties have been easily resolved."

"I've really enjoyed both the face to face and online classes. Great to meet and talk with new people - great workaround to the social distancing issue and creates the opportunity to learn with others from far and wide."

"I would say that online classes come with many advantages. And the goal in succeeding in an online class is self-discipline. With online classes, you will not only improve your language skills but also your technical skills."

"Our online classes have gone remarkably well considering all the challenges of going online so quickly. We even have a lovely new student from out of town! Our tutor has worked really hard to keep us all involved and engaged. Thank you AF."

"It's kept my French going and kept me in touch with my classmates which has been wonderful during 'le confinement'."

"I find the AFT Skype lessons great. I really like not having to leave home. Our class size of 5 really works well."

"It is a convenient way to engage with a small group, without having to go to a designated venue. Each participant has still had the opportunity for individual clarification of any aspects that needed further explanation."

"While I much prefer socialising and attending class in person, during these COVID times I have enjoyed the online classes. I do not feel that the level of teaching has been any less than being in the classroom, although if it was a bigger class I think it would be more difficult."

"I feel the on-line classes are a great success. Everyone is set up for the class, we each can see one another and the classes progress well. I feel, in a way, we progress faster with the on-line class than in the classroom where there are more distractions."

"I do appreciate that we have had the ability to continue to learn and connect with our fellow students this term. It's also nice not to have to venture out on a cold winter's night. Staying at home and sometimes enjoying 'un bon verre' during class has been my guilty pleasure."

## Helloworld Everywhere Travel Bank

Thinking of holidaying close to home. Book your next holiday through **Helloworld Toowoomba Town Central** and the AFT will earn points for every dollar our members, their friends and family spend. Just tell them you are a member of the Alliance Française de Toowoomba or quote our code ETB012001. The AFT will receive a reward of up to 2% based on the value of bookings.

Please note that Helloworld Toowoomba Town Central is now located at Shop 7 Range Shopping Centre, 11 James Street, Toowoomba. They can be contacted on 4632 1588 or email [toowoombatcentral@helloworld.com.au](mailto:toowoombatcentral@helloworld.com.au).



## Cassoulet

This winter treat has many different interpretations. This recipe is from Jules François's *En Cuisine* published in 2006. Jules was the proprietor of La Gerbe d'Or boulangerie patisserie in Sydney.



- Soak 750g cannellini beans in water and 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda overnight
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 750g bacon pieces cut into chunks
- 1kg pork skin, diced
- 1 smoked neck of pork
- 1kg pork sausages
- 1 pig's trotter (or ham hock)
- 2 cloves garlic
- 3 small onions, chopped
- 1 bay leaf
- Dried breadcrumbs

Cook the bacon until brown in a large ovenproof casserole dish. Add all of the meats, onions, bay leaf, garlic and cover with water. Bring to the boil, turn down heat and gently cook for 1½ hours. Remove the meats from the dish, reserving the stock.

Preheat oven to 220°C.

Add the drained, rinsed beans to the stock and simmer gently until al dente. Slice the meats and return to the casserole dish. Bring back to simmering point. Spoon out excess broth so that the level comes to about 2½ centimetres below the top of the beans. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs and cook in the oven for 15–20 minutes.

## Win a Burrow gift voucher!

Would you like to win a \$10 gift voucher from Burrow, Bridge Street, Toowoomba? Email the answer to the below question to the AFT at [afttoowoomba@gmail.com](mailto:afttoowoomba@gmail.com). The first correct answer received wins!\*



*Who is the current Prime Minister of France?*

**Be quick, the first correct answer received is the winner!**

\* Open to current AFT members only.

## À NE PAS MANQUER

### CAFÉ BLA BLA 2020

Currently on hold

### LIBRARY OPENING

Currently closed

### CLASSES AND TIMES

#### Débutant A1.1(A)

les mercredis, 19:00h - 20:30h

#### Débutant A1.1(B)

les mercredis, 14:45h - 16:15h

#### Débutant A1.1(C)

les mardis, 18:00h - 19:30h

#### Élémentaire A2.1(A)

les mardis, 18:00h - 19:30h

#### Intermédiaire B1.1

les mercredis, 18:00h - 19:30h

### FRANÇAIS SOIRÉE CINÉMA

Currently on hold

### 60E ANNIVERSAIRE

9, 10 & 11 Octobre 2020

St Luke's Church Hall

Cnr Ruthven & Herries St, Toowoomba

## AFT committee

President: Alexis Tacey

Secretary: Valma Dyer

Treasurer: Avril Herdon

Committee: Julia Ballinger

Neil Hegarty

## Contact us

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