



Bulletin de l'Alliance Française de Toowoomba

L'été 2021



Bonne année et bienvenue au bulletin d'été.

I would like to thank those members who attended the annual general meeting on 5 December 2020 and welcome the new committee for 2021. I am very grateful to the new committee members who have joined and look forward to their contributions. During the summer break we have been negotiating with Bishopp Signs. The AFT will be advertising on the digital billboard above Lincraft for one week from 18 January 2021. Bishopp Signs extended Christmas cheer to the AFT by offering a discounted rate for the advertising. Please let me know what you think of the new signage. The AFT is applying for more funding this month, and we want to advertise on billboards at strategic places such as Anzac Ave, Postman's Ridge and Water Street. This is to help raise the profile of the Alliance. Also, members this year will receive an AFT car sticker. Again, this is to help raise our profile.

The Epiphany on 6 January is around the corner. Do you have a favourite *Galette des Rois* recipe? Does it include cognac? We look forward to hearing how you celebrate this French festive occasion!

And don't forget - if you haven't already done so, register with *Culturethèque*. As an AFT member, this is free for you to enjoy!

Alexis Tacey, *President*

**Join or Renew
Membership**

Renew your membership

With the end of the year nearly here it's time to renew your membership before it expires on 31 December 2020.

We have an exciting year planned for our members with **adult and children's French language classes**, **Café Bla Bla** resuming in February, **immersion weekends**, a **French film** programme, **Bastille Day celebration** and of course the **60e Anniversaire** celebration in October. As well, you have free 24/7 access to **Culturethèque**. It doesn't matter where you are you can enjoy French language and culture at your fingertips. You will find all you need to know on the AFT website.

Face to face and online adult French language classes

Enrolments are now open for 2021 adult French language classes. Classes resume on Monday, 1 February 2021. We are offering both face-to-face and online classes and have a new beginner class—French for non-travellers, as well as our continuing classes. Why not 'Refer a Friend' and receive a bottle of French wine or a French Affair gift voucher*!

*Terms and conditions apply. Details available on the AFT website.

Children's classes

Our classes for children aged from 5 to 12 years begin on Saturday, 6 February 2021. Held each Saturday between 9.00am and 12.30pm at the AFT office, these classes are a fun way for children to discover the French language through songs, games and other fun activities. Classes are small so reserve a place now! The cost is \$160 per child per term and we offer a multiple family discount. You will find all you need to know on the AFT website.

AGM President's Report

It is my very great pleasure to present the 2020 AFT President's Report. Our last AGM was 1 December 2019 and little did we realise what was ahead of us!

Grant funding

This year began with confirmation on 20 January, that the AFT received its grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund – Queensland Government of \$5,207. This was very welcome news. The grant application included the purchase of:

- data projector and screen \$2,522.70
- brochures, business cards \$509.90
- 60e Anniversaire expenses (venue hire, crockery/cutlery hire, tablecloths, master of ceremonies, sound equipment hire) \$2,193.

As the 60e Anniversaire was postponed due to COVID-19, the funds allocated have been varied and will be spent on a new website configuration, digital billboard advertising and promotional material.

Radio France

Michael Murtagh one of our French teachers, began presenting a weekly French programme on FM102.7 or 4DDB. The programme is aired each Monday evening for an hour and includes French music. Michael is very knowledgeable on all French music and, as his students know, his all-time favourite French singer is Patrick Bruel. Michael is particularly keen to hear from you all with comments and feedback. If anyone would like to speak with Michael about the programme and possible interviews, please contact him.

Changing banks after 20 years

In January, the AFT changed banks from Heritage to Credit Union Australia. The AFT has been very appreciative of the CUA facilities and allowing us to host 14 juillet in 2019, classes and the AGM last year.

Our new office

In early March the AFT moved to its new office; across the hallway from its old office of ten years. This much larger space now allows us to have classes, meetings, events and soirees with room to move. The secretary, Valma, and I cleaned the old and new offices and moved all of the furniture, library and files just as COVID-19 was upon us and just before the March lockdown in Queensland. It has been disappointing that the restrictions prevented the AFT from utilising the office to its



AFT Office, Suite 1, Level 1 217 Margaret St, Toowoomba

full potential. Looking forward to 2021, however, I can see it being used more often. We were unsuccessful in our request for rent relief and hence this has put strain upon the AFT budget.

Café Bla Bla and French film nights

March also saw the cancelling of Café Bla Bla due to the COVID-19 restrictions. I'm pleased that we were able to return to Kingfisher Café in October for coffee and French conversation. Our much anticipated French Film Night at Bar Wunder with Ric Carlsson's assistance was cancelled and postponed until next year.

French language classes

Term 2 saw face-to-face classes at The Glennie School and Fairholme College cancelled and moved to online classes. It must be noted that during the lockdown the AFT was not allowed to use school venues as restrictions prohibited us from entering school campuses. This was not our decision, it was a restriction imposed by the government. Hence the move to online classes.

Much appreciation to Jean-Paul Wattiaux for taking the lead to organise and transition from face-to-face mode to online mode. This is an enormous undertaking. It is something I fully appreciate and am very thankful to him and to our French teachers, Andrew Kavuala and Michael Murtagh. Andrew will be leaving the AFT at the end of the year to pursue other commitments. I have appreciated his contribution to teaching classes and I know the students will miss him. Thank you Andrew.

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President's report continued...

Children's classes

During the year we had hoped to begin children's classes but had little response. I would like to thank Michael Murtagh and Naomi Hughes for their preparations for these classes. Hopefully these classes will go ahead next year.

Bastille Day cancelled

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 our 14 juillet event was cancelled.

Fundraising raffle

In August the AFT set about organising a raffle for raising much needed funds in light of there being no events being held during the year. Much work went into securing raffle prizes and designing and printing tickets. Thank you to Sofitel Brisbane Central, Grand Central Toowoomba, Burrow Café, Le Comptoir Français, Bunnings and Wendland Fine Foods. The AFT raised \$2,220. I thank everyone who bought tickets and parting with their hard earned money! Thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Alliances Française Digital Congress

In September and October the Alliances Française Digital Congress for Zone E Asie and Oceanie was held. Valma and I joined the congress, but alas, it was completely spoken in French and I am awaiting an English transcript summary.

60e anniversaire celebration

In September the committee made the difficult decision to postpone the much anticipated *60e Anniversaire*. That meant cancelling the French film, catering, hiring of equipment, master of ceremonies, hall hire, Alliance Française Brisbane choir, Toowoomba choir, Citroen 2CV Car Club of Qld.....We are looking forward to having this celebratory festival in 2021.

Carnival of Flowers St Luke's Market

The AFT held a stall at the Carnival of Flowers market at St Luke's. This was to help raise the profile of the AFT. Thank you to everyone who came along on the day to support the AFT.



Norma Thomas Prize

In October and November the Norma Thomas Prize was presented at Toowoomba Grammar School and Fairholme College. It is my hope that next year the AFT can attract more corporate sponsorship. It is important to the AFT to promote the Norma Thomas Prize as acknowledgement of this formidable past AFT member.

Raising the profile of the AFT

It is my ambition for next year to raise the profile of the AFT with broader advertising. We have met with Bishopp advertising signs. So watch this space: next time you are driving from Brisbane to Toowoomba or perhaps along Anzac Ave; of course, subject to receiving grant funding.

Website redesign

We are about to have our website redesigned. We were successful in receiving funding from the Toowoomba Regional Council and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for this purpose.

Growing the membership

The membership is currently 65 members and two corporate members. I would like to see this grow next year and hope there isn't another global catastrophe!

Newsletter

The newsletter has continued and I would like to remind the membership that we welcome articles and features you may want to contribute.

Donation of office furniture

Thank you to Kelly for donating much needed shelving for our library and cupboards. Please remember, as members you are able to access the library including movies and CDs. *Culturethèque* is a truly remarkable resource for members. Please refer to the website for registration details. As an AFT member, this is a valuable benefit. Please make a note of it – *Culturethèque*.

This year's finances

I have saved the best to the end of my report. This year for the first time in many years the AFT made a profit of \$1,143.42. This is vastly different to last year's loss of \$9,058.09. We have been strategic in our spending and fundraising and the fact we no longer pay for an administration officer has contributed to this profit. There is still \$3,000 in grant money to be expended on the website and advertising signs. The treasurer, Avril, will present her report shortly along with the auditor's report.

President's report continued on page 4...

President's report continued...

The committee

I would like to thank the committee: Valma, Avril, Neil, Judith and Julia. Unfortunately, Julia and Judith resigned during the year. Valma has done a remarkable job as secretary and completed every task with due diligence. Thanks to Valma, my role as president is a dream.



Thank you to the members

To finish, thank you to all of the members. Your faith and trust in this organisation is greatly appreciated. I said at the last AGM that I was optimistic about the next twelve months. Well, I'm optimistic about 2021 and looking forward to the 60e Anniversaire (we'll have to think about a new name the 61st Anniversaire??) and other events for 2021: children's classes, French immersion weekends, face-to-face classes, as well as online classes, and soirees.

Thank you.

60e anniversaire raffle winners!

The raffle was drawn on 15 October at the AFT office. We are very thankful to the many people who supported this major fundraising event. The winners are -

- 1st prize - Sofitel Brisbane Central package: A.M. Rangeville
- 2nd prize - One term French Classes: T.L. Middle Ridge
- 3rd prize - Grand Central gift voucher: T.D. Blackall
- 4th prize - Burrow Café voucher: L.R. C/- Highfields
- 5th prize - Le Comptoir Français voucher - G.J. C/- Cabarlah
- 6th prize - Bunnings voucher: V.D. Cabarlah
- 7th prize - Wendland Fine Foods voucher: V.D. Cabarlah



SOFITEL
BRISBANE CENTRAL

BURROW
LE COMPTOIR
Français

BUNNINGS
warehouse

Wendland
Fine Foods
1400 32 800 102 200
Succursale d'Angèle Wendland - chef

Café Bla Bla resumes in February 2021!

Mark your diary for Saturday, 6 February for the first Café Bla Bla of 2021. Kingfisher Café, Spring Street, Toowoomba will be the venue with the conversation starting at 10.00am.

Solution aux mots croisés du bulletin de printemps

Horizontalement

1. Je regarde un film à la television.
2. Le facteur m'apporte une lettre.
3. Ne cours pas si vite, tu vas tomber.
4. Ce n'est pas court, c'est long.
5. Nous jouons tous ensemble.
6. Un bouquet de fleurs.
7. Le chien rentre dans sa niche.
8. Quelle heure est-il?
9. Je vais écrire une lettre à mon ami.

Verticalement

1. Pour utiliser le telephone je dois composer un numéro.
2. Je ne mens pas, je dis la vérité.
3. A 8 heures et demie, il faut entrer en classe.
4. Le jardinier utilise sa beche pour bêcher le jardin.
5. Le boucher vend de la viande.
6. J'ai soif, je vais boire.

À NE PAS MANQUER

CAFÉ BLA BLA 2021

6 février / 6 mars / 3 avril
10h à 11h30

BIBLIOTHÈQUE OUVERTE

18 janvier - 17h30 à 18h30

INFORMATION DE CLASSE

Cours pour enfants : 5-12ans

Commence 6 février
samedi, 9h à 12h30
Bureau de l'AFT

Cours pour adults

Commence 1 février
Debutant (Français pour les non-voyageurs)
jeudi, 17h45 à 19h15
Bureau de l'AFT

Debutant A1.1

jeudi, 19h30 à 21h
Bureau de l'AFT

Debutant A1.2

mercredi, 14h30 à 16h
Skype en ligne

Elementaire A2.1

mardi, 18h à 19h30
Bureau de l'AFT

Intermediaire B1.1

mercredi, 18h à 19h30
Bureau de l'AFT

FRANÇAIS SOIRÉE CINÉMA

dates à préciser

CÉLÉBRATION DU 60E ANNIVERSAIRE

8, 9 et 10 octobre 2021

AFT comité

Présidente: Alexis Tacey
Secrétaire/trésorier: Valma Dyer
Comité: Kelly Buchanan
Neil Hegarty
Avril Herdon
Naomi Hughes
Michael Murtagh

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