



Bulletin de l'Alliance Française de Toowoomba

L'hiver 2021



AFT stall at the 2021 Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival

Bonjour et bienvenue au bulletin d'hiver 2021.

The Alliance Française de Toowoomba has been busy recently with the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival held at Queen's Park. We had fabulous French neighbours, Ann and Jacques—*French Books on Wheels* (frenchbooksonwheels.org) and many interested visitors to our stall. We also had a stall at the Toowoomba Farmers' Market and look forward to being at the 2021 Toowoomba Carnival Weekend Market at St Luke's on Saturday, 19 September.

After a two year hiatus the AFT is delighted to invite you to celebrate Bastille Day. Historically, *La Fête Nationale*, also known as *Le Quatorze Juillet* (the fourteenth of July), commemorates the storming of the Bastille Prison in Paris on 14 July 1789 a starting point of the French Revolution and the end of the absolute

monarchy. Since then it has developed into a huge milestone in the French cultural calendar, a time not only to commemorate, but also to celebrate!

This year's event will be held on Sunday, 18 July at Inbound Brasserie, Railway Street, Toowoomba. Please join us to celebrate this French national day and meet other francophones and francophiles over a welcome drink and canapés and enjoy a two course lunch. There will be French music and dancing and great prizes to be won. Bookings are now open and registration is essential. Make the most of our early bird offer : register and pay by 30 June 2021.



Alexis (AFT), Jacques (French Books on Wheels) and Thibaut (Le Comptoir Français)

Alexis Tacey, President



French trivia night

The AFT held its first French trivia night for 2021 on Friday, 21 May at St Luke's Hall. There were prizes including champagne and a wooden spoon prize. It was a sell out event and by all accounts attendees would like to see another trivia night this year.

Congratulations to the winning team and to the winners of our raffle and *Guess the fèves*. We are planning another trivia night for October so start brushing up on your knowledge of France now. It's a fun way to learn about different aspects of France. Watch our website for more information.

AFT 60e anniversaire *Bleu Blanc Rouge* celebration

Mark your diary for our 60e anniversaire *Bleu Blanc Rouge* celebration to be held on 7, 8 and 9 October. We are excited about this three day event which has been two years in the planning and was postponed from last year. The theme is *Bleu Blanc Rouge* and we ask that attendees dress in these colours.

We are on track with collecting champagne/sparking wine corks having collected over 500 to date. It seems Toowoomba has embraced our request by drinking champagne and sparkling wine! But we still need more! Please drop off any corks in the box outside the AFT office. The corks will be used to make a four meter tall Eiffel Tower for the event.

Connaissez-vous vos expressions Françaises?

Match the French expressions to their English meanings...

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Poser au lapin. | a. To have a crush on someone. |
| 2. Avoir un coup de foudre. | b. To hold a candle, third wheel/person hanging out with a couple. |
| 3. Faire la grasse matinée. | c. It works. |
| 4. Ça mache. | d. To stand up someone. To be stood up. |
| 5. Être soupe au lait. | e. To scam someone. |
| 6. Avoir un poil dans la main. | f. Mind your own business. |
| 7. Ce n'est pas tes oignons. | g. To be useless/can't do anything. |
| 8. C'est du gâteau. | h. Easy/it's a piece of cake. |
| 9. Ça coûte la peau des fesses. | i. To be crook/woozy. |
| 10. Tenir la chandelle. | j. Expensive/to cost an arm or leg. |
| 11. Attendre 107 ans. | k. Can't wait forever. |
| 12. Tomber dans les pommes. | l. Thin skinned/easily upset. |
| 13. Ne pas casser trois pattes à un canard. | m. To faint. |
| 14. Rouler dans la farine. | n. A sleep in. |
| 15. Ne rien savoir faire de ses dix doigts. | o. No big deal. |
| 16. Être patraque. | p. Lazy person. |

Answers in the next newsletter!

Culturethèque—free for members!



Have you registered for Culturethèque? As an AFT member you have **free** access to French news, novels, current affairs, self-training modules, books

for French-language learners, easy/beginner French readings, articles on the humanities, concert recordings, pages dedicated to young children, comics and more.

Visit our website at www.frenchtoowoomba.com/membership/ and register today!

Tour de France 2021

It's on again and the Tour de France route is looking challenging with stage 17 taking in Col du Portet (2215 metres). It starts on 26 June and finishes on the Champs-Élysées on 18 July, the same day the AFT is celebrating La Fête Nationale. Richie Porte (Australian from Launceston) is coming into the race as third general ranking. We wish him well! Visit www.letour.fr/en/overall-route for all this year's information.



Discovering our links to France

The Toowoomba region and Granite Belt has many links to French history, culture, language, cuisine and businesses.

Snailed It: A family owned snail farm full of tasty little gastropods (*cantareus asperses*, in fact). The farm, located at Greenmount, south of Toowoomba, hopes to have l'escargot on the menu by October, weather permitting (@farm.fresh.snails.australia).



Truffle Discovery Centre: A truffle farm near Stanthorpe, at The Summit, has a range of products and offers tastings (www.trufflediscoverycentre.com.au).

Willow Vale Cooking School: While on the subject of French food, Toowoomba, or more precisely, Perseverance, near Ravensbourne National Park, is super lucky to have a Michelin starred chef at our door step. "Bruno Loubet has spent over 40 years heading up kitchens in

London, France and Australia working with world renowned chefs". He and Catherine Loubet have opened Willow Vale Cooking School using their own produce grown on their farm (www.willowvalecookingschool.com).

Amiens History Association: Located near Stanthorpe, the Amiens History Association is a very proactive association exploring the history of the region and its association with French and Belgian battlefields—Fleurbaix, Messines, Passchendale, Bapaume, Pozières and Amiens. In August 1919, it was suggested by the surveyor, George Grant, to the Governor of Queensland, that names be adopted of notable battlefields in Gallipoli, France and Palestine. There was much toing and froing and finally these names were approved (www.amiensqldhistory.com). It is well worth a visit to the Amiens Legacy Centre, a self-drive through the outlying villages and seeing the Amiens Soldier Settlement plaque naming those returned soldiers and families living in the district in 1922.

Le Comptoir Français: Offering classic French linen and clothing, Le Comptoir Français has its home in Toowoomba. The products are made in France and embrace the quality we have come to know from French manufacturing using exquisite fabrics. Thibaut, is also Vice-President of the Brisbane French Festival (www.lecomptoirfrancais.com.au).

Classic Citroën Cars: It's not unusual to see the classic Citroën 2CV cars about Toowoomba. A previous AFT member, Ian Feeney is a Citroën car enthusiast. His latest car, the D'Special has been meticulously restored with new interior, exterior and under the bonnet. His 2CV is no longer in Toowoomba, but Ian's long association with the other 2CV owners will see their cars in Toowoomba for the AFT's 60e anniversaire.



Les Fèves: It isn't unusual to find *les fèves* in Toowoomba at events throughout the year. The tiny porcelain figures are baked in a cake, La Galette des Rois, for the Epiphany, 12 days after Christmas.



The person who is fortunate to have the slice of the galette with *le fève*, is king or queen for the day! *Le fève* means broadbean and historically, a dried broadbean was placed in the cake. Over time, *les fèves* changed and were made of stoneware, porcelain and bone china. In the 1950's they were made of plastic but were not popular. When WWI was declared all production of *les fèves* in Germany was ceased, but in France production continued. There are *les fèves* associations and a museum dedicated to these figures. Many small workshops make *les fèves* and consequently become collectable. At an auction in Paris in 2018 an angel with gold lustre wings was estimated to sell for €1500 - 2000! But mostly they are available for €2 each.

Continued on page 4...

Discovering our links to France continued from page 3...

Radio France Toowoomba: Toowoomba is very fortunate to have the Radio France Toowoomba programme on Monday evenings from 6.00pm to 7.00pm on Community Radio 102.7FM DDB. Our French teacher, Michael is very knowledgeable about French music and interviews different people in Toowoomba. Each show is presented in French and is a great way to help understand not just the language, but stories behind each song. Tune into 102.7FM DDB each Monday night (102.7.com.au).

Burrow Café: Why not imagine you're sitting at a side walk café in Provence? You can order your café et croissant at Burrow Café on Bridge Street (www.burrowcafe.com.au).

Café Bla Bla: And if that's not enough, Café Bla Bla, 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, is available to improve your French conversation skills.

French Education: Many schools, such as Fairholme College and Toowoomba Grammar School offer French as a language. As well, The Glennie School, offers a French Immersion Program where various subjects are taught in French. The benefits of learning a foreign language are numerous. It helps the brain, assists with listening skills and memory and helps with understanding cultural and social differences. It can also help in career prospects, such as working in the wine or arts industry, government agencies, law, medicine.....



Roland-Garros French Open

Félicitations à **Barbara Krejčíková** and **Novak Djokovic** for their superb wins in their grand finals.

Aussi...félicitations à **Barbara Pravi** in this year's *Eurovision Song Contest*. Barbara came second with 499 points, just behind Italy on 524 points. Here are the lyrics to her song Voilà...

Écoutez moi
Moi la chanteuse à demi
Parlez de moi
À vos amours, à vos amis
Parler leur de cette fille aux yeux noirs et de son
rêve fou
Moi c'que j'veux c'est écrire des histoires qui
arrivent jusqu'à vous
C'est tout

Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà qui je suis
Me voilà même si mise à nue j'ai peur, oui
Me voilà dans le bruit et dans le silence

Regardez moi, ou du moins ce qu'il en reste
Regardez moi, avant que je me déteste
Quoi vous dire, que les lèvres d'une autre ne vous
diront pas
C'est peu de chose mais moi tout ce que j'ai je le
dépose là, voilà

Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà qui je suis
Me voilà même si mise à nue c'est fini

C'est ma gueule c'est mon cri, me voilà tant pis
Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà juste ici
Moi mon rêve mon envie, comme j'en crève comme
j'en ris
Me voilà dans le bruit et dans le silence

Ne partez pas, j'veux en supplie restez longtemps
Ça m'sauvera peut-être pas, non
Mais faire sans vous j'sais pas comment
Aimez moi comme on aime un ami qui s'en va pour
toujours
J'veux qu'on m'aime parce que moi je sais pas bien
aimer mes contours

Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà qui je suis
Me voilà même si mise à nue c'est fini
Me voilà dans le bruit et dans la fureur aussi
Regardez moi enfin et mes yeux et mes mains
Tout c'que j'ai est ici, c'est ma gueule c'est mon cri
Me voilà, me voilà, me voilà
Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà
Voilà

French language classes—Term 3

Enrolments for term 3 French language classes are **NOW OPEN!** Please contact us if you or your friends are interested learning at any level. We work towards having at least five students per class to make it sustainable. Enrolment is easy through our website at www.frenchtoowoomba.com/learn-french/. And remember, if you refer a friend, we will reward you with a bottle of French wine or a \$15 voucher from French Affair. Please see terms and conditions under *General Announcements* on our website.

Bastille Day at Bar Wunder (Le jour de la Bastille at Bar Wunder)

Calling on francophones and francophiles to celebrate La Fête Nationale with a soirée of French music and culture at Bar Wunder on **Wednesday, 14 July starting at 6.00pm**. Singer-songwriter and French teacher, *Josephine Birch*, and jazz guitarist, *Jesse Kupper*, will entertain with some classic and contemporary French songs and a little French trivia. Be ready to sing along to La Marseillaise!

Wine and cheese platters will be ready for your French palates along with hearty French onion soup, served with a great cheesy crouton (vegan option available) ... *Oui, oui!!*





Want more French conversation?

*Full details: www.frenchtoowoomba.com
Contact us: aftoowoomba@gmail.com

Café Bla Bla
TWICE A MONTH
Now

LA PRACTIQUE REND PARFAIT! AMÉLIOREZ VOTRE FRANÇAIS!
PRACTIQUE DE LA PAROLE!
1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month*
Casual attendance (pay on the day)
\$7 members - \$10 non-members

À NE PAS MANQUER

CAFÉ BLA BLA 2021

3 juillet / 4 et 21 août / 4 et 18 septembre
10h à 11h30

BIBLIOTHÈQUE OUVERTE

Pour les horaires d'ouverture de la bibliothèque, veuillez nous contacter

INFORMATION DE CLASSE

Nouveau débutant

mercredis, 21 juillet à 8 septembre
18h à 17h30
Bureau de l'AFT

Débutant A1.1(A)

jeudis, 22 juillet à 9 septembre
17h à 16h30
Bureau de l'AFT

Débutant A1.1(B)

jeudis, 22 juillet à 9 septembre
16h45 à 20h15
Bureau de l'AFT

Élémentaire A2.1

mardis, 20 juillet à 7 septembre
15h30 à 17h
Skype en ligne

Intermédiaire B1.1

mardis, 20 juillet à 7 septembre
18h15 à 19h45
Bureau de l'AFT

Intermédiaire B2.1

mercredis, 21 juillet à 8 septembre
18h15 à 19h45
Bureau de l'AFT

FRANÇAIS SOIRÉE CINÉMA

date à préciser

LA FÊTE NATIONALE

dimanche, 18 juillet - 12h à 15h
Inbound Brasserie,
Toowoomba Railway Station

CÉLÉBRATION DU 60E ANNIVERSAIRE

7, 8 et 9 octobre

Nous contacter

Email: aftoowoomba@gmail.com
Postal address: PO Box 401, Toowoomba 4350
Street address: Suite 1, Level 1, 217 Margaret Street, Toowoomba
Web: www.frenchtoowoomba.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AllianceFrancaiseDeToowoomba/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/aftoowoomba/

AFT comité

Présidente: Alexis Tacey
Secrétaire/trésorier: Valma Dyer
Comité: Kelly Buchanan and Michael Murtagh

