

# BULLETIN

February 2015

Volume 22, Number 1

## Comparing Urban transport in Melbourne, Genoa, Amsterdam Friday 6th March 2015

The AFAS Committee is pleased to advise that Mr. Hubert Guyot, formerly CEO of Yarra Trams, will be in Melbourne next month on a private visit and has agreed to talk to AFAS about his experiences in Melbourne, Genoa and Amsterdam.

Long time members will recall the talk "Sharing with Melbourne the experience of the tram revival in France" that Hubert gave on 28th July 2000 and the follow up on 26th April 2001, when we visited the Yarra Trams depot and the ride to Port Melbourne in one of the new Alstrom trams.

In September 2003, he was admitted as *Chevalier de L'Ordre National du Merite* at a ceremony in Paris attended by the Australian Ambassador to France and the London based Agent General for Victoria. The Secretary of State for Transport and Marine Affairs (Secrétaire d'Etat aux Transports) bestowed the prestigious honour upon Mr Guyot for his outstanding contribution to the Republic of France within the field of public transport. "I am very humbled to accept the *Chevalier de L'Ordre National du Merite*," said Mr Guyot. "Modernising public transport systems is essential if we are to reduce reliance on the car and make a positive contribution towards the environment and the quality of life in our cities. "While I am very grateful that my work in public transport over the past 20 years has been recognised, I am very excited to be given the same opportunity to help modernise Melbourne's world famous tram system. It is a great honour," he said.

From Melbourne, Hubert moved to Genoa, where from 2005 to 2008 he was CEO of AMT Genoa, the newly semi-privatised company operating all Urban Public Transport in Metropolitan area of Genoa, by buses, trolley buses, trams, metro and boats. The main challenges were to improve financial results, working with Unions on staff productivity and to enhance the image of Public Transport in this busy Urban area.

From Genoa, he moved to Amsterdam, where from 2009 to 2014, he was CEO of Connexxion, the biggest PT company in The Netherlands, newly privatised as well, operating Urban transport in 6 big cities and Régional Road and Rail transport all over Netherlands with a turnover of 1,3 billion Euros, 12000 staff, buses and coaches (3500), trolleybuses, trams, trains, boats. The main challenge was to change the culture from a public to a private company in a difficult competitive market where PT concessions are tendered.

Hubert has now "retired" to his home in Marseille, but with grandchildren in France, Canada & Australia, there are still lots of opportunities for travel.

Attached to this Bulletin is your Membership Renewal Form for 2015. The same rates have been retained; \$60 for Individuals, \$10 for Students, \$30 for Retirees & \$500 for Corporate members.

We look forward to your continuing support and attendance at our activities.

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|---------------|--|--|
| <b>WHEN:</b>  | Friday 6th March 2015                                    | RSVP before Tuesday 3rd March 2015 to<br><br>Peter Tolé, Ph 03 9810 5724 (BH)<br>Mobile 0412 435 344<br><a href="mailto:ptole@evanspeck.com">ptole@evanspeck.com</a> |
| <b>TIME:</b>  | 6:30 for 7pm Start – Finish 9:00 pm                      |  |
| <b>WHERE:</b> | Alliance Française<br>51 Grey St, St Kilda, Vic 3182     |  |
| <b>COST:</b>  | \$20 (AFAS members \$10),<br>including drinks & nibbles. |  |

## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2015***

### **Looking back to our Events Held in 2014**

11 April, AGM at Alliance Francaise de Melbourne.  
28 May, Bostik Factory Visit  
19 July, Annual Dinner: Saturday lunch at Le Bouchon  
26 August, DSDBI Fellowship Presentation  
29 August, AFAS-Vic Fellowship Presentation  
26 September, Wilson Transformers Factory Visit.  
26 November, Berthe Mouchette prize giving ceremony

### **Our Finances**

Cash balance at the end of 2014 is down to \$16k from \$32k in previous 2013 year (50% reduction). A critical review of activities is needed going forward. This brings into question the association's ongoing commitment to the fellowships and the lack of support from past recipients.

### **Research Profiles of our 2014 Post-Doctoral Fellowship Recipients**

#### **Dr Gregory Knowles**

Dr Gregory Knowles from Monash University is working on technologies for carbon dioxide capture and sequestration (CCS) as well as its utilisation. The application of CCS technologies in Victoria is a strategic interest as it would leverage the state's competitive advantage in energy while minimising the impact of emissions. The study mission to laboratories and facilities in Scotland and France will assist the understanding and development of amines and the CCS technology.

#### **Dr Jacqueline Flynn**

With more than 35 million people world-wide reported to have HIV and a further 700 new cases reported in children each day, there is a critical

need to develop an effective vaccine and antivirals. A key to developing such preventative therapies is an understanding of how HIV spreads infection among immune cells. This study mission to the UK and France will provide Dr Jacqueline Flynn with specialist training in performing cell to cell HIV infection assays between macrophages and T cells. It will be an invaluable skill that can be incorporated into Victoria's HIV research capabilities.

### **2015 Challenge Ahead**

To enlist support from the two 2014 recipients and canvas more widely with universities and research institutes. To plan a 2015 contact mission and fund raising drive with French companies in Melbourne and Universities to secure corporate memberships and donations. Committee members are to prepare a plan of attack.

### **2015 Committee Nominations Open at AGM on Friday 17 April 2015**

Our treasurer Nick Garnham has submitted his resignation after many years of faithful service. We are looking for nominees to replace him as well as encouraging members to nominate for other committee positions in order to renew enthusiasm going forward.

Also attached is the membership form for 2015 which remain unchanged at \$60 for Individual and \$500 for Corporate Membership.

### **FACCI Collaboration**

AFAS members in Victoria enjoy member rates when attending FACCI events in Melbourne. We encourage you to take advantage of the great value afforded to you all as our active members.

## ***CALENDAR FOR 2015***

(Some dates to be advised)

**17th April:** AGM and Annual Reception at the Alliance Francaise de Melbourne. We expect that our keynote speaker(s) will be one or both of our two fellowship recipients who will be given the opportunity to more fully elaborate on one of their research topics.

**July:** Annual Dinner

Presentation of AFAS Vic Fellowships at Parliament House

Joint function between FACCI Young Professionals and AFAS Alumni Chapter

Joint functions between FACCI and AFAS Vic

We welcome any suggestions from the membership of AFAS Vic as well as contributions towards other events.

We will announce a fuller programme of events at the AGM in April.