

# BULLETIN

January 2010

Volume 17, Number 1

## Bonne Année 2010 AFAS welcomes all members

2009 was a special year during which we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Victoria. Quite an achievement!

AFAS-Vic had a busy 2009 calendar of activities and your President's report appears over the back of this page.

For 2010, your Committee is planning an exciting and ambitious schedule.

Our opening event for this year's calendar will be our AGM which is planned for 26 March 2010.

This will be followed by the much anticipated visit to the Synchrotron with two possible dates envisaged on 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> of the month subject to availability.

The annual dinner will our gastronomic experience scheduled for early July.

Attached to this Bulletin is your Membership Renewal for 2010. The Committee of Management has maintained the annual subscription at \$50 for Individual, \$10 for student, \$30 for retired members and revised it to \$500 for Corporates.

We look forward to your continuing support and attendance at our activities since the normal subsidies received from

Ubifrance and FEAST-France contributions from the French Embassy come under budgetary pressures. We welcome the newly appointed Scientific Attaché, Mr Kaddour Raissi in Canberra and look forward to working closely with the French Embassy staff on new initiatives. The focus is likely to be on fewer but more significant joint events.

The renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Victorian Department of Innovation Industry & Regional Development (DIIRD) and AFAS-Victoria is due early this year. Applications for the 2010 Victoria Fellowships will open on Tuesday 2 March (closing on Wednesday 14 April) with a view to scheduling the award ceremony at Govt House in late August-early September (slightly later than in 2009). As such we will need to finalise the MoU arrangements before 2 March so we can publicise the AFAS-FeastFrance Fellowships alongside the application guidelines and forms.

Our major seminar will focus on biotechnology, being the main theme for this year, with a tentative date in October. This may vary depending on arrival dates of French experts in Australia.

## President's Report for 2009.

The AGM and annual reception was held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009. This was a great celebration of 30 years for AFAS-Vic and was held at Eildon Mansion, the Alliance Française premises in St Kilda. Special presentations were made to a full house of 60 members and guests by 2008 fellowship recipient, Dr Adrian Orifici and followed by an AFAS-Vic retrospective by John Acton. The celebration culminated with a cocktail function enjoyed by all attendees. A great success and some ventured to say the best AGM ever!

The current Office Holders are:  
President Peter Tolé.

Vice President: Francois Malherbe.

Secretary: Philippe Lesage.

Treasurer: George Bolz.

Public Officer: Bernard Shepherd.

Ordinary members: John Acton, Richard Ferrero (minute secretary), Nicholas Garnham, Yvonne Durandet, Garry Peters, David Phillips, Leigh Peterson, Susan Patrick, Sebastien Fleury.

On 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, following the prior commitment made to hold a special event in order to encourage increased participation from a wider body of under-graduates, students and past Fellows, a special function was held at the Alliance Française. A cheese and wine evening was organised in keeping with the guest speaker's theme: "The Science and Technology of Wine, An introduction to Sparkling Winemaking" by Loïc Le Calvez, Chief Winemaker & Chief Operating Officer of Taltarni Vineyards and Clover Hill.

Philippe Lesage excelled himself once more with his choice of restaurant for our 20<sup>th</sup> June Annual Dinner at "The French Corner Restaurant". Again a large number of members attended and were treated to such culinary delights as traditional Gascon garlic soup for entrée, Cassoulet Toulousain, the French Corner's signature dish for main course and French cheese platter all accompanied by French wines from the Loire and Côte du Rhône valleys. A mouth watering delight!

In conjunction with AFAS Victoria, FEAST-France awarded three AFAS FEAST-France Fellowships in 2009 to Victorian researchers wishing to undertake a study tour to France. These fellowships were granted as a complement to the Victoria Fellowships awarded by DIIRD.

It marked the sixth year of the AFAS/FEAST-France Fellowship. They number a total of 17 to date.

The function was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August at a magnificent venue overlooking the Melbourne night sky from the Investment Centre on level 46 of 55 Collins Street.

This year the three post doctoral researchers awarded a \$5000 grant each were:

\* Dr **Joanne Devlin**, a veterinarian and lecturer in veterinary public health and epidemiology at the University of Melbourne who is researching new methods to control and prevent animal disease ;

\* Dr **Sally Gras** whose fellowship will take her to industrial and research centres in Ireland, the United Kingdom, France and Norway to learn about advances in the understanding and control of dairy product microstructure and progress in functional food research. She hopes her fellowship will build Victoria's capability in this area, ensuring that the Victorian dairy industry remains internationally competitive by boosting quality, decreasing waste and decreasing risk associated with manufacture.

\* Dr **Martin Leahy** who is furthering the understanding of how to store carbon dioxide safely, which is particularly important for Victoria given much of the world's current dependence on brown coal for electricity generation.

The awards were presented by Michel Thibier, the Scientific Counsellor from the French Embassy in what was his last official function before returning to France at the end of his three year posting in Australia.

Our penultimate event for the year was on 3<sup>rd</sup> October which saw an organised visit to view the application of French technology at Austral Bricks. French company Céric deigned and installed the brickworks kiln among other process equipment. This was to be the final project for Pierre Rodriguez (AFAS member) in Australia prior to retirement. A technical visit followed by a social picnic at picturesque Yan Yean Reservoir in Melbourne's north.

Our main seminar was held on 12th November 2009 under the title of: "**Energy & Sustainability Questions**" The speakers' provided answers:

\*Prof. **Kerry Pratt** on "Energy: State of the Art – "What are the Alternatives?" from Monash Sustainability Institute

\*Dr **Selena Ng** on "Nuclear Energy – "Does it fit?" from AREVA

\*Dr **John Andrews** on "Solar Energy – "What use is it?" from RMIT University

\***Julien Gaschnard** on "Wind – "Is it reliable?" from HydroTas, Victoria

\***Chris Tehan** on "An Energy Users Perspective – How is transport addressing sustainability?" from Evans & Peck

The Committee would like to thank Michel Thibier for his vigorous support, Sylvie Christophe; Cultural & Cooperation Attaché, Patrice Pauc of the Alliance Française and Patricia Polites the Honorary French Consul for their contributions to AFAS-Vic and its activities. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee of Management, Liaison Officers and you, the members, for your loyalty in 2009.

## CALENDAR FOR 2010

**26<sup>th</sup> March:** AGM, Annual Reception

**7/14 May:** Synchrotron Visit

**July:** Annual Dinner

**August/September:** Presentation of AFAS FEAST France Fellowships

**October:** Biotechnology Seminar