

BULLETIN

February 2012

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Bonne Année 2012 AFAS welcomes all members

2011 was a challenging year for AFAS-Vic as a result of budget cut backs from the French Embassy and diminishing support from our corporate sponsors. More than ever, we need the ongoing enthusiasm from our committed members.

Attached to this Bulletin is your Membership Renewal for 2012. The Committee of Management has maintained the annual subscription at \$50 for Individual, \$10 for student, \$30 for retired and \$500 for Corporate members.

The activities held in 2011 forms the basis of your President's Report which appears on the back of this page. A number of planned events didn't eventuate due to the last minute unavailability of our guest speakers and we look forward to better success this coming year.

For 2012, two symposia are being touted one in Victoria dealing with "Clean Energy" and another in NSW on "Transport" in conjunction with the French Embassy in Canberra along with their possible financial support for AFAS.

We are also planning to collaborate on joint events with the French Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) and a meeting is scheduled for this February between the respective committees to organise these events and promote a closer alliance between the FACCI Young Professionals Group and the AFAS Alumni Chapter including our fellowship recipients.

Our raison d'être is moving us towards supporting the fellowship programme as our primary focus in the future. We continue to enjoy great support from the Department of Business and Innovation (DBI) and are thankful for that.

Our Fellowship Agreement will be renewed on a yearly basis from now on to correspond with our yearly budget cycle.

In keeping with tradition, we anticipate kicking off the year's activities with our AGM at the Alliance Française in St Kilda.

We look forward to your support so that we can assist brilliant young Australian researchers and organise our events.

President's Report for 2011

The AGM and annual reception was held on 29th April 2011 at Eildon Mansion, the Alliance Française premises in St Kilda. A keynote address was delivered by guest speaker Michael Shirrefs on "Paris to Melbourne with an Atlas" held at the Alliance Française in St Kilda. The research conducted by Michael served to highlight the common histories of Paris and Melbourne using seldom seen documents from archival materials held in both cities. The celebration culminated with a cocktail function enjoyed by all members and guests. We also received a planning briefing from Darryl Rogan on the DBI Victoria Prize and fellowships.

The current Office Holders are:

Peter Tolé (President)

Bryony Nayagam (Joint VP)

François Malherbe (Joint VP)

Nick Garnham (Treasurer)

Bernard Shepherd (Public Officer)

Philippe Lesage (Secretary)

John Acton

Susan Patrick

Pierre Rodriguez (Webmaster)

Liaison Officers 2011:

- Steve Gower (RMIT)
- Stephen Kent (Latrobe)
- François Malherbe (Swinburne)
- Richard Ferrero (Monash)
- Bryony Nayagam (Melbourne)

Nick Garnham and Pierre Rodriguez replaced George Bolz in his capacities as AFAS Treasurer and Webmaster. The committee acknowledges George's fantastic efforts and long standing commitment. It took no less than two to replace him!

Committee meetings have shifted to the Eye and Ear Hospital courtesy of our new Vice President to make it more convenient for city based committee members to attend.

The planned address by Philippe Matière on "Bridges for Military and civil applications" was postponed due to the speaker's commitments. We hope, this year, our stars will line up. A similar situation prevailed with the visiting professor from INSERM.

On August 19, the legendary Philippe Lesage kept up the standards by organising the Annual dinner at the French Brasserie in Malthouse Lane in the city. A great success, with 35 diners and just enough room to fit everyone in!

On 20th September, our Fellowship function was held at Breizoz with a mix of crêpes and cider and a flavour of Bretagne in an Australian context.

AFAS Vic awarded two Fellowships in 2011 to Victorian researchers wishing to undertake a study tour to France. These fellowships were granted as a complement to the Victoria Fellowships awarded by DBI. It marked the eighth year of the AFAS Fellowship. They number 21 to date. They were presented at a Parliament House function held on the 15th November. The recipients were:

- **Jaelyn Pearson;** for her outstanding research and development contribution in Type III effectors of enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* and *Shigella*. Jaelyn will be afforded the opportunity to explain what this all means when invited to address our AGM in April.

- **Dr Jean-Pierre Veder:** for his outstanding research and development contribution in the development of a rigorous nanocharacterization scheme for electrochemical systems. We will also afford him a similar opportunity over the coming year to better explain himself!

On the 16th November, your President attended the Berthe Mouchette prize-giving ceremony at Glen Eira Town Hall and presented prizes to students on behalf of AFAS. This has become a tradition in which we are proud to support the Alliance Française in promoting the study of French in Victorian schools.

On 23/24 November, the Symposium on "*Innovation in Health and Biotechnology*", sponsored by the French Embassy, was held in Canberra and was followed by laboratory visits in Melbourne on 25th November.

CALENDAR FOR 2012

(Some at dates to be advised)

27th April: AGM and Annual Reception at the Alliance Française de Melbourne. We are hopeful that our keynote speaker will be one of our two fellowship recipients who will be given the opportunity to more fully elaborate on one of their research topics.

TBC Address by Philippe Matière on "*Bridges for military and civil applications*"

July: Annual Dinner

TBC Presentation of AFAS Vic Fellowships at Parliament House

TBC Symposium in Victoria dealing with "*Clean Energy*" in a joint effort with the French Embassy in Canberra

TBC Symposium in NSW on "*Transport*" sponsored by the French Embassy in Canberra

TBC Joint function between FACCI Young Professionals and AFAS Alumni Chapter

TBC Joint functions between FACCI and AFAS Vic

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