

BULLETIN

January 2014

Volume 21, Number 1

Bonne Année 2014 Best wishes to AFAS members

2013 was a fruitful year of transition for AFAS-Vic with closer cooperation forged with the French Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FACCI) in Victoria. FACCI Vic chapter sponsored a fund raiser at their annual Soirée de Gala. We had also previously received a kind donation from the Wiley Foundation. Our sincere thanks go to both parties as the funds received will assist us with our ongoing support for the post-doctoral fellowship awards we provide each year. Having said that, the continued support of our members is absolutely essential to sustain our future activities.

Attached to this Bulletin is your Membership Renewal for 2014. The Committee of Management has decided to increase the annual subscription to \$60 for Individual, and maintain the \$10 for student, \$30 for pensioner and \$500 for Corporate members.

The activities held in 2013 form the basis of your President's Report which appears on the back of this page.

We are also planning to extend our collaborative efforts on joint events with the French Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) 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 State Development Business and Innovation (DSDBI) and are thankful for that. The government agency Veski manages the awards on behalf of DSDBI and we have had very strong support from them as well.

In keeping with tradition, we anticipate kicking off the year's activities with our AGM at the Alliance Française in St Kilda. Most committee members are up for re-election and are willing to stand for another 3 year term. However, the committee would like to manage a transition to younger members and would welcome new nominees at the AGM. Members are welcome to apply.

President's Report for 2013

The AGM and annual reception was held on 12th April 2013 at Eildon Mansion, the Alliance Française premises in St Kilda. The keynote address was delivered by our fellowship recipient, Jean-Pierre Veder.

The 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 2013:

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

The FACCI High Speed Rail Forum was held on 27th June 2013 and AFAS members were provided with the opportunity to attend the presentation by Tim Fischer AC, a highlight, Phil Potterton and Jean Jammet at the KPMG offices. Our own Bernard Shepherd was the compere for the evening.

On August 23, the Annual dinner was well attended at Bergerac, the long standing French restaurant in King Street in the city. An excellent choice and great success although attendance numbers were down on previous years with 25 members on the night.

On 6th September, our major day excursion for the year was a visit to the Victorian Desalination Plant at Wonthaggi. By all accounts and based on feedback from the bus load of 35 members in attendance it received unanimous praise. Our thanks to the Degrémont team on site who gave an excellent exposé of the technology and engineering aspects of this major project for Victoria.

AFAS Vic awarded two Fellowships in 2013 to Victorian researchers wishing to undertake a study tour to France. These fellowships were granted as a complement to the Victoria Fellowships awarded by DSDBI. It marked the tenth year of the AFAS Fellowship. They number 25 to date. They were presented at Queens Hall in Parliament House function on the 8th October. The recipients were:

* **Dr Arthur Nasis**; for his outstanding research in novel imaging techniques for diagnosis of coronary disease & myocardial ischaemia.

* **Dr Jennifer Pilgrim**: for her outstanding research in the toxicology of serotonergic drugs and pharmacogenetics in sudden death.

This event was closely followed by our own AFAS function at RMIT which was a more intimate event attended by close family and friends of the 2013 recipients who presented on their research projects. Our previous winner Dr Hai Vu, also presented on his study tour in France.

On the 19th October, your President attended the FACCI Soirée de Gala at the Plaza Ballroom where the fundraiser for the AFAS fellowships was part of the organised event. AFAS received a donation of \$5,000 as a result, for which we are very grateful.

On 28th November, the Berthe Mouchette prize-giving ceremony was held at Glen Eira Town Hall where your President presented prizes to students on behalf of AFAS. This forms part of our ongoing tradition by which we are proud to support the Alliance Française in promoting the study of French in Victorian schools.

CALENDAR FOR 2014

(At dates to be advised)

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.

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 our AGM in April.