



**AVRIL 2016**

## **CLASSES RESUME**

Welcome to Term 2. Many thanks to Sheila for so generously stepping in during Ingrid's absence and taking the classes during the first week of term. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

We are also grateful to the *Tablelands Region Art Society* for agreeing to allow us to use their rooms for a very modest rental fee. The extra space during classes definitely enhances the learning experience.

Just a reminder that this is an 11 week term, from 11<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> June.

## **POÈMES DE LA CLASSE DE CONVERSATION**

### **BEAUCOUP DE COULEURS BLEUS**

Argente-bleu du lac brillant, à de bonne heure le matin,  
Verte-bleu de la mer, scintillant sous le soleil.  
Bleu clair du ciel en été, chaleureux, souriant et éclatant,  
Bleu foncé, avec jaune et noir, le couleur des rosellas de pale-tête,  
Violette-bleu des violettes, souriantes, dansant dans le jardin,  
Pourpre-bleu de la montagne, brumeux et somber dans le lointain,  
J'aime le couleur bleu!

**Rosemary Roussos**

### **LA CLASSE DE CONVERSATION**

La classe de conversation  
C'est de rigueur  
Plein de connaisseurs  
de la langue française.

La classe de conversation  
C'est une sensation  
On fait bien attention  
À toutes les mœurs.

Dans la classe, on fait des gaffes.  
Des fois on parle, comme Marcel Pagnol  
D'autre fois, comme une vache espagnol.

On entend des avis, on est quelquefois surpris  
On partage des histoires, il faut le croire

On fait des devoirs, on ne fait pas des devoirs!  
On recherche des sujets, on n'est pas toujours  
prêts.

On fait des quizz  
Gee wheez  
On est même comédien  
Ça c'était bien.  
Et les bandes dessinées  
On ne peut pas arrêter.

On vient et on va, mais d'habitude il y aura.....  
Sheila, Janet, Steffi, Claudine, Michelle, Rosemary,  
Jill, Sylvie etc

Merci mes amis, vous me faites sourire.

**Ingrid Mullings**

## FILM FESTIVAL - ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE CAIRNS

Alliance Française de Cairns Presents

*af*

**FRENCH  
FILM  
FESTIVAL**

6 - 8 May 2016

*Graeme Masterman*

VALLEY OF LOVE (M) Fri 6 May 8pm  
THE WAIT (L'ATTENTE) (M) Sat 7 May 2pm  
MARGUERITE (M) Sat 7 May 4.30 pm  
MON ROI (MA15+) Sat 7 May 8pm  
CHIC! (M) Sun 8 May 4.30pm

Tickets available from: CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS  
86 Abbett St Cairns 4870 Tel: 4888 1870 [www.artscairns.com.au](http://www.artscairns.com.au)  
Tickets: Premier: \$29 (includes a glass of sparkling wine)  
All other sessions: \$11 - Concessions: \$12 (Alliance Française & Gold Credits Members)  
Festival Pass (all 5 movies): \$46 - Concessions: \$24 (Alliance Française & Gold Credits Members)

"Paris - Photos by Graeme Masterman" - a photographic exhibition in the Corridor @ COCA  
Café Paradiso on the deck @ COCA will be offering French inspired food throughout the festival.

[www.afcairns.org.au](http://www.afcairns.org.au)

Gold Credits Film Club

Motoco

JW89

Come along and soak up the French atmosphere during the Film Festival!  
On opening night (Friday 6th May) enjoy a pre-screening glass of champagne (included in your ticket)  
Throughout the Festival "Paris - Photos by Graeme Masterman" will be exhibited in The Corridor  
at the Centre of Contemporary Arts Cairns  
**Café Paradiso** at COCA will be serving French inspired food  
Open late on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> May for pre-show dinner  
For further details see the Alliance Française de Cairns website  
[http://www.afcairns.org.au/french\\_film\\_festival.php](http://www.afcairns.org.au/french_film_festival.php)

## UN TAS DE CHOSES INTÉRESSANTES

### LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ON INTERNET

**Language Learning Base** is a very useful site with lots of opportunities to learn new vocabulary, particularly colloquial language. The following site - <http://languagelearningbase.com/876/learn-french-with-subtitles-apprendre-francais-sous-titres> - provides a number of children's stories, like "Rosa l'Éléphant Va En Ville", in video format with subtitles - great for pronunciation practice as well as comprehension and vocabulary.



**70 Dialogues en Français** - a YouTube site with a host of interesting opportunities on a range of subjects. A transcript of the dialogue appears on the screen. Each dialogue follows directly on to next but the pause and rewind features can be used for further practice. Here is an example of part of the first dialogue ...

*"Un Ordinateur En Panne"*

*Valentine: Bonjour monsieur. Voilà, j'ai déjà un problème avec mon ordinateur, alors que je l'ai acheté il y a deux mois seulement! J'étais en train de travailler dessus quand l'écran est devenu tout noir, subitement. Tout s'est arrêté.*

*Le Réparateur: Vous avez essayé de rallumer l'ordinateur?*

...

See [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2kku\\_p7MsY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2kku_p7MsY)

Once there, a list of other YouTube dialogue sites appears to the right of the screen.

### Quintessentially "Frainch"

Like the four leaf clover is to Ireland, *la baguette* is to France!

The crown for the best baguette in Paris has been awarded once again.

The annual Grand Prize for the best baguette in Paris has been awarded to two bakers from La Parisienne, located on Rue Madame, in the sixth arrondissement.

Bakers Mickaël Reydellet and Florian Charles received the prize, which comes with €4,000 in cash and the honour of baking a fresh batch for the presidential Elysée palace every day for the next year.

Reydellet runs five bakeries in the capital, but it was the Rue Madame branch where the winning baguette was made.

Reydellet told *Le Parisien*: "I did not vote for François Hollande but it is always rewarding to meet the President".

All baguettes entered for the prize are submitted to a rigorous judging process and strict criteria.

They must measure between 55 and 65 centimetres in length, weigh between 250 and 300 grams, and

have a salt content of no more than 18 grams per kilo of flour. The 155 entries were judged according to five crucial criteria: smell, taste,

appearance, crispiness and how well they were baked.



## SOME COMMON FRENCH EXPLETIVES - MOTS FAMILIERS!

**Oh la vache!** This is a particularly unusual expression for a non-French speaker. It literally translates to "Oh the cow!" It apparently dates back to the seventeenth century, when farmers would bring cows into towns and villages to ensure the milk they were selling was fresh. This would be met by exclamations of "Oh la vache!" by the bourgeois people of the town. Since then, it has wormed its way into everyday conversation, to express shock or horror and is used frequently by French people of all ages.

**Merde!** An old French favourite, *merde* hasn't always meant what it does today. In fact, it comes from theatre performances from as far back as the 19th century where the elite would travel by horse and carriage and then leave their horse out the front. Spectators would have to walk through the *merde* to get inside, and the more manure that was traipsed into the theatre, the more ticket buyers there were and, in turn, the better the show. The *merde* became associated with good fortune. It then became commonplace to wish actors luck with this word. Still today, you may hear people wishing each other luck in an exam or performance by saying *merde!*

**Putain!** Possibly the most commonly used French expletive, *Putain* comes from 'put', meaning dirty, which in turn is a derivative of the verb 'puer' which means 'to smell bad' ... "*Putain, ça pue!*" Since *Putain* translates to "prostitute", it can seem shocking when you first hear it being thrown about in the street, which you do frequently.

However, the meaning that it has taken on nowadays is vastly different, so there's no need for concern if you hear the word at all. Young and old alike use this word as both a positive and a negative exclamation.

**Oh là là!** Everyone in the world knows the French phrase *Oh là là*. But where did it come from? And do people really say it? Yes they do! However, even French people will tell you that it has no real meaning. It seems no one actually knows where it came from but is just one of those things they say. Or if they are really surprised, they'll say '*oh la la la la la la*'. Basically, the more shocking the revelation, or the deeper the admiration, the more *las* will be added.

## SOME GALLIC HABITS OF RURAL FRANCE

**La politesse** - The French are very courteous and friendly on the whole. It is considered polite to greet people in the street, at the shops, cafés and restaurants, at the market, on the bus ... one never gets down to business before the obligatory *Bonjour!* Or even *Bonjour Messieurs-Dames!* It is very common to find yourself involved in quite a lengthy conversation about anything from the weather to politics as the French love to be informed and to share their opinions. *C'est normale!*

**Fermeture de 12.00-14.00** - Planning the day's activities around everything being closed from 12-2 is essential ... everything except restaurants and cafés, that is!

**La Chasse** - From September until late February, more than 200,00 French go out in the fields and woods to hunt. One of the most important lessons to learn is avoiding the hunt - nevertheless, each year there are between 12 and 14 deaths attributed to hunting accidents. Some of these can no doubt be attributed to the fact that equally popular is the love of foraging (*aller au fourrage*) in woods and hedgerows for everything from blackberries to mushrooms.





## CAFÉ BLAH BLAH

Every Saturday morning, members of the French community in Cairns, and those interested in France or wishing to practice their French, meet for coffee and conversation from 11 to 12 noon.

**Where?** Dundee's Restaurant, located on the Waterfront, at Harbour Lights (between the Hilton Hotel and the Pier).



## EXCUSE MY FRENCH

Community Radio 89.1 FM – ***Excuse My French*** every Monday from 6-7pm, listen to Sarey and Annette for French music, news, current affairs

A poster for the radio program 'Excuse my French!'. The background features a stylized illustration of the Eiffel Tower. The text is as follows:

**Excuse my French!**

For French news  
and current affairs,  
French music,  
And everything  
French in Cairns

**Every  
Monday  
From  
6 to 7 pm**

**On Cairns  
FM 89.1**

*Live & local*

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