



Le Premier Bulletin de 2019

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE D'ATHERTON

Soyez les Bienvenus à la nouvelle année.

The **AGM**, held on Sunday 3rd February, was attended by 9 members and one visitor, a number of members having tendered apologies for the occasion.

Following the vacating of all positions, a **NEW COMMITTEE** of office bearers was elected as follows:

President: Malcolm Wyburn

Vice President: Dee Jierasak

Secretary: Sarah Francis

Treasurer: Kate Gargan

Committee: Jean Colman (continuing as Châtillon Liaison Contact), Sheila Tait, Catherine Chautard (Teacher)

★★★ Our deep appreciation and sincere thanks go to these members for taking on the responsibility of ensuring the ongoing success of our Alliance for the continued learning and enjoyment of all. ★★★

During **GENERAL BUSINESS**, discussion arose over an alternative time for future AGMs, Sunday lunchtimes appearing to not suit many members. A decision was made to change the time to a Thursday, late afternoon, in January, just before schools resume. Accordingly, the **NEXT AGM** will be held at **4.30 pm on Thursday 23rd January 2020**.

CLASSES

Classes are well underway for the year:

CONVERSATION GROUP meets Tuesdays at 4pm

INTERMEDIATE GROUP LESSON is Tuesdays 5 - 6.30pm

BEGINNERS CLASS meets 4.30 - 6pm on Thursdays

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Membership Fees are due - \$25 Single and \$30 Family - payable to the **Treasurer** or by **Direct Deposit, Westpac, Alliance Française d'Atherton**
BSB: 034160, Account Number: 891442



ALLIANCE FILM NIGHT - VENDREDI le 26 AVRIL

- * Time and films to be decided - **WATCH THIS SPACE** ★★★
- * Shared Supper- bring a plate
- * Diana Taylor's Home
- * 11 Mary Street, Herberton
(approaching from Atherton, turn right into Herbert Street just past the Historic Village, then left into Mary Street)

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL IN CAIRNS



PLEASE NOTE: Details of films are not yet available - if interested, check the website www.afcairns.org.au or the *Alliance Française de Cairns* Facebook page. Pre purchase of tickets is highly recommended to avoid disappointment.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE d'ATHERTON - A BRIEF HISTORY

Alliance Française is a world-wide organisation based in Paris. Its aim is to promote awareness of the French language and culture. The Atherton Tablelands branch complies with the objectives of Alliance Française, Paris, by fostering the interest of members of the local community. The Atherton branch was formed in the 1970s by a local resident, John Huon de Navrancourt, who was a native of France. At first, proceedings were rather informal, with weekly lunch meetings in private homes, with the supposed intent of learning the language.

The current situation is that, for some fourteen years, well qualified teachers have conducted classes, from beginners' level to advanced conversation, and these classes now number up to four every week. Social events include film evenings, shared dinners with an emphasis on French food, games of pétanque (French bowls), celebration of French festivals such as 14th July (Bastille Day) and Christmas lunch with traditional dishes, etc. At the time when there was a vineyard in the area, a Mise en Bouteilles (wine bottling) ceremony was held every year.

An extensive library of French literature, ranging from children's stories to advanced classic writing, is available in our room at the Atherton Community Centre. In any discussion regarding the age of the building and the possibility of its demolition, Alliance Française d'Atherton would like to state that the room is ideally suited to the needs of this relatively small but conscientious organisation.

CHÂTILLON-SUR-LOIRE

Between the years 2001 and 2004, Alain Breuzé, a resident of Australia for thirteen years but native of Châtillon-sur-Loire, conceived the idea of twinning his home town in France with this area. This was achieved through co-operation with the former Eacham Shire Council. Several members of the Atherton group have visited Châtillon, have been entertained by Alain, and have assisted in maintaining the Australian interest by giving talks and presenting Australiana to the local school.



Contributed by Sheila Tait

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST??

Visit Châtillon in May/June 2020, as a small group of Alliance Française members and friends. Arrange to be picked up at an important centre in France, driven by a chauffeur/guide, and spend a few days in Châtillon and surrounding areas of interest. Expressions of interest should be made to Sheila Tate (horseholidays@bigpond.com or phone **0429 912 070 / 4091 2070**).

After her 2017 visit, Sheila presented a report published in the newsletter and Jean Colman has also included information on her visit to Châtillon.



FRANCE AND BREXIT

There has been much news emphasis on Brexit in the UK, particularly the effects of Brexit on those Britons living, working or studying in Europe. I wondered how the French view Brexit and found the following comments from a survey conducted by QUORA. While the comments have been edited to curtail the length, the essence of each remains faithful to the original.

Linda White, Éditrice du Bulletin

<<As far as I see it, it's basically a mix of surprise, sadness, and a bit of shameful rejoicing.

- **Surprise** because in France, even though we also complain a lot about the way the EU *is run*, most of us are euromphiles, and just want a "different kind of EU"; not to simply break it down.
- **Sadness** because the UK is a great country, we've been allied for a long time, we've spent and fought hard times together. Many euromphiles took the UK decision of leaving as a kind of harsh betrayal towards the continent.
- **Shameful rejoicing**, as many pro-EU in France think that the EU is not advancing fast enough, and not in the good direction (being too focused on markets instead of people). Many hope the Brexit is the starting block for a "better Europe".>>

Gaston Grégoire

<<UK people didn't vote against Europe, they voted against the European Union. The European Union is NOT Europe. I think they are lucky, the EU is a useless administrative monster.

- We don't need the EU to build up Europe. We don't need EU for free market. Still today there is no common vat, no common corporate tax, no common fiscal tax number or income tax, no common pension system.
- EU is a new form of dictatorship. They impose directives that were not voted by local representatives.
- We are imposed, just like the population of the UK, measures that aren't the choice of our elected representatives from the Assemblée Nationale.

The European Union is not Europe, it is an administration. The people of Europe makes Europe, not the European Union. The European Union is the new soviet union with only one way of thinking which is imposed to 28 jurisdictions.

I am French and I stand by the British people because they are European and I am European too.>>
Anonymous

<<You would always have to distinguish between what politicians think and what the average voter thinks. They are particularly distinct in France.

Brexit does not feature that much in French media, but it is overwhelmingly seen as a self-inflicted wound and a self-destructive move. On the Eurosceptic fringe of politics, they envy the ability that the British had to express their opinion on the EU without actually wanting to emulate it exactly.

Euroscepticism is high in France but it's not the same as the Euroscepticism seen in the UK. Most French people do feel European and they would not want to see the EU disappear. These Eurosceptics would want to see a Europe recreated more in the interests of France, most likely with a smaller number of members.>>

Iztok Charlebois (living in London)

<<I live in France and every French person I know thinks Brexit is both funny and sad. Funny in that it is happening to those "arrogant" Anglais who fell for a pack of implausible lies - and sad that a fractious family member of the EU cannot see a way to remain in a Europe finally able to go half a century without an internecine war of some kind. Peace is something Europeans value, not having a sea to separate their country from their neighbours.

But generally that would be the opinion if a French person decides to speak - a wry smile and a sad shake of the head is the actual usual response. Apart from that, nobody in France I know thinks about Brexit at all. Spring is coming and that is far more important than silly foreigners shooting themselves in the foot under the pretext of "taking back control".>>

Chris le Carlin

<<It is a surprise, but of course that was the result of British distrust on EU. You see, France was one of the founding members of EU, alongside Luxembourg, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and West Germany. That didn't include Britain because there was, then, a conflict of conservative values that heavily dominates the UK, and perhaps still. However the UK also earns great values following their accession to EU, and it worked relatively well.

French people value differently than British people. There is a level of wariness over EU but, overall, EU is still France's priority and French people still say, we are Europeans and proud.

In the end, I am greatly disappointed with the United Kingdom for their exit but I hope the UK will regain their balance. >>

Ziaddinè Chahoud, Oui, je suis Français

<<From a political point of view, we should rejoice since GB has always been an obstacle to the grand design France and Germany had set from the beginning (GB was not even there at the time) for a future European Federation; a project, by the way, in which most of us, over here, still believe for so many good reasons (Donald Trump not being one of the least). But, and this is where the relations between the two countries show how they are essentially complex, deep down we are sad. In terms of humanity or should I say humanism, culture, historical and intellectual identity (which is what really counts in the end, not just economy) what would Europe mean without Great Britain in it? >>

Laurent Auclair (Sorbonne Classics Scholar)



Quora is a question-and-answer website where questions are asked, answered, edited, and organized by its community of users in the form of opinions. ... Users can collaborate by editing questions and suggesting edits to answers that have been submitted by other users.

<https://www.quora.com>

JEUX DE MOTS

1/ The familiar expressions with "manger" on the left have become jumbled with their meanings on the right. Draw lines to link each expression with its correct meaning.

<See solutions on back page>

Manger dans la main de quelqu'un	Avoir beaucoup d'énergie
Manger aux frais de la princesse	Être dépendant de quelqu'un
Manger les pissenlits par la racine	Ne rien avoir à manger
Manger du lion	Être mort
Manger des briques (à la sauce cailloux)	Manger gratuitement

2/ Link the familiar expressions below with their correct meanings.



I had nothing to do with it!

Oh I wish!

It's not easy!

DRÔLES DE QUESTIONS

QUELLE EST LA DIFFÉRENCE
ENTRE UN IMBÉCILE ET UN
YAOURT ?



AU BOUT DE QUELQUE TEMPS, LE
YAOURT DÉVELOPPE UNE CERTAINE
FORME DE CULTURE.

QUELLE EST LA VILLE
FRANÇAISE LA PLUS
PROCHE DE L'EAU ?



BORDEAUX (BORD D'EAU)



QU'EST CE QUI EST PLUS GRAND
QUE LA TOUR EIFFEL,

MAIS INFINIMENT MOINS LOURD.

??

Son ombre

INTERESTING EMAIL CONTACT - NO AFFILIATION, NO PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Dear Friends,

We have some exciting news. This week we launch our brand new business venture, My French Voyage, a boutique travel company specialising in regional guided gastronomy tours to France and a designer tour service.

Our love of Australia combined with the passion for our home country has inspired us to share our love of France with Australian travelers.

We wanted to create something that was a truly authentic and unique travel experience.

We want West Australians to experience France 'off the beaten path' and share the hidden beauties and of course explore the great food and wine that we know as locals.

There are two parts to our business:

1. Guided Tours

Our guided tours will see our guests not only getting to experience some of the country's best restaurants, wineries, markets and stay in boutique luxury accommodation, but I will also cook for and with them (if they choose) each evening.

Every tour, restaurant we visit, or marketplace we go to is authentically French.

We want our guests to experience France like a local and truly enjoy the best of the region.

2. Designer Tours

This is for people who don't want to travel on a guided tour, but still want our expert knowledge to help them create the perfect holiday.

We create bespoke itineraries incorporating accommodation, transport, delicious local restaurants, activities and experiences that you won't find online, all designed to meet the travelling parties interests.

You can find out more information on our website, including details of all tours for 2019:

www.myfrenchvoyage.com.au

You can also follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MyFrenchVoyage>

And you can find us on Instagram: www.instagram.com/MyFrenchVoyage

Or phone me, Francois, on 0459 631 228.

Warm Regards,

Francois and Esther Morabito



MY
French VOYAGE
AUTHENTIC GOURMET TOURS

www.myfrenchvoyage.com.au

Please do not keep it a secret ☺

CAFÉ BLAH BLAH



Every Saturday morning, members of the French community in Cairns, and those interested in France, French travel, 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 Cairns 89.1 FM – **Excuse My French** every Monday from 6-7pm, listen to Sarey and Annette for French music, news, current affairs ...

Listen live: www.cairnsfm891.org - click on the "Listen Live" button



LE BREXIT



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE D'ATHERTON INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

Renewing your Membership? Interested in Joining?
Please complete the form and return to:

The Treasurer, PO Box 169, ATHERTON 4883
Payment: to Treasurer or Direct Deposit, Westpac,
Alliance Française d'Atherton BSB: 034160, Account Number: 891442

Types of Membership: Single - \$25 per annum Family - \$30 per annum

Family name.....

First name(s).....

Street Address.....

Postal Address.....

Phone.....Mobile.....

Email address.....

Signature of applicant.....



SOLUTIONS

1/

Manger dans la main de quelqu'un	Être dépendant de quelqu'un
Manger aux frais de la princesse	Manger gratuitement
Manger les pissenlits par la racine	Être mort
Manger du lion	Avoir beaucoup d'énergie
Manger des briques (à la sauce cailloux)	Ne rien avoir à manger

2/

Si seulement! = Oh I wish!

Ce n'est pas de la tarte! = It's not easy!

Je n'y suis pour rien! = I had nothing to do with it!