

**Alliance Française Albury-Wodonga
2020 Annual General Meeting
President's Report**

The last year has been another busy and successful 12 months for the Albury Wodonga Alliance Française. This President's Report has been completed by the Acting President Tracy Robertson with the assistance of other committee members who are all volunteers.

Committee

A new committee (listed below) was elected at our Annual General Meeting in March 2019.

- President: Jane Quarmby
- Vice President: Tracy Robertson
- Secretary (shared role): Clare D'Arcy and Vivienne Paramore
- Treasurer: Phil Sefton
- Committee Members: Karral Miller and Consuelo Merluzzi

Jane had to resign from her role as President in November 2019 as she was moving to Wollongong. Tracy then assumed the role as Acting President pending our next AGM. I would like to publicly acknowledge the welcome and support I received from all committee members when I joined the committee last March but particularly in the period I have been Acting President.

As mentioned previously, all committee members are volunteers who spend many hours preparing for and attending meetings, organising cultural and social events for the benefit of our members, maintaining our administrative records, ensuring our classes meet the needs of our students, liaising with teachers, etc. The ongoing success of the Alliance Française Albury-Wodonga (FAFW) is due to the expertise, dedication and passion of our volunteer committee members and other members of FAW who generously volunteer to assist with some of our activities and events.

Membership

From 1 January to 31 December 2019, we had 92 financial memberships.

Classes

In 2019 we again offered six separate evening classes as follows:

- Beginners (A1) – two hours
- Continuing Beginners (A2) – two hours
- Intermediate (B1) x 2 – two hours
- Advanced (B2) – two hours
- Conversation – one hour

Each class operates once a week for eight sessions each term, four terms a year. Classes are conducted at the Live Better building in central Albury which has sufficient rooms available to meet our needs as we can offer different classes on the same evenings. This gives our students some flexibility in choosing the classes most relevant to their level on evenings that suit them.

During 2019 we had 227 separate enrolments for these classes. The number of enrolments for our Beginners class tends to decrease markedly after the first two terms each year. For this reason, we are trialling a Travel French class for the first two terms of 2020 and 2021 and will evaluate the success of this, including the impact on the Beginners class, in mid-2021.

We also held Summer immersion classes early in 2019 with 6 people attending the Conversation class and 7 attending the week-long intensive class.

DELF

In November 2019 five candidates sat for DELF qualifications. All were successful in gaining qualifications. The cost of these exams is borne by the participants but AFAW subsidises the process by paying our local examiners.

Thanks must go again to Marion Bennett and our new examiner in 2019. Their commitment and professionalism enables AFAW to be one of only two centres outside of a capital city who can offer these exams.

Events

Café Bavard

This is a regular informal gathering held on the second and last Saturday afternoons of each month. It gives our members an opportunity to speak French over a cuppa and has proven to be very popular. We thank the proprietor of La Maison where we hold these gatherings for their ongoing support and Clare D'Arcy for her work in promoting and facilitating Café Bavard.

Bastille Day

A special afternoon tea and opportunity for French conversation was organised to celebrate Bastille Day. It was held at La Maison. Feedback from participants was very positive.

French Film Festival

We again organised a French Film Festival held over a weekend at the Albury Regent Cinemas complex in May 2019. There was an overall attendance of 605. There were eight films shown with seven general films shown for a wide audience and an additional film on the Friday afternoon for school students. We rely on the tremendous support we receive from our sponsors, Regent Cinemas and Baker Motors and the work undertaken by our 'Film selection sub-committee' of Paule Gauquie, Vivienne Paramore and Consuelo Merluzzi to be able to hold this very well-received event.

End-of-Year Lunch

We also held our end-of-year lunch at La Maison which was very popular. The feedback from this event was very positive with many comments about the quality of the food and how much people enjoyed the convivial atmosphere.