



It gives me great pleasure to present the President's Report for the Financial Year 2019/2020

1. General:

2020 is my second year as President of the AFSC and it marks the thirteenth year of the Alliance française de la Sunshine Coast as an organisation within the Alliance française international network.

I am pleased to report that our Alliance continued its steady membership growth and maintained a range of cultural activities. At the end of June 2020, our membership registered 218 financial members, a similar level to that of last year. The automatic renewal letter sent to members directly from our website one month prior to renewing their memberships is proving a good tool

This financial year has been another remarkably busy year, with committee members and members engaging in a vast range of activities despite the downturn caused by the COVID pandemic in the second half of the financial year.

1.1 2019 Brisbane French Association Round Table, April 29 2020.

The annual French Association Round Table this year met on Zoom, chaired by the Honorary Consul for France in Queensland, Lady Jane Edwards. The Round Table brings together all French groups from Brisbane, the Gold Coast, and the Sunshine Coast. I, as President of the AFSC, attended this Round Table and provided a summary of our association, its mission, and its calendar for 2020 (attached).

2. Our Committee of Volunteers:

Our organisation is extremely fortunate to have a wonderful committee, comprised of dedicated, hardworking members. In total, there are 5 official members, including myself as President, Valerie Lewis as Vice-President, Sophie as Secretary, Nicky Hallahan as Treasurer and Jean-Pierre Lederlin, Emilia White and Marine Berthon as general committee members. We also have 4 ex-officio members - our teachers: Cécile Couper, Émilie Matyja, Verity Newett and Eva Simonet.

To our VP, Valerie, I express my sincere thanks for all that she has done on behalf of our AF, particularly organising and been present at our café-conversations in Twin Waters. Valerie has been with the Alliance française de la Sunshine Coast since 2008 and it gives me great pleasure to offer these flowers to Valerie who has decided to step down from the Alliance Committee after donating 12 years of her life to the association. Thank you again Valerie for all your work and help!

Un grand merci to our ever-smiling Treasurer Nicky for overseeing the finances and very carefully going through the financial year-end report with Cécile. Your decisions are always wise, and we appreciate your efforts in keeping our Alliance on top of everything!

Thank you Jean-Pierre, for organising the topic events at Brasserie 106! They are extremely popular and you have been extremely busy passing information between the restaurant and Cecile and myself. Congratulations on this relationship created with a French local restaurant.

Thank you Emilia for taking over the Café conversation in Twin Waters with great enthusiasm. It is nice to see *la relève* and have you welcoming our members with an incredible smile and passion for French!

Finally, to our hard working and dedicated teachers: Cecile (Skype), Emilie (Mountain Creek), Verity (Noosa & Mountain Creek) and Eva (Maroochydore). They deliver quality teaching in respect of the quality control guidelines of the Alliance française charter (la démarche-qualité). Especially during this year 2020 and working countless hours to move your classes online and back face to face! The Alliance will not have succeeded so well during Covid-19 restrictions time without you!

3. Teaching and Our Teachers

3.1 Student Enrolments

Student enrolments in formal classes both at Noosa and Mountain Creek this past financial year have performed quite well, with total of 236 enrolments (term 3 & 4 of 2019 and Term 1 & 2 of 2020). This is consistent with the previous financial year (there were 238 enrolments in 2019/20). Students tend to return to their classes from one term to the other, which is a credit to our wonderful teachers Eva, Emilie and Verity. Beginners classes, popular at the beginning of the year (New Year Resolutions) and in Term 3 as we traditionally advertise for these sessions.

A huge thank you to our teachers for their amazing reactivity in switching the classes to Zoom at the end of Term 1 when all our venues closed because of the COVID crisis. Your diligence allowed us to retain our high levels of enrolment despite this difficult situation.

3.2 Our SKYPE Teaching Program

The Skype program is going strong with 67 packages sold (\$19,305.00) 13 Adults and 13 children enrolled throughout the year. The Zoom platform is also successfully used as an alternative to Skype.

Thank you Cecile for taking the time in showing how to use Zoom and Skype for teaching!

3.3 Conversation Workshops

The Maroochydore Active Conversation Workshops take place in Maroochydore Support Library and were led in Term 1 by Eva. The attendance varied from one term to the other with an average of 4 students per class per level (there were 2 levels). Unfortunately, the venue closed end of Term 1, 2020 because of COVID-19.

The **Noosa** Conversation Workshops took place at the Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre in Term 1. These workshops were hosted by Verity, here again offering 2 levels of

French. The format changed to Zoom from Term 2 due to the COVID situation. The original pay-as-you-go approach has continued but more recently, students have been encouraged to register their attendance online, with students paying \$25 for a 90 minute session. Very many thanks are extended to Eva and Verity for the effort they put into preparing and presenting these workshops and for the wonderful rapport they build with our students.

4 – Events & Cultural Activities (From July 2019 to June 2020)

As part of our AF Mission Statement, we have a responsibility to encourage French-Australian cultural exchange and friendship in our local community.

4.1 Café Conversations

Our Café-Conversations were extremely popular this year once again. They took place at the Loose Goose in Twin Waters (1st Saturday of the month) and at la Maison du Pâtissier in Meridan Plains (3rd Saturday of the month). This year saw an average of 30 participants per café-conversations where participants have enjoyed the various themes and activities offered at these events organised by our volunteers on the Committee.

4.2 Due to the sanitary crisis, there was no French Film Festival this year, but we partnered with **Caloundra Film Festival and Nambour Cinema** to promote French films in the community.

4.3 The 2019 Bastille Day Lunch took place at la Maison du Pâtissier Saturday 13th of July. Guests enjoyed a real French atmosphere with many quizzes and songs. There were 35 participants.

4.4 The 2019 MLTAQ (Modern Language Teachers' Association of Queensland) held its annual LOTE (Languages other than English) **Speaking Competition** at the Sunshine Coast University on Sunday, 31 August. Cecile coached and entered 12 students under the AFSC banner and 9 received diplomas, which is an excellent outcome. We donated pens and rulers for the French students' MLTAQ bags. We also fielded judges from amongst our teachers and members. Special thanks are due to all for a great team effort.

4.5 The 2019 Beaujolais Nouveau Luncheon Celebration was held on Saturday 30 November at La Maison du Pâtissier. There were 30 participants who enjoyed the 2019 Beaujolais Cru and the entertainment.

4.6 Photography & Poetry Event – 7 December 2019 – Clair de Lune at Tonight in Noosa. This fabulous event marrying Poetry (Bertand Cadart – who we miss) and Photography (Jean-Pierre Lederlin) was very-well attended with 32 patrons present. The “Moules-frites” served by Dominique Clerc were delicious. A wonderful evening to end the year!

5. Our Website, our LMS and our Social Media :

Our website hosted by Oncord (ex Synergy8) reflects a standardised approach for several AFs including Cairns, Melbourne etc. The visuals are attractive, and our website continues to act as our portal to the community and the world, keeping everyone well informed of our events and classes. It is a great tool enabling us to organise/manage classes, workshops, events, send email campaigns

and newsletters. It is fully integrated with our accounting software Xero as well as with our new Learning Management System Apolearn which we purchased at the end of Term 2, 2020.

Our Facebook page continues to play a prominent role in the communication of our organisation. Many of our members interact on our page.

6. The network of Alliances françaises

A meeting of the Australian AF network took place in Canberra on 25th & 26th October 2019. Cecile and I participated and took part in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of AF Canberra. Meetings aiming at facilitating exchanges within the network gathered 26 Alliances from all over Australia. The minutes for this meeting are available to you, should you be interested in reading them.

Conclusion:

To conclude, another great year for the Alliance despite the current sanitary crisis!!! Many successful events, classes and incredible moments shared with all. I would like to thank our teachers and their hard work. Cecile for everything you do, yet again your hard work and inventively surprise me every-day.

The members of the committee, who dedicated their time, patience and were happy to jump onto their computer to be present on online café conversation and meetings! You are all incredible and thank you for everything. The Alliance française de la Sunshine Coast could, of course, not be without you.

This year has been full of challenges but our teachers, committee members and members have accomplished amazing results! Cannot wait to have (maybe) another year with you!

Merci infiniment,

Clementine

Présidente de l'(incroyable) Alliance française de la Sunshine Coast.