

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025

### Introduction

It was a true challenge and honour for me to resume the Presidency role in 2025 after the difficult decision made by Caroline to step down for health reasons. Yet, we held the fort and it was a great year for all of us at Alliance Française Sunshine Coast.

We achieved great results, none of which would have happened without such a great team and such wonderful members. Thank you for taking the time to be here today.

### Committee

I extend my gratitude to our Committee, who have been so supportive throughout the year and made my role so much easier.

To our Vice President, Ellen, for her wise advice and support.

To our Secretary Emilia and to our Treasurer Chris, I express my deepest thanks. Your diligent work is appreciated by all and allows for the smooth operation of our association.

Our general committee members have been active throughout the year in many different situations and I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by each - Annette, Chase, Christophe, Marg and Jonny. Thank you in particular for the wonderful event you help put together for our Bastille Day.

And because, as she says it very well herself, you can take the girl out of the AF but you cannot take the AF out of the girl, my deepest thanks to Caroline, our star volunteer who is forever the heart and soul of our operations and who is always thinking of new ways to boost memberships and participation in our social and cultural events. (Round of applause)

We continue to be led by our Directrice Cécile, who ensures the smooth running of our Alliance thanks to the well-timed introduction of detailed documentation through the Démarche Qualité - a 5 year plan which is already well in place thanks to her diligence.

### Teaching

Our teachers also form a vital part of our Committee and our Alliance as a whole, and to Verity, Marine, Morgane and Juliette (as well as to Cécile of course!) I extend my gratitude for the excellence of your teaching which is at the heart of the raison d'être of AFSC. You put your heart and soul into their teaching. In fact, while I am talking to you, Verity and Marine are receiving training to obtain their status of correctors for DELF/DALF exams as did Cécile in September 2025 and Morgane in January 2025. This proves the dedication of our teachers taking their precious free time to enhance their skills for the benefit of our students and our AF.

The turn-over generated from classes reflects our teachers' great work: \$143,000 as at 30th June 2025 compared to \$117,000 as the same date in 2024, which represents an increase of 22,2% in one year! The online classes continue also to be very much in demand.

The first sessions of Yoga in French led by Marie-Hélène in November at the Nambour Yoga Centre have been very successful and we shall resume this initiative in Term 2, 2026.

## **Memberships.**

Every organisation is only as strong as its members and I am thrilled to say that our Membership remains strong just over the 300 mark. Our members enjoy our cultural and social events as well as our classes and it is important that they know that we will never take your continued membership for granted. We also rely on our members' feedback to continuously improve our services as per the Démarche-Qualité we follow.

## **Cultural and Social Activities.**

The Sunshine Coast French Film Festival continues to give us a great visibility thanks to Murray's superb selection of films were shown in Caloundra, Nambour, Noosa and Maroochydore.

Our Café Conversations are cultural rendez-vous enjoyed in 3 locations on the Sunshine Coast (Twin Waters of course thanks to the amazing partnership we have with the Loose Goose, but also in Golden Beach and Peregian Springs). By varying the venues, we try to make it as easy as possible for all our members, no matter where they live, to find a convenient place to join us for a regular dose of French language and culture.

In addition to Café Conversations, the Club Déjeuner led by Caroline and her amazing team of volunteers once a month, mid-week Lunch at different restaurants across the region are proving exceptionally popular with you all and fit perfectly with the spirit of community « partage ».

The newly launched Club Pétanque is another example of Volunteers putting their head together to bring a unique experience of fun and camaraderie on the Sunshine Coast. Watch this space with Caroline and her faithful volunteers at the helm!

These events will continue in 2026, so make sure you keep checking our website as well as the newsletters which Cécile regularly sends to us all so that you will be the first to hear what is happening. Our focus next year will be on Volunteer Management and Charity work as new initiatives are taking shape thanks to funding received from the Department of Social Services as well as from the French Embassy.

## **Alliance Française Network.**

Annually, the Directors and Presidents of AF's throughout Australia are invited for a conference - this year, it was held in Newcastle last week in fact, and Cécile and I were delighted to attend.

I am very proud to report to this Assembly that a "Convention Triennale d'Objectifs et de Moyens entre l'AMBASSADE de FRANCE en Australie et l'ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE LA SUNSHINE COAST » was signed on 28th November between his Excellency Pierre-André Imbert, Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de la République française auprès du Commonwealth d'Australie and myself. He even taught me how to properly shake hands and smile like a true diplomat!!! This is A MILESTONE FOR OUR ALLIANCE, achieved thanks to the efforts over the years of our dedicated teams, our faithful members and our growing community. This Convention propulses the AFSC to a new level, and contributes to closing the divide between capital Alliances and regional Alliances.

The countless hours which go into keeping your AFSC running smoothly and going from strength to strength, can only be achieved because of the dedication of the members of our Committee and our Teachers who are so generous with their time and their expertise.

## **In Conclusion.**

It was a great honour to be part of this wonderful Alliance Française as your President this year. I wish you all have a safe and Happy Christmas, and may the New Year bring us all renewed opportunities to marry camaraderie and francophonie !

Clémentine