

BULLETIN

January 2008

Volume 15, Number 1

Bonne année
Meilleurs vœux pour 2008

We hope you all enjoyed saying goodbye to 2007 and welcoming 2008?

AFAS-Vic had another successful year as detailed in the President's Report for 2007.

For 2008, your Committee has planned a number of activities. Please take the time to add these dates to your 2008 Diaries!

Attached to this Bulletin is your Membership Renewal for 2008. The Committee of Management has maintained the annual subscription at \$50 for Individual, \$250 for Corporate, \$10 for student and \$30 for retired members.

We look forward to your continuing support via membership renewals and attendance at our activities as the subsidy we receive from UBIfrance has been reduced each year.

Two specialised conferences start the year; on January 31st, the Pasteur / Walter and Eliza Hall Institute Workshop on Imaging Infectious Diseases at the Molecular, Cellular and Tissue Level and from 25th to 29th February, the International Conference on Nanoscience & Nanotechnology.

On Friday 4th April, our Annual Reception & AGM will give you all a great Networking Opportunity. There will be no-charge for financial members (i.e. those who have paid their subscription for 2008!). Guests and non-financial members will be asked to contribute \$10.

In May, we plan a Forum on Public Transport.

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 6th June.

The AFAS FEAST-France Fellowship presentations will be awarded following the presentation of the Victoria Prize and Fellowships, expected to be in August.

In September, we plan a Forum on Desalination.

A Scientific Café on the Pros & Cons of Nuclear Energy in Australia is planned for October.

In November, we plan a technical talk on the Hale Street bridge

We look forward to seeing you at least at one of the coming activities!

Best wishes for 2008 ...

President's Report for 2007.

Another successful year for AFAS-Victoria!

The Annual General Meeting was our first event in 2007 held at Innovation@257, courtesy of the Victorian Government's Department of Innovation. Fifty members and guests attended and enjoyed the networking opportunity. We were particularly pleased to welcome Professor Michel Thibier, the Science & Technology Counsellor from the French Embassy and his wife to Melbourne. Ms Dominique de Gasquet, the Cultural & Scientific Attaché based in Melbourne also joined us.

The Office Holders are:

John Acton - President - 3 year term expires May 2008
Peter Tolé - Vice President - 3 year term expires May 2008
François Malherbe - Hon Secretary - LO Swinburne - 3 year term expires May 2008
George Bolz - Hon Treasurer - 3 year term expires May 2008
Bernard Shepherd - Public Officer - 3 year term expires May 2008

The Committee members are:

Philippe Lesage - 3 year term expires May 2008
Pascale Pantaleao - 3 year term expires May 2008
Christophe Lefèvre - 3 year term expires May 2008 - LO University of Melbourne
Sophie Bourges - 3 year term expires March 2009
Sebastien Fleury - 3 year term expires March 2009
Yvonne Durandet - 3 year term expires May 2010 - DLO Swinburne
Georgina Douglas - 3 year term expires May 2010 - LO RMIT
Kerry Hourigan - 3 year term expires May 2010 - LO Monash University
The LO & DLO who are not elected members of the committee, but are invited to attend are:
Marian Obenchain - LO La Trobe University
Aladin Zayegh - LO Victoria University
Julio Soria - DLO Monash University
Richard Ferrero - DLO Monash University.

The cocktail, which followed, presented an excellent networking opportunity, which was enjoyed by members and guests.

In April, we returned to a format familiar to our long-standing members; a topical presentation by a technical expert followed by informal conversation over drinks and nibbles. The presentation was "Making air travel safer and faster" and the technical expert was Lionnel Wonneberger, Director Strategy & Business Development - Asia Pacific, Air Systems Division, Thales Australia.

In July, another technical function was organised jointly with Materials Australia and hosted by Prof. Milan Brandt at IRIS (Industrial Research Institute Swinburn). It took the form of a brief presentation, addressing the evolution of direct metal deposition (DMD), the current state of the art and various potential applications, followed by a demonstration of the process.

In conjunction with AFAS Victoria, FEAST-France awards up to three AFAS FEAST-France Fellowships each year to Victorian researchers wishing to undertake a study tour to France. These fellowships are granted as a complement to the Victoria Fellowships awarded by the Victorian Government. 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the Victoria Prize and Fellowships, and the 4th presentation of the AFAS FEAST-France Fellowships.

This year the following candidates were awarded a \$5000 grant:

- * Dr Bryony Coleman, Auditory neuroscience and stem cell biology;
- * Mr Simon Craig, Fluid Fertilisers;
- * Mr Andrew Walter, Spintronics and quantum computing.

We were sad to farewell Dominique de Gasquet, the Cultural & Scientific Attaché for Victoria, at an informal gathering of the committee at the home of Vice-President, Peter Tolé. We thank her for her support and encouragement and wish her well with her new appointment in New Delhi, India.

Our last function for 2007, "Nuclear Energy - why all the fuss?" was held at the Alliance Française in St Kilda, where AFAS-Vic members and guests gathered to hear the presentation by Dr Selena Ng, the Nuclear Business Development Manager from AREVA. After a welcome glass of bubbly, the President took the opportunity to introduce the newly arrived Cultural & Scientific Attaché in Melbourne, Sylvie Christophe and the new Director of the Alliance in Melbourne, Patrice Pauc.

The Committee would like to thank Jacques Dasset & Jacqueline Haye of UBIfrance; Jean-Louis Latour of the French Trade Commission; Michel Thibier of the French Embassy - Science & Technology Section; the Cultural & Scientific Attaché for Victoria, Mme Dominique de Gasquet; Edouard Mornaud of the Alliance Française and Patricia Polites the Honorary French Consul for their support and encouragement of AFAS-Vic and its activities. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee of Management, the FEAST-France Liaison Officers and you, the members, for your support, without which there would be no Australian French Association for Science and Technology.

CALENDAR FOR 2008

31st January-1st February
Pasteur - WEHI Workshop

25-29th February
International Conference on
Nanoscience & Nanotechnology

Friday 4th April
Annual Reception & AGM
Networking Opportunity

May
Forum on Public transport

Friday 6th June
Annual Dinner

August
Presentation of AFAS FEAST France
Fellowships

September
Forum on Desalination Technology