

# BULLETIN

January 2009

Volume 16, Number 1

## Bonne année 2009 The 30th Year of AFAS-Vic

We welcome 2009 as we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AFAS-Vic.

AFAS-Vic had a successful 2008 under your new President and his report appears over the back of this page.

For 2009, your Committee has planned a number of activities. In August 2008, a planning meeting was held to map out the main themes for 2009 as well as formalising some of the functions to be performed by the committee members. One significant initiative was our decision to form an Alumni Chapter for our fellowship recipients (who number fourteen to-date) and encourage participation from young scientists and engineers who have studied or worked in France. We are planning an event in May with a special focus on undergraduates, fellowship alumni and students.

Attached to this Bulletin is your Membership Renewal for 2009. 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 and attendance at our activities since the subsidies we have received

from Ubifrance and the FEAST-France contributions from the French Embassy have been diminishing each year. We have also been recently advised that the Ubifrance agreement will be managed by the French Mission Economique in future.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, our Annual Reception & AGM will provide you with an opportunity to network and celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please come armed with any mementos to share and stories to tell.

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

In July, we plan a visit to a brickworks kiln project using French technology

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, a seminar will be held on the subject of contributions to reduction of carbon emissions through the use of nuclear and renewable energies.

We will also be considering the possibility of holding a joint seminar with the France Academy of Technology on Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) and their applications in the health sector.

## President's Report for 2008.

The AGM and annual reception was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April and saw the election of a new President, Peter Tolé, and the stepping down of John Acton after 14 years at the helm. Our sincere thanks go to John for his long and faithful service to AFAS. This was our first event in 2008 and the venue was the new Alliance Française premises in St Kilda.

The new Office Holders are:

President Peter Tolé.

Vice President: Francois Malherbe.

Secretary: Philippe Lesage.

Treasurer: George Bolz (Report accessible via link in the Members' Zone of the AFAS Victoria website).

Public Officer: Bernard Shepherd.

Ordinary members: John Acton, Marian Obenchain, Richard Ferrero, Nicholas Garnham.

Continuing members: Yvonne

Durandet, Kerry Hourigan, Georgina Douglas, Sophie Bourgues, Sebastien Fleury.

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

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May a Forum on Public Transport was held at the Novotel Hotel on Collins. The keynote speaker was Jean-Christophe Hugonnard, Senior Executive Vice President and Asia Pacific Director, of Systra. Systra is a worldwide company specialising in planning and engineering projects for urban and rail transportation. An international perspective and overview was provided on the latest advances in urban passenger transport. The challenges of implementing various transport schemes and Systra's experiences around the world in overcoming the obstacles and realising the benefits were also highlighted. Sebastien Fleury, AFAS committee member, also made a PowerPoint presentation on "MBD Design", a French industrial design company and one of world's leading designers of transport passenger vehicles; including TGV, tram & light rail vehicles. The thrust was the application of environmentally adaptive design.

Our annual dinner was held at the French Restaurant "Aux Batifolles" in Richmond on 20<sup>th</sup> June. A most enjoyable evening with a number of new members joining in the fun.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, the President was invited to a meeting at Melbourne University between a French delegation representing the France Academy of Technology and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE). These bodies promote science and technology exchanges & cooperation between France & Australia and could lead to joint seminars in future.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> July, a Virtual Reality show by Swinburne's Astrophysics department was well attended, and attracted families of members in a cross generational event.

In conjunction with AFAS Victoria, FEAST-France awarded two AFAS FEAST-France Fellowships in 2008 to Victorian researchers wishing to undertake a study tour to France. These fellowships were granted as a complement to the Victoria Fellowships awarded by the Victorian Government. 2008 marked the 5<sup>th</sup> presentation of the AFAS FEAST-France Fellowships.

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

\* Dr Adrian Orifici from RMIT (research on use of high strength light weight fibre-reinforced plastics composite materials in aerospace industry); and

\* Dr Amy Richards from Food Sciences Australia (Research into healthy fats and oils used in food as natural antioxidants known as tocopherol isomers).

The 18<sup>th</sup> September was our main water seminar with a theme titled "New Frontiers for Water: Responding to a changing landscape, An Australian Perspective". The programme included four eminent speakers with 80 acceptances received. The speakers were:

\* Rae Moran of DSE who started by introducing the impact of climate change on Victoria.

\* Ian Moorhouse of Goulburn-Murray Water presented the Food Bowl Project in Victoria.

\* Jean-Michel Seillier of Veolia presented on the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project in SE Queensland.

\* Thierry Bergero of Degrémont presented on the world trends in desalination.

The 12<sup>th</sup> November saw the donation by AFAS to the Concours Berthe Mouchette Prize at Glen Eira Town Hall.

Finally, the 7<sup>th</sup> December saw a members' social event consisting of a 10 km walk and picnic in the Merrick area on the peninsula.

The Committee would like to thank Jacqueline Haye of Ubifrance; Jean-Louis Latour of the French Trade Commission; Michel Thibier of the French Embassy - Science & Technology Section; the Cultural & Cooperation Attaché, French Embassy in Australia, Sylvie Christophe; Patrice Pauc 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, Liaison Officers and you, the members, for your support in 2008.

## CALENDAR FOR 2009

3<sup>rd</sup> April

AGM, Annual Reception and 30 year celebration

May

Undergraduate, Alumni & Student event

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Annual Dinner

July

Visit to Brickworks Kiln Project

August

Presentation of AFAS FEAST France Fellowships

September

Seminar on Nuclear & Renewable Energies

Other

Potential seminar with France Academy of Technology on ICT and Health.