

BULLETIN

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Bonne Année 2011 AFAS welcomes all members

As predicted in last year's President's report, 2010 was a challenging year for AFAS-Vic as a result of budget cut backs from the French Embassy which resulted in the award of two fellowships by AFAS as against three in previous years.

We managed to garner support from five Victorian universities who assisted by each contributing \$1,000 towards one of the awards whilst the other was financed by AFAS-Vic from our own internal funds. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Melbourne, Monash, Latrobe, RMIT and Swinburne universities for their support.

Our calendar of activities in 2010 forms the basis of your President's report, which appears on the back of this page.

For 2011, your Committee is planning to convene a major symposium along with our normal events.

Breaking with tradition, our opening event for this year's calendar will be an address by the Renault F1 racing team to coincide with the Australian Grand Prix on 24 or 25 March 2011.

This will be followed by the AGM in April and a presentation from a French bridge design expert in May.

Our traditional gastronomic annual dinner experience is scheduled for July.

We will continue to foster our relationships with French research establishments through the connections between our recent fellowship recipients and visiting scientists from INSERM in Montpellier.

We will also be engaging more closely with the French Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI).

In a cooperative effort with the French Embassy in Canberra, we are planning a major symposium, which will focus on **"Innovation in Health and Biotechnology"**, with tentative dates either in June or in September. This will depend on the availabilities of French and Australian experts. This French-Australian Event will be the centre piece of the year's activities.

Attached to this Bulletin is your Membership Renewal for 2011. The Committee of Management has maintained the annual subscription at \$50 for Individual, \$10 for student, \$30 for retired and \$500 for Corporate members.

We look forward to your continuing support and attendance at our activities.

President's Report for 2010.

The AGM and annual reception was held on 23rd March 2010 at Eildon Mansion, the Alliance Française premises in St Kilda. A special address was delivered by Bryony Nayagam, our fellowship recipient. Her topic covered her research with cochlear implants and stem cells for auditory nerve replacement as well as the collaboration between Melbourne University and the Institut des Neurosciences de Montpellier. The celebration culminated with a cocktail function enjoyed by all attendees.

The current Office Holders are:

President Peter Tolé.

Vice President: Francois Malherbe.

Secretary: Philippe Lesage.

Treasurer: George Bolz.

Public Officer: Bernard Shepherd.

Ordinary members: John Acton,

Richard Ferrero, Nicholas

Garnham, Yvonne Durandet, Garry

Peters, Susan Patrick, Sebastien

Fleury, Bryony Nayagam.

Liaison Officers: David Phillips

(Latrobe) and Steve Gower

(RMIT).

On 7th of May 2010, a special visit to the Australian Synchrotron was attended by 29 members. In simple terms, a synchrotron is a very large megavoltage machine which uses electricity to produce intense beams of light a million times brighter than the sun. It is the size of a football field and houses a network of circular tunnels and high tech apparatus. The light is produced when high energy electrons are forced to travel in a circular orbit inside the synchrotron tunnels through the application of strong magnetic fields. The electron beams travel at just under the speed of light. The light is filtered and travels into workstations where it reveals the sub-microscopic secrets of materials under investigation. This new knowledge allows researchers to invent ways to tackle diseases, make plants more productive and metals more resilient.

Philippe Lesage broke with tradition and organised an annual lunch on Saturday July 24th at the Elsternwick baby to the Prahran parent Chez Olivier Le Bistro.

This charming European-style wine bar and eatery fizzes with French finesse rolled up in a distinctly Melbourne style. In fact, chef Jacky Frenot dubs the cuisine "Frozzie" (Frog-Ozzie), and it's easy to see why in dishes like the kangaroo fillet grillade, and the Frozzie double-roasted duck. Like any formidable French spot, the desserts and wines are key attractions, and here is no exception. With two classy dining rooms and a sunny terrace, Chez Olivier L'Epicerie brings something different to Glen Eira Road.

Guests will be welcomed with a glass of **Taltarni Methode Champenoise**, accompanied by a selection of appetisers, and followed by a three-course dinner.

AFAS Victoria awarded two AFAS Fellowships in 2010 to Victorian researchers wishing to undertake a study tour to France. These fellowships were granted as a complement to the Victoria Fellowships awarded by DIIRD. It marked the seventh year of the AFAS/FEAST-France Fellowship. They number a total of 19 to date. They were presented at a Government House function on 7th September. Some background information on the recipients follows:

* **Baohua Jia**, is a Senior Research Fellow at Swinburne University of Technology's Centre for Micro-Photonics in the Faculty of Engineering & Industrial Sciences.

Baohua is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (by research) in Optics and conducting a study on the complex evanescent focal region of a high numerical aperture objective and its applications. The fellowship will help to collaborate with a world leading industrial partner to develop an innovative solar technology – nanoplasmonics, in France.

* **Suzanne Ftouni**, is a PhD Candidate at Monash University's School of Psychology & Psychiatry and is conducting research in *The effects of sleep restriction and drowsiness on driving* and to better understand the effects of sleep restriction and drowsiness on driving performance.

Finally, your President was invited by Melbourne University School of Physics to speak at the start of a workshop on behalf of AFAS and open the proceedings on 13th December. It was held in Melbourne after the AIP Congress and included delegates from France and elsewhere in Europe. The delegates were drawn from the EU FP7 AFSID project that has now been running for almost three years. The project has just been extended for a further six months to June 2011. Melbourne University is a partner on this project. A number of young researchers were present who as a result became better acquainted with AFAS- Vic activities. The delegation consisted of 3 or 4 participants from Europe and a further 15-25 Australian researchers from interstate.

CALENDAR FOR 2011

Address by visiting professor and scientist from INSERM Montpellier at a date to be confirmed

24th or 25th March: Presentation by Renault F1 team before the Australian Grand Prix at the Alliance Française de Melbourne

6th May: AGM and Annual Reception at the Alliance Française de Melbourne (date to be confirmed). Key note speaker Michael Shirrefs will present on *Paris to Melbourne with an Atlas*

June: Address by Philippe Matière on *Bridges for military and civil applications*

July: Annual Dinner

August: Presentation of AFAS FEAST France Fellowships at Government House

September: Draft Project for a French-Australian Event: A symposium focusing on **"Innovation in Health and Biotechnology"** to be organised in cooperation with the French Embassy in Canberra

A presentation to FACCI is planned by two prior fellowship recipients in order to strengthen our links of cooperation at a mutually agreed date.