

2023
Annual

REPORT



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About us

Alliance Française de Sydney (AFS) is an independent, not-for-profit language and cultural organisation promoting Franco-Australian exchange. With more than 129 years' experience in teaching French, AFS offers a wide range of French courses and services for all levels and ages, both online and at its CBD and Chatswood locations. With an ambitious mission to spread the French language and culture well beyond the borders of France, it is part of the largest cultural NGO network of the world, encompassing 820+ Alliances Françaises.

Located in the heart of Sydney in an attractive building designed by the famous Australian architect Harry Seidler, AFS offers French courses, holds cultural events and includes a media centre and a café. AFS also offers French courses to North Sydneysiders with classes for kids at the Dougherty Community Centre in Chatswood. Since 1989, AFS has organised the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival (AFFFF). This prestigious festival has become a very important event in Australia's cultural calendar, showing solid growth since its inception.

Our mission

- Promote the learning and use of the French language in our state
- Enhance the knowledge of Francophone cultures
- Contribute to the cultural and linguistic diversity of Sydney
- Contribute to and be a part of the innovative network of Alliance Française branches around the world

Our values

Alliance Française de Sydney embraces diversity and promotes cultural understanding through its extensive range of events and experiences.

We collaborate closely with other organisations that share the traditional French values of "liberty, equality and fraternity".

We are apolitical, but steadfast in our commitment to bring people together from all walks of life in a safe and respectful learning environment.

We respect our environment, as protecting our planet is key to all our futures.

President's Report

2023 marked a solid year of achievements for Alliance Française de Sydney (AFS).

At the heart of our strategic direction lies the commitment to teaching French. With an immersive approach from the very first lesson, we welcomed over 3,900 students of all ages, from as young as 4 years old, totalled 6,120 enrolments and delivered 120,420 hours of French tuition.

The AFS hosts the DELF-DALF and TCF examinations in partnership with France Education International. We are also the Examination Centre for different schools and French universities which allow their candidates to sit their exams in Sydney.

AFS remained a beacon of French culture in 2023, hosting iconic events such as the Alliance Française French Film Festival (held in conjunction with other capital city Alliances) and the Bastille Day Party, and many smaller events on topics including French history, cuisine, and architecture.

We will continue to strive for excellence in French language education and cultural enrichment



François ROMANET

President,

Alliance Française de Sydney

Notably, the Alliance Française French Film Festival experienced a resurgence in popularity, nearing pre-Covid levels of attendance. This is the world's largest French film festival outside of France with close to 200,000 patrons (51,141 patrons in Sydney, an increase of 7.6% compared with the previous year) and the biggest paid cultural event in Australia.

We also continue to work with other Australian Alliances Françaises to provide support and foster a cohesive approach to the teaching of French language and culture in Australia and remain in close contact with the Fondation des Alliances Françaises in Paris, the governing body of the global network of Alliances Françaises to which AFS belongs.

The AFS reported a strong financial position in 2023, with an EBITDA of \$233,270 and a net loss of \$13,355, after non-cash depreciation of \$246,625. At the end of the year, AFS has no bank debt and a healthy cash position.



The board is very appreciative of the work of our teaching and administrative team whose collective efforts made these results possible. We also commend the executive team, managed by Denis Morandet, who was officially appointed in May as General Manager, for their efforts in contributing to another successful year for AFS and for their effective leadership of the Company.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to enhancing our adult student base, leveraging social media, and capitalising on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games' momentum to introduce tailored courses such as a "French for Travellers" course. Collaborations with esteemed institutions like the New Caledonian Centre de Rencontres et d'Echanges Internationaux du Pacifique (CREIPAC) will further enrich our educational offerings.

Customised social media campaigns designed to engage parents should lead to growth in children and teenage student class numbers. Next year, we intend to specifically target HSC and IB students across various social media platforms.

Our language school is now among the top five Alliances in the Asia-Oceania region in terms of student numbers (the other Alliances in this group being Hong Kong, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Singapore). Our goal is to be in the top 15 Alliances in the world in the next two years.

Thanks must be extended to our nine Board members who bring years of experience from a broad range of sectors including education, the arts, marketing, business, finance and the law, and who volunteer countless hours to support management and oversee the strategic direction of AFS.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to outgoing President, Lyn Tuit, and Honorary Treasurer, Gareth Dando, for their invaluable commitment to ensuring AFS has successfully navigated difficult times and continues to thrive.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, with optimism and determination we will continue to strive for excellence in French language education and cultural enrichment.

Francois Romanet
on behalf of the board



Highlights

Alliance Française de Sydney | 2023 at a glance

120,488

TEACHING HOURS
(+14.92%)

6,120

ENROLMENTS

977

NEW ADULT
STUDENTS (+11.7%)

+21.9%

FRENCH FOR TRAVELLERS COURSE

51,141

AF FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
ATTENDEES (+7.6%)

+19%

FOLLOWERS ON
INSTAGRAM

+45.9%

OFF-SITE
KIDS FRENCH COURSE

+48.2%

TEENS TERM COURSES



Highlights

Fondation Alliance Française | 2022 international network snapshot

400,000

FRENCH LEARNERS THROUGHOUT
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

829

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE CENTRES
OVER 5 CONTINENTS

2,700

VOLUNTEERS

180,000

FRENCH EXAM
CANDIDATES WORLDWIDE

21 million

HOURS OF TUITION SOLD

3.2 million

ATTENDEES AT
CULTURAL EVENTS

21,000

CULTURAL EVENTS
ORGANISED

2.2 million

MONTHLY WEBSITE
USERS

General Manager's Report

In 2023, we not only celebrated the 140th anniversary of the largest cultural NGO globally, the Alliance Française network, but also witnessed a remarkable year for Alliance Française de Sydney.

With over 6,000 enrolments and the all-time record of 120,000 hours of French taught, I am delighted to announce that 2023 has been a banner year for us, marking the best in our history. Our progress has not only consolidated our position as the leading Alliance Française institution in Australia but has propelled us to the impressive rank of 5th in Asia-Oceania.



Denis MORANDET
General Manager,
Alliance Française de Sydney

This achievement places us in direct competition with major cities such as Hong Kong, New Delhi, and Mumbai in terms of student numbers.

Our commitment to promoting the French language and francophone cultures has successfully extended beyond the classroom, seeing Alliance Française de Sydney secure the 2nd position in Asia-Oceania for the number of attendees at cultural events. Over the course of the year, we have hosted 30 events, offering a varied selection ranging from conferences and cultural workshops to international contests and Bastille Day celebrations, alongside our esteemed Philo Bistro.

Notably, the Alliance Française French Film Festival in Sydney attracted more than 51,000 attendees. Moreover, we have actively supported the establishment of a new national structure overseeing the festival's development and governance.

These remarkable accomplishments are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our incredible team, the generous support of our sponsors, the invaluable contributions of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our members.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your commitment and trust in our organisation. Without your collective efforts, none of these achievements would have been possible.

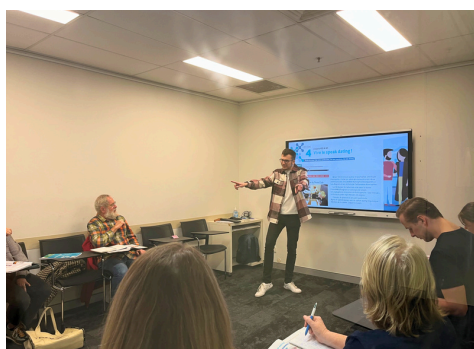
Merci for being an integral part of our success story!

Denis Morandet

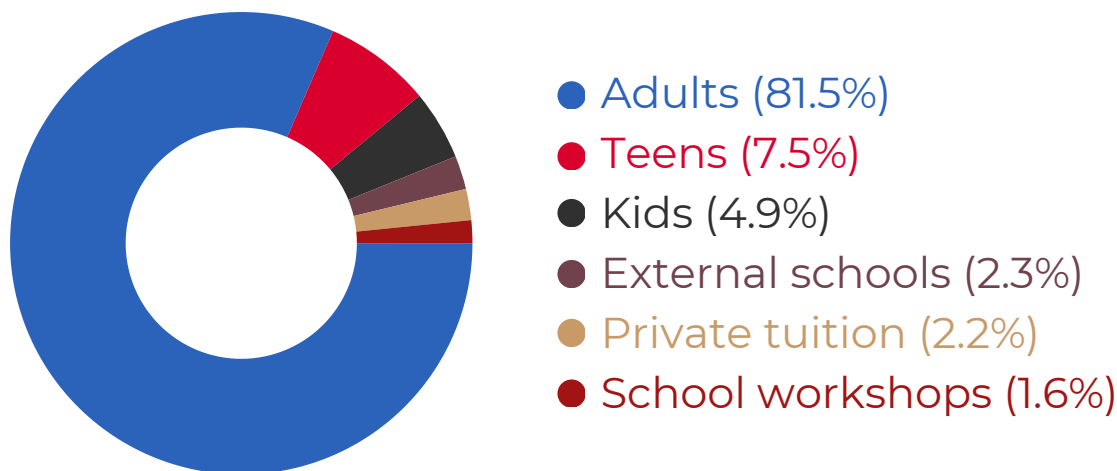
Objectives and Activities

SUMMARY OF ENROLMENTS

COURSE TYPE	2022	2023	DIFFERENCE
ADULT COURSES			
Comprehensive Courses	2,265	2,596	+14.6%
Conversation Courses	529	566	+7%
Focus Courses	200	256	+28%
French For Travellers Courses	64	78	+21.9%
French Culture Workshops	173	143	-17.3%
TEENS COURSES			
Term Courses [A1-B2 levels]	220	326	+48.1%
Holiday Courses [A1-B2 levels]	101	213	+110.9%
HSC Preparation Workshops	162 (hours sold)	63 (hours sold)	-52.9%
KIDS COURSES			
Term Courses [Loustics 1-3]	501	498	-0.6%
Holiday Courses [A1-A2 levels]	31	77	+148.3%
PRIVATE TUITION			
Private and semi-private	2,077 (hours sold)	2,220 (hours sold)	+6.8%
FRENCH FOR SCHOOL GROUPS			
School Excursion Workshops	927	814	-12.2%
Off-site Extracurricular French	1,872 (hours sold)	2,394 (hours sold)	+45.9%



Breakdown of teaching hours conducted in 2023:



EXAMS

Exams	Number of candidates
DELF	302
DALF	22
TCF	30
DAEFLE	6



Virginie Le Lay and Sophie Jarre jointly managed the organisation of the exams held in 2023.

Throughout the year, we accommodated over 400 candidates, including overseas exams for French universities and specialised entry tests such as the Tage-Mage exams.

Financial report

To view the financial report, please click [here](#)

Testimonials

"From my 3 months of experience so far starting at A1.1, AF has been nothing but fantastic! Every teacher has their own little quirks and ways of teaching, but they have all been very encouraging, supportive and lovely. Each lesson offers lots of variety, mixing content with Kahoot games, Guess Who, Celebrity Heads etc, which are innovative and fun! All of the staff in the centre have been very lovely and welcoming too."

"Learn French at a level matched to your ability with native French teachers. My pronunciation and grammar really switched up a level in the A1 French taught to our class. I attended twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday for ten weeks before going to Bordeaux. The textbook and online resources really help with revision. A great way to improve French, learn it for the first time and meet people."

"I highly recommend studying at the Alliance Française de Sydney. I've been studying with them for many months and am loving it. The classes are a good size, with excellent teachers. The classes are interactive and challenging, without being intimidating. The staff in general are friendly & approachable & committed to ensuring you have a great experience. Lots of different ways to learn French & loads of interesting things to get involved in if you have a broader interest in France. Great library & terrific facilities make for an excellent learning environment."

"I recently completed A1.1 and have now started A1.2. The teaching staff is superb - speaking the right mix of French and English, well-prepared materials, really good use of the smart whiteboard, and fun interactive exercises. I have made great progress in a short space of time. This is an excellent method and excellent school for learning French. Highly recommended!"

Board & Governance

Alliance Française de Sydney is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with an engaged and dedicated Board of non-executive, unpaid directors.

The Board held 11 meetings in addition to standing and ad-hoc committee meetings. Committees enable the Board to work in depth and provide expertise in specialist areas. The strategic focus for 2023 was to rebuild on-site class numbers in the post-pandemic transition period, expand online class numbers and increase the audience and reach of the Alliance Française French Film Festival.

In 2023, the following new policies were developed:

- additional leave days for permanent staff; and
- acceptance and recognition of donations made to Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation Limited and the Building Fund.

The Board and senior management induction kit and employee health and safety handbook were also updated. A revised conflict of interest policy was adopted by the Board.

Building Management Committee – standing committee

Management of the Alliance Française Centre is delegated to the Building Management Committee (BMC), a committee comprising representatives of Lot 1 (Alliance Française de Sydney) and Lot 2 (owners' corporation comprising various commercial owners of the deposited plan of the building).

In 2023, directors of the Alliance Française de Sydney, Lyn Tuit and Hannah Cooper (as alternate), represented Alliance Française de Sydney on the BMC and Robert Toland and Michael Peters (as alternate) represented the Lot 2 owners' corporation on the BMC.

The objectives of the BMC are to operate and manage the building on behalf of the owners, including to:

- oversee the building's finances, budget and audit;
- ensure compliance with relevant legislation; and
- oversee the maintenance and management of the property.

A key focus of the BMC this year has been to improve the administration and management of the building through the appointment of a new Strata Manager and interim Building Manager. In May 2023, Toland Pty Limited was appointed as Building Manager (in an interim capacity until a new Building Manager is appointed) and in October 2023, John Hill & Co was appointed as Strata Manager of the building.

AFS granted a licence to the Lot 2 owners' corporation to enable the construction of a small office for the Building Manager in the storeroom located on the basement level of the building.

Finally, it should be noted that insurance premiums for the building rose significantly in 2023.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – standing committee

In 2023, Members of the committee were Gareth Dando (Chair until November 2023), Patrick Cocquerel (Chair from November 2023), Lyn Tuit, Francois Romanet, Hannah Cooper and Dominique Giovanangeli, with the General Manager in attendance as required.

The objectives of this committee include:

- to review finances, budget and audit;
- to ensure compliance with relevant legislation;
- to analyse and mitigate risks; and
- to review the strategic plan.

The committee undertook a review of the award classifications and salaries pertaining to the Post-Secondary Education Award and the Clerks Award. The risk management profile and strategy were reviewed as were the Company's commercial contracts, banking arrangements, financial statements, and budget for 2024.

Film Committee – standing committee

In 2023, members of the film committee were Patrick Cocquerel (Chair), Lyn Tuit, Anthony Kierann, Amaury Treguer, and Philippe Ostermann.

The objectives of the committee include:

- to build audiences and reach for the festival with a particular focus on Sydney;
- to increase sponsorship from international and national brands that match our values;
- improve the profile of the festival locally; and

- identify possible new partners for the festival.

The committee has provided invaluable specialist support to the management team.

Marketing Committee – standing committee

In 2023, members of the marketing committee were, Amaury Treguer (Chair), Lyn Tuit, Gareth Dando and Denis Morandet and other staff members as required.

The objectives of the committee include:

- development and review of marketing strategy and plans;
- review of digital strategy;
- review of social media strategy; and
- review of budget.

The committee provided specialist advice to the management team, in particular in relation to the marketing plan.

Events and Membership Committee – standing committee

In 2023, members of the committee were Isabelle Toland (Chair), Dominique Barbeau, Lyn Tuit, and Philippe Ostermann.

The objectives of the committee include:

- to review the events program and provide support where appropriate; and
- review the strategy for membership growth.

The committee provided contacts and advice for events in 2023.

New film festival entity committee – Ad hoc committee

This committee was established to represent the interests of the Company in negotiations regarding the creation of a new entity to operate the Alliance Française French Film Festival nationally. Members of the committee were Lyn Tuit (Chair), Hannah Cooper, Gareth Dando, Patrick Cocquerel and Francois Romanet. The objectives of the committee were to review and negotiate the constitution, members’ deed, policies and procedures for the new entity.

Lyn Tuit represented the Company on the transition committee, being a committee comprising the Chairs of all the member Alliances and established to oversee the creation and formulation of policies and procedures for the new entity. Hannah Cooper worked with the Company’s legal advisers in relation to the finalisation of these governing documents.



Philippe Ostermann, Guillaume Brahimi, Karine Mauris, Samantha Lang, David Wenham, Anthony Kierann and Carla Kierann



Mr Martin Juillard, Consul - General of France

People

BOARD MEMBERS



Dominique Barbeau, Philippe Ostermann (Business Development Consultant), Marie Gittard (until June), Gareth Dando, Hannah Cooper, Denis Morandet (General Manager), Lyn Tuit, Isabelle Toland, François Romanet, Amaury Tréguer, Patrick Cocquerel (absent) and Anthony Kierann (absent)

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Lyn Tuit

President (until November 2023)
 Member: Events and Membership Committee; Film Committee; Finance, Audit and Risk Committee; Marketing Committee; New Film Entity Committee

François Romanet

President (from November 2023)
 Member: Finance, Audit and Risk Committee; New Film Entity Committee

Hannah Cooper

Vice-President
 Member: Finance, Audit and Risk Committee; New Film Entity Committee



Lyn Tuit, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Anais Leloup and Karine Mauris

Patrick Cocquerel

Vice-President (until November 2023)
 Honorary treasurer (from November 2023)
 Chair: Film Committee; Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (from November 2023)
 Member: New Film Entity Committee

Dominique Barbeau

Member: Events and Membership Committee

Gareth Dando

Honorary Treasurer (until November 2023)
 Chair (until November 2023): Finance, Audit and Risk Committee; Marketing Committee
 Member: New Film Entity Committee



Marie Gittard, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC and Dennis Wilson

Anthony Kierann

Member: Film Committee

Isabelle Toland

Chair: Events and Membership Committee

Amaury Tréguer

Chair: Marketing Committee
 Member: Film Committee



Amaury Tréguer

The Board directors are to be thanked for their tremendous efforts in 2023 to support staff and provide invaluable expertise and connections.

EMPLOYEES (ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT)

NAME	POSITION
DENIS MORANDET	General Manager
DOMINIQUE GIOVANANGELI	Finance and Administration Manager, Board Secretary
PHILIPPE OSTERMANN	Business Development Management Consultant
MADELYN CHOONG	Business Development and Project Manager (Parental leave)
VIRGINIE LE LAY	Adults Course Coordinator & Office Manager
LAURIANE DEUFF	Teens Course Coordinator
SOPHIE JARRE	Kids Course Coordinator
JULIAN ESCAVABAJA	Permanent Teacher
MATHILDE HAUWAERT	Permanent Teacher (from November)
LAURIE LE BALCH	Marketing Manager (until February)
LOUISE ROUDIERE	Marketing Coordinator (from February until August)
JULIAN HANNUNA	Marketing Coordinator (from August until December)
ELISABETH MASCARO	Customer Service Officer
ERICKA COUCHY	Customer Service Officer (from January until April)
SANDRA CLEMENT	Customer Service Officer (until July)
LON WETZELAER	Customer Service Officer (until May)
LAURA LAVAUD	Customer Service Officer (from April)
AGNIESZKA PRZYBYSZ	Customer Service Officer (from June)
ANAIS LELOUP	National Festival Coordinator
LILLY GRAINGER	AF French Film Festival Assistant (until April)
SOPHIE HARPER	AF French Film Festival Assistant (from February until April)
LOURDES RAMIREZ SANCHEZ	AF French Film Festival Assistant (from November)

Interns: Mélissa Fourcault – FLE (January to July 2023)

WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

YEAR	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	CASUAL	INTERNS
2022	11	9	40	2
2023	12	6	39	1

TEACHING STAFF

Emmanuelle Alter	Quentin Arnould	Morgane Bernardino	Corinne Besse
Roukaya Chaaban	Nina Coorey	Agnès Couriol	Blandine Crouch
Liliane Cunliffe	Olivia De Bergerac	Juliette Desquaires	Aurélie Doizelet
Isaline Douçot	Jasmina Dufour	Mélissa Fourcault	Béatrice Gallis
Aurélia Guitard	Julian Hammuna	Christelle Hart	Mathilde Hauwaert
Stacy Henin	Vincent Jean	Margaux Jean	Manon Kendall
Elise Léger	Judith Lerich	Céline Martinat	Karima Mezoughem
Frédérique Pech	Anaïs Perou	Maurane Pla	Claire Reimund
Delphine Seimandi Vandon	Elisabeth Sy	Karin Syda	Thibaut Veillard
France Veillet	Laëtitia Y	Odile Zorn	

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL – SYDNEY VOLUNTEERS

Oceane Bazine	Sophie Beaumont	Amandine Bily	Stephanie Blaker
Andrea Boutte	Suyin Conabere	Axel Costi	Ludivine Ferney
Mathilde Gibelin	Jack Haabi	Jack Hal	Vicki Han
April Handley	Valerie Kuczek	Christopher Lo	Susie Lobb
Fara Lunaa Dilla	Katrina Magat	Aurore Lorraine Nicolas	Pakhuri Sharma
Quentin Theron	Lily Suen	Janet Timburg	Kim Vo
Siang Wee Quek	Lia Wittig	Anita Yindaowei	Joyce Zhang



Acknowledgements

Alliance Française de Sydney expresses its deepest gratitude to the many students, members, partners, businesses and benefactors who generously support our organisation on an ongoing basis. Presidents and board members, both past and present, are recognised for their ongoing contributions.

Special thanks are given to all employees for their selfless dedication to the success of Alliance Française de Sydney, and their great achievements in 2023.

The company celebrates the loyalty and achievements of its treasured, long-serving members of staff. We wish to congratulate Sophie Jarre on reaching the significant milestone of ten years' service.

We would like to acknowledge the advice and support we have received from members of the building committee, in particular Robert Toland and Michael Peters.

We are also very grateful to the Fondation des Alliances Françaises for their support and in particular, Jean-François Hans and Marc Cerdan. This year, the board honoured donors to the building fund and other projects with a special donors board hosted in Salle Soubeiran on the 13th floor. The board also awarded a life membership to David Kent for his support and donation.

We acknowledge the financial support provided by Screen NSW: the Film Festival Funding Program Grant, offering a sum of \$15,000 which will help us to develop the 2024 Festival both in Sydney and Parramatta. Similarly, we acknowledge the support provided by the City of Sydney through the Festivals and Events Sponsorship winter round 2023/2024.

Members

At the core of Alliance Française de Sydney lies its members and students, whose support is vital to our mission. To uphold the values we cherish and nurture our dynamic community spirit, we offer a diverse array of exclusive events, activities, rewards, and giveaways, forming a robust program that unites individuals around their shared interests.

In 2023, Alliance Française de Sydney maintained a relatively stable membership base, and a significant change was enacted in our Constitution during the May AGM, allowing students to become members. This change was implemented in December following the appropriate administrative procedures and approval by the Fondation des Alliances Françaises in Paris.

Alliance Française de Sydney takes immense pride in collaborating with numerous local businesses whose support has been essential in developing an enticing membership program that highlights the richness of Sydney's cultural life.

Supporters

Alliance Française de Sydney sincerely appreciates the support from our robust network of local businesses, cultural entities, and companies.

We extend our gratitude to the generous sponsors of the Alliance Française French Film Festival, whose involvement makes an unforgettable cinema experience possible for Sydneysiders. Without their support, the Festival would not be possible.

Special thanks to our Alliance Française French Film Festival Ambassadors, Guillaume Brahimi, David Wenham, Samantha Lang and Phillip Noyce, whose expertise, and generosity, both behind the scenes and center-stage, have significantly contributed to the festival's success.

We also acknowledge Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, and the Parliamentary Friends of France in New South Wales, especially the President, the Hon. Natalie Ward MLC, for their support.

Our thanks to Martin Julliard, Consul General of France in Sydney, for his presence at many of our events, and the French Embassy. We express our gratitude to all members of the board of directors for their advice and unwavering support.

LOCAL FRENCH FOOD AND RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Four Frogs Creperie	La Guillotine	M. Chapoutier
France at Home	Bar Chouchou	French Rustic Bistro

SYDNEY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Sydney Opera House	Sydney Symphony Orchestra	Art Gallery of NSW
Australian Chamber Orchestra	Riverside Theatres Parramatta	Museum of Contemporary Art

EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

NSW Department of Education	Association of Independent Schools NSW	NSW National Association of French Teachers
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BOOKSHOPS

Abbey's Language Book Centre	Kinokuniya	Intext Book Co & Language International Bookshop
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GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

City of Sydney	Alliance Française French Film Festival Banners
Screen NSW	Alliance Française French Film Festival grant

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

Presenting sponsor:

Champagne Lanson

Red Carpet sponsors:

Singapore Airlines

Blue illusion

TV5 Monde

Peugeot

New Caledonia Tourism

AirCalin

Miraval

Maison de la Villette

Front Row sponsors:

BNP Paribas

And of course, our long-time partners

The French Embassy, Palace cinemas and the Orpheum

Media sponsors:

JC Decaux

The Saturday Paper

SBS

Local sponsors:

Lycée Condorcet

Sofitel Darling Harbour

Screen NSW

City of Sydney

Four Frogs Crêperie

Perrier

L'Occitane





140 YEARS OF THE FONDATION ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE

This year, we had the opportunity to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Alliances Françaises network, an important milestone in our history.

This celebration was marked by a number of events hosted throughout the year, including a special day filled with engaging and educational activities, where children and teenagers had the chance to have fun while expanding their French vocabulary, and our annual evening event for Alliance Française de Sydney students.

These events were moments of celebration which provided unique opportunities to bring our community together and promote our values. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of these events and look forward to continuing to advance our mission in the years to come.



Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation

Established in 2019, the Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation Limited is a not-for-profit cultural organisation dedicated to fostering French cultural events and promoting Franco-Australian cultural exchanges.

Throughout the year, a wide array of events spanning film and cinema, literature, performing arts, visual arts, and other artistic endeavours are curated. This diverse line-up includes film festivals, exhibitions, masterclasses, tastings, book signings, discussions, design showcases, radio broadcasts, community arts initiatives, and much more.

Located in the heart of Sydney, the centre also houses a comprehensive media hub. The Cultural Foundation proudly supports the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival, a collaborative effort between Alliance Française de Sydney, Alliance Française branches in Australia’s capital cities, the Embassy of France in Australia, and Palace Cinemas.

We wish to thank our donors to the Cultural Foundation who made it possible for us to host a special evening during the festival in appreciation of the efforts of nurses during the pandemic.

Established to provide tax-deductible donation status to contributors supporting cultural initiatives, the Cultural Foundation operates under the sole ownership of Alliance Française de Sydney.



Philippe Ostermann, Antoine Dupont and Anaïs Leloup



Lucille Gautier, Caroline Brunel and Sarah Elfassy



Mathieu and Gwenola Hanaut



Our friends from the International French school



Councillor Emelda Davis and Lyn Tuit

Events & Activities

HIGHLIGHTS

A vibrant cultural calendar defines community life at Alliance Française de Sydney. Members, students, and visitors are invited to engage in a rich program of activities, including presentations, round table discussions, soirées, workshops, conferences, and more. Over 300 guests per month attend these cultural events, contributing to the lively atmosphere at the Alliance Française de Sydney Centre.

In 2023, the "Philo Bistro" series, hosted by Olivier Vojetta, continued its solid growth with several sold-out events. At these gatherings, Olivier and a guest — such as a writer, artist, or musician — engaged in debates with the public on a variety of themes. We had the pleasure of hosting Philippe Besson, Camille Laurens, Sophie Beaumont, and many others throughout the year.

Highlights of the year included the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the creation of the Alliances Françaises, a talk on the Rugby World Cup with Peter FitzSimons and Nick Farr-Jones, a discussion with Penelope Seidler on architecture, and at the café, the Beaujolais Nouveau party.



Olivier Vojetta

2023 also saw the organisation of our Bastille Day party. Themed "France: North and South," over 900 people gathered at the Argyle to celebrate Bastille Day in style. Martin Juillard, Consul General of France in Sydney, opened the event. Australian musician Emma Hamilton kicked off the festivities with French songs on piano and accordion, followed by a set of French music by DJ Loo-e, accompanied by performances by Can-Can dancers. The evening, which concluded in the early hours of the morning, was a great success, making our Bastille Day traditional event the highlight of our winter calendar.

A commemorative event was hosted with Kambala school to honour the founder of the Alliance Française de Sydney, Augustine Soubeiran. The 13th floor has now been named after her in recognition of her pedagogy and dedication.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

The Alliance Française French Film Festival has resumed its growth following a challenging 2022, which was marked by adverse weather and pandemic fears.

With 51,141 admissions in Sydney and over 176,000 nationally, the festival has surpassed expectations in the film market. The line-up was curated with passion and talent by Karine Mauris, Artistic Director of the festival and Cultural Attaché at the French Embassy. It featured 39 films — a blend of French blockbusters and more challenging films that left a lasting impression on our audience.



**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley
AC KC**



David Wenham



Guillaume Brahimi

Spanning 10 cities and 31 cinemas across Australia, the festival maintained its status as the world's leading French film festival outside France and Australia's foremost paid cultural event. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Festival staff: Philippe Ostermann, responsible for national sponsorship and organising the festival in Sydney; Anaïs Leloup, the national festival manager, whose tireless efforts ensured the festival's success; and the dedicated Festival staff in each capital branch of Alliance Française in Australia, along with the Embassy of France in Australia, Palace Cinemas, the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace, and Riverside Parramatta.

DONORS' RECOGNITION AND INAUGURATION OF THE SALLE AUGUSTINE SOUBEIRAN

On the 31st October, we hosted a special evening to express our gratitude to our generous donors. As a not-for-profit, their unwavering support enables us to pursue our mission of promoting and celebrating French language and Francophone cultures. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Joel Hakim, David Kent, Bernard Le Boursicot, Brian and Gene Sherman and Lyn Tuit. Their incredible generosity and support have been instrumental in fostering the growth and success of Alliance Française de Sydney.



Bernard Le Boursicot, David Kent, Joël Hakim and Lyn Tuit



Denis Morandet, Hannah Cooper, Philippe Ostermann, David Kent, Joël Hakim, Lyn Tuit, Joanne Sarmiento, Dominique Barbeau, François Romanet and Bernard Le Boursicot



We were delighted to have Kambala School Deputy Principal Joanne Sarmiento join us. Kambala is one of the oldest institutions in Sydney, and Joanne's visit highlighted the strong bond between our two schools and countries.

During the evening, we took a moment to reflect on the legacy of one of our remarkable founders, Augustine Soubeiran. She was the President of the Alliance Française de Sydney in 1910, a co-principal at Kambala School in Rose Bay, and served as the Secretary of the French-Australian League of Help during World War I, providing vital support to French troops and civilians. Her legacy continues to inspire our organisation.

Our multi-purpose hall has officially been renamed "Salle Augustine Soubeiran" in her honour and in memory of her work for education, the teaching of French and contribution to peace.

As part of the Alliance Française French Film Festival, Alliance Française de Sydney invited members of the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association to a special private screening – a small gesture of gratitude for the people that keep us safe everyday yet often go unnoticed.

As a thank you for our nurses and midwives' hard work during the pandemic and beyond, they enjoyed a complimentary screening of Calbérac's 'The Tasting' alongside a well-earned glass of French wine or champagne and a bucket of popcorn. What a delight to host a special event for the nurses of NSW.



Renatta Di Staso, Lyn Tuit and Samantha Lang

With our ambassador Samantha Lang, our team had the pleasure to welcome some of the amazing staff who fought for our community during the pandemic. Alliance Française de Sydney would like to thank them again for their true commitment. 'Mille mercis' for keeping us safe.



NSW Nurses and Midwives at Palace Verona



Samantha Lang and Anthony Kierann

List of Events

- Word of Mouth NSW French teachers**
- Alliance Francaise French Film Festival**
- Philo Bistro March** - Olivier Vojetta & Philippe Besson
- 140 ans du Mouvement Alliance Francaise**
- Philo Bistro May** - Olivier Vojetta & Stephane Vojetta
- Philo Bistro June** - Olivier Vojetta & Marc Villemain
- France: Land of Rugby with Peter FitzSimons & Nick Farr-Jones** - Sport
- Philo Bistro July** - Olivier Vojetta & Paula Garcia and Bruno Bonelli
- Bastille Day Party**
- Philo Bistro August** - Olivier Vojetta & Jack Beaumont
- A talk with Penelope Seidler** - Architecture
- Philo Bistro September** - Olivier Vojetta & Camille Laurens
- A talk with Nicolas Whitlam** - Paris 1924
- New Caledonia Short Film Festival and Gulaan concert**
- Philo Bistro October** - Olivier Vojetta & Oscar Coop Phane
- Inauguration of the Salle Augustine Soubeiran**
- Philo Bistro November** - Olivier Vojetta & Sophie Beaumont
- Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting**
- International French Teachers' Day** in parternship with NAFT
- Maria Callas: A concert in hologram at Sydney Opera House**
- Public Lecture: Marcel Proust** - Jérôme Bastianelli from Quai Branly museum
- Philo Bistro December** - Olivier Vojetta, Nicolas Fargues and Elisa Shua Dusapin



A talk with Penelope Seidler



Journée Internationale des professeurs de français in partnership with NAFT



New Caledonia Short Film Festival - Gulaan concert



Maria Callas: A concert in Hologram

2023

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