

# CLIN D'OEIL

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE HOBART INC  
août/septembre/octobre 2014

AN OCCASIONAL EDITORIAL

In this edition, your editor has the opportunity to 'pen' some words, while our President, Caroline Jackson, recovers from illness. We wish her a very speedy recovery.

Last month I read an article in the Mercury that made me reflect on the reasons for learning another language. The headline was "BEING BI-LINGUAL SLOWS DOWN BRAIN AGEING". Straight away the article had my attention!

Suffice to say that scientists from the University of Edinburgh analysed data from 835 people at age 11 and again during their 70s. Those who spoke another language had better than expected scores on intelligence tests.

This is certainly a beneficial reason for learning another language. But I would argue that there are lots of positives for enrolling in a foreign language course, or two!

Apart from preserving brain function and extending brain acuity, one realises quite quickly more about one's own mother tongue. Few of us remember actually learning English grammar, it just happened. So taking on another language brings into focus again verbs, noun, adjectives, tenses etc and their respective distinctive uses. German philosopher Johann Goethe once wrote that those who know no foreign language know nothing of their mother tongue.

Every morning as I do the daily crossword I am rewarded because I have access to extra vocabulary. I am a better informed cook and diner because I understand many techniques from my knowledge of other languages.

Overseas, I am less likely to get lost because I can read signage or better still converse with locals. These conversations help me enter the culture of the country I am in. It is a memorable feeling to realise for the first time that the question you asked was understood and answered. I have access to their history, their culture, their lifestyle, their music and art. I might even contemplate formal study or a job.

Spanish research reveals that multi-lingual people are better at observing their surroundings. Is it any surprise that Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot are skilled polyglots?

There are so many joys to be had speaking with a native in their own language, however halting the pace might be. So spread the word, enrol in a refresher course, come to the many interesting events organised by your local Alliance Française. Check out our new abode at 420 Elizabeth St, North Hobart. Make some suggestions for events you would like to attend, or even volunteer to help the hard working committee. New ideas make for a richer community.

Je vous souhaite bon courage!

Carolyn Canty

PRINT THIS OUT  
AND PLACE ON  
YOUR FRIDGE

## A NE PAS MANQUER

### \*RENCONTRE

conversation & café à partir de 10.30h  
samedi le trente août,  
le vingt sept septembre,  
le vingt cinq octobre  
The French House  
420 Elizabeth St, Nth Hobart

### CONCOURS DE FRANCAIS

vendredi le 8 août  
Hobart College

### CONCOURS POSTER DISPLAY

vendredi le 19 août  
The French House  
17.30-19.00h

### CONCOURS DE FRANCAIS DISTRIBUTION DES PRIX

le 21 août 19.00h  
BELLERIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Lesley St, Bellerive.

### SOIREE DE SOUPE ET FILM

le 12 septembre  
The French House  
à partir de 18.00h  
soupe/pain/film \$10  
vin, jus, café en vente

**BORROW THESE MAGAZINES  
PLUS MORE TITLES  
AND MANY NOVELS  
FROM LA MAISON FRANCAISE**

**420 ELIZABETH ST, North Hobart.**



#### URGENTLY NEEDED

Volunteers to open the French House  
between 2 & 4 pm once a fortnight.

Contact Wendy 6229 4328  
wrchapman58@gmail.com

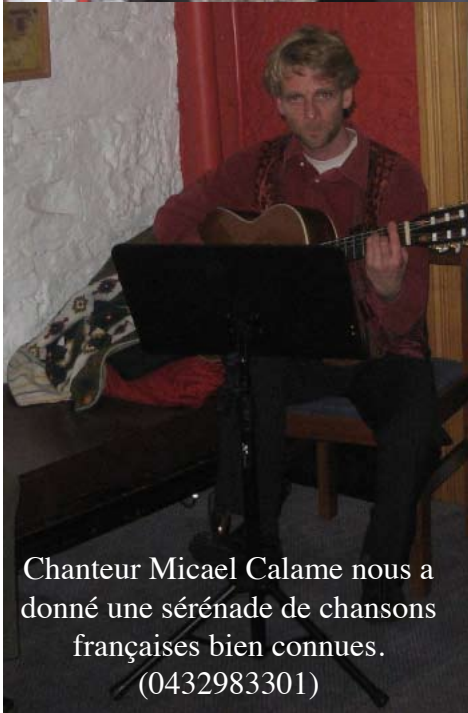
#### WELCOME TO NEW/FORMER MEMBERS

Lucy Carter, Jean-Yves Theron. Chris Glenn

Robyn Kramer, Lisa Shapira



LE 14 JUILLET 2014



Chanteur Micael Calame nous a donné une sérénade de chansons françaises bien connues.  
(0432983301)

A successful cocktail party was held on the 14th July to celebrate la fête nationale at the Royal Tennis Club, Davey Street Hobart. Sixty guests joined with the President, Mme. Caroline Jackson in toasting the National Day. Members were grateful to have the company of the French Consul, Mme. Di Bye. The pleasant atmosphere was enhanced by Michael Calame, who sang some wonderful French classics. Thanks must go to Chez Moi, St Ives 9/11 and Rinda Burgess who donated items for the raffle, to Jean Pascall for the most enjoyable platters and to Gerald who kept the champagne flowing! Every member of the Committee contributed, in their special way, to the success of the occasion.

Daphné, Hon. Secretary.



## french cooking videos

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UUIxGOB7Va-abkPTx-sJNzJRA>

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CLIN D'OEIL  
contact the Editor  
cantyed@bigpond.  
com



ALLIANCE FRANCAISE DE  
HOBART Inc.

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<http://www.afhobart.org.au>

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND ANY INTERESTING FRENCH RELATED ARTICLES, COMMENTS, PICTURES, TRAVEL TALES, IN EITHER FRENCH OR ENGLISH FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE NEXT EDITION OF CLIN D'OEIL.  
cantyed@bigpond.com

A la radio!

[www.sbs.com.au/schedule/radio](http://www.sbs.com.au/schedule/radio)

Tuesday: 11.00-12.00am

Friday: 11.00-12.00am

Sunday: 4.00-5.00pm

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.afhobart.org.au>

## A tue-tête

Très fort, en parlant de la voix (si fort que l'on casse et même 'tue' la tête). Imaginer qu'on puisse "tuer la tête" d'une personne, donc la personne elle-même, rien qu'en parlant ou en chantant paraît un peu extrême (même si le capitaine Haddock n'est pas loin de trépasser lorsqu'il entend la Castafiore chanter...). Mais cela vient simplement du fait qu'à notre époque, 'tuer' n'a pas tout à fait la même signification qu'au XVIIe siècle, date de naissance de notre locution adverbiale. En effet, le verbe 'tuer' a eu autrefois plusieurs significations, parfois en parallèle. Ainsi, vers 1150, si "tuer" signifiait bien "occire quelqu'un", comme maintenant, "soi tuer" voulait simplement dire "s'évanouir". Au moment où cette expression est apparue, 'tuer' avait aussi le sens de 'frapper', la plupart du temps à la tête; et, par extension, il voulait aussi dire 'fatiguer' ou 'exténuer'. Et là, on comprend bien qu'une personne qui chante trop fort à proximité fatigue. Malgré son côté archaïque, cette expression est restée vivace alors que d'autres comme "à tue-chevaux" pour dire "très vite" ont disparu. Mais là, on peut aisément supposer que la disparition des déplacements avec des chevaux a provoqué son oubli. Alors qu'il existe encore des gens qui chantent très fort et de manière désagréable, au point qu'on soit parfois effleuré par l'idée de leur "tuer la tête" avant qu'ils ne tuent la nôtre.

merci Bertrand Cadart, membre de L'AF



French conversation  
La Maison Française  
North Hobart  
last Saturday of the month  
The French House  
420 Elizabeth St  
Nth Hobart  
10.30-12 noon  
Everyone welcome!



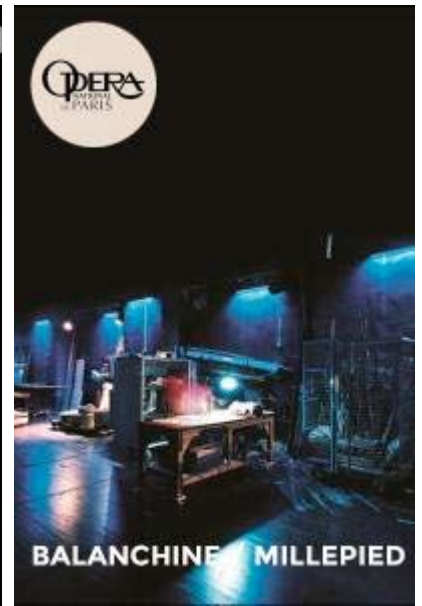


TABLEAU D'HONNEUR  
SPONSORS OF THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE  
DE HOBART\*

MONTY EAST • KAREN BELBIN • LISA SINGH • THE NEASEY FAMILY  
HONORARY FRENCH CONSUL MRS DIANNE BYE

\*Le Tableau d'Honneur records the names of those who have kindly donated \$500 to support the on-going activities of the Alliance Française de Hobart. We hope for further generous support.

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## The secret of the success of French cinema abroad

With 188.82 million cinemagoers in France alone in 2008, French cinema is fit and well at home. It is also having a great deal of success with its exports, attracting an ever-growing audience throughout the world thanks to the work of Unifrance, the body responsible for promoting French cinema abroad.

Set up by the French public authorities in 1949, Unifrance promotes France's cinema abroad. Supported by nearly 600 members, this association, which notably includes French producers and film-makers, supports the promotion of cinematographic works, for instance by helping actors to make their presence felt all over the world. It also organises cultural events with a view to making French cinema better known abroad. Usually open to the public, the aim of these events is to popularise French films as well as the artistic teams that accompany them. In 2003, this same objective led the association to set up a programme of meetings between famous French film-makers and students of international film schools. Entitled On Set with French Cinema, this initiative allowed Claude Lelouch, for instance, to spend a few days with the students of the Moscow National Film School and Jean-Pierre Jeunet to give master classes to the students of the University of California in Los Angeles.

Funded by the Centre National de la Cinématographie, Unifrance today receives assistance from the French Secretariat for External Trade. This new partnership not only brings it additional funding, but also helps with the promotional trips taken by actors and audiovisual companies.

At present, the association is active in over 55 countries and as a result benefits from

unequaled expertise. Every year in Paris, during its traditional Rendezvous held in January, the managers of Unifrance report on the performance of French films abroad. On this occasion lots of foreign distributors and journalists are invited to meet French film professionals who present their latest productions.

In 2008, nearly 80 million foreign filmgoers watched French films. This is a record; never have French productions known such a success abroad. The five films that clocked up the largest number of ticket sales were mainly big-budget productions, but other feature-length films of more limited appeal have also contributed to the strong performance of France's film industry outside the country. Babylon A.D. by Mathieu Kassovitz leads the pack at the box office with sales of 10.13 million tickets, followed by Astérix aux jeux Olympiques [Asterix at the Olympic Games] by Thomas Langman and Frédéric Forestier with ticket sales of 9.17 million, and Taken by Pierre Morel with 8.85 million tickets. Caramel, a Franco-Lebanese film by Nadine Labaki, which was released in 21 countries, came 9th and attracted an audience of 1.2 million. Other feature films, at first sight intended for a national audience, have also won over foreign viewers: Ne le dis à personne [Tell No One] by Guillaume Canet, which was released in seven countries, made a strong showing this summer on the other side of the Atlantic, grabbing more than \$4.5 M at the American box office; Il y a longtemps que je t'aime [I've Loved You So Long] by Philippe Claudel, released in 12 countries, has attracted an audience of over a million; La graine et le mulet [Couscous] by Abdellatif Kechiche or Le fils de l'épicier [The Grocer's Son] by Eric Guirado, released in 16 and 12 countries respectively, totalled 716,000 and 337,000 filmgoers. These films were genuine successes in France, finding an audience slowly but surely. This aroused interest among buyers from all over the world who, encouraged by the initiatives of Unifrance, decided to take a punt on these feature films.

Under pressure from the economic crisis, Unifrance now has new challenges to face. The newly elected president of the association, French producer Antoine de Clermont-Tonnerre is keen to champion the institution and give it the means to develop a broader ambition. Like his predecessors, he is driven by a single objective: to spread the influence of French cinema as widely as possible.

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET EUROPÉENNES ....Anne-Laure Bell

- **Expression:** Se mettre sur son trente et un
- **Meaning:** to get dressed up, dressed to the nines; to put on one's Sunday best
- **Literal translation:** to put oneself on one's thirty-one
- The French expressions se mettre sur son trente et un (to get dressed up) and être sur son trente et un (to be dressed up) use an unusual number to indicate nice clothing. Interestingly, an earlier version of the expression was se mettre sur son trente-six, in which case trente-six indicated nine (out of ten) times four; in other words, "very nice times four."
- **Examples**
- Vas-tu te mettre sur ton trente et un pour la fête ?
- Are you going to get dressed up for the party?
- Jette un œil à Pierre, il est sur son trente et un !
- Check out Pierre, he's dressed to the nines!
- [www.lawlessfrench.com](http://www.lawlessfrench.com)

### Une mort qui a tout déclenché



Funeral ceremony of Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie

Le 28 juin 1914, l'Archiduc François-Ferdinand d'Autriche, héritier du trône austro-hongrois, était assassiné à Sarajevo, aujourd'hui capitale de Bosnie-Herzégovine. A la suite de cet événement, une succession de faits se produisait avec pour conséquence une escalade de la violence et le déclenchement de la Première Guerre mondiale. Un siècle plus tard, nous commémorons la journée qui a été à l'origine de l'une des plus meurtrières périodes de l'Histoire. <http://www.europeana.eu/>



• équipe Astérix: Lucy, Phoebe, Meri, Rinda



• Dans la cuisine: Kate Neasy, animateur Guy Nicholson, Meri



• équipe les étoiles: Susan, Liz, Rob, Frank

# • LE QUIZ 2014

Il y avait 3 équipes de membres et amis doués et enthousiastes qui ont participé dans notre Quiz 2014, vendredi le 20 juin. On a essayé de répondre aux questions variées - y compris 6 catégories: Cuisine, Citations, le Ciné, le Tour de France, Chiffres et la Littérature française. Bien exigeant!! Mais l'équipe gagnante qui a triomphé, c'était Les Étoiles . Les membres de cette équipe étaient Susan Gardiner, Liz et Rob McQuilken, Kate et Frank Neasey. Ils ont reçu le trophée historique qui est accordé à l'équipe gagnante!! Il faut remercier notre Maître de Cérémonies, Guy Nicholson, qui a posé les questions d'une façon bien confiante et amusante!!

Pendant une petite pause, les participants ont pris un souper délicieux et bien arrosé d'un verre de vin. On remercie tous ceux qui ont aidé à organiser cette soirée traditionnelle. WC

Histoire vécue , rapportée par un Anglais résidant en DORDOGNE.

C'est arrivé à un anglais qui réside entre Le Bugue et Les Eyzies en Dordogne.

L'anglais dans la voiture est saoul au taquet. Un gendarme arrête la voiture, se présente à l'individu et lui demande :

- Bonjour GENDARMERIE NATIONALE , Contrôle alcoolémie, Vous avez bu ? »

Avec une élocution pâteuse, le gars répond :

- « Oui, ce matin j'ai marié ma fille et comme je n'aime pas les messes, je suis allé au café et j'ai bu quelques bières. Puis, pendant le banquet, j'ai essoré 3 bonnes bouteilles, une de Corbières, une de Minervois et une de Faugères. Pour finir pendant la fête, dans la soirée, j'ai ingurgité du whisky Johnny Walker étiquette noire ....

L'interrompant... le gendarme,..... irrité....., lui dit :

- « Savez-vous que je suis gendarme et que je vous ai arrêté pour un contrôle de l'alcoolémie ?

Le british, plein d'humour, lui répond alors :

- Et vous,..... savez-vous que cette voiture est une anglaise et que c'est ma femme à côté de moi qui conduit ?



**Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité**

**RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE**

The French don't normally walk around proclaiming Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité; it's more of a written expression. You'll find it on governmental letterhead and other official documents, stamped onto coins, and carved onto the pediments of public buildings.

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité is often adapted for issues and causes, by both demonstrators and the media. For example:

- Liberté, égalité, frugalité (money issues)
- Liberté, égalité, gratuité (free public transit)
- Liberté, égalité, maternité (issues related to motherhood)
- Liberté, égalité, paternité (paternity leave, LGBT adoption rights...)
- Liberté, égalité, solidarité (inclusivity)
- Liberté, égalité, sororité (women in male-dominated fields)
- Liberté, inégalité, fraternité (varied issues)

In 2007, presidential candidate Ségolène Royal's linguistic invention (or gaffe, some say) bravitude inspired the derisory Libertude, égalitude, fraternitude. LawlessFrench.com