



March | 2015

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# L'Alliance Française de Ballarat

*Promoting French Culture, Language  
and Food in the Ballarat Region.*



- Our annual **Petanque competition** will be held On Sunday March 22 at Rick & Katherine' Steele's 406 Haines St in Nerrina.
- ENTRY FEE: \$5.00
- REGISTRATION: 11.00 AM
- PLAY STARTS 11.30 AM
- BYO picnic or BBQ meat, drinks and chair.
- Not sure about how to play it? Find out about the RULES at: <http://afballarat.com.au/rules-of-petanque/>



President - Richard McRoberts  
Vice President - Mark Bevelander  
Secretary - Terry Simmons  
Treasurer - Ann Smail  
Membership - Val McRoberts  
Committee - Catherine Tweddle  
Committee - Gwendoline Blake

COMMITTEE



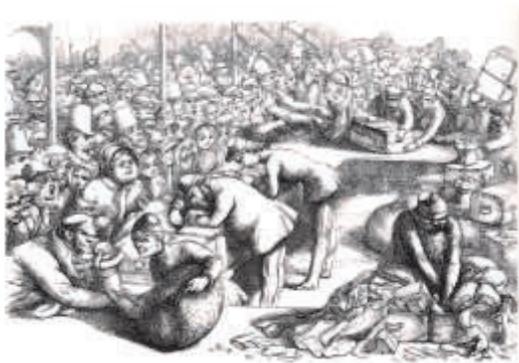
## Allô Police

- Allô Police ! Je viens d'écraser un poulet. Que dois-je faire ?
- Et bien , plumez-le et faites-le cuire à thermostat 6.
- Ah bon ! Et qu'est-ce que je fais de la moto ?

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat. Every fortnight we have an informal get together and do a reading at the **Golden Point Café** in Geelong Road. We are meeting on **Friday March 13 at 10.30 am** and there is an open invitation for you to come along. The reading can be accessed at: <http://afballarat.com.au/docs/blanche.pdf>

**Holidays From an Earlier Concept**

- Crossing the Channel was the most difficult, uncomfortable and dangerous part of the trip.
- *I firmly believe that no particle of gastric juice remained in my body.*
- London – Dover between 12 to 24 hours
- At best 6 hours by boat, if lucky
- Then Customs and Passports at Calais.
- Followed by 48 hours to Paris in a coach.



- Customs, passports and the inevitable money 'crossing palms'.
- A search of rail passengers' luggage at Cologne. A popular place for Britons to begin their Rhine cruise.
  - A French official peruses an arriving passenger's passport. Checking was reimposed after the Franco-Prussian war in 1870.



In 1819 Elizabeth Byron daringly rides a boat along the Loire, defying the gendarmes as she navigates the culture and history she finds on the river's banks as well as the contemporary political exchanges that threaten to stop her tour.



France was still regarded as the epitome of culture and arts and, being close to England was a very popular location.

In October 1840 George Lucy, a Warwickshire Squire bought 2 carriages for his wife Mary, their 5 children, a 14month old baby, its nurse, a tutor for the elder children and a footman. The Lucys were embarking on a tour which was planned to last 2 years and they had let their country house, Charlecote, where one of the coaches can still be seen.

They had 'every possible thing ... we might want', including 3 beds for the smaller children, 3 tin baths, school books, linen, tea and arrowroot.

However the baby died as the coaches were ascending the Alps and Mary Lucy recalled "For 11 long hours did I travel with this dear lifeless body on my lap ere we reached Turin. Never can I forget that night of anguish."

**FILM D'HORREUR**

