

Alliance française de Ballarat

April 2018 Newsletter

April meeting: The April AGM was well attended and we welcomed Guest Speaker, M. Bernard Catrice and his wife, Valda. We learnt much about the history of French families who arrived in Australia to work in the wool trade and the early beginnings of our links with France through *Alliance française* – firstly in Melbourne and later, Sydney. It was fascinating also to hear the story about France's strong interest in Australian wool and M. Catrice kindly answered many questions.

The **Annual General Meeting** ushered in a new president and minutes' secretary, with the committee for 2018 to be:

President: Jan Leishman

Vice President: Richard McRoberts

Treasurer: Margaret Gardner

Minutes' secretary: Dinah Toohey

Membership secretary: Anne Fell

Committee: Gwendoline Blake, Valerie McRoberts, Kylie Weightman.

New venue

The Committee has located a new venue for our soirées, which is more accessible and has increased facilities for our needs. It is the 'Ballarat Anglers' Memorial Lodge' and is located on the eastern side of Lake Wendouree – at the corner of Wendouree Parade and Devon Street. There is ample parking in front of the hall, on either side of Wendouree Parade and some in Devon Street. This venue will be used for our soirées for the remainder of 2018 with the possible exception of our Christmas dinner celebration.

May soirée – French Trivia Quiz

It's time to brush up on your knowledge of all things French – history, geography, art, politics, sport and many more – for this night we will host a Trivia Quiz with some very special prizes for our winners! Guaranteed to be a fun evening.

When: Friday, May 25, 2018 at 6.30pm for 7pm.

Where: Ballarat Anglers' Memorial Lodge, corner Wendouree Parade and Devon Street.

What: We ask that everyone bring a savoury or a sweet to share. Please RSVP to Val McRoberts on valeriemcroberts@gmail.com by Monday, May 21, or text on **0491 070 120** to let us know what you are bringing, so we can organise a balanced meal! BYO wine, *bien sûr* !

Melbourne French Theatre visit

Members who made the trip to Melbourne on May 5 were highly entertained by the Melbourne French Theatre's production of '*Père Noël est un ordure*' at the Docklands Theatre. The play contained subtitles – necessary to get the nuances of the actions in this comedy of tragic misunderstandings – and an explosive ending!

'Into Light' at the Ballarat Art Gallery

This exhibition of 19th and 20th century paintings from the *Musée de la Chartreuse, Douai* is the major winter blockbuster for our gallery.

It will run from Saturday, June 23 through to Sunday, September 9 with ticket sales opening on Monday, May 21.

The exhibition features treasures from the *Musée de la Chartreuse*, the regional gallery for Douai in northern France. Renovations to the Chartreuse building have created this opportunity to see sixty 19th century gems, alongside key paintings by Australian artists working in France at the time as well as works by French artists from Australian collections.