

Alliance française de Ballarat

February 2019 Newsletter

Bonjour à tous ! Bonne année et bienvenue à la nouvelle année.

Hello all! Happy New Year and welcome to the new year.

We will ease into the year with a welcome evening with drinks and nibbles. Perhaps some members can recount their recent holidays or let us in on their plans for this year – particularly if you have travelled to France or a French territory, or are planning to.

Our committee is meeting this month to work towards preparing an interesting year for everyone. Suggestions will be more than welcome. Please speak to a committee member if you have an idea for a *soirée* or other activity that you would like to do.

February soirée – Meet and Greet at ‘un apéritif dînatoire’

This is a chance for all our members to get together for an informal catch-up after the holidays following our successful Christmas dinner at Ballarat Grammar’s ‘Pavilion’ last December. It will be ‘un apéritif dînatoire’ – (finger food enough for dinner). Please bring cold finger food and nibbles – we can only have cold food at this soirée as renovations mean there won’t be any warming facilities in the kitchen this month. And be prepared to tell us about your holiday – either one already enjoyed or in the planning stage.

When: Friday, February 22, 2019 at 6.30pm.

Where: Ballarat Anglers Clubrooms, corner of Lake Wendouree Parade and Devon Street.

What: Drinks and Nibbles. Please bring a plate of finger food that does not need heating and BYO drinks, bien sûr.

December – ‘Christmas with a French flavour’

This was thoroughly enjoyed by all – both members and visitors – with David Hyatt providing incidental ‘piano bar’ music – that embraced both French and Christmas culture with a *souppçon* of jazz thrown in. *Merci bien*, David. Committee members assisted in decorating the room and tables in a bright ‘French / Christmas’ manner – right down to tiny French-themed discussion cards to stimulate our conversation.

The food was superb – from the canapés with our complimentary glass of sparkling wine, to the choice of main course – both dishes not only delicious but beautifully presented – and our dessert followed by the surprise slice of *'bûche de Noël'*. In fact the meal remained a topic of conversation and compliments for a long time afterwards.

April AGM

We have received some expressions of interest from members who would like to join our committee and hope to have nomination forms available at our first *soirée*. We would love to have more men represented on the committee and others with enthusiasm and new ideas who are happy to contribute. So do think about it!

Membership

We are delighted that our membership is growing. With our AGM coming up, any current member who would like to renew their membership now, can do so by checking the membership section at www.afballarat.com.au for further information.

Please note that our membership fees have increased slightly for 2019-20. They are \$45 family (two adults and two children); \$30 single; and \$15 concession (students and pensioners).

Also, those who have enrolled in our French courses for 2019 receive automatic membership for this calendar year only. This entitles you to receive our newsletter and come to our *soirées* and other activities throughout this year. We would love to see you at our regular *soirées* where you will have a chance to practise the French you are learning in class – and hear it spoken.

And finally, people interested in joining *Alliance française de Ballarat* are welcome to 'try' with one free evening offered. For any future *soirées* or events, they will be required to become paid-up members.

Social Media

Don't forget to check out; like; comment and / or share our Facebook page which you can find at www.facebook.com/afdeballarat