

Alliance française de Ballarat

April 2019 Newsletter

April meeting and AGM

Don't miss our April soirée and AGM with Guest Speaker, Steve Goodwin on

'Les Vins Rouges de Bourgogne'

Steve is a graduate chemist (not pharmacist) and microbiologist. An early job in the laboratory of a wine and spirit company led to a keen interest in the science and technology of wine and wine making.

He has since enjoyed a long career in the industry, including 30 years as a winemaker and more than 35 years as a judge at Australia's major wine shows.

Steve is a regular visitor to France and, with an importer friend, tastes wine in the cellars of a number of Burgundy winemakers, selecting wines for shipment to Australia.

Now retired, he studies French and teaches a Wine Appreciation course at U3A Ballarat.

When : Friday, April 26, at 6.30pm for 7pm.

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

What : This meal will be catered for. It is essential that you RSVP to Dinah on 0427 285 542 for this event by Thursday, April 18, (before the Easter weekend). BYO drinks, *bien sûr*.

Concours de Pétanque on March 24

What a fantastic day we had! Five *pétanque* pistes carefully prepared by member, Rick Steele, and seven enthusiastic teams battling it out for the trophy and other prizes. The weather was perfect for a picnic and drinks enjoyed by spectators and players alike.

Our winners and runners-up were the 'interlopers' from Smythesdale! Jeff Langdon and Gordon Oliver took the main prize, with Clive Williams and John Sexton at number two. Our winning members in third place were Anne Fell and Kathryn Steele.

Many thanks to Rick and Kathryn for their generosity in hosting the day – and to Rick for organising the teams and scoring. Note that we have been invited to friendly games at the Smythesdale *pistes* (Recreation Reserve) on Friday afternoons from 3pm, if we want to get in some practice for next year!

March soirée – Les recettes française

Just five days later we were enjoying some delicious French dishes at our March *soirée* – ‘*Les recettes française*’. Everyone contributed with a wide variety of foods including a blue cheese dip and *crudités*, *tapenade*, *pissaladière*, fish cakes with lime, *salade roquefort et noix*, together with gateaux - *de banane et du citron*, and to top it off, *un gateau St Honoré*. Several of our chefs explained the history and making of their dishes with descriptions and recipes also available.

RSVPs

An RSVP is essential, whether or not you are coming, so we can set up the right number of tables for the soirée. For this month it is doubly important as the meal will be catered. Please text secretary, Dinah Toohey on 0427 285 542 by Thursday, April 18 (before Good Friday) to make sure everyone is catered for.

Membership

With the AGM approaching, all members must be financial in order to attend. Any who have not yet renewed their membership, 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. We would love to see you at our regular *soirées* where you can to practise the French you are learning in class – and hear it spoken.

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