



Programme Notes

COLLOQUE ANNUEL SAMEDI 18 OCTOBRE – ST PETER'S COLLEGE

The 2011 committee

President:

Gabriella Patti-Reid

St Dominic's Priory College

Vice President:

Alan Cleggett

Treasurer

Andrew McKenzie

Secretary:

Chris Simpson

Members:

Irene Castrechini-Sutton

Lyn Empen

Clémence Schmitt

Colette Mrowa-Hopkins

Sue Swanson

Yvette Pinto

Hanna Zebiaan

Britta Corones

Duncan Rieger

St Peter's College

Edwardstown Primary

Walford

Flinders University

Linden Park Primary

Mitcham Primary

Scotch College

Mercedes College

The "Français Je t' Aime" Committee

Clémence Schmidt/Sue Swanson/Lyn Empen/Irene Castrechini-Sutton

Following last year's AGM, it proved difficult for a number of reasons for several members of the elected committee to carry out their duties in any significant way. This put a heavy load on those who were able to participate, and SAFTA operated throughout the year with a much reduced committee, effectively only nine members. I gratefully acknowledge these committee members for their tireless and excellent work over the past twelve months and for the support and cooperation they have given me in my first year as president. Their guidance and commitment have been invaluable.

In 2011, six full committee meetings were held and sub-committees either met to organize events and carry out tasks or did so by phone and email, both during the term and the various holiday-breaks. SAFTA committee members also engaged in other means of supporting and promoting the teaching and learning of French and in maintaining contact with other associations. Chris Simpson, the Secretary, did an excellent job of summarizing the often complicated discussions which characterized many of our meetings, and we are all most grateful to him for this.

Australian
French
Teachers'
Association Inc.

MEMBERSHIP

SAFTA recorded 58 members in 2011, down from 72 in 2010.

AGM

In 2010 this was held at Linden Park PS on 8 February.

EVENTS

For Students

The Year 12 Night was held at the University of Adelaide, from 5.00 – 8.00pm on April 13. Approximately fifty students and their teachers attended, a slight decrease from 2010. Several people helped to make this event a success: Andrew McKenzie, Ben McCann, John West-Sooby, Viviane Laigle, Marlene Jarema and Christina Emblem. The bulk of the organization was very competently handled by John West-Sooby to whom I would like to formally extend SAFTA's thanks.

The Grand Concours de Poésie Récitée took place during the third term to give teachers and students more time to participate. Thanks go to Lyn Empen and Sue Swanson who judged the entries and chose the poems for the five categories. More students participated than last year, with winners coming from: St. Peter's College, Paringa Park, Mercedes College, Loreto College and Glen Osmond. As usual the winning students recited their poems at the Alliance Française Distribution des Prix on 24 October at St Peter's College and were very impressive. Congratulations to those teachers who were able to participate this year.

The SAFTA Film-making Competition was held in term three. Six schools, mainly primary, participated and produced 22 films of an impressive quality. The entries were judged by Andrew McKenzie and Ben McCann. Winning schools were Scotch College, Glen Osmond Primary, Edwardstown Primary, St Peter's Girls and Wilderness. SAFTA committee members visited these schools to present the prizes at school assemblies.

Many thanks to Lyn Empen who did a lot of work to organise this event, and to Ben McCann and Andrew McKenzie who were the judges.

On August 8, the Super Dix took place at Goodwood Community Centre. Ten teams from nine schools attended. The winners were Seymour, St Dominic's and Loreto. Many thanks to Alan Cleggett, who once again acted as our quiz master extraordinaire, Chris Simpson, who handled the bulk of the organization, Andrew McKenzie who helped Alan and Chris to work out the questions and activities and took charge of the score-board, and all the teachers who came along to support their teams.

The Coupe de Pétanque was held on 3 November at Unley Park Sports Club. This twilight event, with accompanying sausage sizzle, is attracting more and more teams. Seventeen primary teams participated with Mercedes College emerging as the winner. Fewer secondary teams were involved and St Dominic's won this division. Thank you to all the teachers and parents who supported the event. Special thanks to Lyn Empen and Chris Simpson who organized the competition and to Alan Cleggett who kept the barbecue burning. The committee is considering contacting "The Messenger" newspaper to promote this most worthwhile event with an article.

The committee and I acknowledge the dedication of the teachers who inspire their students to participate in these events and to perform to such a high standard. It is encouraging that enthusiasm for French language and culture remains so evident, often when circumstances would seem to make this difficult.

For Teachers

The Annual Conference was held on Saturday, 20 August, at St Peter's College, Hackney, and it was well attended. Feedback was positive with participants stating they found the workshops stimulating, enjoyable and applicable to their teaching. The book companies which attended were: Intext, Le Forum, Pearsons and Bayard. A representative from Nacel was also invited. I would like to acknowledge all the work the committee did for this major event, especially Irene Castrechini-Sutton, whose school "hosted" the conference.

SACE teachers were especially grateful to Christina Emblem and Marlene Jarema for clarifying issues regarding new assessment procedures.

The conference also offered an opportunity for SAFTA members to voice their concerns regarding the new SACE Stage 2 programme which has led to a significant drop in the number of students studying French (and other languages) at senior high school level and has lowered morale amongst teachers. The committee provided the vehicle for this by organising a petition to the Minister for Education at the time, the Hon. Jay Weatherill, together with the copy of a letter which each participant was able to send to the Minister. The response came from the incumbent, the Hon. Grace Portolesi, in November, in the form of a letter. Ms Portolesi thanked us for our commitment to language teaching and learning and for drawing our concerns to her attention.

Darwin Conference 2011

Some committee members attended this

TOFA Conference Perth April, 2012

SAFTA advertised this conference

Professional Development January, 2012

The Alliance Française organized a week of intensive conversation classes for teachers of French in January this year. Perhaps because of the late arrival of the publicity for this in schools, only four teachers attended. However, the Alliance has been encouraged by the experience and by the feedback from participating teachers, and will certainly plan to run something similar in the future.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CEASA Membership

SAFTA continues to be a member of CEASA (Council of Education Associations in South Australia) which entitles us to use of the EDC at a reduced rate, cheaper Public Liability Insurance and access to funding administered by CEASA. SAFTA is now able to disseminate information on French PD opportunities through the CEASA website and calendar.

SAFTA Representation

Alan Cleggett represented SAFTA on the committee of the Modern Language Teachers' Association of South Australia.

Various people volunteered to attend CEASA council meetings.

I attended a French Reference Group meeting at The Alliance, an opportunity for all stakeholders (Universities, DECS, AISSA, CESA, Alliance Française and SAFTA) to exchange information and plan events.

“Français je t’aime “

There is no doubt that 2011 was a year in which the committee found it difficult to maintain previous high standards for our news-magazine. The retirement from the position of editor of Lucienne Benoist is still keenly felt. We also acknowledge the role Christina Emblem played in keeping Français je t’aime going once Lucienne stepped down. With Christina also relinquishing her organizational responsibilities in SAFTA, and with a very small committee in 2011, it has not been possible to continue to publish Français je t’aime as often as in past years. Clémence Schmitt, Lyn Empen and Sue Swanson collaborated in producing an excellent issue during the first semester of 2011. The advertised project for the second semester was to produce an issue centred around contributions of student work and classroom ideas coming from members. Unfortunately, the lack of material forwarded to the sub-committee meant that it was not possible to publish a magazine along these lines, and lack of time prevented us from finding enough material to remedy the situation and produce a different kind of issue.

The Committee is aware of the importance to our organisation of Français je t’aime, and will work hard again this year to produce, we hope, 2 issues over the 2 semesters. However, we do rely on help from our members to do this, not only in terms of the supplying of material for the magazine, but also, perhaps, in participating in the production of it. It is not necessary to be a member of the full committee to help with Français je t’aime, and we would welcome any assistance from members in this matter.

SAFTA website (www.safta.asn.au)

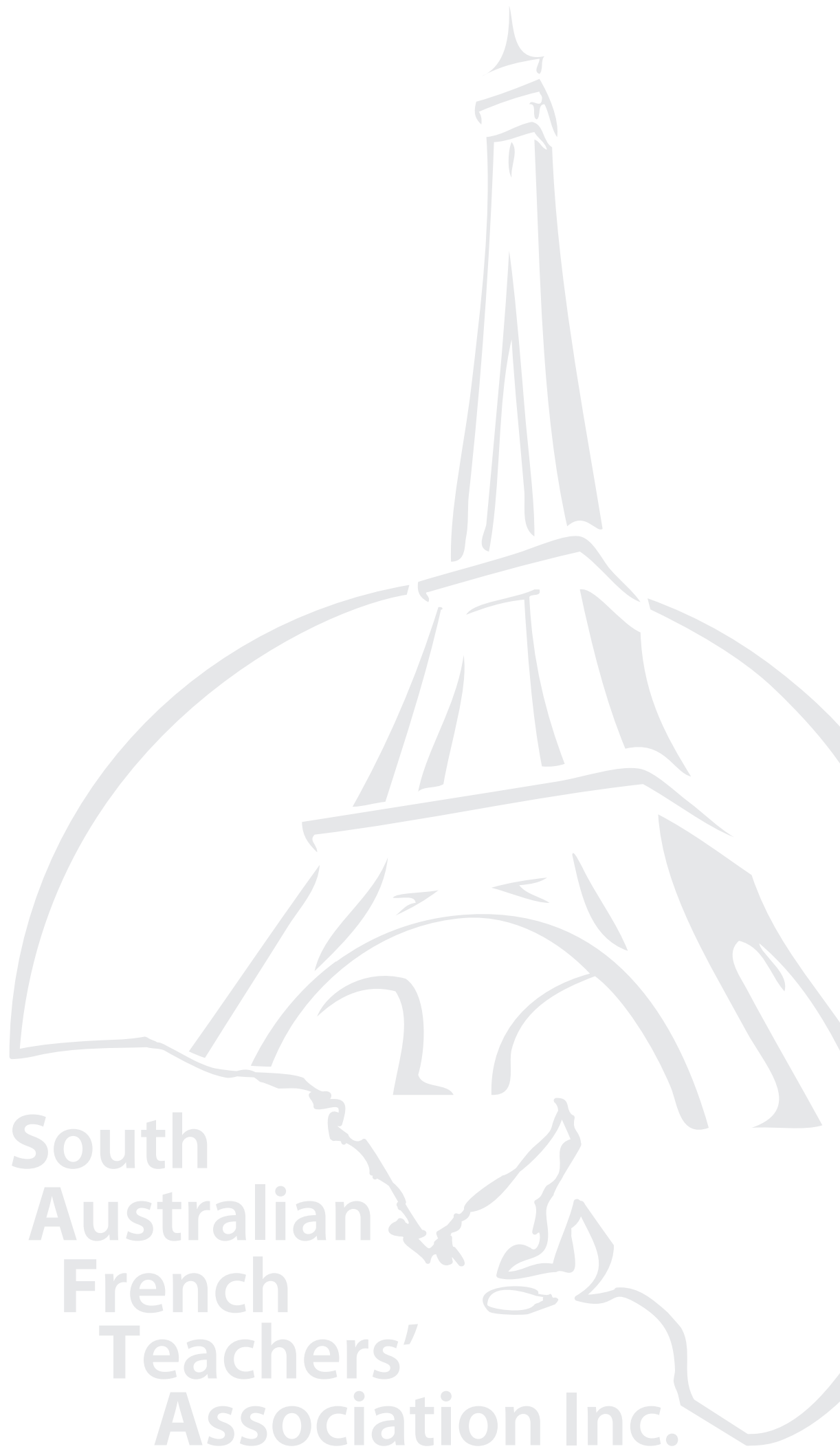
At the end of the year the committee decided that it was necessary to update the website and to employ a professional to design and upkeep it. Andrew and Gabriella met Oliver Ransom and briefed him on our requirements. The new website should be up and running within a few weeks and will have a new section which will enable members to share information and resources online.

Affiliations

SAFTA is affiliated to FATFA (the Federation of Associations of Teachers of French in Australia) which is affiliated to the FIPF (Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français). Through these affiliations, SAFTA is entitled to funding from the French Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, administered through the French Embassy in Canberra and the FATFA treasury.

Gabriella Patti-Reid
SAFTA President 2011

South
Australian
French
Teachers'
Association Inc.



South
Australian
French
Teachers'
Association Inc.