



**AGM MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2015**

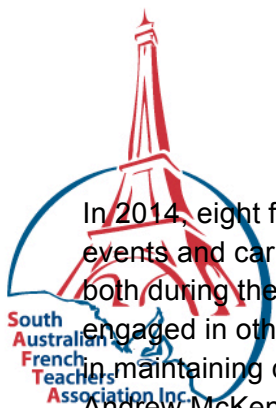
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON SAFTA'S 2014 ACTIVITIES**

**The 2014 Committee**

President:	Gabriella Patti-Reid	St Dominic's Priory College
Vice President:	Irene Castrechini-Sutton	St Peter's College
Treasurer	Andrew McKenzie	
Secretary:	Sue Swanson	Linden Park PS
Members:	Alan Cleggett	
	Lyn Empen	Edwardstown Primary
	Clémence Schmitt	Walford A.S.G.
	Colette Mrowa-Hopkins	Flinders University
	Christèle Maizonniaux (S2)	Flinders University
	Britta Corones	Scotch College Primary
	Christine Stevens	Mercedes College
	Marcia McLachlan	St Peter's College (Primary)
	Catherine Skene	Glen Osmond P.S.
	Gabrielle Kelly	Walford A.S.G.

I acknowledge each one of the SAFTA committee members for her/his professionalism and tireless work over the past twelve months and, indeed throughout the four years of my presidency. I appreciate the ongoing commitment and enthusiasm which they have offered me, as president, and you, our members. This year we welcomed Catherine Skene (formerly Moore) back to the committee after an absence of several years. Catherine brought her vast experience as a primary classroom teacher and as a writer of curricula to the committee and we were fortunate to have her join our team. We also welcomed Gabrielle Kelly who brought great enthusiasm and her IT skills to the committee.

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In 2014, eight full committee meetings were held and sub-committees either met to organize events and carry out tasks like mail-outs or managed things by phone and email/Facebook, 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, such as attendance at CEASA meetings. Andrew McKenzie continued to exercise his role as Treasurer with precision and enthusiasm and carried out a variety of other tasks. We thank him for his tireless efforts and his continuing support and guidance to all of us. Irene Castrechini-Sutton was Vice-President and Sue Swanson did an admirable job as Secretary, meticulously recording minutes of our meetings, typing them and circulating them.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

SAFTA recorded 68 members in November, 2014.

### **AGM 2014**

This was held at St Peter's College, Hackney, on Monday, 10th February.

### **EVENTS**

#### **For Students**

The **Year 12 Night** was again held at the University of Adelaide, from 5.00 – 8.00pm on 24 February. Approximately sixty students from 10 schools (including the Alliance) and their teachers attended. Several people helped to make this event a success: Andrew McKenzie, John West-Sooby, Marlene Jarema and Christina Emblem. The bulk of the organization was handled, as always, by John West-Sooby to whom I would like to formally extend SAFTA's thanks once again.

This year SAFTA broke with tradition and held the **Coupe de Pétanque** in Term 1, on Thursday, 27 March at Unley Park Sports Club. This twilight event, with accompanying sausage sizzle, generated much interest and, in fact, recorded the best attendance in the history of this event! This year Paringa Park PS won the primary shield while ..... took home the secondary shield. 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 and other committee members who kept the barbecue burning.

The **Grand Concours de Poésie Récitée** took place during Term 3 and there was no illustration section for the poetry in 2014. The winners came from St Peter's College and Paringa Park PS. This year there was a break with tradition as a consequence of the announcement made by the Alliance that it would no longer conduct its annual Prize-Giving Night. The committee decided to organise SAFTA's very own Prize-Giving Night on 3<sup>rd</sup> November as we did not want to disappoint our students, teachers & parents. In keeping with SAFTA tradition, the winning students recited their poems 3<sup>rd</sup> at St Peter's College. The top Year 7 student of French in each school was also recognised. Congratulations go to those students and teachers who were able to participate this year. Thanks go to Sue Swanson, Marcia McLachlan, Lyn Empen and Catherine Skene for all their organisation and to St Peter's College for allowing us to hold it once again at its campus.



The SAFTA **Film-making Competition** was held in Term 3 & 4. The number of schools entering this year was rather disappointing. However, congratulations go to Glen Osmond Primary for taking out the honours with their quality films. The committee will have to review this competition in 2015. Many thanks go 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 Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, the **Super Dix** took place at Goodwood Community Centre. This was once again well-attended and was very successful. The winning school was St Peter's College. Many thanks to Andrew McKenzie and Alan Cleggett who were the Quiz masters for the evening, to Chris Simpson who handled the bulk of the organization, and all the teachers who came along to support their teams.

The committee and I acknowledge the dedication of all our teachers who inspire students to participate in SAFTA 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 challenging. We thank you for your support.

### **Professional Development for Teachers**

During the April school holidays I attended the NAFT (New South Wales French Teachers' Association) course at the Creipac Institute in Nouméa with support from SAFTA. It was an excellent immersion experience. In July, a number of SAFTA members & members of the committee attended the AFTV/FATFA conference in Melbourne. This was an invaluable opportunity to attend some world-class presentations and to connect with other teachers of French around Australia.

SAFTA's **Colloque Annuel** was held on Saturday, 16 August, at St Peter's College, Hackney, and feedback was positive. The committee was disappointed with the poor attendance at this conference, especially since it had taken on board a number of suggestions from attendees in 2013. The book companies which attended were: Intext Book Co, Le Forum, Bayard. A representative from AFX exchange was also on hand to provide information. I would like to acknowledge all the work the committee did for this major event, especially Irene Castrechini-Sutton, who arranged the venues and catering.

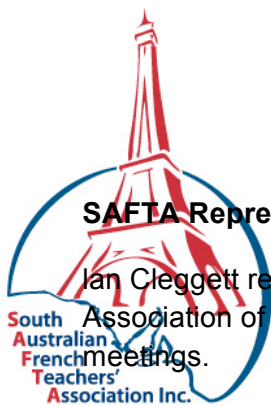
Catherine Skene & Marcia McLachlan revived the **Primary Hub-Group** for teachers of primary French and their meetings were well-attended.

### **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.

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### **SAFTA Representation**

Jan Cleggett represented SAFTA on the committee of the Modern Language Teachers' Association of South Australia. Committee members took it in turns to attend CEASA council meetings.

### **SAFTA Website and Facebook**

The SAFTA website continued to be maintained and refined. Britta Corones managed a Facebook page for SAFTA members. This provided/s a forum for teachers to share ideas and receive information quickly. We thank Britta for her work in creating and maintaining it. Gabrielle Kelly accepted the role of keeping the SAFTA website updated.

### **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. In 2014 SAFTA continued as an official partner of Language Perfect.

I offer a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful SAFTA committee without whose support and friendship I could not have exercised my role as President over the past four years. I am also grateful to all of you, our members, for the confidence which you have shown me. I wish the new president every success in his/her role and I offer my full support to the committee in the future. It has been my honour and pleasure to serve SAFTA as President.

Gabriella Patti-Reid

9 February, 2015

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