Alliance Française
Sydney

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE SYDNEY

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE SYDNEY CULTURAL FOUNDATION LIMITED

# CULTURAL Foundation

Established in 2019, the AFS Cultural Foundation Limited is a not-for-profit cultural organisation dedicated to fostering French cultural events and promoting Franco-Australian cultural exchanges.

Throughout the year, a wide array of events spanning film and cinema, literature, performing arts, visual arts, and other artistic endeavours are curated. This diverse line-up includes film festivals, exhibitions, masterclasses, tastings, book signings, discussions, design showcases, radio broadcasts, community arts initiatives, and much more.

Located in the heart of Sydney, the centre also houses a comprehensive media hub.

The Cultural Foundation proudly supports the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival, a collaborative effort between AFS, Alliance Française branches in Australia's capital cities, the Embassy of France in Australia, and Palace Cinemas.

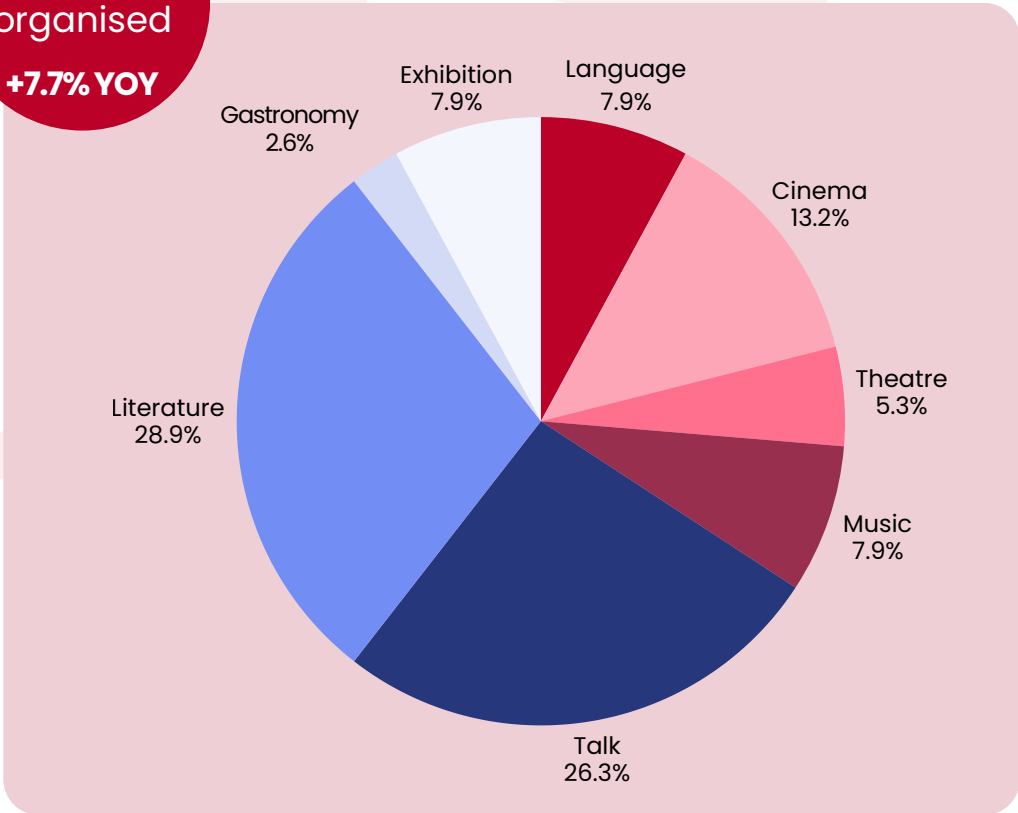
We extend our sincere thanks to the donors of the Cultural Foundation for their generous support. Philanthropic contributions are essential in creating opportunities to access and promote culture within our community.

The Cultural Foundation, solely owned by the AFS, was established to facilitate tax-deductible donations in support of cultural initiatives.

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

**39** events organised

**+7.7% YOY**



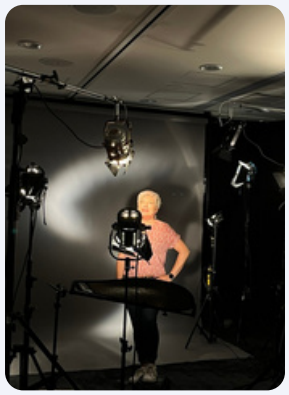

## HARCOURT EXHIBITION

## HARCOURT STUDIO IN SYDNEY

As part of the festival, we had the exceptional privilege of welcoming Studio Harcourt to Sydney, marking the studio's first-ever visit to Australia.

For a few days, the renowned Parisian studio set up a temporary studio within the Alliance Française de Sydney premises, offering a rare and prestigious experience. The visit was further enriched by the exhibition of iconic portraits of emblematic figures from the world of cinema, displayed on our walls.

This experience remains a truly memorable highlight of the festival, made even more special as members of our own team enthusiastically took part, stepping in front of the legendary Harcourt lens.



# BASTILLE DAY

Our 2025 Bastille Day celebration was a major highlight of the year, welcoming 900+ attendees following a successful move to the Greenwood Hotel, North Sydney.

The evening featured the return of DJ Loo-e, whose French beats once again kept the crowd dancing, alongside lively Cancan performances that brought a festive Parisian flair to the night. Guests enjoyed freshly made crêpes by Four Frogs, adding a much-loved culinary touch to the celebration.

The event also included a popular raffle, with more than 800 tickets sold and 11 prizes to be won, contributing to the vibrant and convivial atmosphere.

with General Yann Latil, General Eric Ozanne, Captain Yann Le Roux, Pierre-André Imbert and Denis Morandet

# PHILO BISTRO

with Martin Juillard, Consul of France

with Jean-Marie Laclavetine

with Cathy Wilcox

In 2025, Philo Bistro continued to be a stimulating forum for ideas, bringing together voices from across the worlds of art, literature, diplomacy and sport.

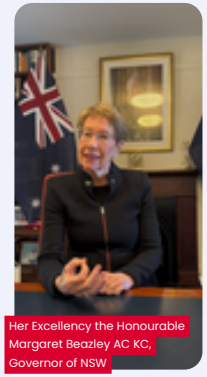
This year, Olivier Vojetta welcomed celebrated Australian cartoonist Cathy Wilcox, whose sharp and insightful work prompted reflection on society, and flautist Jane Rutter, who offered a musician's perspective on creativity, listening and the role of the arts in contemporary life.

The literary world was represented by Jean-Marie Laclavetine, from Éditions Gallimard, who shared reflections on publishing and writing. Former Consul-General of France in Australia, Martin Juillard, brought a diplomatic and personal perspective on Franco-Australian relations, while professional footballer Valère Germain offered a unique insight into life, identity and values through the lens of sport.

# TANIA DUTEL

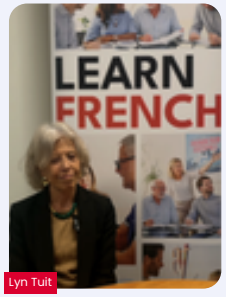
The event organised by the Alliance Française Australian network featuring Tania Dutel was a great success, attracting a large and enthusiastic audience in Sydney.

With her sharp, unapologetic humour and eye for everyday absurdities, Tania Dutel delivered an outstanding stand-up performance on relationships, modern life and social conventions. Her ability to turn the ordinary into incisive comedy confirmed her place among today's most compelling stand-up voices, making the evening engaging and memorable.



Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW

Biran Hillman




Lyn Tuit

Dominique Barbeau

# 130 YEARS CELEBRATION

In 2025, the Alliance Française de Sydney celebrated 130 years of commitment to the promotion of the French language and cultural exchange between France and Australia.

Founded in 1895, the institution has continually evolved to remain a vibrant centre for learning, creativity and connection in Sydney's cultural landscape.

This landmark anniversary was marked through a year-long programme of celebratory events, highlighting both our heritage and our contemporary relevance.

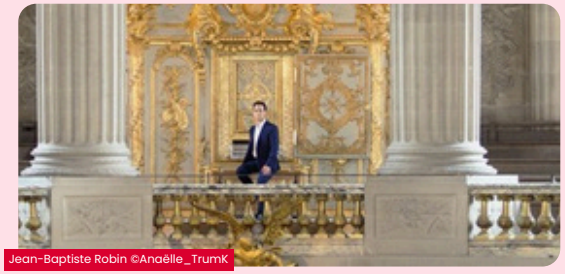
Key moments included  the Alliance Française French Film Festival, alongside a series of cultural events and community gatherings, offering multiple opportunities for our audiences to come together and celebrate this remarkable milestone.

In parallel, a dedicated series of interviews was produced and shared across our social media platforms, giving voice to key personalities who have shaped the life of the Alliance Française de Sydney and offering personal reflections on its history and impact.

# FROM VERSAILLES TO SYDNEY

In September, we hosted an exceptional evening devoted to the Château de Versailles, led by Jean-Baptiste Robin, official organist of the Royal Chapel.

This immersive experience, combining heritage and music, offered our audience a privileged insight into one of France's most iconic cultural landmarks.



Jean-Baptiste Robin ©Anaëlle_TrumK

# CHANTONS EN FRANCAIS CONTEST

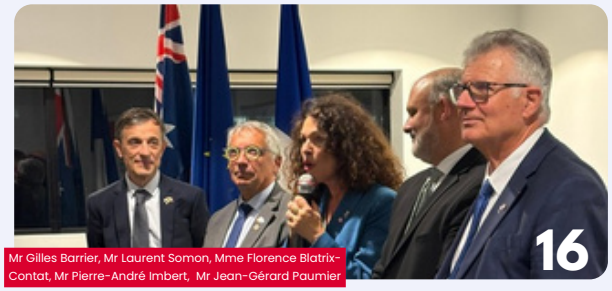
We relaunched the Chantons en Français contest for its second edition, aimed at teenagers learning French across New South Wales.

Once again, the contest proved highly successful, showcasing the talent, creativity and engagement of participating students through musical performances in French.

# OFFICIAL DELEGATION VISIT

We also had the pleasure to receive a delegation of French senators representing the France–Australia Friendship Group at the Alliance Française de Sydney, in the presence of the French Ambassador to Australia and the Consul General of France in Sydney.

The visit provided an opportunity for the delegation to gain insight into our activities and our role in promoting the French language and Francophone culture in Australia.

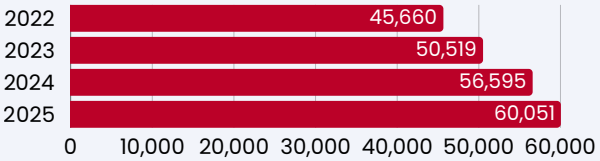


Mr Gilles Barrier, Mr Laurent Somon, Mme Florence Blatrix-Contat, Mr Pierre-André Imbert,  Mr Jean-Gérard Paumier

# ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales

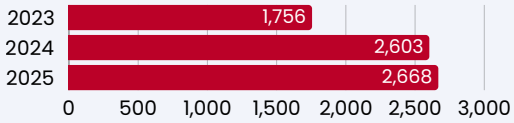
**Sydney attendees**




In 2025, the Alliance Française French Film Festival (AFFFF) presented 42 captivating films and delivered 6,094 screenings across 13 locations and 37 cinemas nationwide in Australia. Over five weeks of festival programming, followed by a one-week tour, the Festival achieved a total attendance of 198,893 seats filled, a remarkable 5.6% increase compared to 2024.

In the spirit of celebration, audiences were invited to rediscover timeless classics such as Army of Shadows, while The Count of Monte Cristo offered a spectacular cinematic adventure. In Sydney alone, more than 35 special events were organised throughout the Festival period, alongside over 30 school screenings, helping bring French language and culture to students across New South Wales.

In total, 2,668 students participated in the school screenings across approximately 50 schools, reinforcing the Festival's strong educational outreach.




**Number of student attendees**

The Festival proudly maintained its position as the world's leading French film Festival outside France, and Australia's foremost film Festival.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Festival team in Sydney and across the national network, whose dedication made this success possible, as well as to our valued partners at the Alliance Française network, the Embassy of France to Australia, Palace Cinemas, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace, Roseville Cinemas, Riverside Theatres Parramatta, and United Cinemas Warriewood.