



Alliance Française
Sydney - Australie
Cultural Foundation

Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural
Foundation Limited

Annual²⁰²³

REPORT



Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation

Established in 2019, the Alliance Française de Sydney 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 Alliance Française de Sydney, Alliance Française branches in Australia's capital cities, the Embassy of France in Australia, and Palace Cinemas.

We wish to thank our donors to the Cultural Foundation who made it possible for us to host a special evening during the festival in appreciation of the efforts of nurses during the pandemic.

Established to provide tax-deductible donation status to contributors supporting cultural initiatives, the Cultural Foundation operates under the sole ownership of Alliance Française de Sydney.



Philippe Ostermann, Antoine Dupont and Anaïs Leloup



Lucille Gautier, Caroline Brunel and Sarah Elfassy



Mathieu and Gwenola Hanaut



Our friends from the International French school



Councillor Emelda Davis and Lyn Tuit

Events & Activities

HIGHLIGHTS

A vibrant cultural calendar defines community life at Alliance Française de Sydney. Members, students, and visitors are invited to engage in a rich program of activities, including presentations, round table discussions, soirées, workshops, conferences, and more. Over 300 guests per month attend these cultural events, contributing to the lively atmosphere at the Alliance Française de Sydney Centre.

In 2023, the "Philo Bistro" series, hosted by Olivier Vojetta, continued its solid growth with several sold-out events. At these gatherings, Olivier and a guest — such as a writer, artist, or musician — engaged in debates with the public on a variety of themes. We had the pleasure of hosting Philippe Besson, Camille Laurens, Sophie Beaumont, and many others throughout the year.

Highlights of the year included the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the creation of the Alliances Françaises, a talk on the Rugby World Cup with Peter FitzSimons and Nick Farr-Jones, a discussion with Penelope Seidler on architecture, and at the café, the Beaujolais Nouveau party.



Olivier Vojetta

2023 also saw the organisation of our Bastille Day party. Themed "France: North and South," over 900 people gathered at the Argyle to celebrate Bastille Day in style. Martin Juillard, Consul General of France in Sydney, opened the event. Australian musician Emma Hamilton kicked off the festivities with French songs on piano and accordion, followed by a set of French music by DJ Loo-e, accompanied by performances by Can-Can dancers. The evening, which concluded in the early hours of the morning, was a great success, making our Bastille Day traditional event the highlight of our winter calendar.

A commemorative event was hosted with Kambala school to honour the founder of the Alliance Française de Sydney, Augustine Soubeiran. The 13th floor has now been named after her in recognition of her pedagogy and dedication.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

The Alliance Française French Film Festival has resumed its growth following a challenging 2022, which was marked by adverse weather and pandemic fears.

With 51,141 admissions in Sydney and over 176,000 nationally, the festival has surpassed expectations in the film market. The line-up was curated with passion and talent by Karine Mauris, Artistic Director of the festival and Cultural Attaché at the French Embassy. It featured 39 films — a blend of French blockbusters and more challenging films that left a lasting impression on our audience.



**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley
AC KC**



David Wenham



Guillaume Brahimi

Spanning 10 cities and 31 cinemas across Australia, the festival maintained its status as the world's leading French film festival outside France and Australia's foremost paid cultural event. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Festival staff: Philippe Ostermann, responsible for national sponsorship and organising the festival in Sydney; Anaïs Leloup, the national festival manager, whose tireless efforts ensured the festival's success; and the dedicated Festival staff in each capital branch of Alliance Française in Australia, along with the Embassy of France in Australia, Palace Cinemas, the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace, and Riverside Parramatta.

DONORS' RECOGNITION AND INAUGURATION OF THE SALLE AUGUSTINE SOUBEIRAN

On the 31st October, we hosted a special evening to express our gratitude to our generous donors. As a not-for-profit, their unwavering support enables us to pursue our mission of promoting and celebrating French language and Francophone cultures. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Joel Hakim, David Kent, Bernard Le Boursicot, Brian and Gene Sherman and Lyn Tuit. Their incredible generosity and support have been instrumental in fostering the growth and success of Alliance Française de Sydney.



Bernard Le Boursicot, David Kent, Joël Hakim and Lyn Tuit



Denis Morandet, Hannah Cooper, Philippe Ostermann, David Kent, Joël Hakim, Lyn Tuit, Joanne Sarmiento, Dominique Barbeau, François Romanet and Bernard Le Boursicot



We were delighted to have Kambala School Deputy Principal Joanne Sarmiento join us. Kambala is one of the oldest institutions in Sydney, and Joanne's visit highlighted the strong bond between our two schools and countries.

During the evening, we took a moment to reflect on the legacy of one of our remarkable founders, Augustine Soubeiran. She was the President of the Alliance Française de Sydney in 1910, a co-principal at Kambala School in Rose Bay, and served as the Secretary of the French-Australian League of Help during World War I, providing vital support to French troops and civilians. Her legacy continues to inspire our organisation.

Our multi-purpose hall has officially been renamed "Salle Augustine Soubeiran" in her honour and in memory of her work for education, the teaching of French and contribution to peace.

As part of the Alliance Française French Film Festival, Alliance Française de Sydney invited members of the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association to a special private screening – a small gesture of gratitude for the people that keep us safe everyday yet often go unnoticed.

As a thank you for our nurses and midwives' hard work during the pandemic and beyond, they enjoyed a complimentary screening of Calbérac's 'The Tasting' alongside a well-earnt glass of French wine or champagne and a bucket of popcorn. What a delight to host a special event for the nurses of NSW.



Renatta Di Staso, Lyn Tuit and Samantha Lang

With our ambassador Samantha Lang, our team had the pleasure to welcome some of the amazing staff who fought for our community during the pandemic. Alliance Française de Sydney would like to thank them again for their true commitment. 'Mille mercis' for keeping us safe.



NSW Nurses and Midwives at Palace Verona



Samantha Lang and Anthony Kierann

List of Events

Word of Mouth NSW French teachers

Alliance Francaise French Film Festival

Philo Bistro March - Olivier Vojetta & Philippe Besson

140 ans du Mouvement Alliance Francaise

Philo Bistro May - Olivier Vojetta & Stephane Vojetta

Philo Bistro June - Olivier Vojetta & Marc Villemain

France: Land of Rugby with Peter FitzSimons & Nick Farr-Jones - Sport

Philo Bistro July - Olivier Vojetta & Paula Garcia and Bruno Bonelli

Bastille Day Party

Philo Bistro August - Olivier Vojetta & Jack Beaumont

A talk with Penelope Seidler - Architecture

Philo Bistro September - Olivier Vojetta & Camille Laurens

A talk with Nicolas Whitlam - Paris 1924

New Caledonia Short Film Festival and Gulaan concert

Philo Bistro October - Olivier Vojetta & Oscar Coop Phane

Inauguration of the Salle Augustine Soubeiran

Philo Bistro November - Olivier Vojetta & Sophie Beaumont

Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting

International French Teachers' Day in partnership with NAFT

Maria Callas: A concert in hologram at Sydney Opera House

Public Lecture: Marcel Proust - Jérôme Bastianelli from Quai Branly museum

Philo Bistro December - Olivier Vojetta, Nicolas Fargues and Elisa Shua Dusapin



A talk with Penelope Seidler



Journée Internationale des professeurs de français in partnership with NAFT



New Caledonia Short Film Festival - Gulaan concert



Maria Callas: A concert in Hologram