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Alliance Française de Melbourne
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 Victoria (AFTV) www.aftv.vic.edu.au
 Australian-French Association for
 Research and Innovation (AFRAN)
www.afran.org.au
 Australian French Association for
 Science and Technology
<https://afas.org.au>
 Australian Historical Association
www.theaha.org.au
 Bastille Day French Festival Melbourne
www.bastilledaymelbourne.com
 Bleu Blanc Rouge (Consular newsletter)
www.bbrvic.com/en
 French Assist Melbourne
www.frenchassistmelbourne.org.au
 French Australian Chamber of
 Commerce www.facci.com.au

ISFAR resources

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 in the field of French-Australian studies,
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Melbourne Salon 8 Dec 2021 with Hon. French Consul
 Mme Boisbouvier-Wylie

Message from the president

Dear ISFAR members and friends,

Shortly after we issued the last newsletter, French-Australian relations took a further turn for the worse with the recall of the French Ambassador from Canberra, although, as you know, he has since returned. I am sure we have all felt increasingly disheartened and helpless at the events which have taken place since September, and can only wait anxiously for the situation to improve. A vast array of news articles and interviews have been published on the topic, most of which you have no doubt already read (links to some articles written by ISFAR members appear in this issue). That said, if any of you have not yet heard the interview given by the Ambassador to [SBS French](#) on 18 September, I highly recommend it. Not only does M. Thébault (whom many of you heard speak at the opening of the ISFAR symposium in April this year), explain very clearly the French sentiment and reaction to this affair, he very reassuringly reiterates that this will not damage the individual and institutional partnerships we have established. Readers might also have heard M. Thébault's National Press Club address on 3 November. While the recording is no longer available on ABC i-view, a short excerpt appears in [this news article](#). As I said in my email to members in September, as a research and cultural organisation, it is not ISFAR's role to issue a political statement or opinion of any kind, but I encourage everyone to champion our strong French-Australian friendships and relationships wherever we can in our personal and professional lives, while we wait for relations to improve at the higher political levels. An excellent example of this was our recent Melbourne Salon (see photo above and p. 4).

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Speaking of politics, this is of course an extremely important time for French-Australian relations in our region with the third referendum in New Caledonia. There was much controversy around the date chosen for this referendum and its links with the forthcoming presidential elections in France in 2022. (Readers might be interested in a series of articles on this topic published by [The Conversation France](#) or available in French via The Conversation France newsletter.)

As well as the usual links to articles and events of interest, this issue of the newsletter contains a new feature: student and committee member profiles. We hope you enjoy learning more about our members and their interests and/or research projects. You will also find below news of various members' publications, including a new book by ISFAR life member and former committee member John Drury, and an article on the winner of the 2021 Ivan Barko Award, Andrew Montana.

It just remains for me to wish you all the very best for the end of this year and the start of the next one and to thank you for your continued support of ISFAR.

Kerry Mullan
 President

Thanks to Robyn Stern and Graham Neilson for the coordination and layout of this newsletter and to all the contributors. Please send feedback, suggestions for future topics and/or items for inclusion to isfarinc@gmail.com.

The Annual Ivan Barko Prize



The 2021 Ivan Barko Prize is awarded to Andrew Montana (Australian National University) for his article 'Virtue and Sentiment: Madame Mouchette's Art and Teaching in Melbourne 1881–1892' published in *The French Australian Review*, number 70, Australian Winter, 2021.

Andrew's research for this article focused on Berthe Mouchette's impact on women, in particular, during the twelve years of her life spent in Melbourne. She was a professional artist and teacher who fostered an appreciation of women's art through her own example and her student exhibitions. In so doing she expanded the public sphere in which women could operate in the evolving society of Melbourne towards the end of the nineteenth century.

This article is well-written and extensively researched and introduces aspects of Mouchette's life not yet dealt with in *The French Australian Review*. It provides a feminist perspective of Mouchette's work and impact on the lives of those around her.

Dr Andrew Montana is a senior lecturer at the Australian National University and researches in the areas of visual arts, architecture, design and the decorative arts. A PhD graduate of Melbourne University, he is the author of many articles on art and design and has written several books including *Fantasy Modern: Loudon Sainthill's Theatre of Art and Life*, (NewSouth Publishing (an imprint of University of New South Wales Press), Sydney, Australia, 2013), and *The Art Movement in Australia: design, taste and society 1875–1900* (Miegunyah Press, University of Melbourne Press, Carlton, Victoria, 2000).

The annual ISFAR Ivan Barko Prize is awarded by the ISFAR Committee on the recommendation of the editors of *The French Australian Review* to the author of the best refereed article published during the preceding year. Named after Professor Ivan Barko to mark his long and distinguished service to ISFAR, particularly as editor of *Explorations* and its successor *The French Australian Review*, this prize is intended to encourage research in all areas of French-Australian relations.



The Australian-French Association for Research and Innovation (AFRAN) aims to actively promote the development of cooperation between France and Australia in the areas of research and innovation.

AFRAN stems from a merger between the French Researchers in Australia Network (FRAN), formed by the French Embassy in Australia in 2012, and the Australian-French Association for Science and Technology (AFAS ACT Inc.). AFRAN was officially launched on the 13 September 2016 by the Ambassador of France to Australia.

The Association's goals are to provide Australian and French researchers, R&D managers, industry players, innovators and policy makers with frameworks to enable collaboration, cooperation, innovation and transformative thinking beyond the capability of individuals. AFRAN provides tools to initiate and grow bilateral research collaboration and bilateral innovation with global impact. It organises networking events and conferences. It also coordinates a network of experts and acts as a think tank for innovation to support research and technology communities as well as industry.

For more information and to receive their newsletter, consult the [AFRAN website](#).



Tahiti (UPF) Conference: Littérature et Politique (14-16 Nov 2022)

A conference on Literature and Politics will be held at the University of French Polynesia in November 2022. The conference will take place in the same week as the Writers' Festival (*Salon du Livre*) in Tahiti, and the organisers anticipate fruitful exchanges between the two events through cross-participation of critics and writers, of teachers and practitioners of literature.

Another element of cross-cultural encounter and reflection is the desire to bring the Francophone and Anglophone Pacific into greater dialogue than is often the case, as well as to offer a platform for exchange concerning indigenous-language literature of Oceania. Given the importance of political life for a number of writers, and the role played by some writers in politics, there are multiple approaches to the theme of the conference.

For more information, contact Professor Peter Brown, Département de Lettres, Langues et Sciences Humaines: peter.brown@upf.pf

The French Australian Review: Call for contributions

Are you a researcher, student or reader with a lively interest in some aspect of the interactions between France and Australia, both now and in the past? If so, the editors of **The French Australian Review** would like to hear from you.

The French Australian Review is the journal of the Institute for the Study of French-Australian Relations (ISFAR) isfar.org.au. It is published twice a year and contains articles and documents about the whole gamut of French-Australian relations, from artistic connections to the more formal relationships between our two countries; from the role of the French explorers and the records they left behind of their voyages, to the experience of French people who came here to build new lives for themselves.

The journal was founded in 1985 and was originally called **Explorations**. The founding editors were Dennis Davison, Wallace Kirsop and Colin Nettelbeck, all of whom were associated with Monash University at the time. From the start it has been a peer-reviewed journal, recognised by the Australian Research Council. Each issue contains a number of refereed articles, some shorter documents including book reviews and comprehensive bibliographical notes on recently published books having French-Australian connections. These include translations into French of Australian authors, books by Australian authors with French content and books published in France with Australian content—a fascinating and valuable resource.

The editors recently introduced a new occasional series, 'French-Australian Encounters', where we either invite or respond to a proposal for a piece about a recent 'encounter'. These personal stories provide insights into less formal aspects of French-Australian connections.

The history of French-Australian relations has had its ups and downs over the years. Attitudes, opinions and positions have changed. **The French Australian Review** is an extremely valuable record of these connections. If you would like to contribute to this ongoing story, please contact the editors at french.australian.review@gmail.com.

ISFAR Research Committee update

The co-Chairs of the Research Committee, Elizabeth Rechniewski and Alexis Bergantz, were invited to speak on [ABC Weekend Mornings with Simon Marnie on Sunday 27 November](#). The invitation was prompted by the publication of Alexis's book [French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions](#) as well as current events. They discussed the long history of French-Australian relations, from the voyages of discovery, through the nineteenth century. They talked about the ongoing links between the French and Australian wine industries (and ISFAR's new 'Wine Project' exploring that historical connection) and reflected on the contemporary period, including the tensions of the 1980s and 1990s and the more recent fallout over AUKUS and the termination of the submarine deal.

Bastille Day French Festival 2021 ISFAR quiz answers

For those of you who tried your hand at the BDFF ISFAR 2021 quiz in our last newsletter, the answers are provided below.

1. The weekly newspaper founded by Henri Rochefort was called: a. La Lanterne b. Le Communard c. La Paix
2. Who opened the Café estaminet français in Melbourne? a. Berthe Mouchette b. Antoine Fauchery c. Charlotte Crivelli
3. The Alliance française in Melbourne was founded in: a. 1895 b. 1898 c. 1890
4. Who was the first French consul in Sydney? a. Jean Faramond b. Louis Sentis c. Paul Maistre
5. Which city is twinned with Villers-Bretonneux? a. Sydney b. Robinvale c. Geelong
6. Who established the Hôpital australien in Paris in 1915? a. Hannah Sexton b. Louise Dyer c. Charlotte Crivelli
7. The masthead of the first edition of the *Courrier Australien* bore the title: a. Journal cosmopolitain du samedi b. Journal des Français de Sydney c. Journal commercial et politique
8. What was the name of ISFAR's journal before it became *The French Australian Review*? a. *The French-Australian Journal* b. *French Australian Studies* c. *Explorations*
9. Who was entitled to a free cremation? a. Louis Laure b. Marie Lion c. Charles Lancial
10. Who wrote the novel whose English title is *The Gods Intervene*? a. Berthe Mouchette b. Paul Wenz c. Marie Lion
11. In which territory did French women receive the vote for the first time? a. New Hebrides b. New Caledonia c. mainland France
12. To which territory was Australia's first spy sent? a. New Caledonia b. New Hebrides c. French Polynesia

Answers. 1.a; 2.b; 3.c; 4.a; 5.b; 6.a; 7.a; 8.c; 9.b; 10.c; 11.a; 12.b

In other Bastille Day French Festival news, two ISFAR members Véronique Duché (President) and Pauline Georgelin (Secretary) have joined the new Executive of the Festival. We look forward very much to attending the Festival in person in 2022!

Committee Member profile: Elaine Lewis, Chevalier dans l'Ordre des palmes académiques, Editor of the *French Australia Review*

Despite being a native-born Australian and growing up in a small Australian country town, my involvement with the French language and culture began at an early age, mainly through the world of books and music, but also piqued by my father's travel tales and memories of his 'Grand Tour' just before World War 11.

At secondary school I enjoyed studying French, German and Latin and later, at Melbourne University's Conservatorium of Music, I majored in Piano and Singing and fell in love with French chanson and French composers. I graduated with a Mus. Bac. and a Dip. Ed., qualified to teach music and French, the latter thanks to Manuel Gelman. I particularly loved teaching and bringing to life French literature and culture.

Then, for twelve years, in both Victoria and NSW, I was employed to write music courses for various levels, including adults. This was valuable experience as we did our own layout and I became adept at proof-reading. Back at university (UNSW) in the late eighties I studied Ethnomusicology and taught History of Music and Aural Training at tertiary level, weaving French culture into lectures when possible.

In 1996 I created the Australian Bookshop on the historic Quai des Grands-Augustins, Paris. This was not a commercial enterprise—I wanted to promote the Australian arts in France. And so began a wonderful experience where I acted as a kind of mediator between francophone and anglophone (Australian) culture and the bookshop became a meeting-place for those interested in Australia, its arts and people. When bureaucratic obstacles and the advent of the internet in France led to the closing of the Australian Bookshop, more than one hundred French university lecturers signed a petition attesting to the value of the bookshop for them and their students.

Committee Member profile: Jane Gilmour OAM, Editor of the *French Australia Review*

My love of French language and literature dates back to my time at school when in our final years we had a young French woman as our teacher. I then went on to do honours in French at the ANU. After graduating, and being awarded a travelling scholarship, it was off to Paris for me to enrol in a Doctorat de l'Université de Paris (D.U.P.). I spent three and a half years in Paris researching and writing my thesis on the French writer Colette's use of imagery. To live in Paris in the late 60s and early 70s was a wonderful experience and I still have very vivid memories of defending my thesis before three professors in one of the fine old lecture theatres of the Sorbonne.

A career as an academic did not eventuate. When I arrived back in Australia after a further two years away, travelling and living in New York, I decided that being a tutor in a French department was not what I wanted to do. So I spent 10 years at the Australia Council for the Arts, and then more years working as a consultant in the arts and cultural industries. In the early 90s, my professional career took another direction when I became CEO of the Earthwatch Institute – Australia.

When I retired from full-time work I continued working as a consultant and in non-executive roles, including as a Councillor of RMIT University, a Director of the International Centre for Excellence in Water Resources Management, and other positions. My non-executive work continues to this day as Chair of The William Buckland Foundation.

In 1997 I joined the committee of the Franco-anglais Poetry Festival (Paris) and began translating for them. During the next twenty years I translated francophone poets from France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Haiti (published in *La Traductière, Etchings, Mascara....*) and in 2008 I brought the Franco-anglais Poetry Festival to Melbourne, another rewarding French-Australian experience.

In 2004 I began a PhD at Melbourne University and commenced researching 'Australian books in Europe'. This was interrupted in 2005 when Random House commissioned me to write a book about the Australian Bookshop. (*Left Bank Waltz: the Australian Bookshop in Paris*, 2006).

After returning to Melbourne I had become actively interested in ISFAR and in 2009 Ivan Barko asked me to be Deputy (and Book Review) Editor of *Explorations* (now *The French Australian Review*). He also suggested I write some Bibliographical Notes for each issue and then, in 2016, I became Co-editor of the review. My experience as a musician, teacher, writer and bookshop owner has proved invaluable as I continue to express my love of French culture and to research French-Australian connections.

On a personal level I am attached to France through my musician son, David, who studied at the Paris Conservatorium and has lived in France for over thirty-five years. I also have two French-Australian grandchildren.



Elaine Lewis, 2019 Photo by Di Cousens

Not working full-time was the opportunity for me to bring to fruition an idea that had been bouncing around in my mind for a while—a book about Colette, told through the various places in France where she lived throughout her life. What a great excuse for lots of travel back to France, visiting all the places that provided the landscapes and backgrounds to Colette's life and her writing. *Colette's France: her lives her loves* was published in 2013.

I am very grateful to Elaine Lewis, for suggesting to me I might like to become involved with ISFAR. It was in 2016 that I became one of the editors of the journal, *The French Australian Review*. My involvement in the French community in Melbourne was further extended when I took on the role of President of the Bastille Day French Festival from 2017 to 2019.

Just as so many Australians love France and things French, it is a pleasure to see that the feelings are reciprocated and so many French people have settled here and contributed to the vitality of our city and our nation—culturally, commercially, and in the scientific and technological spheres.



Jane Gilmour

Student Member profile: Lina Vale

The most rewarding aspect of completing a Bachelor of Journalism was undertaking a Diploma of Languages in French at the same time. I felt at home in the French department at RMIT University, which prompted me to continue with my studies there. This took me to Paris, where I wrote an honours thesis about how a different language and culture can influence a person's sense of self. The project involved analysing several travel memoirs while conducting an autoethnography about my own relationship with the French language and culture.

After returning to Melbourne, I wanted to go back to Paris and dreamt of starting a PhD through a cotutelle between universities in both cities. When I was accepted into the PhD program at the University of Melbourne, and then at the Sorbonne Nouvelle for a cotutelle, it seemed too good to be true. During the second year, I moved to Paris to complete part of my thesis and met writers whose work I am researching, immersed myself in the community at the Sorbonne and started teaching there. Then coronavirus swept through all of our lives and turned them upside down. Thus, I have ended up researching and writing a large portion of my thesis in Paris but 'locked down' in a studio flat. While I have not experienced Paris as I had imagined, I have come to know the city, people, language and culture in ways that I would not have otherwise.

My PhD thesis centres on a literary archetype I have named '*une femme déplacée*' who appears in texts from the fin-de-siècle through to the present. Writers such as Colette, Gustave Flaubert, Elsie Triolet and Émile Zola have all written about *des femmes déplacées*. Part of defining this woman as *déplacée* is examining how she adapts to different time periods, cultural practices and social circumstances.

Therefore, I have chosen three female writers from various generations and places, who came to Paris and wrote, or continue to write, about *des femmes déplacées*. Jean Rhys was born in 1890 on the Caribbean island of Roseau, Dominica, where she spoke English and French Creole; Nancy Huston was born in 1953 in Calgary, Alberta, an anglophone part of Canada; and Leïla Slimani was born in 1981 in Rabat, Morocco where she grew up in a French-speaking family. Despite the different backgrounds of each writer, comparing their narratives illuminates significant parallels between the mood, style, plot, environment and protagonists. I analyse each text, consider the biographical details of each writer and weave together the findings to shed light on why *une femme déplacée* is a compelling archetype to recognise as an embodiment of female otherness.

I am still living in Paris and close to finishing my thesis, which I hope to turn into a book. In the meantime, I have been copy-editing *The French Australian Review* for ISFAR and this is an interesting role that enables me to work alongside colleagues old and new, while keeping abreast of French-Australian relations.



Lina Vale

One of my chapters examines the dynamics of Australia's relationship with France concerning the Mediterranean theatre. I'm interested in how the soldiers fighting in that region felt about the French (and vice versa) because they were friends and foes at the same time. How did they reconcile this apparent incongruity? How did they differentiate between the Free French and Vichy French, if at all? I also wondered how the Australian government could, on the one hand, advocate strongly for the invasion of Vichy French territory yet maintain diplomatic relations with that government until 1942.

Although the Australian-French relationship is only a part of my PhD thesis, I hope to look more closely at the Australian-French relationship and its history in future projects. If you'd like to get in touch with me (perhaps you know of material that might be of interest to my research, or something else entirely!), you can contact me by email at n.townsend@unsw.edu.au. I'm always keen to talk about my work and/or collaborate with other researchers.



Nicole Townsend

Student Member profile: Nicole Townsend

I'm a military historian by trade and am currently completing my PhD in History at the University of New South Wales, Canberra. My research focuses on the Australian experience in the Mediterranean during the Second World War, but I also currently work as a researcher for the Official History of Australian Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and freelance research assistant.

I first became interested in France and French studies when I studied the language in high school and fell in love with France's language, culture, history and music. Although I specialise in the Second World War generally, and my current research examines a particular theatre within that conflict, I have been lucky to indulge my French interests along the way. During the Second World War, Australian troops found themselves fighting alongside Free French troops after the fall of France in 1940. However, the French soon became their enemy because Australian troops invaded Vichy French-controlled Lebanon and Syria in mid-1941. At the same time, Australia continued to maintain diplomatic relations with the Free French government in exile and the Vichy French government in France for the first half of the war. Funnily enough, very little had been written about Australia's complex relationship with France during the Second World War.

My PhD thesis examines why the Mediterranean theatre was important to Australia specifically (because previous studies generally focus on the theatre's importance to the British).

The 2021 Melbourne Salons

This year ISFAR held two Melbourne Salons, one online, one in person; the second was our first in-person event for two years and we are very fortunate that it was hosted by the Honorary Consulate General of France in Melbourne.

The first Melbourne Salon on 12 October was given by Dr Pauline Georgelin and entitled “What did it mean to be French in Australia during the First World War?”. The talk focused on how French Australians responded to the Great War and considered the role of French identity and culture in the wider pro-war discourse. Based on her PhD research in Australian and French archives, Pauline discussed how this cultural mobilisation occurred in a variety of contexts, both civilian and military, through connections between French people and Australians. In Australia, support for France stood alongside loyalty to the British Empire as a reason to continue fighting, and to encourage recruitment, while French cultural symbols inspired support for French war charities. French identity was defined not only by the French residents of Australia, but also by Francophiles and francophones, and Australians more generally, often linked to patriotism.



The second Melbourne Salon was held on 8 December at the Honorary Consulate General of France in Melbourne. It was a privilege to hear the Honorary Consul General of France, Mme Myriam Boisbouvier-Wylie, talking about “Les joies et les tribulations d’une consule honoraire”. Mme Boisbouvier-Wylie gave us a fascinating insight into the world of diplomacy and being an Honorary Consul, speaking candidly and animatedly about the most rewarding and the most challenging aspects of her role. One French Assist (FrenchAssistMelbourne.org.au) member spoke beautifully from the heart on behalf of everyone present when she paid tribute to Mme Boisbouvier-Wylie’s contributions to the French speaking community in Melbourne. Dr Dianne Reilly presented Mme Boisbouvier-Wylie with a small gift by way of thanks for this wonderful and rich exchange. It was also the perfect occasion for everyone to come together after so long; the strong and longstanding local French-Australian friendships and connections were on display throughout the evening.



Do you know about the mailing list oz-french?

oz-french@googlegroups.com is a closed group e-mail list intended for all academics in Australia and New Zealand working in the broad area of French Studies. Membership is open to all scholars, teaching staff and postgraduate students with an interest in French Studies. Although the purpose is to facilitate communication within the discipline in Australia and New Zealand, membership is not confined to those two countries. The languages of oz-french are English and French.

The group is unmoderated. Contributors send their posts to oz-french and they are immediately sent to all subscribers. The only rule governing submissions to the list is that they should be of interest to scholars in our discipline. Possible subjects might include the following (but need not be restricted to them):

- News of conferences (announcements or reports on proceedings)
- Information about distinguished overseas visitors in the discipline
- Special lectures or other events relating to French Studies in the Australian/New Zealand context
- Information about recent publications or about material relating to the teaching of French at tertiary level.

The oz-french mailing list was managed for over a decade by the late Bert Peeters. Kerry Mullan took over the group management following his untimely passing in February 2021. To join the list, please go to oz-french@googlegroups.com and request to join the group.

New publication

Two French Sisters in Australia 1881–1922 Berthe Mouchette and Marie Lion Artists and Teachers

Culture in Melbourne was changed in 1881 when two French women, Berthe Mouchette and her sister Marie Lion, came to Australia. The sisters were artists and teachers who had exhibited at the Paris Salon and they soon established studios in Collins Street.

Berthe and Marie spent forty-one years in Melbourne and Adelaide. They taught painting and the French language, and purchased 'Oberwyl' school in St Kilda where they started the Alliance Française in Australia. During the depression of the early 1890s, the sisters sold the school and moved to Adelaide where they became involved in the South Australian art scene. They opened studios and tutored members of Adelaide society. The sisters were founding members of the Adelaide branch of the Alliance Française, members of the Theosophical Society and founding members of the Cremation Society.

Influenced by their interest in Theosophy, they were early travellers to India and Tibet. After they returned to Adelaide Marie Lion wrote two novels based on her own experiences and another about the French Revolution. When war broke out in 1914, the sisters travelled to Paris and volunteered as nurses in a Paris hospital.

In the 1920s, the sisters were instrumental in Adelaide's adoption of the town of Dernancourt in the Somme. Berthe is memorialised today in the Gallery of Heroes in Albert. Marie died in 1922 and Berthe soon returned to a Paris strongly affected by the war. The Alliance Française in Melbourne established an annual poetry competition for school children, the Concours Berthe Mouchette in her honour.

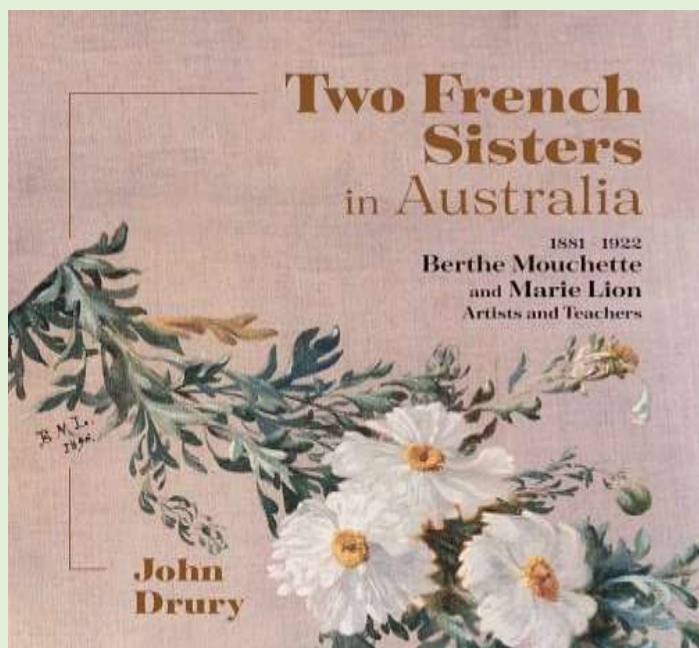
This is an important biography and social history, detailing the influence of the French in Melbourne and Adelaide through the lives of these two French sisters.

Author

John Drury OAM is a founding member of the Institute for the Study of French Australian Relations (ISFAR), and a co-founder of the C.J. La Trobe Society. John has written a number of papers for the journal *Explorations*, now the *French Australian Review*, and has contributed entries for Berthe Mouchette and Marie Lion to the [French-Australian Dictionary of Biography](#). He published a lavishly-illustrated book, *The Making of a Statue, Charles Joseph La Trobe*, describing the process of creating the sculpture he commissioned in 2006. John has a lifelong love of France and has travelled there frequently.

The book was launched on 30 November 2021 by the Honorary Consul General of France in Melbourne, Mme Myriam Boisbouvier-Wylie.

Copies of the book are available from Anchor Books at: www.anchorbooksaustralia.com.au



VALE MADAME FRANCOISE (Soizik) ARUNDEL, née Francoise Pedron-Bouhour, late of 36 Broseley Rd, Toowong, Brisbane.

This is to inform you of the passing of a former ANU French lecturer at the School of Languages who taught in the 1960's and again in the 1980's. She was much admired by students for her buoyant enthusiasm and creative style in her teaching expression. She also taught in schools in Melbourne and lately at 3UA in Brisbane.

As a native of Nantes, Brittany, France, Soizik was a keen, loyal and enduring supporter of French language and culture. She was also very active in the Alliance Française in Canberra and Brisbane.

In the early 1990's her husband was appointed Australian Defence Attaché in France, Brussels and Geneva. She assisted him greatly in this role. Soizik was acknowledged by the French Government recently by bestowing on her the highest order of merit: The Legion of Honour.

Over the past 30 years, along with other broadcasters, Soizik researched, prepared and presented weekly programs about French literature and culture, broadcast on Radio 4EB. It gave her sustained satisfaction to do this work, for Soizik applied her utmost efforts to set the highest standards and the most satisfactory listener outcomes possible, and for which she was quietly humbled to receive listener gratitude and station appreciation.

She is survived by her husband, Capt. Richard Arundel Rtd, Marie-Ange Arundel, Pascale Haston, Mark Arundel.

Received from Marie-Ange Arundel

The following links may be of interest:

All things French and francophone in Australia in December: [Matilda Marseillaise](#)

What's on Melbourne: [How to visit France in Melbourne](#)

The Embassy of France in Australia has launched its new platform [Sacreblue.org](#). It is 'designed to bring together institutions, organisations and individuals who create cultural and intellectual bridges between France and Australia' in a variety of forms, from news, in-depth articles, and podcasts, and covers a variety of areas and interests. Sacreblue is split into five categories:

- **Shape the Future** - *A disruptive and enlightening approach to history, sciences, innovation and technology, to foster French-Australian conversations in the Indo-Pacific region.*
- **Arts & Culture** - *A visual, auditive and cultural experience with respected artists and rising stars, classical masterpieces and hidden chefs d'œuvre, with a French flavour. Within the Art & Culture category there are the following sub-categories:*
 - Film
 - Music
 - Art/Design
 - Performing Arts
- **Pardon My French!** - *The French language has a unique appeal and it is actually much easier to learn than you would think- so no excuse, it's time to start speaking French, now!*
- **So Trendy-** *Being French is a lifestyle, and here is the place to educate yourself about the art-de-vivre in the following sub-categories:*
 - Tourism
 - Gastronomy
 - Sports
 - Fashion
 - Architecture
- **Rendez-Vous-** *This is where you'll find the main French-Australian exhibitions and festivals such as the upcoming Matisse exhibition in Sydney and the Chanel manifesto exhibition opening in Melbourne in December.*

Sacreblue is proudly funded by the Embassy of France, but the initiative is supported by, and will feature, many contributors and partners.

Articles of interest:

Alexis Bergantz published [Australia should have seen France's hurt coming](#) in Meanjin Quarterly. Alexis was also interviewed by Amy Mullin on RRR Uncommon Sense on the same topic [Uncommon Sense, 28 september 2021](#).

Peter McPhee published [Submarines and Vaccines: France's 2022 Presidential Elections](#) in Pursuit.

Barbara Santich published [Hidden Histories: French-flavoured wine](#) with Wakefield Press.

Stephen Alomes has written a chapter in Stephen Alomes, Robert Mezyk and Sang-Chul Park, eds. [The European Union - New leaderships and new agendas](#), Connor Court, Redland Bay, 2021 in which he compares Malcolm Turnbull and Emmanuel Macron in terms of leadership and celebrity.

ABC News article: [New Caledonia's pro-independence groups say they'll contest today's referendum results with plans to abstain in protest](#)