

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Alliance Française de Sydney
A.B.N 23 151 008 606, A.C.N 000 783 139

Alliance Française de Sydney
Cultural Foundation
A.B.N 14 630 718 937



Alliance Française
Sydney

About us

Alliance Française de Sydney (AFS) is an independent, not-for-profit language and cultural organisation promoting Franco-Australian exchange. With more than 128 years' experience in teaching French, AFS offers a wide range of French courses and services for all levels and ages, both online and at its CBD and Chatswood locations.

With an ambitious mission to spread the French language and culture well beyond the borders of France, it is one of 834 Alliances Françaises in 133 countries all over the world and the most highly-regarded school for learning French in Sydney.

Situated in the heart of Sydney in an attractive building designed by the famous architect Harry Seidler, AFS offers French courses, holds cultural events and includes a media centre and a French café. Alliance Française de Sydney also offers French courses to North Sydneysiders with classes for kids at the Dougherty Community Centre in Chatswood.

Since 1989, Alliance Française de Sydney has organised the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival (AFFFF). This prestigious festival has become a very important event in Australia with an exponential increase in attendees every year.

Our missions:

- Promote the learning and use of the French language in our state
- Enhance the knowledge of Francophone cultures
- Contribute to the cultural and linguistic diversity of Sydney
- Contribute to and be a part of the innovative network of Alliance Française branches around the world

Our values:

The Alliance Française de Sydney embraces diversity and promotes understanding of cultural diversity through its extensive range of events and experiences.

We collaborate closely with other organisations which share the traditional French values of “liberty, equality and fraternity”.

We are apolitical but steadfast in our desire to bring people together from all walks of life in a safe and respectful learning environment.

We respect our environment, as protecting our planet is key to all our futures.

Contents

<u>ABOUT US</u>	2
<u>HIGHLIGHTS</u>	4
<u>PRESIDENT'S REPORT</u>	6
<u>DIRECTOR OF STUDIES' REPORT</u>	7
<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>	9
<u>OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES</u>	10
<u>TESTIMONIALS</u>	12
<u>BUILDING</u>	13
<u>ISSUES & CHALLENGES</u>	13
<u>STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT</u>	14
<u>BOARD & MANAGEMENT</u>	14
<u>PEOPLE</u>	16
<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u>	20
<u>SUPPORTERS</u>	21
<u>GOVERNMENT SUPPORT</u>	24
<u>MEMBERS</u>	24
<u>HISTORY</u>	26
<u>ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE SYDNEY CULTURAL FOUNDATION</u>	27
<u>OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES</u>	28
<u>STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT</u>	33

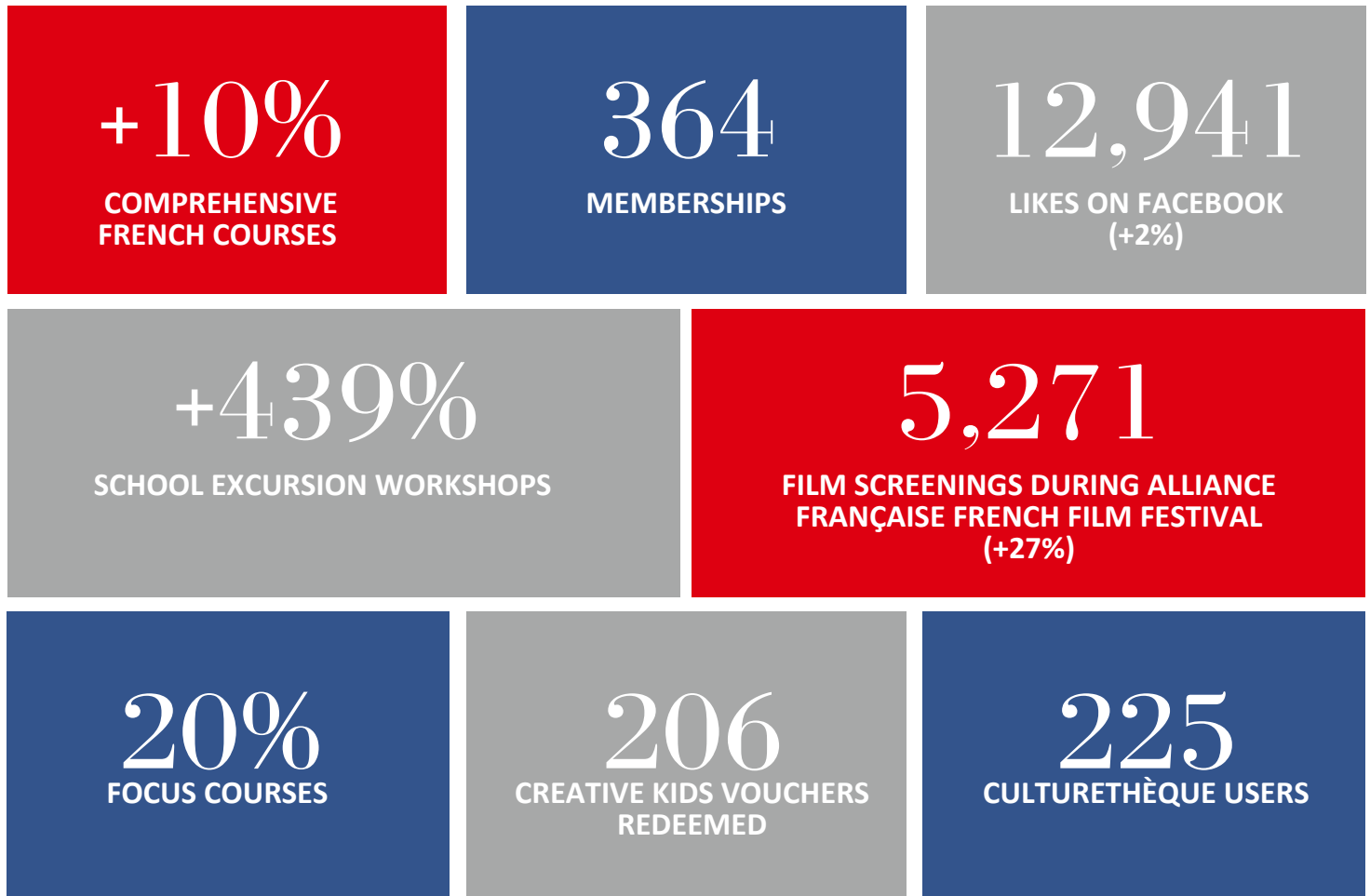




Anne Boillon (Consul General), HE Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of NSW, Lyn Tuit (President of Alliance Française de Sydney) and Dennis Wilson

Highlights

Alliance Française de Sydney | 2022 at a glance





Fondation Alliance Française | 2021 international snapshot

491,000

FRENCH LEARNERS THROUGHOUT
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK

834

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE CENTRES IN 133
COUNTRIES OVER 5 CONTINENTS

6,300

VOLUNTEERS

184,000

FRENCH EXAM CANDIDATES
WORLDWIDE

28 million

HOURS OF TUITION
SOLD

3,3 million

ATTENDEES AT
CULTURAL EVENTS

1,8 million

REGULAR USES OF 466
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE MEDIA
CENTRES

2,6 million

MONTHLY WEBSITE USERS

President's Report

As anticipated, 2022 was a year of recovery after two successive years of lockdowns and disruptions related to the pandemic. Return to in-person classes was initially slow due to the Omicron outbreak, but by the end of the year, classes at our two sites represented 70% of our total student intake. The year also saw the resumption on site of our complete range of children's courses, some of which were unable to be delivered during the pandemic.

We were particularly pleased to see that adult enrolments increased by 11% as students returned to group classes after investing in private tuition in their lockdown leisure hours in 2021. The online programs remained popular, catering to those who were reluctant to attend in person and those who, for geographical or other reasons, preferred the convenience of the online environment. The board is very appreciative of the work of our teaching and administrative team whose collective efforts made these results possible.

Wild weather struck Sydney and other parts of the country in March and April, leading to two weeks of the Alliance Française French Film Festival being rained out. This impacted the attendance, as did the ongoing reluctance of some patrons to return to cinemas. Despite this, Sydney alone welcomed over 50,000 visitors to the festival program of 42 films. Sydney, as the only Alliance Française in Australia which has continuously presented the festival for thirty-three years, is responsible for raising the funds to make this festival possible. Against all expectations and in very difficult circumstances, Philippe Ostermann succeeded in raising a record level of commercial support, thereby enabling the festival to be placed on a more stable footing.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our corporate partners and wholeheartedly congratulate and thank them for their dedication and commitment to this festival which is a highlight in Sydney's cultural calendar.

Other highlights of 2022 include the return of our traditional Bastille Day event, which this year was themed 'France Around the World'. Celebrating to the vibes of legendary Malian musician Moussa Diakite, over 1000 guests sampled French cuisine and enjoyed the entertainment at the Argyle.

The Alliance Française de Sydney made history in St Jean du Gard in September when the town named a square after Augustine Soubeiran, one of the founders of our Alliance. On holidays in France at the time, I was able to meet the family of this exceptional woman who became the second woman only (after Joan of Arc) to have a street named after her in this charming village in the Cevennes.

The company is pleased to announce that as of early 2023 and in spite of the difficulties of the previous two years, it will be debt-free as plans are underway to reimburse the remaining balance of our Commonwealth Bank loan. The Alliance Française de Sydney's financial results for the year ending 2022 included an EBITDA of \$75,335 with a net loss of \$176,067 after depreciation.

Valerie Nicolas, the General Manager, departed in April. The executive management team of Dominique Giovanangeli, Denis Morandet and Philippe Ostermann is to be congratulated on their outstanding team effort to manage the company from April till the end of the year.

The board of directors is also to be thanked for their long hours and dedication to ensuring that the company operates effectively. Their specialised skill sets are an invaluable resource for the management team. On a personal level, I am very appreciative of their support and their commitment to the company.

This year we farewelled Anne Boillon, the Consul-General and welcomed her replacement Martin Juillard to Sydney. A regular at Alliance Française de Sydney's events, we wish Anne all the best in her future role. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Consulate as we have done in the past.



Lyn TUIT
President,
Alliance Française de
Sydney

Director of Studies



Denis MORANDET

Director of Studies,
Alliance Française de Sydney

2022 started with the Omicron wave forcing us to shift to online delivery once again and nimbly adapt to restrictions and challenges. A few months later, the floods disrupted the return to face-to-face tuition. Despite this, we were able to achieve an excellent year, in line with our goals and objectives.

The language school has, once again, been very successful, with more than 5,000 enrolments and 105,000 hours taught. This represents an increase of 5% compared to 2021, with adult courses leading the charge (+11%).

Online teaching remained strong with 45% of those hours delivered online and we welcomed more than 2,000 students to our premises. Following the disruptions of the pandemic, the DELF-DALF and TCF certifications were also immensely popular, with 415 students taking French official language exams to certify their level of proficiency in French.

The ongoing success of the language school is directly attributable to the commitment and dedication of both teaching and administrative staff. This includes the teachers who always find new strategies to motivate and guide their students toward success; the customer service team (Caroline Seltz, Sophia Blesch, Sandra Clément-Moser, Lon Wetzelaer and Elisabeth Mascaro) who always strive to help and guide our students, members and patrons and Dominique Giovanangeli for his, often undetected, but crucial contribution with accounting and compliance. Sophie Jarre, Lauriane Deuff and Alexia Lebouc also played a key role in this success. They provided constant support to the teaching staff as well as indispensable administrative support to the company. Their dedication to maintaining quality and achieving higher standards has been crucial. Last but not least, a special mention to Madelyn Choong for her leadership in business development. Her influence and skills are widely recognised and truly appreciated, and her unfailing kindness and positive demeanour are a source of inspiration to our team.

We would also like to acknowledge Cécile Reyes, our Media Centre Manager and Virginie Le Lay, our Office Manager, who, on top of their daily responsibilities, went above and beyond to deliver an amazing edition of our traditional Bastille Day event, with more than 1,000 participants joining us at the Argyle this year.

As part of the international Alliance Française network, the Alliance Française de Sydney also welcomes interns at the end of their Master Degree of Teaching French as a foreign Language. Julian Escavabaja and Vinh Parneix both joined for a 6-month period where they discovered the exciting and busy life of a language centre, wrote their thesis and refined their teaching skills.

2022 highlighted Alliance Française de Sydney's agility and ability to adapt in an always-changing environment. It also confirmed that the choices made are leading us towards more stability and greater accomplishments.



David Wehnam (Festival Patron and Actor) and Karine Mauris (Embassy Cultural Attachée)



Lyn Tuit (Board President)



Student Party



French Film Festival Volunteers



Philo Bistro

Financial report

To view the financial report, please click [here](#)



Philippe Ostermann (Business Development Manager), Anaïs LeLoup (National Festival Manager), Anthony Kierann (Board Member)



Natalie Ward (Minister for Metropolitan Roads, Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence in 2022)



HE Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales)



AFS Staff (Elisabeth, Caroline, Sofia, Alexia, Sophie, Virginie, Dominique and Julian)



David Wehnam, Lyn Tuit, Anthony Kierann and Annabelle Gigliotti (Organic)



Graziella Bland, Cécile Reyes-Chauvet, Bruce Bland, Bruno Chauvet

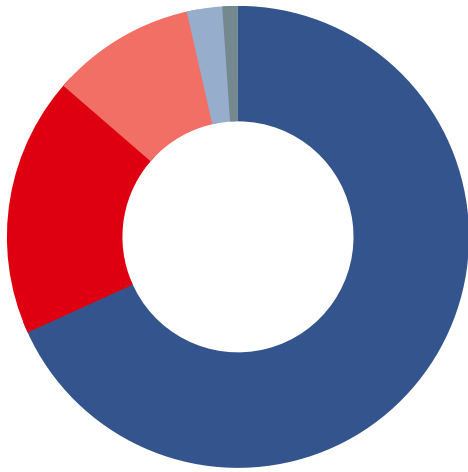
Objectives and Activities

SUMMARY OF ENROLMENTS

COURSE TYPE	2020	2021	2022	DIFFERENCE*
ADULT COURSES				
Comprehensive French	2,205	2,062	2,265	+10%
Courses [A1.1-C2 levels]	499	508	529	+4%
Focus Courses	115	167	200	+20%
Travelling to France Course	13	0	64	
French Culture Workshops	89	98	173	-43%
TEENS COURSES				
Term Courses [A1-B2 levels]	298	244	220	-10%
Holiday Courses [A1-B2 levels]	179	125	101	-19%
HSC Preparation Workshops	197 (hours sold)	162 (hours sold)	134 (hours sold)	-17%
KIDS COURSES				
Term Courses [Loustics 1-3]	558	630	501	-20%
Holiday Courses [A1-A2 levels]	40	26	31	+19%
PRIVATE TUITION				
Private and semi-private	2,865 (hours sold)	4,567 (hours sold)	2,077 (hours sold)	-55%
FRENCH FOR SCHOOL GROUPS				
School Excursion Workshops	71	172	927	+439%
Off-site Extracurricular French	2,102 (hours sold)	1641 (hours sold)	1872 (hours sold)	+14%
Teacher Professional Development	1,197 (hours sold)	238 (hours sold)	223 (hours sold)	-6%

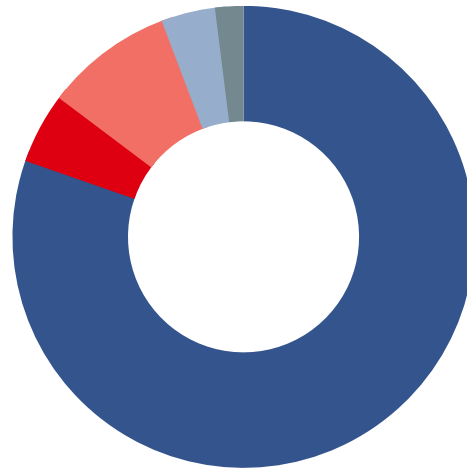
*Percentage indicates difference between 2021 to 2022 year-over-year results.

Breakdown of Adult Course hours sold in 2022 :



- Standard Course (68%)
- Easy Going (18%)
- Conversation (10%)
- Private Tuition (3%)
- DELF (1%)

Breakdown of hours sold in 2021:



- Adults (80%)
- Teens (5%)
- Kids (9%)
- External Schools (4%)
- Private tuition (2%)

EXAMS

Alliance Française de Sydney is the only centre in Sydney accredited to deliver the DELF, DALF, DAEFLE and TCF series exams. These internationally recognised diplomas and certificates attest to a student’s level of proficiency in French, and are used to pursue a variety of personal and professional objectives throughout the Francophone world.

Several exam sessions organised in 2022 were interrupted by the lockdowns and restrictions in place for Sydney during much of this year. Alexia Lebouc is to be thanked for her efforts in providing this valuable opportunity to students.

In late 2022, Virginie Le Lay took over from Alexia Lebouc in a changed role after the end of her international volunteering at the Alliance. The volume of exams increased dramatically as a lot of students had postponed during the pandemic.

Exam	Number of candidates
DELF	330
DALF	21
TCF	63
DAEFLE	9



Testimonials



"The holiday course at Alliance Française was super. I had so much fun and learnt so much that would help me in school later on. The teacher and the other students were fantastic and so friendly, and activities were lots of fun and very helpful in improving my French speaking and comprehension skills. I would definitely want to do a French holiday course again!"

"This course has been extremely fun and a great experience. In the past 4 days we have learnt a lot as well as having fun."

"I really like the fact that the teacher speaks mostly French to us, it really helps our pronunciation as well as just in general because it's more effective to learn a language with a native speaker. I really like this class. =)"

"The holiday course is an incredible opportunity for total French immersion and amazing teaching. During the most recent teen course, we've been encouraged to widen our vocabulary and enjoy the class, with games and exercises which reinforce what we've been taught at school. It's been an amazing opportunity and one I hope to get again in the future."

"Good & helpful course, going in depth more so than in normal class (which is good and useful). Overall, I think the course has helped me improve heaps."

Building

Early in 2022, the building management committee investigated opportunities for pursuing legal action regarding the installation of ACP cladding panels in the building. In spite of our best endeavours, it was not possible to proceed for a number of reasons including the expiry of the statutory time limit and cost. The removal of the cladding in 2021 had no impact on insurance premiums. As anticipated, there was a significant increase due to external events unrelated to the Alliance Française Centre.

We worked closely with the City of Sydney on a proposal to expand the terrace area of the café. This would have enabled the café to enhance its outdoor dining offer. Unfortunately, the transport authorities declined to support the proposal but we are hopeful that a redevelopment of the Clarence Street footpath environment will eventually be possible.

A ten-year capital works program has been prepared for the building by an external consultant. As the building is ageing, having such a plan in place will ensure adequate provision for forthcoming works.

Waste management has also been a focus this year with a plan in place to reduce waste from tenants. The committee also renewed its green energy contract for electricity.

We are particularly grateful to Robert Toland for his assistance and advice. We would also like to thank board member Hannah Cooper and Michael Peters from the commercial strata for their support.

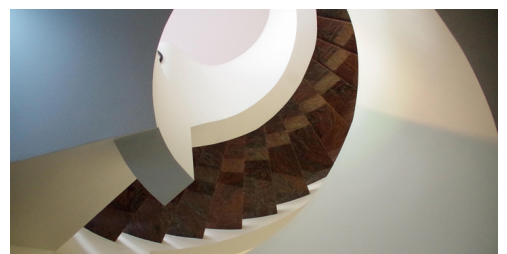
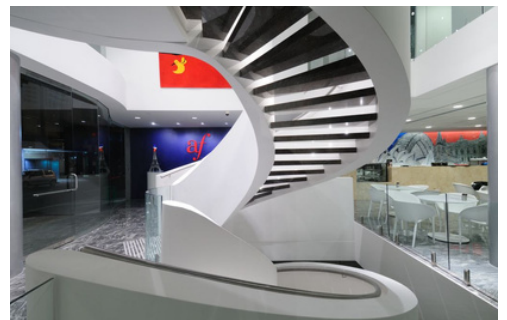
Going forward, the management of contracts and suppliers will be the focus for the committee's work in 2023.

Issues & Challenges

In 2022, the company's remote learning model remained in place and was the preferred delivery mode of approximately 45% of students. However, as the threat of the pandemic gradually diminished, there was an increase in the pace of students returning to on-site learning throughout the year. Providing both traditional and remote learning opportunities in line with student preferences has significant logistical and practical implications that require careful management.

The Omicron wave had a considerable impact on our business activity in early 2022. Courses that were scheduled onsite had to be shifted online within a day during the holiday season. In addition, the progressive return to on site learning during the first trimester had to be in line with shifting COVID policies. Despite these challenges, we efficiently transitioned to a balanced offer that was extremely successful in the second semester.

The new policies for Working Holiday visas were instrumental in helping us secure an important part of our teaching staff for more than the usual six-month period. This enabled us to limit turnover and stabilise the teaching team. As a result, our key indicators steadily increased in the second half of the year, including the number of hours sold, re-enrolment rate, and customer satisfaction levels.



Structure & Management

Alliance Française de Sydney is a not-for-profit independent company registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Board & Governance

The Alliance Française is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with a very engaged and dedicated board of non-executive, unpaid directors. The board held 11 meetings in addition to standing and ad-hoc sub-committee meetings. The strategic focus for 2022 was to rebuild on-site class numbers in the post-pandemic transition period, expand online class numbers and increase the audience and reach of the Alliance Française French Film Festival. New policies were developed including the conflict of interest, social media, media, personal relationships in the workplace and sponsorship recognition policies, and existing policies were revised including the child protection policy, delegations and credit card policies. The board and senior management induction kit and the employee health and safety handbook were also updated. Sub-committees enable the board to work in depth and provide expertise in specialist areas.

Building Management Committee (BMC) – standing committee

Members of the committee include Lyn Tuit (Chair), Hannah Cooper and Dominique Giovanangeli representing the Alliance Française de Sydney, and Michael Peters and Robert Toland representing the commercial strata of the building.

The objectives of this committee include:

- Oversight of the building's finances, budget and audit
- Ensuring compliance with relevant legislation
- Oversight of the maintenance and management of the property.

One of the key areas of focus for the BMC in the first part of 2022 was the instigation of legal proceedings against parties involved in the selection and installation of flammable cladding in the building. For several reasons including the expiry of the statutory time limit and cost, these proceedings were discontinued. The increasing complexity of managing the building has been an ongoing challenge. The committee meets on a regular basis as required.

Finance and Risk Committee – standing committee

Members of the committee include Gareth Dando (Chair), Marie Chretien, Patrick Cocquerel and Dominique Giovanangeli, with the General Manager in attendance as required.

The objectives of this committee include:

- To review finances, budget and audit
- To ensure compliance with relevant legislation
- To analyse and mitigate risks
- To review the strategic plan

Key priorities included rebuilding class numbers post-pandemic through an increased marketing budget, and investment in the creation of a new position, Business Development Manager, to lock in and increase sponsorship for the festival which could not take place without external commercial partners. This strategy was very successful and resulted in the best sponsorship results since the inception of the festival.

Film Committee- standing committee

Members of the film committee included Patrick Cocquerel (Chair), Anthony Kierann, Amaury Treguer, Lyn Tuit, Philippe Ostermann.

The objectives of the committee include:

- To build audiences and reach for the festival with a particular focus on Sydney
- To increase sponsorship from international and national brands that match our values
- Improve the profile of the festival locally
- Identify possible new partners for the festival

The committee has provided invaluable specialist support to the team.

Marketing Committee- standing committee

Members of the marketing committee include: Gareth Dando (Chair till October), Amaury Treguer (Chair from October), Lyn Tuit, Patrick Cocquerel, Denis Morandet and other staff members as required.

The objectives of the committee include:

- Development and review of marketing strategy and plans
- Review of digital strategy
- Review of social media strategy
- Review of budget

Priorities included the investment in a new agency and analysis of the results.

Events and Membership Committee-standing committee

Members of the committee include: Marie Chretien (Chair), Dominique Barbeau, Marie Gittard and Lyn Tuit.

The objectives of the committee include:

- Review the events program and provide support where appropriate
- Review the strategy for membership growth

The company re-introduced in-person events in 2022 but opportunities for membership growth remained limited due to the ongoing reluctance of some members to attend events on site.

Ad-hoc Committees

- **Personal Relationships at Work ad-hoc committee**

Members include Patrick Cocquerel and Hannah Cooper.

The committee developed the policy adopted by the company.

- **Conflict of Interest ad-hoc committee**

Members include Patrick Cocquerel and Hannah Cooper.

The committee developed the policy adopted by the company.

- **Sponsorship Recognition ad-hoc committee**

Members include Marie Chretien, Marie Gittard and Lyn Tuit

The committee developed the policy adopted by the company.

The board directors are to be thanked for their tremendous efforts in 2022 to support staff and provide invaluable expertise and connections.

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

There were no significant workplace incidents to report in 2022. The company will continue to review its policies, practices, and procedures to ensure that the workplace consistently exemplifies best practices.

SUSTAINABILITY

In the past year, AFS renewed its contract to 100% green power, and remains committed to ensuring that we manage a sustainable company.

People

BOARD MEMBERS/TRUSTEES

NAME	POSITION
LYN TUIT	President Chair: Building Management Committee Member: Film Committee, Finance and Risk Committee, Marketing Committee, Events and Membership Committee, Sponsorship Recognition Committee (ad-hoc)
MARIE CHRÉTIEN	Vice-President Chair: Events and Membership Committee Member: Finance and Risk Committee, Sponsorship Recognition Committee (ad-hoc)
PATRICK COCQUEREL	Vice-President Chair: Film Committee Member: Film Committee, Finance and Risk Committee, Marketing Committee, Personal Relationships in the Workplace Committee (ad hoc) , Conflict of Interest Committee (ad hoc), Employee Annual Leave Committee (ad hoc)
GARETH DANDO	Treasurer Chair: Finance and Risk Committee, Marketing Committee(Chair till October)
DOMINIQUE BARBEAU	Member: Events and Membership Committee
HANNAH COOPER	Member: Building Management Committee, Employee Annual Leave Committee (ad hoc), Marketing, Personal Relationships (ad hoc), Conflict of Interest Committee (ad hoc)
MARIE-VARNIER-GITTARD	Member: Events and Membership Committee, Sponsorship Recognition Committee (ad hoc)
ANTHONY KIERANN	Member: Film Committee
AMAURY TRÉGUER	Member: Film Committee, Marketing Committee (Chair from October)

EMPLOYEES

NAME	POSITION
VALÉRIE NICOLAS	General Manager (until April)
DOMINIQUE GIOVANANGELI	Finance and Administration Manager, Board Secretary
DENIS MORANDET	Director of Studies
PHILIPPE OSTERMANN	Business Development Management Consultant
SOPHIA BLESCH	Customer Relationship Officer (until April)
MADELYN CHOONG	Business Development and Project Manager
SANDRA CLEMENT	Customer Relationship Officer
LAURIANE DEUFF	Teens Course Coordinator
SHANNON GRADDON	Alliance Française French Film Festival Assistant
LILLY GRAINGER	Alliance Française French Film Festival Assistant
CHLOE GUNN	Marketing Manager (until June)
SOPHIE JARRE	Kids Course Coordinator
LAURIE LE BALCH	Marketing Manager (from December)
VIRGINIE LE LAY	Customer Relationship Officer (until June)
ANAIS LELOUP	National Festival Coordinator
ELISABETH MASCARO	Receptionist
VICTOIRE PARENTON-SAUVAT	Assistant Librarian
CÉCILE REYES-CHAUVET	Community Engagement Manager (until December)

EMPLOYEES

NAME	POSITION
CAROLINE SELTZ	Customer Relationship Manager (until December)
BEAUDICEA SMITH-DAVIS	Alliance Française French Film Festival Assistant
LON WETZELAER	Receptionist

Interns: Julian Escavabaja – FLE (March to June 2022) and Vinh Parneix – FLE (May to September 2022)

International Volunteer: Alexia Lebouc (Education Officer (until May))

TEACHING STAFF

Morgane Bernardino	Corinne Besse	Boris Boillon	Celine Brispot
Nina Coorey	Agnès Couriol	Blandine Crouch	Liliane Cunliffe
Olivia De Bergerac	Marjorie Delepoulle	Aurélie Doizelet	Isaline Douçot
Fanny Giraudeau	Christelle Hart	Mathilde Hauwaert	Stacy Henin
Manon Kendall	Julie Khammy	Delphine Seimandi-Vandon	Elise Léger
Nadine Maarouf	Axel Maniez	Céline Martinat	Mathilde Meyer
Frédérique Pech	Anaïs Perou	Claire Reimund	Juliette Seguin-Taste
Karin Syda	France Veuillet	Laetitia Y	Odile Zorn
Roukaya Chaaban	Louise Cusset	Béatrice Gallis	Vincent Jean
Judith Lerich	Karima Mezoughem		



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL - SYDNEY VOLUNTEERS

Alexandrine Juhel	Hascena Nyugen	Lorraine Nicolas	Rudson Machado
April Handley	Jacqueline Cheng	Maddy English	Shai Desai
Brooke Davidson	Jennifer McCoy	Madeleine Locke	Sophie Beaumont
Celine Bruder	Jessica Croker	Mahalia Lum	Kerrie Magee
Celine Bonnaire	Joan Buckley	Mary Joyce Lo	Stephen MacAedh
Corinne Drouin	Katrina Alcid	Melanie Thomas	Sue McGary
Dana Garofani	Kim Vo	Nyssa Bunyan	Susie Lobb
Evan Vorony	Leith Tegart Schotte	Pauline Marlier	Suyin Conabere
Fabien Caro	Lia Wittig	Quek Siang Wee	Fiona Moclair
Lina Mbirkou	Rob Keller		

Media Centre Volunteer: Sarah Lewis

WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

Alliance Française de Sydney employs both teaching and operational personnel. All teaching members of staff are native French speaking and hold qualifications in the teaching of French as a foreign language. The operational staff includes finance and administration, marketing, communications and development.

YEAR	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	CASUAL	INTERNS
2021	11	3	35	2
2022	11	9	40	2

Figures represent the total number of individual employees awarded FTE contracts throughout the calendar year, including those appointed to fixed-term replacement positions.

Acknowledgements

Alliance Française de Sydney expresses its deepest gratitude to the many students, members, partners, businesses and benefactors who generously support our organisation on an ongoing basis. Presidents and board members, both past and present, are recognised for their ongoing contributions.

Special thanks are given to all employees for their selfless dedication to the success of Alliance Française de Sydney, particularly during what has been another challenging year.

Denis Morandet, Dominique Giovanangeli and Philippe Ostermann, are thanked for their accomplishments and results as members of the Executive Management committee. They successfully led the Alliance Française de Sydney through very difficult times and played a huge part in 2022's successes.

Sarah Lewis is thanked, once again, for her volunteer work and constant help.

We farewell a number of valued employees, thanking them for their dedication and great contributions, particularly over the last challenging years: Cécile Reyes our Media Centre Manager, and Caroline Seltz our Customer Service Manager.

The company celebrates the loyalty and achievements of its treasured, long-serving members of staff. This year, Nina Coorey reached a significant (20 years of service). Congratulations!

We would like to acknowledge the advice and support we have received from members of the building committee, in particular Robert Toland and Michael Peters.

We are also very grateful to the Fondation des Alliances Françaises for their support and in particular, Jean-François Hans and Marc Cerdan.

We acknowledge the financial support provided by Screen NSW: the Film Festival Funding Program Grant, offering a sum of \$52,548 which will help us to develop the 2023 Festival both in Sydney and Parramatta. Similarly, we acknowledge the support provided by the City of Sydney through the Festivals and Events Sponsorship winter Round 2022/2023.





Philippe Ostermann, Marie Gittard, Margaret Beazley, Lyn Tuit and Councillor HY William Chan



David Wenham and Anne Boillon

Supporters

Alliance Française de Sydney is sincerely grateful for the support shown by its strong network of local businesses, cultural entities, and companies.

We express deep appreciation to the many generous sponsors of the Alliance Française French Film Festival, whose participation enables an unforgettable cinema experience for Sydneysiders and without whose support the Festival would not be possible.

The Festival owes a huge debt of gratitude to its ambassadors, Samantha Lang, Shannon Murphy, Phillip Noyce and David Wenham for their enthusiasm, expertise and generosity. Their participation both behind the scenes and centre-stage has contributed hugely to the Festival's audience engagement and its overall success. Merci!

We acknowledge Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales and the Parliamentary Friends of France in New South Wales for their support and in particular the 2022 President, the Hon. Natalie Ward MLC.

We would like to thank Anne Boillon, outgoing Consul General in Sydney for her presence at many of our events, Karin Mauris for her work as the Artistic Director of the Alliance Française French Film Festival and the French Embassy.

In addition, we wish to thank all members of the board of directors for their advice and unwavering support.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTING SPONSORS



RED CARPET SPONSORS



ORGANISED BY



EXHIBITION PARTNER



FESTIVAL PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNERS



FRONT ROW



LOCAL SPONSORS



In addition to the AFFFF, Alliance Française de Sydney collaborates with and supports numerous local businesses from a variety of sectors during its program of events, competitions, cross-promotion initiatives and more.

LOCAL FRENCH FOOD AND RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Four Frogs Creperie	Le Petit Louvre	Sweet Rendez-Vous
Sacre Bleu!	Rose Royal	G J Food
LoLuk Bistro	La Guillotine	M. Chapoutier



SYDNEY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Sydney Opera House	Sydney Dance Company	Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Australian Chamber Orchestra	Carriageworks	Riverside Theatres Parramatta
Museum of Contemporary Art	Australian National Maritime Museum	Sydney Living Museums
Art Gallery of NSW		

EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

NSW Department of Education	Association of Independent Schools NSW	NSW National Association of French Teachers
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BOOKSHOPS

Abbey’s Language Book Centre	Kinokuniya	Intext Book Co & Language International Bookshop	Le Forum Magz
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Government Support

The Alliance Française de Sydney is grateful for the assistance of the City of Sydney and the NSW Government in 2022.

City of Sydney

Alliance French Film Festival Banners

ScreenNSW

Alliance French Film Festival grant

Members

At the heart of Alliance Française de Sydney are its students and members. A rich program of exclusive event programming, activities, rewards and giveaways helps foster a strong sense of community by uniting people around their shared interests.

The company recorded a relatively stable membership base in 2022, with 359 non-student membership packages sold, despite the disruptions caused by the Omicron wave in the first half of the year. The company slowly resumed some of the activities featured in the membership program which it was forced to limit during periods of isolation. It also welcomed back onsite its members and 3,667 students, bringing liveliness back to the centre.

Alliance Française de Sydney is proud to work with the many local businesses listed below, whose contribution enabled us to create an enticing membership program which highlights the best of Sydney's cultural life.



8PM Jewellery	Frenchies Bistro and Brewery	Parramatta Heritage Rides
Abbey's Language Book Centre	Healing Nutrition by Yves	Petite France
Art Gallery Society of NSW	Intext Book Company	Peugeot European Leasing
Bausele	Jardin St James	Renault European Leasing
Blue Mountains Stargazing	Jolie Galerie	Room Eight
Bottli	La Grillade	Rustic French Bistro
City Perfume	La Guillotine	Sacrebleu!
Delidoor	Le Garçon by Louis	The French Connection
Destination Artisans	Little French Heart	The Magician's Cabaret
Four Frogs Creperie	LoLuk Bistro	The Original Gift Shop
France at Home	Mademoiselle Chocolat	Tideline
French Beauty Co	Magimix	Tourism Alsace
French Bliss	Marie-France Group	Vive Cooking School
French Travel Connection	My Dream Adventures	Volange Paris



Wholegreen Bakery



New Caledonia Tourism Team

History

Alliance Française de Sydney was founded in 1895, opening its doors first as a humble library consisting of 600 books offered by the Paris Committee Donation. Under the leadership of its first president, Georges Briard D'Aunet and Augustine Soubeiran, Alliance Française de Sydney launched as a French language school four years later.

Around this time, Alliance Française de Sydney shared a building at 2 Bond Street with other local French organisations, including FACCI (French-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry), the French language newspaper *Le Courrier Australien*, the French Consulate General of France in Sydney and the French Benevolent Society, representing the rapid expansion and consolidation of the French community in Australia.

Alliance Française de Sydney's first social event was organised on 6 October 1903; a benefit ball which, according to reports by *Le Courrier Australien*, was a hugely successful evening and attended by « le tout-Sydney » (everyone in Sydney). This would mark the beginning of a long history of cultural events to come, culminating in the largest and most important French Film Festival outside of France which Alliance Française de Sydney currently hosts annually.

1907 ushered in some particularly outstanding years for Alliance Française de Sydney. Social gatherings were organised, in addition to lectures, concerts and dances. For the first time, this involved Australians as not only beneficiaries of these events, but as equal participants.

This momentum came to a sharp halt when World War One was declared. Alliance Française de Sydney was impacted by the absence of many members of Sydney's French families, and was subsequently forced into a hibernation period, returning to its original incarnation solely as a lending library.

This downsizing played a part in Alliance Française de Sydney no longer being able to pay rent and stay in independent premises. Following this, it became a war refugee in Mlle Boggio's 'Modern School of Languages' in Moore Street (which would later become part of Martin Place), before relocating again to Castlereagh Street, then Bridge Street before finally setting at its current location on Clarence Street.

Thereafter, Alliance Française de Sydney enjoyed a period of stability and steady growth, as it continued to strengthen its presence within the Sydney community through its courses, cultural events and partnerships.

In 1989, Alliance Française de Sydney held its first Alliance Française French Film Festival. This prestigious festival has since become a very important event in Australia's cultural calendar, welcoming an exponentially increasing number of attendees every year. Almost since its inception, the Alliance Française de Sydney has been responsible for raising the sponsorship to make this festival possible.

Between 2005 and 2009, famed Australian-born architect Harry Seidler was commissioned to design the now iconic spiralling staircase which elegantly cascades from the first floor through to the entrance foyer of the Alliance Française de Sydney Centre, representing his last commercial and public design.

In 2020, Alliance Française de Sydney's educational model was transformed in response to mandatory lockdowns and restrictions. The swift transition to distance learning and digital events became part of the Alliance Française de Sydney legacy, as efforts were made to unite Francophiles and Francophones from across the state during a period of isolation.

In 2022, the Alliance saw a gradual return to in-person classes as we recovered from periods of lockdowns and interruptions due to the pandemic.

This was also the year in which Augustine Soubeiran was honoured by her home town of St Jean du Gard for her contribution to education in Sydney as the founder of Kambala school and one of the founders of the Alliance Française de Sydney. Place Augustine Soubeiran sits at the foot of the Cevennes, linking Sydney to France.

HISTORY OF THE FONDATION ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE

The Fondation Alliance Française was founded in Paris on 21 July 1883 by a group of pioneering individuals including scientist Louis Pasteur, authors Jules Verne and Ernest Renan, diplomat Ferdinand de Lesseps and publisher Armand Colin. It was to be a national association for the promotion of French language around the world. Today, there are over 800 Alliance Françaises in 135 countries. Alliance Française has set the benchmark for teaching French as a foreign language, with over 500,000 students globally. It is recognised by the French Ministry for Education and European organisations such as ALTE (the Association of Language Testers in Europe), and is known for bringing together French language and culture through high-quality programmes. In 2023, the Foundation will be celebrating its 140th anniversary.

Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation

The Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation ("Cultural Foundation") is a not-for-profit cultural organisation established in 2019 with a mission to promote French cultural events and Franco-Australian cultural exchanges.

Throughout the year, events relating to film and cinema, literature, performing arts, visual arts and other art forms are organised. This long list of events includes film festivals, exhibitions, masterclasses, book signings, talks, design, television, radio, community arts and much more.

Nestled in the heart of Sydney, the centre is also home to a comprehensive media centre.

The Cultural Foundation supports the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival. This Festival is organised by Alliance Française de Sydney in collaboration with Alliance Française branches across Australia's capital cities, with the Embassy of France in Australia, and in association with Palace Cinemas.

The Cultural Foundation was established to provide DGR (tax donation) status to donors who provide donations for cultural purposes. The Alliance Française de Sydney is the sole owner of the Cultural Foundation.

Objectives and Activities

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

It was with passion and enthusiasm that the 33rd edition of the Alliance Française French Film Festival (AFFFF) was launched in Sydney on March 1, 2022.

Both AFS and sponsors were very pleased with the results: despite the floods, incessant rain and Omicron, the festival welcomed 50,000 Francophile patrons in cinemas across Sydney to view the 42-film line-up assembled by Karine Mauris, Artistic Director and Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of France in Australia. National attendance was also hampered by weather and the reluctance of patrons in some states to return to cinemas.

Philippe Osterman, in his role as Business Development Manager, managed to achieve an unprecedented level of financial and in-kind support for the festival. Without Philippe's efforts and the ongoing and generous support of sponsors, the 2022 edition of the AFFFF would not have been possible.

We wish to thank Karen Mauris, Cultural Attachée of the French Embassy for her work as Artistic Director Philippe Osterman for his outstanding efforts, Anais Leloup for her work contributing to the resounding success of the festival during her second year as the National Festival Manager, and the casual staff and volunteers of the festival. Anais is supported in this role by Festival staff in each capital branch of Alliance Française in Australia, the Embassy of France in Australia, Palace Cinemas, the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace and Riverside Parramatta.

The AFFFF, travelling to 10 cities around Australia and 26 cinemas, celebrates the best of contemporary French cinema. It is the leading festival of French film outside of France and a major event in Australia's annual cultural calendar.





EVENTS

A vibrant cultural calendar is the hallmark of community life at Alliance Française de Sydney. Members, students and visitors are invited to partake in the rich programme of activities, ranging from presentations to round table discussions, soirees to workshops and conferences, and beyond.

Typically, over 300 guests per month attend these cultural events, contributing to the hive of activity at the Alliance Française de Sydney Centre.

A new, highly successful variety of cultural event was developed in 2022: the “Philo Bistro”, hosted by Olivier Vojetta. During these events, Olivier and a guest, who could be a writer, artist or musician debate various themes with the audience.

Also among the highlights of this year were the talk from François Delvallée, on Proust, the broadcast of the France-Australia match during the World Cup co-organised with the FACCI, and at Wholegreen Bakery, the Beaujolais Nouveau party and “La Fête des Etudiants”.

2022 was also marked by the organisation of our traditional Bastille Day party for the first time since the pandemic. This year, the theme was “France around the World” in collaboration with New Caledonia Tourism and AirCalin. Over 1,000 people gathered at the Argyle to celebrate Bastille Day in style. Her Excellency, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales opened the event, along with HY William Chan, Councillor of the City of Sydney.

Moussa Diakite's band played for two hours followed by a set of French music by DJ Madame Reve, with performances by Can Can and Polynesian dancers. The evening, which ended in the early hours of the morning, was a great success enabling our Bastille Day regular event to once again be the highlight of our winter calendar.



Pétanque in the park



Bastille Day

List of Events

Presentation: “Rendez-vous à Paris” with Ruby Boukabou

Event: “Exclusive Preview Screening of La Traviata, my brothers and I” with Palace Cinemas

Event: “Amour toujours”

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta

Event: “La Fête des étudiants”

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta and Aude Parichot

Event: “France Around the World” -Bastille Day celebration

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta and Suzanne Leal

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta and Magali Cocconi

Event: “Pastries tasting” with Wholegreen Bakery

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta and Marielle Gonier

Event: “Champagne Tasting” with Pinnacle Drinks

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta and Kim NGuyen

Event: “Book club” with S.L Pennywort

Event: Talk, Marcel Proust by Associate Professor of Modern Literature, François Delvallée.

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta and Amaury Treguer

Event: “Beaujolais Nouveau” with Chapoutier

Event: “Broadcast of the France-Australia World Cup” co-organised with the FACCI

Event: “French Connection” with ISFAR

Event: “Exclusive Preview Screening of La Traviata, my brothers and I” with Palace Cinemas

Event: “Exclusive Preview Screening of La Traviata, my brothers and I” with Palace Cinemas

Event: “Philo Bistro” with Olivier Vojetta and Joffrine Donadieu

Event: “Inter-Alliances Local Competition”

Event: “Hors Concours”



Amour Toujours Exhibition



Pastry Tasting



Bastille Day



Word of Mouth

MEDIA CENTRE

Housed within the iconic Alliance Française de Sydney building, the Media Centre is a comprehensive French library boasting over 7,200 catalogue items, enhanced by the on-demand multimedia e-library, Culturethèque. Both resources are made available, free of charge, to students and members, as part of our commitment to promoting French language and culture.

The reopening of the Media Centre in 2022 was a highlight for the 2,600 enthusiastic users who borrowed more than 1,700 documents. Culturethèque, the online library remained active as well with more than 250 regular users.

Media Centre Manager Cecile Reyes deserves a heartfelt thank you for her unwavering dedication, her unfathomable creativity and exceptional contributions over the course of 13 years. Her remarkable efforts have been instrumental in promoting French culture and creating a warm and welcoming environment at our Centre, as well as in her beloved book club. We wish her all the best in her forthcoming endeavours.



<p>Regular Activities</p>	<p>Monthly French Book Club 13-14 Conversation Group</p>
<p>Newly added magazine subscriptions</p>	<p>Questions de Philo Paris Capitale Politis Monde gourmand J’aime lire Histoires Vraies Le Parisien L’Humanité Socialter Le Journal du Vin Femme Actuelle TOP Nature Graffiti Art Investir So Film Entreprendre</p>
<p>Mystery Boxes</p>	<p>Ghost Hunter Belinda Martin James Craig: The Lost Key Murder at the Fashion School The Secret Mission Versailles World War I</p>

Structure & Management

Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO). It is a fully controlled entity of the Alliance Française de Sydney.





Alliance Française

Sydney

257 Clarence St Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone (02) 9292 5700

Website: afsydney.com.au

Email: enquiries@afsydney.com.au

Facebook: [@AllianceFrancaiseDeSydney](https://www.facebook.com/AllianceFrancaiseDeSydney)

Instagram: [@afsydney](https://www.instagram.com/afsydney)

A.B.N. 23 151 008 606

A.C.N. 000 783 139