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TOFA NEWS #7 2024

Mot de la Présidente

Cher(e)s collègues,

As 2024 draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to thank you for being part of TOFA this year. Highlights from the last few months include:

- The TOFA Meets: It was lovely to meet at various events, including a comedy show in Fremantle, the teacher's preview of the exhibit "Joséphine's Garden" at the Fremantle Maritime Museum and the AF Quiz Night.
- Giving out French Movie Tickets to our members, compliments of Luna Leederville,
- The Sticker Competition: Thank you to all who participated, the amazing student designs can be viewed on our website.
- The FATFA National Conference, organised by the TOFA committee, held at the UWA club on November 22-23 (Photos below).

The National Conference was a wonderful event of learning and networking and we would like to thank all the teachers who attended. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive and this response is a big reward for the TOFA committee who has put in a lot of work towards the organisation of the event this year.

We are already looking ahead to an exciting 2025. We have many plans, including offering more workshops and networking opportunities. 2025 will also mark a significant milestone: the 30 year anniversary of TOFA. An occasion to celebrate the accomplishments of our association and the incredible community

In this Newsletter you will find:

- Information on 2025 Memberships
- The date of our 2025 AGM
- Photos and Feedback from our FATFA TOFA National Conference

Amicalement,

Céline Decoux, TOFA WA President.

2025 MEMBERSHIP

Click [HERE](#) to get your 2025 Membership

As a TOFA Member you will:

- receive regular Newsletters with information about the French Teaching community,
- be invited to TOFA Meet events to socialise and build your network.
- enjoy reduced ticket fees to our professional learning and networking events.
- receive a discount code to subscribe to a French Magazine with Le Forum <https://leforum.com.au/>.
- be eligible to apply for scholarships.
- be able to enter your students in the TOFA sticker competition.
- be able to nominate colleagues for teaching awards (e.g. PTCWA and Marie Louise Laurent Award).
- become a member of the national French teachers association FATFA and have access to all FATFA initiatives (e.g. Tahiti PL in 2025).

To continue running events in the future, we rely on the support of teachers so your continued membership is vital to our mission. TOFA is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers—your colleagues. By paying the annual membership fee, you enable us to:

- Organise events in great venues, such as the UWA Club, with high-quality technology, food, and service
- Attract top-tier presenters, with costs covered by TOFA at the conference
- Create scholarships and financially support teachers from remote WA schools who would otherwise not be able to attend the conference
- Fund the Sticker Competition, covering the costs of printing and gift cards

- Build a vibrant, connected French teaching community that benefits everyone involved

Every membership makes a difference. At TOFA, we are proud to have kept the cost as low as possible for many years despite inflation and we are currently, at \$50, the lowest in all of Australia's Teachers of French Associations.

Please note: 2025 memberships will be available for purchase until 31st of March, 2025. After this date, a late fee will apply. This change is being made for two key reasons:

1. It allows us to better plan and allocate the budget for the year ahead. By signing up early, you'll help us ensure that funds are available for events and initiatives throughout 2025.
2. To streamline administration and focus on supporting members, rather than updating member lists throughout the year.

Get your membership now!

2025 AGM

Save the date! **The 2025 TOFA AGM will take place at the Alliance Française on Friday the 31/01/25.** We encourage all members to attend as it is a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues after the holidays and meet the new committee. Nibbles and drinks will be provided by TOFA.

We are also looking to expand our committee and would love for you to consider joining our dynamic team as we are looking to fill the following positions for 2025:

- Committee Treasurer
- Committee Secretary

If you are interested or would like more information about these roles, please email us at tofawa.au@gmail.com.

We meet approximately 8 times during the year (2 x per term) and most meetings are online.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

club. It was a wonderful event which attracted local, interstate and international participants and presenters. Once again, we would like to thank all the WA teachers who attended, contributed and made our guests feel welcome!

Some of the feedback received:

"Je tiens à vous adresser mes sincères remerciements : ce week-end a été incroyablement épanouissant. Toutes ces idées qui ont germé en nous continueront d'alimenter notre passion pour l'enseignement du français. La logistique était parfaite, et tous les participants ont eu la chance d'assister à un colloque extraordinaire."

"Merci pour ce cocon de bienveillance : un programme varié, un dîner exquis et une animation musicale hors du commun ! Chaque fois que je viens à Perth, je suis conquise." Maud Fugier Sola, From Victoria

"Décollage immédiat pour le Japon, merci beaucoup beaucoup pour ce magnifique congrès et j'attends avec impatience les photos, et bien sûr notre justificatif de présence. Merci à tous, vous m'avez fait découvrir un pays magnifique, une vie extraordinaire, et des gens fabuleux ! Bravo aux organisateurs pour ce travail extraordinaire ! À très vite, j'espère en Australie, au Japon ou à Besançon !" Julien Agaësse, Maître de Conférence au Japon



Dana O'HARE scholarship recipient

I was so grateful to receive the Dana O'Hare Regional Member scholarship to attend the TOFA/FATFA National Conference at UWA in November. It was a fantastic conference and a brilliant way for me to ease back into my French teaching.

A little about me: I was teaching French in the city in the early 00s, then moved to the country. After teaching in the K-12 school as a generalist primary teacher for a few years, I then became the K-6 music teacher, then took on Indonesian via the KETAWA program (no, I don't speak Indonesian very well, shhhhh!). When languages became compulsory into our high school, my principal knew of my background and asked if I could start a French program. Of course, I said yes! And that's how I've come full circle and re-joined TOFA – and I was so excited to see the National Conference in Perth in 2024. The conference began with a beautiful 'Welcome to Country' by Sharon Gregory. She was followed by Dr Cynthia Eid as the keynote speaker, sharing her thoughts about teaching and innovations in FLE classes. I loved her final thought – "Innover, ce n'est pas avoir une nouvelle idée, mais arrêter d'avoir une vieille idée." – Steve Jobs ("Innovation is not having a new idea but stopping the old ideas.") So inspirational! After a delicious morning tea, visiting the trade stalls and chatting with some lovely new friends, we all headed off to our chosen seminars. I attended Kimberly Mullins' 'So Many Acronyms, So Little Time!' session which was eye opening! I really enjoyed Kimberly's presentation and her explanations of all the pedagogical approaches in language learning was so helpful. Lunch was next – and it was delicious and so lovely eating in the beautiful courtyard of the University Club and being able to make new friends and share ideas. After lunch, I headed to Dr Julien Agaësse's 'Jeux de société numériques et classiques' session. He shared a number of French YouTubers who discuss games, and then we were able to play some of the amazingly fun games. Some of our favourites were 'Similo Histoire', 'Mots pour Mot' and 'Yum Yum Island', but all had participants laughing their way through playing. Unfortunately, I had to head to an awards presentation that evening, so missed the final sessions of the Friday – although I heard those sessions and the plenary session by A/Prof Grace Oakley were excellent. Day two started with another fabulous keynote by Dr Cynthia Eid. I really enjoyed the songs she shared and the discussion about intercultural understanding. I then attended a session with the amazing Phillippe Messer, who is a self-proclaimed 'PowerPoint geek' (I would change that to 'PowerPoint LEGEND!'). He showed us some awesome PowerPoint techniques – wow! Such a brilliant way to increase engagement. Béatrice Archambaud then hosted an excellent 'Collaborative Workshop for Secondary School Teachers', posing interesting questions and scenarios and asking us to think about how we would respond, before sharing some suggested solutions. Lunch was again amazing! Sitting out in the sun and shade, it was such a

Carole Katz. We danced, we sang, we learned new songs and revised known ones. It was an absolutely magnificent way to end our two days of fun and learning. Thank you to the TOFA and FATFA teams for all of their hard work and I can't wait for the next event!

Rhianna Reynolds

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