



NSW

AFRAN NSW NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

Greetings NSW AFRAN members;

This quarter we would like to update you on some of our fabulous activities and foreshadow more exciting events to come. But first? A look into how productive we have all been.

From our data gathering, AFRAN NSW community members have published 15 papers in high impact journals including the Lancet and Nature. A shout-out to Briony Nielsen from the University of Sydney, an AFRAN NSW member who has published a book 'Dangers of Youth, Age, criminality and juvenile justice in the third republic of France' with De Gruyter Brill. Congratulations to AFRAN NSW community member Professor Jennifer Byrne for her award of the coveted David Vaux Fellowship from the Australian Academy of Science. Community member, neuroscientist and entrepreneur Florence Cotel participated in the inaugural Homeward Bound expedition to Tanzania. These achievements are just a few picked from the many great accomplishments from the scientists, researchers, science-adjacents, passionate community members, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, and francophiles who are a part of AFRAN NSW.

We are so excited to have guardianship of this community, and if you want to join our NSW organizing committee please get in touch! We definitely have productive work for you.

Save the date!

AFRAN Forum 2025

This will be a thrilling event hosted at the University of Sydney on the 21st of October.
AFRAN Forum 2025: Evolving Pacific: Shared Pathways for a Sustainable Future

UPCOMING EVENTS AFRAN NSW

AFRAN NSW Christmas party

A chance for a sunny wine under the sun amongst to celebrate another end of year; trials tribulations and a sigh of relief. *Details to come*

AFRAN NSW 2026 Launch

Cheese, Wine, Microbiology. A science series about the biology of what we love

La pierre n'a point d'espoir d'être autre chose qu'une pierre. Mais, de collaborer, elle s'assemble et devient temple

FASIC 2026 now open

The French-Australian Science and Innovation Collaboration (FASIC) is now open; [apply online](#)

AFRAN NSW Researcher Spotlight Renaud Joannes-Boyau



Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau is a French scientist working at Southern Cross University, an expert researcher and talented science communicator he has seen considerable

successes in the last 12 months, including two articles in Nature including a cover feature. The feature article titled "The demise of the giant ape *Gigantopithecus blacki*" details challenges faced by the species to adapt to changing environmental conditions around a major extinction period approx. 300, 000 years ago. Please tune in your radio to hear 'Science with Frenchie', airing every Monday at 8:45am on ABC North Coast, just before the 9am news

FluTracking

<https://info.flutracking.net/>

AFRAN NSW community member Adriana Krause has been working with Hunter New England Health and the University of Newcastle on their FluTracking program.

FluTracking is a crowd-sourced public health surveillance system monitoring respiratory illness, such as COVID-19, flu and RSV. The weekly web-based survey harnesses the power of community spirit to detect the potential spread of respiratory illnesses. It allows researchers to determine the onset of the flu season by region and monitor severity of influenza strains, vaccination uptake and testing rates.

They receive approximately 50,000 surveys each week and are always looking for more people to join the survey! Please check the website or get in touch if you would like to participate!

National Science Week 2025 Baguettes and Breakthroughs

"I came for the food, but I stayed for the science." Kindly supported by Solveig Coulon-Legay, AFRAN NSW held an event this year as a part of National Science Week offering a chance to get together over a coffee and a pastry at Le Marché in Moore Park, Sydney. AFRAN NSW scientists Max Desservettaz, Fabien Plisson, Fleur Ponton, Etienne Farquhar-Masle and Clément Canonne came and spoke to passers by about their fabulous research. Despite an outrageous storm and a concurrent city-wide protest, lots of fun was had by all.

Fleur Ponton and Hugh Goold



Max Desservettaz and Etienne Farquhar-Masle

