



Lydie Cousseau, Cristiano Carvalho and Ariane Tricaud accepted competition prizes.



Thorsten and Kulwadee Eisengerich.



Laura Wilson and Morgan Campbell.

## ABOUT TOWN

### Flying the flag for la belle France

Francophonie... Qu'est-ce que la?

STORY AND PHOTOS: LYN MILLS

**W**ell may we ask, what is this Francophonie? A phoney Franco, *peut-être? Mais non, mes amis*. It is not a reference to one of our favourite hairdressers in Canberra, even though Google lists him with this organisation in one stream of searching. Few of you will know about this international organisation of a linguistic zone that celebrates annually the humanist values of the French language among the 75 member states with the common denominator of language or an affiliation with the culture.

It brings them together under a distinctive flag you won't see paraded at the Olympics but can be seen flying high at our Commonwealth Place. The Francophonie members, with diplomatic representatives in

Canberra, gathered last week to enjoy flag-raising and other formalities - March 20, 1970 was when the organisation was established.

The newest member of the diplomatic community, the Ambassador of Senegal Bouna Diouf, was resplendent in his distinctive blue national costume, and assured me a trip to his tiny country was a must.

Every year responsibility for the formalities passes to a member country in Canberra and this year it was the High Commission of Cyprus, which invited students from Telopea Park school, all well advanced in the *Parlez-vous Français?* curriculum, and striking the jackpot with a feast from local member nations as varied as Egypt, Lebanon, Vietnam, Morocco, Switzerland - and France, *bien sur!*

■ social@canberratimes.com.au



Michael Bula, Ambassador of Hungary Anna Siko and Ambassador of France Stephane Romatet.



High Commissioner of Cyprus Yannis Iacovou and Ambassador of Senegal Bouna Diouf.



Souannary Kimsour and Yaty Yassin.



Alice Million and Floriane Prevert.

Art Song Canberra Season of Song presents  
**Hollywood's Romantics**  
Sonia Anfiloff soprano Ben Connor baritone Alan Hicks piano  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 3pm  
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Prices: Full \$35, Concessions \$30, Full-time students \$15  
Tickets at the door ONLY Enquiries phone  
www.artsongcanberra.org 6156 2604

**BEETHOVEN**  
*Egmont Overture*

**BEETHOVEN**  
PIANO CONCERTO No 3 in C minor, Op 37

**TCHAIKOVSKY**  
SYMPHONY No 6 in B minor, op 74 'Pathétique'

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