

République Française
**ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES MEMBRES
DE L'ORDRE NATIONAL DU MÉRITE**

Reconnue d'utilité publique (décret du 28.01.1987)

SECTION AUSTRALIE

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Dear Teachers and Principals,

The Australian section of the **French National Order of Merit** (ANMONM) is pleased to advise that the **Prix du Civisme** for a civic project at both primary and secondary levels is now open for applications from students in classes where French is taught, regardless of whether they are in bilingual schools or not.

For the past five years, the association has organised a competition for school students in years 5, 6 and 9,10 to participate in activities for the **Prix du Civisme**.

The *Ordre National du Mérite* was founded by General De Gaulle on December 3, 1963. The order is designed to acknowledge those who have made an outstanding contribution to society in both civil and military domains. Providing exceptional service to others, to the nation, selflessly and on a volunteer basis are hallmarks of the order.

The aim of the **Prix du Civisme** is to encourage young people to undertake projects to assist others. These may be actions of personal courage, projects and actions to benefit the wider community including both in Australia and abroad, projects and actions designed to protect the environment and wildlife or reduce pollution or waste and emissions, and projects aimed at helping the disadvantaged in our communities reflecting the values of 'liberty, equality and fraternity'.

The 2023 primary school winner, Merline Deighton from Camberwell Primary School, was an outstanding candidate. Merline learnt to knit so that she could create warm garments for the victims of the war in Ukraine. She encouraged other students to join a knitting club the result of which was that hundreds of items were donated.

The 2023 winner for Years 9 &10 was a class from Unley High School which, as one of several initiatives, cooked hundreds of items for sale to raise funds for the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

The 2024 first prize winners for years 5, 6 (Leyla Mackenzie- Aranda Primary School) and 9, 10 (Anita Kumar- Canberra Grammar School) participated in a range of activities including volunteering at a soup kitchen to help the homeless, volunteering at the Red Cross, and corresponding with elderly citizens in Canada.

Applications for the 2025 prizes are now open. We encourage all teachers to spread the word amongst their students. Details of the prizes are on the attached guidelines and application form which should be returned us by September 26, 2025.

We have also just announced a special, new prize for the best presentation of a project, the inaugural L'Ordre National du Mérite Prix du Civisme Presentation Prize made possible with the generous assistance of our compagnon Yves Hernot.

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This new prize will recognise the best presentation of a civic project, whether it be in the form of a photo reportage, video, drawings, or multi-media. This prize can be attributed to either an individual or a group, providing an exciting and creative opportunity for students to collaborate and document their work in the community or in their school.

This new award will be judged at the same time as the Prix du Civisme awards for primary (years 5, 6) and secondary (years 9, 10) students with the results being announced in early November.

The winner or their representative will be flown to Sydney together with a parent for the award ceremony with accommodation included. Due to file size, presentations will need to be submitted using software such as WeTransfer or Hightail by September 26 to anmonmau@gmail.com.

This is an excellent opportunity to foster civic pride in your school. Interstate winners (or in the case of a class, its representative) will receive a return economy airfare to Sydney for the awards ceremony to be held in November, together with one night's accommodation including for an accompanying parent or adult.

For additional information, please contact me on 0405 160 275.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Tuit
President ANMONM, Section Australie