



Marie-Louise Laurent Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching of French in Western Australia

Marie-Louise Laurent was a highly esteemed teacher of French in Western Australia, who contributed not only her expertise to the profession, but her love of everything French and her passion for life and support for the teaching profession. Marie-Louise passed away in July 1999, after a battle with cancer. Marie-Louise was a vital and active member of TOFA and a mentor. She bequeathed all her teaching resources and beautiful books to TOFA. At the stage à la Plage 2000, TOFA conducted a silent auction of these magnificent books and the decision was taken to use these funds to have an annual award in Marie-Louise's name to honour her memory.

Marie-Louise's theme was *«Je ne regrette rien.»*

The Marie-Louise Laurent Award has been designed therefore to reflect the values we saw in Marie-Louise. This award will recognise and congratulate local contributions of excellence in the teaching of French and the support of fellow teachers. It is also designed to increase the status of the French teaching profession.

Criteria

- A commitment to excellence in the teaching and learning of French.
- Demonstrate and promote best teaching practice through a wide variety of innovative, current teaching approaches, including the ability to cater for the diverse needs of both groups, and individuals.
- Exhibits a nurturing nature towards other French teachers, through mentorship and support networks.
- Have a minimum of 3 years, active membership of TOFA, current at the time of the application.
- Be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to the profession (through, e.g. staff development, professional association involvement, district or regional networks, involvement in other organisations with a French interest)

The application must address the above criteria and should not exceed three A4 pages. It needs to be accompanied by a brief description of the background of the nominee, not exceeding half a page in length. (Eg: years of service, schools taught at, previous awards, involvement in the profession etc) It needs to have the cover page attached and be signed by 2 nominating people. One of whom is to be a current TOFA member, the other, a Languages teacher colleague or superordinate (not necessarily a TOFA member). This is a most prestigious award, which recognises a teacher for her/his outstanding contribution to the teaching and learning of French. It is not just being an excellent teacher, but a mentor, an example and an active member of the profession, in sharing with other teachers.

It remains at the discretion of the Selection Panel as to whether the best nominee is meritorious enough for the award. A maximum of one award will be made each year.

If there is only one nominee the panel will still look at the application under the condition that all criteria are met.

The panel must include at least 3 people. One must be a past recipient of the MLL prize and the other a member of TOFA committee.

The decision needs to be confidential within the panel.

In case the giving ceremony is cancelled, the nominees can be reconsidered the year after.

Immediate family of the recipient and the school director are invited to the ceremony.

The deadline for applications must be received at least 1 month before the ceremony.