

New Caledonia revisited November 2011

We have just returned from a fun 15 days in New Caledonia and wanted to share some of the things we learned.

Language Training: We all know about CREIPAC but there are two other interesting French language training possibilities.

1. The Institut Voltaire was established two years ago and is located in the heart of Nouméa just a short stroll from the Place des Cocotiers. The director, Yves Perrot, is really welcoming and is a very experienced teacher. The school provides French lessons for foreigners living in New Caledonia but, in addition, will design individual courses to fit your specific needs. For us, this is an excellent alternative to CREIPAC because of its location. Yves' wife, Noriko, teaches Japanese from the same location.

Contact: Email: institutvoltaire@nautile.nc Web: www.institutvoltaire.ile.nc Tel: (687) 86 29 88
Address: Centre-ville, immeuble le Central 2, Bureau 22, 17 rue Anatole France

2. Le Croix Rouge offers courses given by volunteer teachers (both basic lessons and conversational classes). You can enrol for an annual payment of CPF 3500 (exchange rate is fixed to the Euro at 119.3317 with no charges for exchange). This same deal is also offered to people passing through. We spent about an hour at Le Croix Rouge and found this to be an interesting possibility although on a different level from that offered by the schools. We were made to feel very welcome and had a great chat in French.

Contact: croix-rouge@mls.nc www.croix-rouge.nc Tel: (687) 27 84 50, Address: 32 rue de Sébastapol,

Activities to extend your language: Our apartment overlooked the Baie des Citron, a very protected swimming bay. While we were doing our early morning swim we noticed an aqua gym class and asked the teacher if we could join in. It was a great one hour work out for both the body and our French comprehension! In addition it was fun talking to class members on the beach afterwards. Cost is CPF 6000 per month but the teacher will pro-rate the cost and was happy to have visitors join the class. We were sorry we had not realised sooner as we loved this experience. The classes are currently held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at around 8AM. It's the first thing we will sign up for on our next visit.

Contact: Nicole Chautard, nicolechautard@gmail.com Tel: (687) 25 29 25. Or, just look out for the class and turn up.

Bookshop: Books are expensive in Nouméa but there is a used book store right in town called La Bouquinerie which sells a range of books very reasonably. It has changed hands since our 2009 visit and has downsized but it is still worth a stop.

Contact: La Bouquinerie, 30 rue G. Clemenceau, Tel: (687) 95 09 03

Anne and Bob Chase