

RADIO



French connection . . . The *French Roast* team (from left) Sandrine Feillet, Sylvie Leduc and Ebony Hinds explore connections between New Zealand and France in their Sunday evening show on Otago Access Radio. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Show explores French-Kiwi links

JEFF HARFORD,
OAR FM community liaison

An Otago Access Radio programme is bringing French flair, with a Kiwi touch, to Sunday evening listening.

The French Roast (6pm-7pm) explores the connections between New Zealand and France in a magazine-style format, with interviews, music and discussion predominantly in French.

Dunedin woman Sandrine Feillet, who runs inbound tourist agency Antipodes Travel with husband Yoann, said she had initially intended *The French Roast* be a solely French language broadcast but decided a French-English balance would work better, given the small French-speaking community in the city.

"We have guests who don't speak French, and that's fine. The idea is really to find any connection between Dunedin, Otago and New Zealand and a French perspective," she said.

Her interview subjects had included University of Otago academics and researchers, people from Dunedin's French, Belgian and New Caledonian communities, and visitors to the city, Ms Feillet said.

"They talk about where they come from and what they are doing in Dunedin — there has been a very

wide range of topics and it's always fascinating.

"A few weeks ago, we spoke with someone from Airbus and discovered that the Bluff smelter was producing aluminium for the wings of the A380," Ms Feillet said.

In recent weeks, *The French Roast* has featured live interviews via Skype with the hosts of similar French-themed radio shows in Australia and Mexico. Music sourced from French music media platform Francodiffusion was a common denominator for all, but the Otago Access Radio hosts enjoyed greater editorial freedom than their Australian counterparts.

"On Brisbane station 4EB, they were not permitted to include live interviews in the show."

"I thought we were very lucky here, to be trusted to conduct our own interviews and determine the content for our show."

The programme welcomed contributions from anyone with a French connection, Ms Feillet said.

"If someone has news about the French community, about an event or someone with a French background we could talk to, get in touch."

★ *The French Roast* — Sundays at 6pm on OAR 105.4FM and 1575AM and podcast from www.oar.org.nz and iTunes. Email myfrenchroast@gmail.com and check out myfrenchroast.blogspot.co.nz