

FOREWORD

On the 31st of May and the 1st of June 1985, a meeting was held at Monash University under the title *France-Victoria Connection*. Organized jointly by Dennis Davison and Colin Nettelbeck, and attended by some 60 delegates, the meeting was addressed by a variety of speakers, some of them academics, some from the arts, the media, science, business or technology. The current number of *Explorations* contains part of that material, the rest of which will appear in subsequent issues.

It will be seen that while a number of the pieces have a historical orientation, others are more concerned with the present or the future. In these times where many in Australia are concerned with questions of national identity, it is clear that things French remain a constant parameter and frame of reference.

C.N.