

FOREWORD

The next step in *Explorations*' catching-up brings a familiar mixture: a carefully documented study of a near-contemporary topic, a reminiscence from Australia's multicultural nineteenth century, brief notes on some of this country's highly varied connections with France and reviews of volumes drawn from the large range of material being published on relevant subjects. There is, in short, an ample demonstration of the vitality of the field we have taken as the focus of our specialist journal. All this augurs well for the continuation of the magazine "under new management" from the 2008 numbers onwards. The collaboration of disciplines as diverse as demography and musical history, not to mention all the others that have come into play over the years, is an essential part of the *Explorations* project.

We have been asked the origin of the images that have appeared on the front and back covers of recent issues. The first is taken from Julian Thomas, *Victoria en 1889*, the volume got ready by the Victorian Government for the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1889. It is the fifteenth illustration in the group bound at the end of the volume and is entitled "Dans la Brousse". The lyre-bird, labelled "Le menure-lyre ou *balangara*", occurs on page 149 of the first edition of Henri de Rochefort, *Retour de la Nouvelle-Calédonie: de Nouméa en Europe* (Paris, F. Jeanmaire, [1877]). The copies used are in the collection of the convener of the Editorial Committee.

The opportunity is taken to thank Meredith Sherlock, Editor and Project Officer of Monash University's Centre for the Book, for the effort she has put into preparing many numbers of *Explorations* for the press. Her services have been provided at well below cost by the Centre, which is supported financially by the Chaskett Fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation.

W. K.