

FOREWORD

Explorations 45, bearing the date of December 2008, is being issued in May 2009. The new editorial team is confident that the regular publication schedule will be restored with number 46, due out mid-2009. We also aim to publish issues of up to sixty-four pages each, the maximum number of pages able to be stapled in the current single fold format.

This issue features a major article by Adrian Mitchell, an Australian literature specialist, on George Collingridge. Collingridge was a Sydney author and artist of English birth and French upbringing, whose role in the cultural life of Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century deserves to be better known. In this paper Adrian Mitchell discusses Collingridge's French cultural identity and his French links during his residence in Sydney. His was an interesting and unusual contribution to early Australian multiculturalism, made possible by the openness of pre-Federation Australian society.

Adrian Mitchell's study is followed by Eric Bouvet's paper on French migration to Australia during the post-war period, with a focus on the 1960s. It highlights the Australian Government's wish to supplement British and North-European migration by attracting migrants from France, and the French Government's reluctance to encourage the departure of its nationals. The paper also explores Australia's image as seen by potential French migrants.

The third major item in this issue is a text of special interest to the readership of *Explorations*. It is a conversation between two of the founders of ISFAR, and it takes the form of an interview of Wallace Kirsop by Colin Nettelbeck. It features our outgoing Editor's recollections of the beginnings of *Explorations* and of some of the highlights of the journal's twenty-four year history. It contains some personal reminiscences and sheds new light on the reasons behind some of the policy decisions which have shaped *Explorations*. 'Conversation with Wallace Kirsop' is published as a tribute to the distinguished career of our foundation Editor.

Explorations 45 concludes with a book review and a shorter book note followed by a new feature in our journal, a set of 'Bibliographical Notes' assembled by our Deputy (and Book Review) Editor, Elaine Lewis. These 'Notes' list the most significant recent publications in the field of French-Australian relations. We hope this feature will be a continuing one and will contribute to making *Explorations* an essential research tool for anyone interested in French-Australian links.