

## FOREWORD

*Explorations* 54 is the first issue of the journal to appear since the resignation of co-editor Jana Verhoeven. A member of Melbourne University's French Department, Dr Verhoeven was instrumental in implementing the new format of the journal (from n° 44). In addition to her scholarly and editorial input, Dr Verhoeven was also responsible for the digitisation of *Explorations'* archives. She will be missed greatly but we are looking forward to working with Dr Henry Méra, also of Melbourne University's French Department, who comes to us with a wealth of experience and, of course, his French background.

*Explorations* 54 opens with Douglas Wilkie's article on the identity of Alexandre Dumas's narrator in *Le Journal de Madame Giovanni*. He traces the Australian itinerary of a French con-woman in the late eighteen-forties: Marie Callegari demonstrated a virtuoso talent in changing her identity and assuming different names.

The second article is an historical essay on Australian reactions to the mid-nineteenth century French take-over of New Caledonia. Jill Donohoo highlights 'post-convict shame' as a likely reason for the Australian colonies' opposition to the establishment of a penal colony in the Pacific and she analyses the emergence of an early independent Australian foreign policy.

Les Hetherington's article on Adolphe Prosper Duprez tells the story of a public-spirited French immigrant who was largely responsible for the building of a road from Bowral in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales to the Wombeyan Caves. Duprez had chosen Bowral as his home and lived there for three decades until his death in 1900, shortly after the opening of the road which meant so much to him.

The current issue contains two very different obituaries, both of Australian scholars with French connections: one is Emeritus Professor Elliott Forsyth, foundation professor of French at Latrobe University, Melbourne, who lived to an advanced age after a distinguished career, and the other Dr Sue Ryan-Fazilleau, a gifted Australian who taught English and Australian civilisation at the University of La Rochelle, France, and whose untimely death at the age of fifty-seven is a tragic loss to French-Australian links.

*Explorations* 54 (which is now dated 'Australian Winter 2013', instead of the usual 'June 2013') concludes with three book reviews and a book note, followed by the customary 'French-Australian Bibliographical Notes'.