

FOREWORD

The first ‘Australian Summer’ edition of *Explorations 55* begins with an important history of the Alliance Française of Sydney between the two world wars. In contrast to the Melbourne Alliance, no archives of the Sydney Alliance (either local, including Australian libraries, or at the Paris headquarters) have survived for the period under consideration. Ivan Barko’s main source was the holdings of the French-language weekly *Le Courrier australien* which, between 1899 and 1937, described itself as the ‘organ of the Committee of the Alliance Française and the Chamber of Commerce’; alternative sources such as newspaper articles and correspondence enrich the article.

The second article, by Maria Chisari, comparing recent debates on dual nationality in France and Australia, will be of interest to many of our readers and should be particularly relevant to French ex-pats in Australia and Australians living permanently in France. Indeed, themes of citizenship, immigration and national identity are part of worldwide debates and cannot be separated from each other.

Explorations 55 contains two obituaries paying homage to the distinguished careers of Emeritus Professor Roger Maurice Armand Laufer and Emeritus Professor James Ronald Lawler. Their contributions to French studies and literature, both worldwide and in Australia, are broadly acknowledged and their influence resonates today in many subject areas; as suggested by the authors these merit a wider reading and investigation than is possible in these pages.

In this issue of *Explorations* Dr Kerry Mullan contributes two short notes reporting Melbourne Salon and ISFAR events for 2013. Guest speakers at the Salon this year were David Hood, Stephen Alomes, Sarah Turnbull and Jane Gilmour and ISFAR events included ‘Monet’s Garden’ held in collaboration with the National Gallery of Victoria and led by Gina Panebianco, ‘The Proust and Camus Centenaries and France’s Wars’, by Colin Nettelbeck, presented by ISFAR in conjunction with the EU Centre at RMIT and, to end the year, a French Jazz Concert presented by Colin Nettelbeck and Richard Miller.

Explorations 55 concludes with three book reviews, a book note and the usual French-Australian Bibliographical Notes. (These include eight of the many Australian authors translated and published in France during 2013. Others have been held over for *Explorations 56*.)