

This issue of *The French Australian Review* deals with French-Australian relations in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Jill Donohoo explores the reactions to Australian cities of several French visitors who, on their return to France, published books on their experiences in Australia.

Les Hetherington focuses on the Sydney French community in the eighties and early nineties, revealing the existence of a club where the leading figures of this community could meet, organise their activities and attempt to influence the local Australian establishment, occasionally competing with the French Consulate.

Patricia Clancy's article on 'Tasma' (Jessie Catherine Couvreur) traces the career of a highly gifted Australian woman who, under the pseudonym of 'Tasma', became a cultural ambassador for her country in France and Belgium, using the then popular medium of public lectures.

William Land reports on a most unusual doctoral thesis in Dentistry from the University of Nantes, on the subject of the dentition of the human skeleton discovered in 2003 at the Lapérouse expedition's Vanikoro shipwreck site. The report, written by the medically qualified President of the Friends of the Lapérouse Museum at Botany Bay, covers many unexpected aspects of the expedition, much of it beyond the specific dental focus of the thesis.

Last but not least our journal pays tribute to Dr Kate Jones who was our much valued desktop editor for thirteen issues. Illness forced her to retire last year, a few months before her death in March 2015. Our obituary reveals the many outstanding achievements of this very distinguished researcher, social scientist and public servant.

The current issue concludes with three book reviews and Elaine Lewis's 'French-Australian Bibliographical Notes', which records (p. 94 ) the publication in July of *French Lives in Australia*, an anthology of twenty four biographical essays on remarkable French women and men who left their mark on Australia. This project was the brainchild of the outgoing French Consul-General Eric Berti and was made possible thanks to the institutional cooperation of ISFAR and the individual contributions of the team of *The French Australian Review*.

Because of the length of the current issue, the publication of a major article on Australian Studies in French universities by Marilyne Brun has been postponed until a later issue.