

Melbourne Salon and ISFAR events 2019

Kerry Mullan

Melbourne Salons

The Melbourne Salon is a joint venture between ISFAR, RMIT University and the Alliance Française de Melbourne and meets three times a year.

2 May 2019: *French Cinema: The New Wave and its Legacy*. The late 1950s saw the dawn of what was to become known as the French New Wave, a brief but memorable period in film history that was characterised by youthful vitality, unprecedented artistic licence, technical innovation and a profound reinvention of the role of the film director as the author of his or her work. **Dr Andrew McGregor** explored the careers of key filmmakers of the French New Wave and examined their lasting legacy in the context of contemporary French and international cinema.

8 August 2019: *Book Launch: Castaway*. Author **Robert Macklin**, in conversation with **Elaine Lewis**, recounted the astonishing story of Narcisse Pelletier, a French cabin boy abandoned on the Far North Queensland coast and saved by the local Uutaalnganu (Night Island people) with whom he lived from 1858 to 1875. This is an unforgettable tale of a young man caught between two cultures in a time of violent upheaval during the brutal frontier wars in Queensland (2019, Hachette Australia). (See the forthcoming issue of *The French Australian Review*, n° 68, Australian Winter 2020, for a review of this book.)

4 November 2019: *An intercultural dialogue: when linguistics are involved in the current French-Australian submarine project*. In this talk, geopolitical analyst, commentator, and specialist on intercultural issues in the defence industry, **Dr Emmanuelle Crane**, examined the role of language in enhancing dialogue and eliminating potential misunderstandings. In intercultural communication, seemingly innocent words can carry different meanings from those intended and can in fact reinforce the cultural gap.

Members of the audience were treated to several fascinating examples of this and how they might be avoided.

ISFAR events in Sydney

30 May 2019: *Communal Luxury in the Designs of Lucien Henry.* Chaired by Dr Elizabeth Rechniewski, Dr Angela Giovanangeli (University of Technology Sydney) gave a fascinating presentation on Lucien Henry, Paris Communard and Australian artist, described by art historians as the most productive and influential artist working in Sydney from 1879 to 1891. This talk drew on research that is published in the form of an article in this issue of *The French Australian Review*. More than fifty people were in attendance, including Lucien Henry's great grandson!

Professor Ivan Barko Award

Named after Professor Ivan Barko to mark his long and distinguished service to ISFAR, particularly as editor of its journal *Explorations*, now entitled *The French Australian Review*, the prize is intended to stimulate research in all areas of French Australian relations. It is awarded by the Committee on the recommendation of the editors of the review to the author of the best article published during the preceding year.

The 2018 ISFAR Ivan Barko Award was awarded to **Dr Elizabeth Rechniewski** for her article “‘Voyage of the Pilgrims’, New Hebrides, June 1902: Australia’s First Attempt at Colonisation”, which was published in *The French Australian Review*, n° 65, Australian Summer 2018–2019, a special issue on New Caledonia and the Pacific. Dr Rechniewski received her prize from ISFAR President Kerry Mullan at the Alliance Française de Sydney on 30 May 2019. Professor and Mrs Barko were present at the award.

22 October 2019: *First Contacts: the Australian Aboriginals and the Artwork of the Baudin Expedition.* In this talk Emeritus Professor Margaret Sankey (University of Sydney) compared the drawings and portraits of Aboriginal people by the artists of James Cook’s and Bruni d’Entrecasteaux’s voyages with those of the artists accompanying the later Baudin expedition (1800–1804), showing the ideological differences in their approach to Aboriginal peoples: the British were influenced by their colonial enterprise to portray the Aboriginal peoples as inferior and subordinate to the Europeans while the French tended to present images of contact and exchange.

ISFAR events in Melbourne

April 2019: Visit by renowned French archaeologist Gilles Prilaux

As described at greater length in the previous issue of *The French Australian Review*, ISFAR collaborated in the organisation of the visit to Australia by Gilles Prilaux, a leading French archaeologist of the First World War. While in Australia, Mr Prilaux visited Canberra and Melbourne to give three fascinating and extremely well attended talks. Full details of his visit and his talks can be found on the ISFAR website at <https://isfar.org.au/news/> as well as in *The French Australian Review*, n° 66, Australian Winter 2019.

12–13 July 2019: ISFAR was again proud to support the *Bastille Day French Festival*. Committee members attended the festival over the two days to meet the public and offer information about ISFAR and other publications. ISFAR also held a competition which required entrants to answer the question: *What year did La Pérouse first land on Australian soil?* (Answer: 1788!). The prize, a copy of *The Australia of the French Explorers* by Noelene Bloomfield and a one-year membership of ISFAR (including subscription to *The French Australian Review*), was won by a Year 9 French student.

4 November 2019: The ISFAR End of Year gathering was this year combined with the final Melbourne Salon at the Alliance Française de Melbourne.

19 November 2019: ISFAR was delighted to continue its sponsorship of prizes for the annual Berthe Mouchette poetry competition, organised by the Alliance Française de Melbourne. This year was particularly special, being the 125th anniversary of the competition. ISFAR Secretary Pauline Georgelin represented ISFAR at the Awards Ceremony, giving out prizes to a number of winning students.