

Foreword

Relations between Australia and France are underpinned by strong and enduring historical links. Australian interest in news from France in the 1870s is documented in Patricia Clarke's fascinating article about the work of two women journalists who reported from France at that time. This is followed by William Land's overview of the history of the Légion d'honneur in Australia, from the first award to Sir William Macarthur in 1855 to recent awards. When Napoleon established the Légion d'honneur, he saw the granting of awards to foreigners as an important aspect of France's diplomatic strategy. William Land demonstrates how the awards have recognised and consolidated the ties that bind our two countries.

The previous issue of *The French Australian Review* focussed on arts connections and this theme is continued in two of the documents in this issue. Deirdre Gilfedder interviews the directors of three festivals of Australian cinema in France and co-editor Elaine Lewis interviews Stéphane Jacob about his interest in Australian, and particularly Indigenous, art and its promotion through his Paris-based gallery, Arts d'Australie•Stéphane Jacob.

Wool that binds could indeed be a theme of French-Australian relations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and Marie-Thérèse Jensen tells the story of her grandfather Jean Droulers who came to Sydney in 1912 as a wool-buyer for Masurel Fils, a company based in northern France. He and his French wife Pauline lived in Sydney for the rest of their lives, raising a large family of eight children and playing an integral part in the life of the French community in Sydney as well as in the wider society as their children pursued their lives here.

Peter McPhee, Emeritus Professor at the University of Melbourne, is our contributor to the occasional series, 'French-Australian Encounters', casting light on some of the physical vestiges of the French Revolution that can be found throughout France.

A note refers to the 2021 Ivan Barko Prize awarded to Andrew Montana for his article in issue 70 entitled 'Virtue and Sentiment: Madame Mouchette's Art and Teaching in Melbourne 1881–1892'. This article brought insights into aspects of her life not previously covered in *The French Australian Review*.

Edward Duyker contributes an interesting note concerning Père Receveur's portrait and Gemma King reviews Alexis Bergantz's recent publication *French Connections: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions*. These are followed by a book note on the recent ETT publication, *A Coral Garden* by Paul Wenz, translated by Maurice Blackman, and the regular bibliographical notes compiled by Elaine Lewis.