

Preface in Honour of Colin Nettelbeck

The French Australian Review number 72 contains a selection of papers presented at the ISFAR 35th anniversary Symposium held in honour of Professor Colin Nettelbeck, co-founder, former President, and now life member of ISFAR. This issue is also dedicated to him.

The symposium, ISFAR@35 was held from April 8 to April 9, 2021; its theme was ‘Australia and France in a Regional and Global Context: Past Engagements and Future Research Directions’. The papers covered a broad range of political, cultural and historical topics, from the early history of French-Australian relations to the contemporary diplomatic rapprochement in the Pacific in the context of an encroaching China; photography and viticulture; student educational tours and language enrichment; and aspects of the history of World Wars I and II in Europe and the Pacific. Although held online, the Symposium was well-attended and collegial. The richness and success of this event is testimony to the foundations laid by Colin and his longstanding dedication to ISFAR.

Professor Ivan Barko’s tribute to Colin (included in this issue) was delivered at the Symposium, and a new Travel Scholarship was announced to recognise the central role Colin played in founding ISFAR, as well as his ongoing and invaluable commitment to its public and research activities—including initiating the *French Australian Dictionary of Biography*. The Colin Nettelbeck Travel Scholarship will support the attendance of Postgraduate and Honours students at future biennial ISFAR conferences, beginning in 2023.

Taking over the presidency of ISFAR from Colin in 2018 was a daunting task; his are impossible shoes to fill. Fortunately, my task was made easier by the strong position in which ISFAR found itself and by its excellent reputation. This was in no small part thanks to Colin’s involvement and contributions over nearly thirty-five years, including his (second) presidency from 2011 to 2018. Colin’s excellent leadership meant that this was an easy transition. I would personally like to thank Colin for his mentoring and advice, both as I found my feet in this new role, and for the years since.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the ISFAR ordinary and research committees, many of whom served under Colin's first presidency, and without whom ISFAR would not be what it is today. I know that Colin would approve of this digression in this tribute to him. Always quick to thank others himself, Colin and I both know that ISFAR has always been about teamwork.

I am delighted to present this special issue of *The French Australian Review* in honour of Professor Colin Nettelbeck.

Kerry Mullan, President

ISFAR