

Foreword

For various reasons this issue of *The French Australian Review* will have arrived in your mailboxes a little later than usual. The editors are very grateful to those ISFAR committee members who helped the editors to overcome a number of unexpected challenges thus enabling us to present three peer-reviewed articles, two opinion pieces, several documents, three book reviews and the usual Bibliographical Notes.

This issue of the review begins with two opinion pieces, one by David Camroux and the other by former *FAR* editor, Ivan Barko, both of whom address the constantly evolving nature of the relationship between France and Australia, in response to the prevailing political winds.

The French composer and pianist Henri Kowalski spent twelve years in Sydney from the mid-1880s. His friendship with the Australian writer Marcus Clarke is documented by musicologist Kerry Murphy, through various iterations of the comic opera, *Queen Venus*, composed by Kowalski to an unfinished libretto by Marcus Clarke. It is a fascinating story of cultural entanglement. Véronique Duché and Amanda Laugesen discover insights to be gained into the memories of Australian diggers, through the trench journals and periodicals produced during and after the First World War. The authors examine these publications to investigate language, place and remembrance, from 1918 to 1929. Edoardo Brunetti examines ethnoregionalist movements in Occitania and Brittany. He reflects on his own identity, having grown up with Italian and Croatian influences, and then identifies some examples of demands for political autonomy in Australia and its offshore territories before exploring Occitan and Breton ethnoregionalism.

Issues of identity and place re-emerge in Katherine Hammitt's interview with Christian Robert, the founder of Au vent des îles publishing house in Tahiti. As well as discussing the history of publishing in Oceania, Robert emphasises the importance today of Oceania's books and writers in a global context. Another interview, first published in the newsletter of AFRAN, is with archaeologist Emilie Dotte-Sarout who explores the sometimes forgotten work of early women archaeologists in the Pacific. These are followed by three shorter documents by Tom Thompson, Peter Hodges and Edward Duyker and book reviews by Charlotte MacKay, Andrew Montana and Andrew McGregor.