PREFACE

Nearly twenty years ago, during the Premiership of the late Mr. J. J. Cahill, the Government of New South Wales decided that Sydney, in keeping with other major cities of the world, ought to have a music centre. The location chosen was Bennelong Point—an area in itself of historical significance and within sight of Sydney’s famous Harbour Bridge. The resulting activities that led to the design and construction of this centre, the Sydney Opera House, are now part of Sydney’s history. Most of us will forget the frustrations and difficulties associated with the project as we stand in admiration of the completed work, a monument to the achievements of modern technology. Along with the Harbour Bridge, it will remain a continuing source of pride for Australia, and especially the people of Sydney.

On the occasion of the opening of the Opera House by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Society of New South Wales is proud to publish this special issue of the Journal and Proceedings to commemorate the event. The issue is devoted to the contributions by those people responsible for the various aspects of the Sydney Opera House design and development.