The narratives of a schoolgirl, an artist, a nurse, a secret agent and many more Australian women, who once called France home, all come to life with this month’s release of Je Suis Australienne: Remarkable Women in France 1880-1945.

Acclaimed historian, Rosemary Lancaster profiles these extraordinary Australian women who travelled to France at different times through history and who documented their impressions — through diaries, letters and autobiographies.

Je Suis Australienne offers an exploration of how these women adapted to new environments in a world of changing attitudes to feminine education, professionalism and sexuality, while revealing Australian responses to key moments in French history.

No other book brings together such a broad sample of Australian women who visited and wrote about France in times when independent travel abroad was relatively unusual for women.

Je Suis Australienne is the newest addition to over 700 titles produced by UWA Press that have made an important contribution to the discussion of the history, environment, economy and culture of Western Australia and beyond.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rosemary Lancaster is the author of La Poésie éclatée de René Char (Rodopi, 1994) and numerous articles on French literature, culture and pedagogy. A former senior lecturer and convener of French studies at the University of Western Australia, in 2005 Lancaster was awarded the title of Chevalier de l’Ordre des Palmes académiques by the French government for services to French culture abroad.