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COVER IMAGE

The path of totality of a solar eclipse skirted the northern fringes of the Australian continent late in 1871. The Royal Society of Victoria initiated an expedition to the east coast of Cape York to observe the event, as described by Nick Lomb in a paper beginning on page 79. Astronomers and their instruments travelled on a chartered vessel, the *Governor Blackall*, shown here off Eclipse Island in a water colour painting. Although clouded out, the expedition was a milestone in the development of Australian science.