

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the thirty-fifth issue of the EALRGA Newsletter. The first was issued in May 1978 with the introduction "This Newsletter, as a by-product of the founding of the East Asian Librarians' Group in Australia, is long overdue. It is expected that once the Newsletter has got off the ground, it should not be too difficult to keep it going as a regular feature". These modest wishes have been more than fulfilled over nearly two decades, through the hard work of successive committees and members' contributions. The 1978 committee consisted of Mr Sydney Wang as Chairperson, Mr Y.S. Chan as Vice Chairperson/Editor and Ms Nikki White as Secretary/Treasurer. All three played a major role in the development of the Group.

In recent years EALRGA has been fortunate in the continuity of its hard-working and dedicated committee, Susan Prentice, Susan MacDougall and C.P. Tang. As the new President of the Group I am very pleased that all three are continuing to serve on the committee and contribute their wide experience and knowledge. I would like to mention in particular the work of Susan MacDougall as editor of the Newsletter over many years. She has ensured that the Newsletter continues to be timely and informative to members. From its simple beginnings in 1978 when Newsletter no. 1 consisted of 6 typed pages plus the Group's Constitution and membership list (22 members) the Newsletter is now a substantial publication sent out to a wide membership within Australia and overseas. Back issues are also available on the EALRGA home page, which was set up in February 1995.

One important recent development, also referred to elsewhere in this issue, is the establishment within EALRGA of a Japanese library group, focussing on the particular needs of Japanese studies librarianship within Australia. In later newsletters it is planned to include a special section on Japanese library matters. A report on the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA) Conference in Melbourne earlier this year, following which the Japanese library group was set up, is included in this issue. Presentations given at the library forum held during JSAA will also be published in the Newsletter early next year. We welcome Eiko Sakaguchi of Monash University Library as representative of the Japanese group on the EALRGA Committee.

EALRGA aims to serve all its members, whether their interests are specifically in Chinese, Japanese, Korean or broader issues relating to East Asian librarianship. New members are always welcome, both from the library profession and those with an academic or other interest in East Asian information topics.

As this is the final issue for 1997 I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 1998.

Andrew Gosling
President, EALRGA
11 November 1997