

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many recent newsletters have been filled with conference papers. Some members have expressed the desire for another "newsy", more informal newsletter where they can catch up with developments in other Australian libraries and get an overall view of what is happening in East Asian libraries and East Asian studies generally. This issue attempts to do just that.

I am pleased to report that the Japanese Library Resources Group of Australia (JALRGA) is going from strength to strength. There is obviously a great deal of determination amongst Japanese librarians to put Japanese librarianship in Australia firmly on the map.

Michelle Hall has taken over as Editor of the JALRGA Section while Eiko Sakaguchi is overseas. Eiko's contribution has been warmly received and much appreciated. We wish her well in the United States, where she has taken up a position as Curator of the East Asian Collection and Gordon W. Prange Collection at the University of Maryland. Marie Sexton was glad to meet Eiko on a recent conference and library visit trip. Eiko will be attending the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA) conference in Sydney at the end of June. We hope to have a chance to catch up with her then. Make a point of saying hello!

As editor, my policy is to try to balance news and articles about Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Mongolian library resources. However, what is printed depends very much on what is voluntarily contributed. I occasionally bully people a little for contributions, often to little effect. If you are keenly interested in seeing a certain area librarianship being given a higher profile, it is up to you to make it happen. JALRGA is an example of what you can do if you try. East Asian librarians are few and scattered in Australia, and at the moment Asian studies is not generally well supported by library managers. We hope EALRGA can provide a forum for discussion and a feeling of solidarity and unity. East Asian library panels at various conferences are morale-boosting and invigorating, but it takes more effort to ensure that any ensuing recommendations are followed up and acted on.

Susan MacDougall
Editor, EALRGA