

Welcome to the ASAA Newsletter for July-September 2008. The Newsletter is an informal quarterly report about the workings of the ASAA Council and other issues of interest to our members. If you have something you'd like to be considered for inclusion in future newsletters (or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list), please contact the Association's Secretary, Michele Ford ([michele.ford@usyd.edu.au](mailto:michele.ford@usyd.edu.au)).

We'd also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the ASAA represents the interests of the Asian Studies community on a shoestring budget. **If you are behind in your dues, you can become financial again by paying your membership dues by credit card online at <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=594>** or by downloading the membership form on the website.

### **From the President (Dr Robert Cribb)**

The ASAA's hard work last year in ranking Asian Studies journals for the now-defunct RQF project seems to have paid off. In the draft journal rankings published as part of the ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia), the vast bulk of our recommendations have been accepted. This is as it should be, since the ASAA's rankings were based on wide consultation across the field, including more than 100 submissions from Asian Studies scholars. Feedback on the journal rankings is being channelled mainly through the universities, but the Association will also make a submission supporting most rankings and arguing for a few changes. Looming behind the journal ranking issue are two other issues likely to cause us difficulties. One is the likely request to rank monograph publishers. This is a problem because some larger publishers do not maintain consistent standards across all their branches and because commercial considerations intrude into the decision to publish a monograph in a way that they do not in journal article publication. The second issue is the likely importance of citation counts in the ERA process. The commercial sites which are likely to be the main source of citation data tend to serve books and area studies publications relatively poorly and Asian language publications little or not at all. The ASAA will be monitoring the situation and seeking to shape the new system so that our fields are not disadvantaged.

### **ASAA Biennial Conference (Conference Convenor, Marika Vicziany)**

The 17th Biennial ASAA Conference attracted 600 delegates and 550 abstracts. It was held at the Sebel Albert Park Hotel in Melbourne - all on the one level, which allowed people to hop around a bit and catch up with other papers being given 'next door'. The hotel staff were very attentive; Key Conference Solutions (our organiser) very dedicated and even located lost property long after it had been lost; but above all people have complimented ASAA on the good atmosphere and youthfulness of the event. That is largely due to the energetic involvement of postgraduates in Australia and abroad. The pre-conference postgraduate workshop attracted 90 participants on the day. My personal objective was to involve the sciences and law disciplines, and to encourage cross regional comparisons. For that reason we invited some international stars as keynote speakers. Breaking down regional barriers remains the key agenda item for ASAA as I see it. We have started on this process but have a long way to go. If the readers of this article have ideas about how to pursue that objective, I would be keen to hear from them. I take this opportunity to thank all readers who attended the ASAA Conference and look forward to seeing you all in two years time.

## **ASAA Refereed Proceedings**

ASAA members who attended the Biennial Conference in Melbourne in July are reminded that they have the opportunity to submit written papers for inclusion in the online refereed conference proceedings. For previous conference proceedings, see [http://asaa.asn.au/publications/conf\\_proceedings.php](http://asaa.asn.au/publications/conf_proceedings.php).

Papers must be submitted in their final form. Referees are asked to say simply 'yes' or 'no' to each paper, and only papers that meet both basic academic standards and basic standards of presentation will be accepted. For guidelines that you need to follow when making submissions download the [ASAA Conference Style Guide from http://www.conferenceworks.net.au/asaa/styleguide.php](http://www.conferenceworks.net.au/asaa/styleguide.php)

Kindly submit all papers by email to: [Jenny.Hall@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:Jenny.Hall@adm.monash.edu.au). The deadline for submissions of papers is 4 October 2008

## **Ninth International Women in Asia Conference**

The Ninth International Women in Asia Conference, is to be held from 29 September to 1 October 2008, at the University of Queensland. WIA conferences have been held regularly since 1981 and are supported by the Women's Forum of the Asian Studies Association of Australia. The theme for 2008 is Transition and Interchange, which we hope will stimulate discussion on temporal and geo-cultural changes and interactions that may be understood in many different ways and in many different contexts. Contributions are invited from a broad range of participants from various disciplines on a large number of themes concerning the lives of women in Asia. Participants are encouraged to submit proposals for panels (with 3-4 papers per panel). Individual proposals are also welcome. Individual presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes in length. The program highlights include a showcase of outstanding Early Career Researchers (see separate attachment), a panel of experts roundtable discussion, and film screenings of some outstanding women's films from Asia with introduction and discussion by their directors including Japanese director Hamano Sachi and Chinese director Peng Xiaolian. For details, visit the conference website via the Women in Asia Conference link at <http://www.arts.uq.edu.au/slcscs/>

## **ICAS6 in Korea**

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asia Scholars will be held in Daejeon in Korea on 6-9 August 2009 (<http://www.icassecretariat.org/>). It has been a tradition that the ASAA sponsors 1-3 panels at the convention as a formal mark of our engagement with scholars in the region. Unfortunately we have never been in a position to sweeten the sponsorship with financial support, but we would cordially invite members who are considering proposing a panel to do so under the auspices of the Association. Glory, but not gold, will be yours. For details of sponsorship procedures, please contact Robert Cribb ([robert.cribb@anu.edu.au](mailto:robert.cribb@anu.edu.au)).

## **ASAA Elections 2008**

The current Council of the ASAA will reach the end of its term in December 2008. Nominations have now been received for the new Council, and you will be receiving a ballot paper in the next few weeks, which will include some brief autobiographical information about the nominees. Nominees for Council positions are listed below. Where only one name is listed (three for general councillors) are uncontested.

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathryn Robinson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vera Mackie</li> <li>• Peter Mayer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michele Ford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lenore Lyons</li> </ul>
<b>Teacher's Rep.</b>	<b>Postgraduate Rep.</b>	<b>China &amp; Inner Asia*</b>	<b>South Asia</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penelope Coutas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thushara Dibley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaine Jeffreys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kama Mclean</li> </ul>
<b>Japan &amp; NE Asia</b>	<b>Southeast Asia</b>	<b>General Councillors</b>	<b>West &amp; Central Asia**</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaye Broadbent</li> <li>• Seiko Yasumoto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate McGregor</li> <li>• Lyn Parker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate Brittlebank</li> <li>• Devleena Ghosh</li> <li>• Deborah Henderson</li> <li>• David Hill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No nominee</li> </ul>

\* Proposed new title is China

\*\* Proposed new title is West, Central and Inner Asia. A councillor may be co-opted at a future date. If you are in a position to be involved, please let us know.

### **Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**

At the same time as you vote on the new Council, you will be asked to vote on a number of amendments to the constitution. A copy of the current constitution indicating the proposed amendments is provided on the website of the ASAA (<http://asaa.asn.au/index.php>). The intent of these amendments is as follows:

**Amendment 1:** *To permit the Council to confer Honorary Life Membership on a retired member of the Association who has made a major contribution over an extended period to the work of the Association or to the profession in general, beyond that which might normally be expected in the course of an academic career.*

Council recommends this amendment as offering an appropriate way to acknowledge the contribution of loyal, longstanding members who have made a special contribution to the Association's work.

**Amendment 2:** *To include the Publications Officer as a member of the Executive Committee of the Council.*

Council recommends this amendment as a means of including in the Executive Committee the holder of a position that is central to the Association's professional activities.

**Amendment 3:** *To include Inner Asia with West and Central Asia rather than with China in the division of regional councillor responsibilities.*

Council recommends this amendment as a means of broadening the field of potential candidates for the West, Central and Inner Asia councillor post and to avoid the marginalization of Inner Asia within the responsibilities of the China councillor.

**Amendment 4:** *To allow the representation of affiliated organizations on the Council.*

Council is keen to develop close working relationships with regional and country-focussed associations in Asian Studies; we wish to open the possibility for including on Council representatives of one or more of those organizations where it would be in the Association's interests.

**Amendment 5:** *To allow online voting for Council and office-bearer elections and other matters.*

Council believes that secure online voting will encourage greater participation in Association elections and that it will deliver a significant saving in postage costs.

**Amendment 6:** *Allows Council to conduct formal routine business by e-mail.*

Under the present constitution, Council cannot legally conduct business except at meetings. This amendment allows for a streamlined decision-making process.

**Amendment 7:** *To permit Council to ensure the archival preservation of Association records.*

As an Association, the ASAA is not required to preserve its records for future historical research. Nonetheless, the Association has played and continues to play an important role in Australian professional/academic public life. This amendment permits Council to ensure that the Associations records are appropriately preserved.

**Amendment 8:** *Miscellaneous changes.*

Council recommends a number of small changes of terminology and practice to bring the constitution in line with what has proven to be normal practice.

**Amendment 9:** *Removing the specification of annual fees from the Constitution.*

Council recommends that the annual membership fees be announced to members in normal communication and that specific dollar figures not be included in the Constitution.

**Amendment 10:** *Allowing memberships to commence at the beginning of any quarter.*

This amendment will ratify the current practice of permitting members to join in any quarter.

**Amendment 11:** *Establishing a category of Corporate membership.*

This amendment will allow the Council to set a rate for corporate and institutional members of the Association.

**Amendment 12:** *Establishing a category of retiree member.*

In the past, the associate member category has been used to allow retired members to maintain their membership of the Association at favourable rates. Council recommends specifying this arrangement more openly.

## **Appointments and Promotions**

**Lionel Babicz** took up an appointment as a Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney in July. Lionel's field is modern Japanese history with a specialization in Japan-Korea relations.

**Rebecca Suter** has been appointed a Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney. Rebecca is a specialist in modern and comparative Japanese literature and popular culture.