

EDITORIAL

The last editorial to be published in this Journal announced the passing of the editorship away from the founding editor, Associate Professor Barry Richardson. Since that major change, other changes have also marked this Journal's development. Apart from an upgrading of its physical appearance, the Journal has gained an international editorial board of high standing, has become a joint publication of the Universities of Central Queensland and Papua New Guinea, has gained a (small) measure of financial security, and has continued to publish a small number of important contributions to the psychological literature. As editor for the past five years, I cannot but be proud of what has been accomplished. On the other hand, as editor I am also all-too-aware of the challenges that this Journal faces in the years to come.

A principal aim of SPJP has been to serve as a forum for psychologists indigenous to the South Pacific region. Although I am pleased by the contributions that indigenous psychologists have indeed made, I must also confess disappointment at the low rate of manuscript submission by indigenous psychologists. Clearly, this Journal has not yet succeeded in presenting itself as a preferred "home" for the work of indigenous psychologists. Similarly, SPJP has aimed to serve as an archive for psychological studies especially germane to the South Pacific region, and has not yet achieved this aim. True, each volume has contained material that informs the reader of the character of South Pacific psychologies, but the essences of the bewildering variety of peoples who occupy this region have yet to be described.

Psychology is sometimes characterised as a "young science," and such it is when compared with the natural sciences. But when it comes to understanding the psychology of the South Pacific peoples, psychology cannot claim anything more than fledgling status. Although our region is an ideal testing ground for assessing universalist versus cross-culturalist assumptions, the possibilities for discovery continue to be spurned. Perhaps the "time" is not right. Perhaps the necessary questions have not been formulated. Perhaps the institutions (and the individuals who define the institutions) necessary to support such research have not reached the necessary stage of development. Whatever the answer, "something" needs to change.

It is time for a change, and I am very pleased to report that a new editorial team will assume control of SPJP. David Lea, of the University of Papua New Guinea, has served as Associate Editor and Papua New Guinea manager of SPJP since 1991, and is well placed to begin serving as Co-editor. Dr Lea will be joined in this role by Gita Bagayan, also of UPNG. I am optimistic that their knowledge and energy will carry the Journal through its next phase of development.

Murray J. Dyck
Rockhampton