

EDITORIAL

In his **Editorial Comment** in Volume 24 (1977) of the *Proceedings of the New Zealand Ecological Society* the Editor wrote the prophetic words: "Journals evolve and the 'Proceedings is no exception." In the case of the *Proceedings*, evolution has certainly taken place and at such a rapid rate that within a few months of the Editorial appearing, the *Proceedings* has evolved into the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. As the new Editor for the New Zealand Ecological Society, I am pleased to have this opportunity of introducing to readers the first issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. The change of title is, perhaps, a belated recognition of the fact that because of the nature, scope and importance of many of the papers published in its pages, the familiar *Proceedings of the New Zealand Ecological Society* has for many years been, in all but name, truly the New Zealand journal of ecology. The President of our Society made this point, and several others, about the *Proceedings* in his 1977 Presidential Address (published in this issue) and also paid tribute to the succession of Editors whose services have helped to make the *Proceedings* the highly-regarded journal it is today. I hope that I, and my successors, will similarly go from strength to strength and consolidate the position of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* on the world ecological scene.

Except for a new cover design, for which we are grateful to Michael Hurst, School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, and Yvonne Davie (for the drawing), the new journal is similar in appearance to the *Proceedings*. The decision to retain the same page size, print type, layout, etc. was made less for convenience than to preserve what many consider to be an attractive and readable format, and also to avoid any increased costs in production. This is not to imply that alterations will not be made in the future if circumstances, or opinions, change.

The journal will publish research papers and critical reviews dealing with any aspect of pure or applied ecology. Although, for obvious reasons, the emphasis will be on the New Zealand region, information from elsewhere in the world will be considered for publication if it is of general ecological interest. The journal will continue to publish papers delivered at the Annual Conference of the Society, provided that they meet the normal editorial requirements. It is intended that **Book Reviews** will

become an important feature of the journal. Particular attention will be devoted to books published in Australasia, many of which may be missed or ignored by overseas journals, but important books published elsewhere will also be reviewed to evaluate their usefulness to New Zealand ecologists. There is an innovation in this issue: the publication of two submissions made by the New Zealand Ecological Society, one to the Royal Commission on Nuclear Power Generation in New Zealand (*Nuclear Power Generation in New Zealand*) and the other to the Hon. Minister of Forests (*The Future of West Coast Beech Forests and Forest Industries*). The intention is to publish more submissions or reports of this nature to provide a permanent record of the endeavours of the Society in ecological matters of national importance.

Ultimately, the success of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* will depend upon the number, variety and quality of papers submitted for publication. Therefore, I invite all ecologists, in New Zealand and overseas, whether members of the New Zealand Ecological Society or not, to support this journal by offering papers for publication in future issues. Detailed instructions for preparation of manuscripts are given in the Notice to Contributors printed inside the back cover of this volume.

Dr M. C. Crawley
Editor