

## Editorial

This represents the first issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* that I have put together during my five-year term as Editor. The Journal continues to serve as the primary outlet for publication of ecological research for the New Zealand and greater Pacific region and includes manuscripts representing all of the major branches of ecology. It is widely read in New Zealand and elsewhere, not just by scientists, but also those involved with the application of our ecological knowledge base to issues of conservation and management in the science policy community. We continue to attract manuscripts that span the entire spectrum from theoretical to applied, but which draw on sound underlying scientific principles.

The Journal continues to be strongly supported. Last year (1999) we again received an all time record number of unsolicited manuscripts. There is little doubt that articles published in our Journal are widely read and referred to; despite major concerns I have about science citation indices, the Journal's Science Citation Impact Factor continues to be buoyant - excellent in comparison with comparable regional journals and actually higher than several internationally focused journals.

Another strength of the Journal is the time taken between submission and publication. This is an area

that we always strive to do better in, but for the majority of manuscripts requiring minor to moderate revision the time between initial submission and publication is less than 12 months; in a few cases this time is less than six months.

While we are well served by data-rich manuscripts, we are less well supplied by ideas-type papers, e.g. Forum items and critical Review articles. There are many ecologists out there who have excellent ideas and points of view that I feel would interest a broad cross-section of the Journal's readership and which I feel could be articulated into exciting (and even provocative) articles of this type.

Finally I would especially like to thank the previous Editors, Gábor Lövei and John Parkes, for help in guiding me into the position as Editor. I inherit the Journal in a position of strength and look forward to serving the Ecological Society of New Zealand in this position over the next few years.

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