

## Editorial 2005

In the current issue, readers will notice changes to the layout of the *Australian Journal of Zoology*. The new cropped-A4 format will, for one, allow the publication of more papers. Moreover, it will smooth the production process keeping turnaround times to a minimum. Some readers may also have noticed a significant change to the inside cover of the journal. After some fourteen years, David Morton has handed the editorial responsibility of the journal to Dr Dugald McGlashan. David became one of the two editors of the journal in 1990, and he took sole responsibility in 1991. His contribution to the journal was substantial, maintaining both its financial viability and its status as one of the leading 'zoology' journals internationally. David recognised that the success of the journal depended upon reliable refereeing of manuscripts and rapid publication. To that end, he was instrumental in developing international credibility by ensuring that around half the referees were from abroad. And for the last few years it was possible to have a good manuscript published within nine months of original submission. But David also believed that the editor had a responsibility to provide helpful advice to both disappointed and published authors.

The *Australian Journal of Zoology* was first published in 1953, with the CSIRO and the Australian National Research Council deciding to 'publish this new periodical, the *Australian Journal of Zoology*, as a medium for the publication of results of original scientific research in zoology, with special emphasis on descriptive aspects'. With one notable exception (perhaps familiar to ecologists), that first volume contained descriptive studies. While the central objectives of the journal have remained largely unchanged, the scientific rigour of the methodologies of the various branches of zoology certainly has. It is to David's credit that the articles published in the *Australian Journal of Zoology* are derived from research of contemporary rigour.

We anticipate a few changes to the journal over the next year, including to the scope and layout, submission of manuscripts, and how the editor obtains advice on manuscripts. We believe that these changes will ensure the journal continues to publish papers that enhance knowledge of the zoology of our remarkable fauna.

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