

Australian Journal of Zoology: 60th anniversary

This year marks the 60th anniversary of *Australian Journal of Zoology*. To celebrate, we are making a few changes to the journal. We recognise that both zoological research and publishing have changed significantly since 1953, when the journal was first launched, and that the journal must adapt to meet the requirements of authors and readers. As a result, *Australian Journal of Zoology* has now introduced several new article types, launched an award to recognise student work, and reaffirmed its commitment to publishing high-quality research.

In addition to original research articles and critical reviews, we now welcome the submission of several new article types. A series of 'opus' reviews, invited from senior zoologists by the editors, will complement current content by providing both retrospective and prospective examinations of the authors' own research areas. The editors will also commission 'perspective' articles – similar to reviews, but that allow authors the freedom to present thought-provoking ideas, develop novel hypotheses and speculate on controversial topics.

We will also encourage the submission of shorter papers, such as those describing innovative zoological methods or techniques, natural history observations or primer notes. Few journals provide a forum for such reports, yet they are often important observations that are worthy of wider dissemination.

To recognise and celebrate the important student contribution to zoological research in Australia and worldwide, *Australian Journal of Zoology* has launched the Best Student Paper Award. This award is presented annually for the best original research publication arising from student work (Honours, Masters or PhD)

in the most recent volume of the journal. A panel of editors assesses eligible papers on their international impact in zoological research using Australasian animals. Our first winner is Rohan Bilney from Deakin University for his paper 'Reversed sexual dimorphism and altered prey base: the effect on sooty owl (*Tyto tenebricosa tenebricosa*) diet', from volume 59 of the journal (2011; pp. 302–311). A profile of Dr Bilney and his work will appear in the journal later this year.

The journal has always endeavoured to publish high-quality research, quickly and efficiently. Last year, we adopted ScholarOne as our online manuscript handling system – we expect it to improve the submission experience for authors and to streamline peer review. We strive to reduce editorial turnaround times and aim to return the first decision on most manuscripts within 21 days of submission. As soon as manuscripts are accepted, they are listed online as 'Just Accepted' and move straight into production; when ready, they are published Online Early before print publication. Our goal is to publish all papers online within 6 weeks of acceptance.

The editorial team and journal staff hope that these changes improve authors' and readers' experiences with *Australian Journal of Zoology*. As always, we welcome your feedback on the journal and its development, and we look forward to receiving your best work.

Paul Cooper
Editor in Chief