

Reflections on two years of change at *Pacific Conservation Biology*

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This issue marks two full years of *Pacific Conservation Biology* (PCB) publication by CSIRO Publishing, following the 20 years in which the journal was produced by Surrey Beatty and Sons. It's appropriate to reflect on what services have been developed for authors, subscribers and readers over that time, as well as who is publishing in the journal, what topics are being covered, and evidence of uptake of work by other scholars.

Services to authors and readers

Since 2015 PCB offers authors and readers a combination of old and new services and features, building on the strong foundations established by Surrey Beatty and Sons. I foreshadowed these in the first editorial of 2015, and repeat and expand on them here:

- All papers now come with a unique DOI number, enabling easier location of publications online, and providing forward linking with journals that cite PCB, increasing exposure for the journal.
- The journal website facilitates online access to papers and subscriber services, as well as providing additional information such as most read articles.
- PCB now offers online submission and manuscript processing to expedite submission, review and publication.
- Those with limited shelf space can now request an online only subscription option.
- Papers are published 'Online Early' in advance of the official publication date of an issue, and download statistics show that these papers are being read early.
- There are no longer any page charges, except for colour figures. However, there is an Open Access fee if authors choose the option to publish their papers in Open Access.
- There is speedier liaison with major database services, so that publications are listed in the databases as promptly as possible – a key factor in raising the profile of each paper.
- The Ivor Beatty Award was inaugurated in commemoration of Ivor's outstanding contributions to conservation. It is presented annually for the best paper published that year in PCB, and the 2015 winner was Dr Bayard Brattstrom (Brattstrom 2015).
- The focus continues to be on the Pacific region, including the western Pacific (East Asia, South Asia, South-east Asia and Oceania) the north Pacific (including Russia), and the central Pacific islands across to countries on the North American and

South American continents bordering on the eastern Pacific. We do consider Indian Ocean papers if relevance is drawn to nations in the Pacific.

- Features such as Forum Essays, News and Views and Book Reviews are continuing,
- There are flexible word limits for submitted papers to allow for longer papers when the subject matter requires it (prospective authors of longer papers are advised to consult the Editor-in-Chief before submission).

Some prospective authors do ask when PCB will have an impact factor. The impact factor is a product of the Thomson Reuters Co., which has strict selection criteria for choosing journals for inclusion (see Testa 2006 for a company description of these criteria, and Leydesdorff 2008; p. 282, for an independent appraisal). The publisher is striving for the journal to receive an impact factor as soon as possible, but the decision remains with Thomson Reuters. In the meantime, PCB is covered by other respected ranking services including the Scimago Journal and Country Rank (<http://www.scimagojr.com>).

Who publishes in PCB?

In 2015 and 2016 198 authors from 11 countries contributed to PCB (Table 1) (data exclude editorials and book reviews and

Table 1. Regional distribution of authors publishing in *Pacific Conservation Biology* in 2015 and 2016.

Country ^A	Number of authors	Percentage of authors
Australia	116	58.6
New Zealand	19	9.6
United States	12	6.1
United Kingdom	2	1.0
Fiji	27	13.6
Papua New Guinea	11	5.6
Solomon Islands	2	1.0
Tonga	1	0.5
Malaysia	1	0.5
Thailand	3	1.5
Japan	4	2.0

^AWhere authors indicated multiple affiliations in different countries, only the first mentioned country was counted. Authors are counted each time they publish, so authors who contributed to multiple papers have been counted each time.

Table 2. Affiliations of authors publishing in *Pacific Conservation Biology* in 2015 and 2016.

Affiliation ^A	Number of authors	Percentage of authors
Academics	115	57.8
Industry	16	8.0
Government	37	18.6
Other	30	15.6

^AWhere authors indicated multiple addresses, only the first mentioned affiliation was counted.

cover all of 2015 and the first three issues of 2016). Authors were predominantly Australian (58.6%), followed by Fiji (13.6%) and New Zealand (9.6%). Most authors were academics (57.8%), followed by government employees (18.6%) (Table 2). Nearly a quarter (24.6%) of the 61 papers had authors from at least two countries, indicating strong international collaboration. However, the international collaboration in the two special issues published over this period was 52.6%, while in the standard issues it was 11.9%. The special issues, Volume 22 (2) on 'Conservation Oceania Style: Highlighting Oceania's Unique Approaches to Conservation' and especially Volume 22 (3) on 'Faunal species conservation in the Melanesian Pacific Islands,' are therefore encouraging international collaboration. A key factor in boosting international collaboration has also been the broadening of the editorial board to include excellent new editors from the Pacific, as well as strong guest editorial work from Pacific editors for special issues.

In their comprehensive analysis of publications in PCB to the end of 2007, Calver and Bryant (2008) reported that 72.9% of PCB's authors were Australian and 46.3% were academics. Compared with those figures, the preponderance of Australian authors has declined, but academic authorship has increased.

Submissions to PCB are ~50–60 per year. While this is good in ensuring timely publication of issues, there is capacity to handle extra submissions.

What topics are being covered?

Fauna are a strong concern of PCB authors, with 37 of the papers published in 2015–16 considering some aspect of fauna conservation. Vertebrates are the subjects of 32 of these papers. Plants featured in only eight papers, so further submissions on botanical topics are encouraged, as well as papers on invertebrate conservation. Issues of management, law and policy were raised in 22 papers.

Uptake of work by other scholars

Citations and article downloads are the two major measures of interest in scientific publications. There is limited opportunity for citations for papers published in 2015 and 2016, but using Scopus data on 9 October 2016 (and excluding editorials and book reviews), 23 of the 61 papers published until issue 22(3) had been cited at least once. Download statistics are a more immediate measure, showing that at the time of writing all papers published in 2015 or 2016 have been downloaded at least six times, with one 2015 paper having 773 downloads. The most downloaded paper this year has 168 downloads, and in August another PCB paper attracted more attention on the CSIRO Publishing social media streams than all other CSIRO Publishing news. More broadly, during 2015–16 to date there were 41 014 downloads of PCB papers (covering all years) from the publisher's website. In combination, the citation and download statistics confirm that PCB papers are visible and are used.

Where to next?

Priorities for PCB remain increasing submission rates, especially from authors outside Australia. Special issues have proved useful in achieving this, and also in encouraging international collaboration. The Editor-in-Chief welcomes inquiries from conference organisers, NGOs and regional groups interested in exploring possibilities for special issues within the scope of the journal. The publisher will apply for a journal impact factor from Thomson Reuters, but the final decision is beyond the publisher's control.

The editorial team looks forward to further submissions. The team receives excellent support from authors, reviewers, subscribers and the staff at CSIRO Publishing and thanks these people, and many more, for their efforts in maintaining PCB's high standards.

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