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Editor-in-Chief

Dr M Flannigan, Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton, Canada.



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Editorial

This issue marks a further milestone for *IJWF*. The past year has been spent clearing a backlog of papers that had developed, and publishing the special issue "Integrating spatial technologies and ecological principles for a new age in fire management". With all of this accomplished, we can now look towards developing the journal, and three important new initiatives will be introduced this year.

First, we will have a new editorial structure. It is clear that an international journal with such a wide scope imposes great burdens on a single editor. Therefore, the Editorial Advisory Committee has decided to establish an international panel of Associate Editors, who will oversee peer-review of papers in their specific disciplines. To reflect this new structure, the position of Scientific Editor has now been designated Editor-in-Chief. The Associate Editors will work with the Editor-in-Chief to ensure that only the best work continues to be published in the journal. We expect that his sharing of the load will allow us to provide more rapid consideration of submitted papers. The panel is presently being formed, and its composition will be announced as soon as the panel is in place.

We regret to announce that the present Scientific Editor, Dr Gwynfor Richards, has retired from that position due to pressure of his academic responsibilities. We thank Dr Richards for his great contribution during a difficult time for the journal, and hope that the journal will continue to have the benefit of his expertise as a reviewer of papers. However, we are pleased to announce that Dr Mike Flannigan, of the Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton, has accepted the new position of Editor-in-Chief, from February 2002.

Second, submissions to the journal will now be received directly by the Publisher, from where they will be transmitted to the Editors. This new system will further lighten the administrative load on the Editors. Therefore, all new submissions should be directed to **CSIRO PUBLISHING** effective immediately. Papers presently under consideration will be handled under the previous system.

Third, and in conjunction with direct submission to the Publisher, the journal will now handle all submissions electronically. Given the international distribution of authors, Editors, the Publisher, and the reviewers, the postal system cannot deal with the flow in a timely way. We will be setting up a completely new system during the year but, as an interim measure, please send your files electronically only, either by email, or on disk or CD.

IJWF is committed to ethical, prompt and efficient publication of the best work in fire science; we look forward to continuing support from our authors and reviewers in helping us to meet that goal. We also hope that you will all support *IJWF* as readers and subscribers to ensure the viability of the Journal.

Ross Bradstock
Chair, Editorial Advisory Committee
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