

# Editorial

## Overview

This year, *Australian Journal of Botany* (*AJB*) reaches 51 years of publication. There are many people who have contributed to its success during this time. I thank my production team here at CSIRO PUBLISHING, present and past Editorial Advisory Committee members, my predecessors, authors, referees and subscribers for its past success, and will work to ensure its future.

## Impact Factor and Ranking

The *Australian Journal of Botany* had an impact factor of **0.78** and **1.09** and was ranked **71/137** and **47/136** (Plant Sciences Category) respectively in the 2000 and 1999 SCI Journal Citation Reports. This represents a consolidation of *AJB*'s readership and improved accessibility via the internet (Contents pages and Abstracts may be viewed free of charge). The publication of the *Turner Review Series* [now at no. 6 with Brad Potts' paper in this, the first issue of 2003] has also broadened the Journal's readership and continues to consolidate *AJB* as a leading botanical journal.

## World Wide Web & Electronic Edition of Journal

Information about the *Australian Journal of Botany* [print and electronic versions (.pdf and XML)] is accessible through the *AJB* home page:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ajb>

Subscription packages that include the full web edition of *AJB* (with search engine) are available to subscribers. Readers and browsers can find out about recently accepted papers by subscribing to a free early alert service:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/early.cfm>

With this service readers are notified by email when a new issue of *AJB* is about to be published, usually about 3 weeks in advance of the print publication.

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## Submission Rate

There were 129 manuscripts submitted in 2002, considerably more than the number of papers submitted in 2001 (108 manuscripts). About 47% of submissions in 2002 were from overseas contributors.

## Published Papers and Acceptance Rate

The journal published 70 papers (784 pages) in 2002. The category *Ecology and Ecophysiology* remained strong (37% of papers published), although there was good representation from all other categories. Six Turner Review papers have been published.

The acceptance rate was about 60% in 2002.

In 2002, *AJB* published one Special Issue entitled *Measuring and Imagining: Exploring Centuries of Australian Landscape Change*.

## Acceptance to Publication Times

The time from acceptance to print publication for a paper in *AJB* is presently about 3 months, and is even shorter (at least 3 weeks earlier) for online publication as papers appear online as they are approved for printing.

## Source of Reviewers

The quality of the published papers depends on the quality of the refereeing system. In 2002 the journal editor consulted 190 referees (43% overseas) from over 20 countries. This breadth not only allows for a wide range of opinions, but also serves to bring the journal to the attention of an increasing number of scientists, some of whom may submit their work for publication.

## *Australian Journal of Botany* — 2002 Student Prize

The *AJB* Student Prize for the best student-authored paper published in 2002 will be announced in the next issue. The award is a \$250 book voucher (selections from CSIRO Publishing Booklist) and a year's subscription to the journal.

## Electronic Mail

For faster communication electronic mail is encouraged, email [simone.farrer@csiro.au](mailto:simone.farrer@csiro.au)

Simone Farrer (Managing Editor)  
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