

## *Marine and Freshwater Research* — a new viewpoint

From the first issue of *Marine and Freshwater Research* (*MFR*), which included studies of fouling organisms to anchovies to bacteria, the aim of the journal was to provide a vehicle for the incredibly diverse research undertaken in marine, estuarine and inland water environments. Not only did this allow for 'crossover' readership between fields, but, importantly, the chance for the dissemination of research articles of a truly interdisciplinary nature – apposite and prescient given today's funding priorities. The internationally renowned 50th anniversary issue (Volume 50, Number 8) was a culmination of years of publishing experience, and a glowing tribute to the authors and the reviewers of *MFR* papers since its inception.

In 2002, after more than 15 successful years as Managing Editor, Ann Grant retired. The many highlights of her tenure included the high standard of the papers published, the huge contribution of referees (from every corner of the globe), fast turnaround times, an international subscriber base, a steadily increasing impact factor and the internationalization of the journal, epitomized in the name change from the *Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*. That *MFR* is now truly international is demonstrated by the submissions, publications, referees and subscribers being from every continent. Indeed, the journal encourages and welcomes submissions from all corners of the globe.

As the new Managing Editor, I see my role as continuing the traditions of *MFR* – high quality scientific papers in the marine, estuarine and freshwater sciences – while being proactive in the development of the journal. The advent of the internet has introduced widespread and rapid change within scientific publishing, bringing pitfalls and challenges, but most of all, opportunities. One of the great strengths of *MFR* is its ability to cross subject barriers and connect readers derived from diverse and myriad backgrounds. In this sense, I believe *MFR* is in a strong position to foster interdisciplinary research and I encourage submissions that are multifaceted. We aim to present reviews and encourage submissions integrating different research areas, to include comment and reply articles debating topical issues, and to develop the next generation by offering awards to young scientists.

The first issue of *MFR* in 1950 proclaimed that the scope of the journal included 'original investigations on sea, estuarine, and freshwater fisheries and cognate subjects'. This has since expanded to include any facet of original research in the aquatic sciences – and so it remains today (see inside front cover of this issue). Nevertheless, with the increasing sophistication of the aquatic sciences, and the aim of *MFR* to be globally relevant, studies with a purely descriptive focus,

or those that are specific to a local geographic area, or of restricted interest will not be published in the journal. A question that will be posed in the editorial office is 'what general scientific appeal does the study have?' The journal invites submissions that have a general interest to a wide range of scientists, and that test a hypothesis or exemplify or expand on some general scientific principle.

As electronic communication becomes more important in every aspect of journal production, and as it is now widespread in the scientific community, authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts electronically. Referees are sent manuscripts electronically wherever possible, and are encouraged to return their reports in this form. Through mechanisms such as these, and exciting new internet-based submission tools currently in development, we aim to give authors as rapid turnaround times as possible. With the high quality and international scope of our referees and with our commitment to clear, transparent and fair editorial judgement, I believe *MFR* is the journal of choice for your best work.

Another of our aims at the journal is to make the submission process as easy as possible for authors, and this is reflected in the revised Notice to Authors within this issue. I encourage authors to consult the *MFR* website for current updates. I also encourage authors to follow the instructions carefully, because by doing so the processing time of papers will be greatly reduced.

Thank you for your interest in this journal. Evidence of my own enthusiasm for *MFR* is that I published within its pages before assuming my new role, and I therefore appreciate the importance of publishing to the scientific process and to scientists themselves. I will use all my energy to ensure the quick and efficient management of manuscripts and I will continue to foster the development of *MFR*.

Dugald McGlashan

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