

Editorial

The University of the South Pacific (USP) is the premier provider of tertiary education in the Pacific region and an international centre of excellence for teaching, research consulting and training. It is one of the few institutions that are funding and encouraging all aspects of Pacific research in the large South Pacific region and the research papers published in this volume are a tribute to these efforts. In recognition of this, **The South Pacific Journal of Natural and Applied Sciences (SPJNAS)** has regularly been providing a comprehensive coverage of papers in the natural sciences, as well as the applied sciences, and is dedicated to a better understanding of the scientific world around us, especially in the South Pacific region.

From volume 32 (2014), the **SPJNAS** has increased its publication to two issues per year and issue 2 solidly proves that the **SPJNAS** has maintained its leadership in the South Pacific region by publishing research papers that are highly downloaded by the global scientific community. Since issue 1, there has been substantial growth in the submission of manuscripts to the **SPJNAS** together with a rapidly expanding geographical spread of contributors. The five topical and authoritative research papers in the present issue emphasise and illustrate various developments of Pacific interest and I hope that they will inspire young scientists to pursue their drive for research and publication.

The first article in this issue looks at the fuzzy logic based smart distributed system to utilize the available energy optimally. A new distributor system has been tested by the authors with fuzzy logic theory to satisfy the load demand constantly at the same time as to keep the charging state of the battery at a safe level and illustrating the potential benefits of the smart distributor by maximizing the usage of renewable energy. The second article shows successful isolation and characterisation of rifamycin W and phenylethylamides from a Fijian marine actinomycete *Salinispora arenicola*. The third paper demonstrates the surface ozone and seasonal trends at Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti and Galapagos from 1997 to 2003. The paper by Deo *et al.* discusses *in vitro* micro propagation of *Nicotiana benthamiana* via axillary shoots. The last article presents the evaluation of soil nutrient management practices of taro farmers in Taveuni, Fiji and may be of help to the farmers to ensure increasing fertility management. I hope that readers of the **SPJNAS** will find these articles of great value.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors who have contributed their research papers to the **SPJNAS**, and to acknowledge the eminent associate editors and the renowned reviewers for their time, patience, and kind cooperation in maintaining the high standard of the journal. I wish to acknowledge the continuing support of the Dean FSTE, Assoc. Prof. Anjeela Jokhan, Assoc. Dean, Research & Graduate Affairs, Assoc. Prof. Sushil Kumar, and Mr Vimlesh Chand for his expertise in formatting all the papers, inserting corrections and preparing the table of contents. Finally, my deepest gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and President of USP, Prof. Rajesh Chandra for signing the MoU with CSIRO Publishing which has made it possible to publish 2 issues of the **SPJNAS** starting from volume 32, 34 years after its inception.

Surendra Prasad

Editor-in-Chief, **SPJNAS** Volume 32, Issue 2.

Associate Professor of Chemistry