

Editorial

It has been an amazing year of momentum for our readers, authors and Editorial Board members of **The South Pacific Journal of Natural and Applied Sciences (SPJNAS)**, and this state of play will no doubt continue well into 2014 and beyond. This is the first time in the history of the **SPJNAS** that we have published such a high number of pages since the **SPJNAS** was made available online through CSIRO Publishing. The total growth for volume 31 (2013) as compared with the same period for volume 30 (2012) and volume 29 (2011) has been 22% and 111%, respectively, and has attracted papers from various categories. To celebrate this achievement, we would like to share important information about recent changes in the **SPJNAS**. Due to time constraints, we could not publish two issues in volume 31 but it contains 95 pages; however, from volume 32 (2014), we will be publishing two issues of **SPJNAS** per volume. The **SPJNAS** will continue to publish review articles, original research papers and short communications free of charge up to 12, 8 and 3 pages, respectively. However, should a paper extend beyond the budgeted page count, as described above, then on formatting a charge for the extra pages will apply (@AU\$50 per page).

In our continuing effort to ensure that the **SPJNAS** has a widespread reach throughout the broader scientific community, especially the South Pacific region and at a global level, it is available as an open access journal through CSIRO Publishing. This enables articles published in the **SPJNAS** to be readily accessed and downloaded by the scientific community around the globe. Moreover, the **SPJNAS** is the only science journal that publishes articles with diverse applications of interest to the South Pacific. In order to further improve the reputation and impact of the journal, we are looking for excellent, novel high-impact research articles as well as truly innovative application-type research articles within the scope of the **SPJNAS**. Original research papers of high interest to the Pacific region, or likely to have a significant impact on Pacific Island Nations or practical solutions to problems in the Pacific region will preferentially be considered for publication in the **SPJNAS**. Therefore authors are advised to consult the aims and scope of the **SPJNAS** prior to submitting their papers.

This volume of the **SPJNAS** contains ten full papers, 80% of which have a regional interest, specifically to Fiji. Topics covered by these papers include: five new species of *Sarcophyton* from the Fiji Islands; temperature trends in Fiji: a clear signal of climate change; a pre-eradication survey of Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* Monuriki, in Fiji; effect of clouds on Ku-band satellite link in tropical island countries; effects of *Saccharum spp.* cultivation duration on some soil of Papua New Guinea; and antimicrobial and cytotoxic activities of marine plants and invertebrates from the coast of Espirito Santo in Vanuatu. The volume also contains other articles of interest both to the Pacific region and at a global level.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors, the eminent associate editors and especially the renowned reviewers for their time, patience, and kind cooperation in maintaining the high standard of the journal. The **SPJNAS** looks forward to working with these renowned reviewers in the future.

Last but not least, I wish to acknowledge the continuing support of the Dean FSTE, Associate Professor Anjeela Jokhan, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs, FSTE, Associate Professor Sushil Kumar, and Teaching Assistant, Mr Vimlesh Chand for his expertise in formatting all the papers, inserting all corrections and preparing the table of contents. Finally, I thank Mr Josefa Uluinaceva, Graphic Artist, DMCA Office for designing the cover page.

Best wishes for the year 2014.

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