

Editorial

I am pleased to tell readers that the journal has had another good year. All issues for 2002 were published in the calendar year, and the journal is now firmly back on schedule. The electronic handling procedures are working well: papers submitted to the editorial office are put into the peer-review system promptly, and proof turnaround time has been reduced to days through the use of PDF files.

The new panel of Associate Editors has been established, and you will find their names on the inside cover. The Associate Editors handle peer-review of papers within their scientific field, and make recommendations to me as the Editor in Chief, who makes the final decision. Members of the Editorial Advisory Committee also handle peer-review of papers in their fields of interest. This sharing of the load has allowed us to provide more rapid consideration of submitted papers.

Dr Ross Bradstock, Chair of the Editorial Advisory Committee, completed his term at the end of 2002, having retired as a Director of the International Association of Wildland Fire. However, I am pleased to say that he will remain a member of the Advisory Committee. The new Chair is Dr Bret Butler, of the USDA Forest Service, Missoula, Montana. I wish to record my thanks to Ross for his contribution to the journal.

The publishing program for 2003 is an interesting one, with two normal issues planned and a large special issue on 'Fire and Savanna Landscapes in Northern Australia—Regional Lessons and Global Challenges'. Starting with this issue, we have a new-look Table of Contents, with brief descriptions of each paper for the non-specialist reader. This entry is not meant to be an abstract in the formal sense; it is aimed at helping the general reader to find a paper with conclusions useful to them that would perhaps otherwise be overlooked. The relevance of a paper may not always be obvious just from the title, which is typically written for the specialist reader. I hope that you find this new layout useful, and I welcome your comments on this and any other aspect of the journal. The contents of each issue are also featured in '*Wildfire*' magazine, the official publication of the International Association of Wildland Fire. We thank the Association and the publishers of '*Wildfire*' for allowing us to bring the journal to the wider membership of the Association.

The journal has continued to build its international visibility, culminating in an exhibit at the IV International Conference on Forest Fire Research in Luso, Portugal in November 2002. The journal is also covered by a range of international abstracting services, including BIOSIS, Institute for Scientific Information Philadelphia (*Science Citation Index/Current Contents*), CAB International (*Forestry Abstracts*), *Pollution Abstracts* and All-Russian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information.

I thank the Associate Editors and the reviewers for their contribution to the journal, and for making my job more manageable. I, of course, also thank our authors and readers without whom the journal would not exist.

Mike Flannigan
Editor in Chief
International Journal of Wildland Fire