
FINAL EDITORIAL

After 14 years as managing editors of the *Australasian Mycologist*, Cheryl Grgurinovic and Jack Simpson are stepping down. The journal has been through many changes since 1993 when we took over from John Walker.

The journal started its life as a newsletter entitled *Australian Mycological Newsletter* after a meeting of mycologists at the Australian Biological Resources Study in 1990. Attendees at this meeting had discussed the proposed *Fungi of Australia* series, and also the need for a means of communication amongst mycologists in Australia. Ian Parbery took on the job of editor and published issue 1 of the new newsletter. He was followed by John Walker.

We would like to acknowledge the help we have had from a few of the many people who have assisted and guided us over the years. John Walker and Kevin Hyde were driving forces in the establishment of the Australian Mycological Society, which later became the Australasian Mycological Society and have continued to provide help and advice. John spent all his working life with the New South Wales Department of Agriculture and made a major contribution to mycological systematics through his management of herbarium DAR and participation in the Committee for Fungi of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy. He continues to be a member of the Editorial Committee of *Australasian Mycologist*. It has been a great regret to us that Australia could not fulfill the dreams and ambitions that Kevin had for mycology. However, China and the world have been the beneficiaries. Bettye Rees has been an enthusiastic supporter and contributor and always willing to remind us to get a move on when production slowed down. David Ratkowsky has also provided much assistance over the years. In more recent years, Peter McGee, Roger Shivas and James Cunnington have been valued helpers and contributors. In New Zealand, Peter Buchanan, in particular, has been a great help. Jim Trappe, University of Oregon, has also been a valued contributor and supporter. Alan Love, our printer, showed

great patience as he guided us through the process of moving to an electronic printing system. The result was improved colour and formatting.

Mycology in Australasia is split four ways: the applied discipline of plant pathology, medical mycology, then professional people with broader interests in mycology in all its aspects, and various groups of amateur mycologists interested in finding taxa that are distinguished using only macroscopic characters. All four groups have their own publications, their own meetings and conferences and by and large do not actively interact. Each group caters to the needs of a different membership and we do not see the situation changing. Of course some people are members of societies in two or even three groups and that is to be encouraged. However, the Society and the *Australasian Mycologist*, which accepts manuscripts from all these areas, acts as a unifying point for all these disciplines. This was amply demonstrated when our very small Society hosted the International Mycological Congress in Cairns in 2006. The Congress organising committee did an outstanding job and we would particularly like to thank Wieland Meyer and Ceri Pearce for the huge amount of work carried out to host a very successful Congress.

Over the course of the years, the journal has gone through many changes. The newsletter changed its name to the *Australasian Mycological Newsletter* Volume 14 (3) in September 1995 after the Society, which had many members from New Zealand, chose to incorporate as the Australasian Mycological Society. The name change to *Australasian Mycologist* took place in Volume 18 (1) published in March 1999.

The name change also heralded the journal accepting anonymous refereeing of papers (Vol. 18 (1)) and this resulted in a significant increase in the number and quality of papers being submitted to the journal. The success of this can be measured by the fact that almost

all papers now submitted to the journal are for anonymous refereeing.

An editorial committee was established in April 2000 (see issue 19 (1)) — the members were Kevin Hyde and Wieland Meyer. John Walker joined the editorial committee (see issue 19 (2)) in August 2000. We would like to thank the editorial committee for its contribution to the journal over the years.

We encourage members to support Dr David Orlovich the new editor in what is a very substantial commitment to the Society. We hope that members will contribute manuscripts to the journal and support the journal to become a major publication covering all aspects of mycology in this region.

To all contributors to the journal, to those who refereed manuscripts and wrote reviews, we give our sincere thanks. To members of the Australasian Mycological Society we remind you that we need robust scientific accounts of any and all aspects of mycology in Australia, New Zealand and adjacent regions.

Please send future manuscripts to:

Dr David Orlovich
Department of Botany
University of Otago
PO Box 56
Dunedin
New Zealand

Email:

david.orlovich@botany.otago.ac.nz

Tel +64 3 479 9060

Fax +64 3 479 7583