ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Notice of Meeting

36th Annual General Meeting

To be held in Wellington Room 2, Wrest Point, Hobart
1.15-2.00pm
Tuesday 22nd November, 2011

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Proxies

3. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- **FASTS Review**

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting, it was agreed to undertake a review of the Society's membership of FASTS. However, during 2011, FASTS has undergone a significant restructure and is now known as Science and Technology Australia. Under these circumstances, it was considered premature to undertake a review before the impact of these structural and personnel changes could be assessed. It is therefore proposed to undertake this review in 2012 and provide a report to the 2012 AGM.

5. Reports from Office bearers

5.1 President

5.2 VPs

5.3 Secretary

5.4 Membership Manager

5.5 Executive Officer

5.6 Austral Ecology

5.7 Ecological Management & Restoration

5.8 ESA Bulletin

5.9 Treasurer

5.9.1 Presentation of accounts 2009/10

5.9.2 Presentation of Jill Landsberg Trust Fund accounts 2009/10

5.9.3 Election of auditors 2010/11

6. Election of Office Bearers for 2011

7. Other Business

7.1. Constitutional and By-law amendments

7.1.1. MOTION: That By-Law 7(i) relating to the role of the Treasurer be amended as follows:

FROM

"The Treasurer …..

(i) Should prepare an annual budget on the basis that the net assets of the Society (at the end of the Financial year) shall not fall below one hundred and fifty (150) percent of that years expenditure on recurrent items. If the estimated assets are predicted to fall below one hundred and fifty (150) percent of estimated annual expenditure, the Treasurer should advise Council and prepare a recommendation

for the next AGM increasing subscription rates and/or other fees charged by the Society so as to restore the ratio to one hundred and fifty (150) percent."

TO
"The Treasurer …..
(i) Should prepare an annual budget based on the guidelines set out in the ESA Financial Governance and Investment Policy."

7.1.2. MOTION: That By-Law 15 relating to duties of Regional Councillors be amended as follows:

FROM
"15. A Regional Councillor shall:
(a) Act as local correspondent for the Bulletin, by coordinating regional reports and forwarding them to the Bulletin editor, at a rate no less than two issues per year;
(b) Be ex officio member of any Organising committee appointed by the Executive to arrange General Meetings or other activities of the Society in their region;
(c) Provide liaison with other appropriate State based scientific societies;
(d) Be ex officio Chairperson of any Local Group established in their region and report to the Council on the meetings or other activities of such Local Group;
(e) Attend in person or via phone, or provide a written report, to at least 4 Council meetings per year; offer official apologies when unable to attend;
(f) As the Regional representative, coordinate at least one regional event per year for the benefit, enjoyment or education of local members."

TO
"15. A Regional Councillor shall:
(a) Act as local correspondent for the Bulletin, by coordinating regional reports and forwarding them to the Bulletin editor, at a rate no less than two issues per year;
(b) Be ex officio member of any Organising committee appointed by the Executive to arrange General Meetings or other activities of the Society in their region;
(c) Provide liaison with other appropriate State based scientific societies;
(d) Be ex officio Chairperson of any Local Group established in their region and report to the Council on the meetings or other activities of such Local Group;
(e) Attend in person or via phone, or provide a written report, to at least 4 Council meetings per year; offer official apologies when unable to attend;
(f) As the Regional representative, and where appropriate, coordinate at least one regional event per year for the benefit, enjoyment or education of local members.
(g) Be an active member of Council working groups and engage in other activities of Council that facilitate the aims and activities of the Society."

7.1.3. MOTION: That Clause 15 relating to subscription categories and payment options be amended as follows:

FROM
"FINANCE
15. Determination of subscription
(a) The annual subscription payable by Ordinary Members shall be such sum as is determined from time to time by Council and ratified at an Annual General Meeting
(b) (deleted 2008)

(c) the annual subscription payable by Concessionary Members shall be one half (1/2) times the annual subscription of Ordinary Members then rounded to the nearest five (5) dollars;
(d) the annual subscription payable by a Family Membership shall be one and one third (1 1/3) times the annual subscription of Ordinary Members then rounded to the nearest five (5) dollars;

TO
FINANCE
15. Determination of subscription
(a) The annual subscription payable by Ordinary Members shall be such sum as is determined from time to time by Council and ratified at an Annual General Meeting
(b) (deleted 2008)
(c) the annual subscription payable by Concessionary Members shall be one half (1/2) times the annual subscription of Ordinary Members then rounded to the nearest five (5) dollars;
(d) the annual subscription payable by a Family Membership shall be one and one third (1 1/3) times the annual subscription of Ordinary Members then rounded to the nearest five (5) dollars;
(e) Ordinary Members may also apply for longer-term membership (5 years, 10 years, and life membership). Five year subscriptions for Ordinary members will be 90% of a full five year annual subscription, then rounded to the nearest five (5) dollars. Ten year subscriptions for Ordinary members will 80% of a full ten year annual subscription, then rounded to the nearest five (5) dollars. Life-membership for Ordinary members will be 70% of a full thirty-five year annual subscription, then rounded to the nearest ten (10) dollars. Ordinary members taking out any of these option will be provided Austral Ecology in an electronic format."

Governance Items:

7.2 Strategic Plan 2011-2015

(This document is available at http://ecolsoc.org.au/governance.htm, hard copies will be available at the ESA booth at ESA11)

7.3 Business plan 2011-2015

(This document is available at http://ecolsoc.org.au/governance.htm, hard copies will be available at the ESA booth at ESA11)

7.4 Financial Governance & Investment Policy

(This document is available at http://ecolsoc.org.au/governance.htm, hard copies will be available at the ESA booth at ESA11)

7.5 Membership Fees – Proposed increase

ESA Council is proposing to implement a small rise in membership fees commencing from the beginning of the fee renewal period in 2012 (October). This will be the first increase in member fees for more than ten years and, as with other revenue, all fees are invested back into Society activities. In accordance with Clause 15 (a) the proposed fee schedule is presented below to the Annual General meeting for ratification.

MOTION: That the proposed Membership Fee Schedule be accepted for implementation at the start of 2012 renewal period.

Membership options	Details	Membership fees 2012 (these will be indexed annually) GST inclusive.
Standard membership	Indexed annual with CPI, paid annually	$90
Concession membership	50% of Standard member, paid annually	$45
Family membership	Standard member + 33%, paid annually	$120
Five year membership	Membership for 5 years @ 90% of Standard member	$405 ($81/year)
15 Year membership	Membership for 15 years @ 80% of Standard member	$1080 ($72/year)
Life membership	Equivalent to approx 35 years membership @ 70% of Standard member (can be paid in up to two instalments)	$2200 ($63/year)

8. Next AGM

9. Meeting Close

DRAFT MINUTES of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday 9th December 2010 (12:30-13:30)

Venue: Theatre T3, Australian National University, Canberra

Agenda papers were circulated in advance to ESA members, and are available on request from the Secretary.

Meeting Started at 12:40 AEDT

1.0 ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Attendees: (35 members and 3 non-member attended the AGM)
Members – Paula Peeters, Ian Williamson, Kerry Bridle, Chris Pavey, Gary Luck, Peter Fairweather, David Keith, Karen Ross, Jennifer Taylor, Elizabeth Tasker, Anne Kerle, David M. Watson, John Carnahan, Carla Catterall, Ben Gooden, Giles Parker, Mike Bull, Jann Williams, Christine Schlesinger, Wayne Barbour, Paula Adam, Alan York, Sarah Hill, Glenda Wardle, Tony Hastings, Nigel Andrew, Kris French, Tein McDonald, Richard Major, Natalia Huang, Barry Fox, John Judwig, Ros Blanche, Eddie van Etten, Raghu Sathyamurthy
Non-members – Keith Morris, Tim Baker, Bruce Burns
Apologies: Charles Morris

The AGM acknowledged John Carnahan, a foundation member of the ESA. Bruce Burns, the incoming President of NZ Ecological Society was also welcomed as a non-member attending the AGM.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PROXIES

Nina Pangahas and Geoffrey Bedford ceded their proxy votes to the President.
Robert Whelan, Bettina Hartinger-Pitman, Carolyn Selma Sandercoe and David Charles McFarland ceded their proxy votes to Kris French.
Leisa Turner ceded her proxy votes to Eddie van Etten.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE 2009 AGM

The AGM papers were distributed to members 30 days prior to the meeting.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2009 AGM was taken as read. Members were informed of the need for the re-numbering of AGMs given an error that crept into the numbering system in 2000. Members were advised that Council will oversee this re-numbering as appropriate in the near future, and that subsequent ratification by the membership was not required.

The 2007/08 Treasurer's report was accidentally tabled at the 2009 AGM instead of the 2008/09 report. The 2008/09 report (copied below) was circulated as part of the agenda papers for the 2010 AGM and required ratification.

"Correct Version of 2008/09 Treasurer's Report
This is my first year as Treasurer for ESA. This year has primarily involved a rapid increase in knowledge of how the Society functions well from a financial viewpoint. The biggest financial issue facing us has been the Global Financial Crisis and the impact it has had on our share funds in the short term, and the implications it will have on our future growth. As well as implementing new financial software to align our reports with the auditors, primarily Lyn McCormick - ESA Financial Officer, have been upgrading the business plan and assessing the Society's financial outlook over the coming years. The audit of the Society's accounts for 2008 – 09 is not to hand at the time of writing, but will be presented to the AGM in December"

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report for 2008/09 be taken accepted as a true and correct record.
Moved: David Keith
Seconded: Gary Luck
All in favour, Motion carried.

The membership was informed of the decision by Council (at the December 2010 meeting) that ESA temporarily withdraw from FASTS membership in 2011, pending the outcome of a review of the desirability of ongoing membership. Council will coordinate a review of costs and benefits of FASTS membership in 2011, and will inform FASTS of ESA's needs and priorities.

No other matters arose from the minutes of the 2009 AGM.

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2009 AGM be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.
Moved: Tein McDonald
Seconded: Nigel Andrew
All in favour, Motion carried.

5.0 REPORTS FROM OFFICE BEARERS

5.1 President's Report (Carla Catterall)
The written report of the President was tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

5.2 Vice-Presidents' Reports (Glenda Wardle, Paula Peeters, Ian Williamson)
The written reports of the 3 Vice-Presidents were tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

5.3 Secretary's Report (Raghu Sathyamurthy)
The written report of the Secretary was tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

5.4 Treasurer's Report (Nigel Andrew)
Nigel indicated that the income for 2009/10 was $158,000, up from $71,577 in 2008/09. The principal reason for this increase was the receipts of monies from INTECOL, and recovery of the ESA's share portfolio after the losses incurred during the global financial crisis. The total assets of the society was $1.07 million and the liabilities were $208,878, resulting in Net Assets of $863,832. This asset to liabilities ration of over 5 is a clear indicator of the ESA's sound financial health.

Nigel informed the AGM of Council's discussions around the reinvestment plans for these surplus funds. The plans include, the redevelopment of the website and the procurement of e-communications services. The AGM discussed the need to use these surpluses to also reduce costs for attendance of conferences. Carla informed the AGM that these measures the use of these funds to improve services for the membership will be discussed at the 2011 Strategic Planning Day.

Nigel thanked Lyn McCormick for her assistance as Finance Officer.

5.4.1 Presentation of Accounts 2009/10
The 2009/2010 audited accounts and Auditor's letter were presented to the attendees of the AGM by the Treasurer. The Auditor and ESA President and Treasurer have signed off on the audited accounts, as being in good order.
MOTION: That the 2009/2010 audit be accepted as a true and correct record by the membership
Moved:
Seconded:
All in favour. Motion carried

5.4.2 Presentation of Jill Landsberg Trust Fund Accounts 2009/10
The audited Jill Landsberg Trust Fund 2009/2010 accounts were presented to the membership by the Treasurer.
These accounts showed an accumulated surplus of $118,618 for 2009/10 compared to $114,352 in 2008/09. These surpluses will be put towards supporting and sustaining the JLTF student awards.

5.4.3 Election of auditors 2010/11
MOTION: That Deloitte Touche Tomatsu (Alice Springs) be appointed as the auditors of the ESA for the 2010/11 financial year.
Moved: Nigel Andrew
Seconded: Peter Fairweather
All in favour, Motion carried.

5.5 Membership Manager's Report (Lyn McCormick, Bev Watkins)
The written report of the Membership Manager was tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

5.6 Executive Officer's Report (Gail Spina)

The written report of the Executive Officer was tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

Carla thanked Lyn, Bev ad Gail for their contributions as paid officers of the ESA.

5.7 Austral Ecology Report (Mike Bull)
The written report of the Chair of Austral Ecology's Editorial Board was tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

5.8 Ecological Management and Restoration Report (Jann Williams & Tein McDonald)
The written report of the Chair of EMR's Editorial Board was tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

5.9 ESA Bulletin Report (Sue Murray-Jones)
The written report of the ESA Bulletin Editor was tabled.
No questions or comments were received.

6.0 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2011

Council Position	**Nominee**
President	Kris French
Past President	Carla Catterall
Vice President – Research	Glenda Wardle
Vice President – Public Liaison	Liz Tasker
Vice President – Student Affairs	Ian Williamson
Secretary	Raghu Sathyamurthy
Treasurer	Nigel Andrew
Bulletin Editor	Sue Murray-Jones
Chair Editorial Board – Austral Ecology	Mike Bull
Chair Editorial Board – EMR	Gary Luck
Public Officer	Debbie Saunders
Regional Councillor – ACT	Don Driscoll
Regional Councillor – NSW	Ben Gooden
Regional Councillor – NT	Christine Schlesinger
Regional Councillor – QLD	Andrew Hayes
Regional Councillor – SA	Nerissa Haby
Regional Councillor – TAS	Kerry Bridle
Regional Councillor – VIC	Peter Vesk
Regional Councillor – WA	Eddie van Etten

No nominations for Council positions were received from the floor. Office bearers for 2011 were elected unopposed. Carla welcomed all newly elected office bearers.

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

7.1. Constitutional amendment Cl 8 b (i) – Remove requirement for proposer/seconder

Carla informed the AGM of Council deliberations on the need to revise the constitution to enhance the inclusiveness of the ESA, and to make it easier for people to join the ESA. The AGM discussed the need for criteria for rejection of membership applicants. Carla clarified to the members that the "Objects" of the ESA detailed in the Constitution will guide the decisions to take on board members. Rejection of new applicants will only be made under exceptional circumstances (e.g. when the ethics or past practice of applicant is called into question).

The proposed amendment to the constitution was drafted after legal consultation, and was circulated with the AGM agenda papers.

MOTION: **Proposed Motion:** "That Clause 8 (b) Ordinary Members in the document "The Ecological Society of Australia Incorporated Constitution (1976)" be amended as follows:
"8. Ordinary Members

(b) no persons shall be admitted to membership of the Society unless:

i) their application is made in writing [**deleting 'and is signed by themselves and supported by two (2) members of the Society recommending membership of the Society'];**

ii) their application is approved by the Executive [**adding 'or delegate on the basis that their activities or qualifications are consistent with the objects of the Society'**]; and

iii) they have paid their first annual subscription to the Society.

(c) the Executive may reject an application for membership and the decision of the Executive, which will be explained in writing to the applicant, shall be final."

Moved: Nerissa Haby
Seconded: Kris French
All in favour, Motion carried.

Carla introduced Kris French as the incoming President.

Kris expressed the gratitude of the Council and the broader membership to the outgoing Council members. Kris thanked Jann for her as Chair of the Editorial Board for the past 6 years, and for her 20 years of service on the ESA Council; Paula for her role as VP-Public Liaison for the past 3 years, (and prior to that as Secretary), and noted the significant progression of ESA's public liaison agenda in that period; Carla for her service as President for the past 3 years during which the ESA's operational procedures have been considerably refined, and for her invaluable contributions to the ESA over many years.

8.0 NEXT AGM

The next AGM will be held as part of ESA 2011 Annual Conference, held between 21-25 November in Hobart.

Meeting Closed: 13:17 AEDT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011
Kris French

My first year as President has been concluded and the Council has achieved some important milestones. It has been a big year for big picture activities. I am thankful that there is such an enthusiastic group of people on Council, each aware of their roles and responsibilities and willing to fit these activities in amongst their normal work. While I only have space to mention some of our achievements, there are many other new initiatives that will be developed next year which have begun this year. I am also thankful for our staff, who help keep us all on track and do much of the hard 'slog' behind the scenes to make the activities successful. Finally, we are thankful to Ross Landsberg who provides us with free legal advice.

Strategic Plan

We began 2011, with a retreat for councillors to a Conference Centre in Brisbane where we brainstormed and outlined where we thought ESA should move over the next 5 years. It was an exciting time, full of ideas and thought-provoking discussions about directions and mechanisms to achieve these goals. The result was a new Strategic Plan that outlined five broad aims concerned with Research, Communication, Public Outreach, Early Career Ecologists and Governance, within which we listed a series of goals. These goals form the basis of Council's activities over the next 5 years.

Business Plan and Financial Governance

Key to the success of the Strategic Plan was the development of an appropriate budget allocation mechanism to support new initiatives while maintaining current activities. The success of our journal, Austral Ecology, has provided some good financial stability despite its vulnerability to a strong Australian dollar. However, our skills in managing ESA's financial strategy were somewhat limited and the Financial Governance Working Group (Treasurer (chair), President, Executive Officer and Finance Officer) have spent much time this year developing better financial governance strategies that will help current and future councils manage the society's finances. It links the needs of our day-to-day finances and our initiatives to specific accounts, invested in appropriate growth funds for the length of time they are needed and places any surplus into longer term investments which will reap returns only in a longer time period. There is no doubt that recent global financial factors have influenced ESA and its profits and we needed to ensure we had a sturdy policy to deal with such events. The result is a new Business Plan which outlines our budget and overall governance structure, and a Financial Governance Policy which outlines how we manage the financial accounts. The process was facilitated by Perpetual (one of our investment companies) which provides a free advisory service for non-profit organizations. Our thanks go to Perpetual for meeting with us and showing us a good financial model for ESA. In the future we will need to investigate other changes to enhance our capacity to receive donations.

New Webpage

Core to the Strategic Plan, was the development of a new content management system and webpages that would maintain our membership database, store our important documents and provide a functional communication tool that could be used by members. As I write this we are in the process of signing a contract with a company, InteRlated, who will develop this system for us over the coming months. By early 2012, ESA should have a brighter, more functional webpage capable of significantly better communication for members and easier online membership renewals. This development will underpin many of the new initiatives that we will be developing in the coming years.

New look Bulletin.

In 2012 we should also see the first of a new look Bulletin. After so many years of forming the main communication tool for the society, the current format has become out-of-date. Some of the valuable information contained in the Bulletin will become available on the new webpage, and the new format will be more informative on what ecological research is being undertaken around Australia. It should be an exciting new way of communicating amongst members and the community.

Councillors who are leaving

We say goodbye to Raghu Sathyamurthy who has served as Secretary since 2009. Raghu was very skilled in keeping our activities organized and contributed to many important working groups. His insightful and logical approach will be sorely missed.

This year we farewell the Bulletin Editor, Sue Murray Jones who has, for so many years looked after editing and collating all information for the Bulletin. She has also been an important representative and ambassador for ecological research in South Australia. Sue always contributed great ideas to the Council. Finally, we also say goodbye to Carla Catterall who, following her three years as President, has now also fulfilled her year as Immediate Past President. Carla has brought a depth of experience and insight to both of these roles and, on behalf of the Society, I would like to sincerely thank her for her contribution.

Medal Winners

In 2011 we celebrate the contributions of three ecologists. Lesley Hughes received the AERA medal for her contributions to understanding the impacts of climate change on natural ecosystems and species. The work is significant as a synthesis across systems and approaches and for its influence on ecologists and in the public arena.

We also celebrate decades of research on fire ecology undertaken by Malcolm Gill by awarding him the ESA Gold Medal. From being the first to articulate the concepts of a fire regime to research on fire behavior and management and finally to ensuring that science formed the basis of all policies and management of fires in Australia, Malcolm's influence has been extensive both in Australia and overseas.

And finally we celebrate the contribution of Jann Williams to ESA for over 20 years by awarding her the ESA Member Service Prize. Jann has been taken on many roles in ESA serving as Vice President, then President and then Chair of the EMR board. She has helped organize conferences and kept safe our Long Term Ecological Research Database. Short biographies of each of these people can be found on the webpage.

National and Local events

Hobart has been working really hard to put on a terrific conference. Under the leadership of the Tasmanian Councilor, Kerry Bridle, the Local Organising Committee has had to overcome a number of challenges, not the least of which is putting on a conference for a growing number of ESA members in a relatively small state capital. Despite this, they have achieved a great program. Their organization to date suggests that the conference will be terrific.

In a new agreement with Wiley Blackwell we are able to sponsor a writing workshop at ESA11 especially for early career researchers. The Early Career Working Group, lead by Andrew Hayes has organized this which will complement the ESA postgraduate workshop organized by Mark Westoby, Adrienne Nicotra and Samantha Newton. The Early Career Working Group has also been involved in linking early career researchers in ESA with a global network, INNGE.

ESA has continued to develop links with the Indigenous Community through our NT Councilor, Christine Schlesinger, and the Indigenous Working Group. About $23,000 in sponsorship has been received to provide money for indigenous ecologists and land managers to attend and present at ESA11.

Our Regional Councilors have been busy this year; their reports will give more details. Christine Schlesinger (NT) has set up a NT Student Travel Award sponsoring a student from the Northern Territory to attend and present at ESA11. In Victoria, Peter Vesk sponsored a conference to showcase student and partnership research from regional Vic and NSW. Andrew Hayes (Qld) is planning a seminar night on science communication and education with two visiting scientists and Nerissa Haby (SA) organized a grant writing workshop in South Australia. Kerry Bridle

(Tas) organized an expert working group which discussed the alternatives to burning after forestry logging operations.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Report from VP Research – Glenda Wardle

The role of the Vice President-research is defined to oversee strategic directions of ESA activities related to research. The breadth of activities in this area continues to increase and a number of new initiatives will be of interest to members. These activities fall under "AIM 3 **Facilitate high quality and relevant research in ecology",** identified in the "*ESA Strategic Plan 2011-2015*". Council developed the broad ideas related to promoting ecological science at the 2010 ESA Council Planning Day and the key activities to achieve them will be developed further by specific working groups.

The first of these is the "**Critical Topics"** working group. The terms of reference are to develop the process and guidelines to deliver evidence based syntheses of hot topics. This might be through publishable outputs or by peer-review through the relevant research groups or by engaging with other organisations. Members interested in contributing to the working group or with other suggestions should email Glenda Wardle (VP3@ecolsoc.org.au).

A second, the "**Vision for Australian Ecology"** working group, will be forming soon and all members are invited to nominate to be a part of this. The timeline is to work over the next few years to develop the "Vision for Australian Ecology" document and to use that to develop some recommended actions for ESA by 2015. This is an exciting and challenging task and it is hoped that a broad representation of ESA members and of invited esteemed ecologists will participate. The working group will develop the process, select the authors for writing the final document and communicate with members throughout the process. Please email Glenda if you are interested (VP3@ecolsoc.org.au).

Research Chapters

Research Chapters have been established as a collaborative forum in response to a need to further engage the ESA membership in ways that meet their evolving interests. The inaugural ESA Research Chapter mixer at ESA10 in Canberra was a huge success with a great turnout. The Arid Ecology Research Chapter (51 members) was launched and members signed up for the following Research Chapters: Agricultural ecology (22 members), Conservation action (9 members), Invasives (8 members), Numerical ecology (12 members), Urban ecology (10 members), Insect Plant ecology (13 members), and Indigenous engagement (19 members). The Fire Ecology Research Chapter (16 members) has now formed, bringing the total to nine.

Council ratified the final "*ESA Research Chapters Policy and Procedures*" document in April 2011 and an "FAQ" document is available to facilitate the establishment of new chapters. The operation and benefit to members of the Research Chapters will be reviewed periodically.

A number of Research Chapters have organised symposia or mixers for ESA11 in Hobart and as the new ESA website is launched we can expect an increased use of that platform to communicate among members.

Australian Ecology Research Award (AERA)

The Australian Ecology Research Award lecture has been operating successfully since 2008. The guidelines governing the selection process, membership of the panel and the delivery of the lecture at the annual conference have received extensive feedback and review and the final "*AERA Policy and Procedures*" document was ratified by Council in April 2011. The VP-research oversees the selection process, invites panel members (nominated by Council), maintains a database on nominees and awardees, and Chairs the AERA session at the annual conference.

Current members of the AERA Selection Panel are: Glenda Wardle (Chair, 2008 - present); Chris Dickman (USYD, 2008 - present); Bob Pressey (JCU & Past AERA recipient, 2010 - present); Caroline Gross (UNE & past ESA VP, 2011- present), and Peter Fairweather (Flinders & ESA Past President, 2011- present). Previous members of the panel include**:** Paul Adam UNSW (2008-2010); Helene Marsh JCU (2008-2009); and Barbara Downes UMELB (2008-2009). I would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to them all for their generous service in this role.

The 2011 AERA lecture will be delivered by **Professor Leslie Hughes** at the annual ESA conference in Hobart 21-25 November 2011. The 2011 AERA recognises Lesley Hughes' work on the impacts of climate change on natural ecosystems and species with a focus on Australia. The work is significant as a synthesis across systems and approaches and for its influence on ecologists and in the public arena. Lesley has employed methods from bioclimatic modeling, field surveys and laboratory manipulations to document the potential impacts of climate change on butterflies, bird migration, restoration practices, conservation policy, herbivorous insects, insect communities, and plant phenology.

There was an outstanding group of nominees and most would be well deserving of the award. We encourage you to hold discussions in your research groups about recent papers on Australian ecology and to evaluate their merits and whether the topic would be appropriate for a prestigious public lecture. We hope that many excellent papers grab your attention and there is a robust debate about them resulting in a nomination. If you don't find your subdiscipline represented perhaps your colleagues have not taken the time to send in a nomination. We endeavour to reflect the diversity of both topics and ecologists but it does start with having the nominations from members.

Nominations are invited for the *2012 Australian Ecology Research Award*.
2012 nominations close **Monday 30th April 2012** and must be received by the Executive Officer of the Society ExecutiveOfficer@ecolsoc.org.au by close of business on that day. Criteria and nomination information are available on the ESA website.

Report from VP Student Affairs – Ian Williamson

ESA Student Research Grants are offered in two rounds each year (October and April). Annual funding for these grants is $15,000 with individual applicants able to get grants of up to $1,500. The number of applications for these student grants has increased over the last few years – from the 26 noted in the 2009 annual report to 46 in this report.

In October 2010 there were 24 applications, with seven applicants receiving grants of between $1,000 and $1,500. In April 2010 there were 22 applicants with seven of these receiving grants between $1,000 and $1,500. Successful applicants are listed below.

October 2010
Libby Liggins
Veronica Briceno
Skye Cameron
Samantha Childs
Ben Gooden
Nola Hancock
Fabiana Moreira

April 2011
Anna Bruniche-Olsen
Joanna Burger
Belinda Cooke
Chris Gordon
Helen Smith
Francesca van den Burg
Meenu Vitarana

The ESA allocates approximately $7,400 per year to support student travel to our annual conference. This amount has been supplemented by $2,500 donated by Wiley-Blackwell to support up to five Wiley-Blackwell Fellowships for conference attendance. There have been 42 applications for travel grants to attend ESA11 in Hobart. The number of applications for these travel grants in 2011 has also increased considerably relative to previous years (e.g. 29 applications for ESA10 in Canberra).

The ESA offers a number of student prizes at our annual conference. The prizes are a mix of ESA and sponsor contributions. There were 111 talks and 55 posters presented by students at ESA10 in Canberra. Winners were:

ESA Marilyn Fox Award for best inaugural presentation: Deborah Segal (ANU).

ESA Wiley-Blackwell Student prizes for Outstanding spoken presentation: Jody O'Connor (Flinders), Rachael Gallagher (Macquarie), and Kadri Koorem (University of Tartu / Estonia).

ESA Wiley-Blackwell Student prizes for Outstanding poster presentation: Catherine Price (UNSW), and Megan Phillips (UTS).

Wiley-Blackwell/EMR prize for a spoken presentation on management or restoration: Stephen Griffiths (Melbourne)

Wiley-Blackwell/EMR prize for a poster presentation on management or restoration: Haijing Shi (UNSW).

Australian Flora Foundation prize for best spoken presentation on the biology or cultivation of native plants: Sam Wood (University of Tasmania).

Australian Flora Foundation prize for best poster on the biology or cultivation of native plants: James Camac (Melbourne).

Society for Conservation Biology Prize for a spoken paper on conservation: Patricia Sutcliffe (UQ).

Thank you to The Australian Flora Foundation, The Society for Conservation Biology, and Wiley-Blackwell for their continued sponsorship of these awards.

The Jill Landsberg Trust Fund postgraduate scholarship has been awarded each year since 2007. There were 24 applications in 2011 with the $6,000 award going to Dejan Stojanovic from ANU for work on his project examining the life history, spatial ecology and population viability of the migratory swift parrot.

The Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award is in its 4th year. There were 24 applicants for the 2011 award. Applications have only just closed at the time of preparing this report, so the recipient cannot be reported here.

Thank you to the following for giving their time to assess the research applications and help decide on recipients: Sue McIntyre, Jacqui Stol, David Gillieson, Raghu Sathyamurthy, Grant Hamilton, Jennifer Firn, Andrew Hayes and James Fitzsimons. Thank you also to the large number of people who volunteered their time to judge student posters and talks at ESA10.

Report from VP Membership and Communication - Liz Tasker

The role of this Vice-President (i.e. the “non-research, non-student affairs” VP) has evolved somewhat over the past year, as reflected in the name change from “VP Public Affairs” to “VP Membership & Communication”. The change is in response to a number of factors, but above all feedback from members and the view of council that an immediate priority of the ESA should be to improve the functionality of the Society for members. What we mean by this is: (a) providing mechanisms for members to better share information and collaborate among themselves, (b) making it easier for members to find out about and access the services and activities being provided by the Society, and (c) for the Society to be able to better understand its members and respond to their needs.

Consequently, at the last Planning Day the Council decided that the renamed “VP Membership and Communication” role should be devoted to this task over the next few years, with more externally-focused public liaison to follow later. Since taking over the VP1 role from Paula Peeters at the end of 2010, my work for the society has thus become increasingly focused on improving member communication and services through a better website, online resources and tools. More detail is outlined below under “Website and e-Communications” and “Photo Competition”. Many of the tasks have been carried out jointly with Gail Spina, the Society’s Executive Officer. Over the next few years, as the Society’s approaches to communication change in keeping with the times, some of the other council positions are also likely to evolve.

Website and e-Communications Working Group
Liz Tasker (convenor), Kris French, Gail Spina, Lyn McCormick, Carla Catterall, Raghu Sathyamurthy and Nigel Andrew

During the second half of 2010 the Working Group met a number of times, drafted and advertised separate Expressions of Interest to redesign the ESA’s website and to implement an e-Communications strategy for the Society. Because the applications submitted to these two EOIs overlapped to such a degree, the two were combined into a single EOI. Six applicants were short-listed from the combined pool and were invited to submit more detailed proposals. Following a further cull by the WG in March 2011, we

interviewed and requested further information from two short-listed companies in May 2011. The successful company chosen, InteRlated, provided a draft contract and detailed schedule of works to the society in late August 2011, and this is being reviewed by the ESA and its legal advisor (as this AGM report is being prepared). By the time of the annual conference in Hobart in November 2011 it is anticipated that the web redesign will be substantially underway.

What this process will deliver is not only an improved website (in fact the most minor of the tasks involved), but all member services will be put online, members will be able to search for and access to all society documents online, upload their own member and lab profiles and sub-pages, use easy web-publishing to collaborate with other members in Research Chapters and other specialist groups, and access a much greater range of information more easily.

Members will be consulted throughout this process, scheduled to take place from October 2011 to March 2012, and are also invited to contact me or the other members of the e-Comms Working Group at any time with requests, suggestions or feedback.

Photo Competition

The "Ecology in Action" photographic competition is being run again in 2011 to raise the profile of the Society and to add to a library of images for use in future promotion of the Society, particularly through the new website. This year the Rules and Conditions of Entry have been modified to make it easier for people to enter, and to put more emphasis on photographic quality and less on the accompanying text. By the time you are reading this, the competition will have closed, the judging been done and the winning and short-listed entries will be being printed and mounted for exhibition at the annual conference.

ESA Calendar

The feasibility of producing a 2012 calendar for members using photographs from the 2010 Ecology in Action photographic competition was investigated. Several printing companies contacted for quotes and samples, council discussed features that could be incorporated into the calendar that would make it more useful for members (such as key dates for conferences, funding applications, etc), and the file attributes of the images available from the 2010 competition were reviewed. While the costs of producing a calendar were affordable and the idea was felt to have value, it was found that too few of the images available were of a sufficient file size, resolution or sharpness to allow printing at the size required. This review of the images from the inaugural photo competition was used to modify the file specifications for entries to the 2011 competition, in anticipation that a calendar will be considered again for 2013.

Use of Logo Guidelines

The need to have a brief document outlining appropriate use and protocols for use of the ESA logo was identified by the previous VP1 in 2010, in response to an approach to the Society by an industry body seeking endorsement by the Society and use of its logo on an industry document. The logo guidelines were written in mid-2011, reviewed and accepted by Council, and are now available on the ESA website. They outline what constitutes appropriate use of the logo, and by whom, and the process that different kinds of requests should follow and who in the Society can approve.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Raghu Sathyamurthy

The ESA Council and Executive Committee fulfilled its statutory requirements by having the following meetings during the 2010-2011 financial year.

Council meetings were held on the following dates:
13 August 2010, 8 October 2010, 5 December 2010, 13 February 2011, 8 April 2011, 10 June 2011

The Executive Committee meetings were held on the following dates:
9 July 2010, 10 September 2010, 12 November 2010, 11 March 2011, 13 May 2011

Minutes for all formal meetings have been ratified by the Council and the Executive Committee respectively, and are available from the Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT 20010-11 Financial Year
Nigel Andrew

The Ecological Society of Australia's finances have stayed strong throughout the 2010-2011 financial year (11-12FY). Although the final audit is not available at the time of this report, we are doing well considering the external pressures that we are facing. Membership numbers have stayed strong, our Investment Portfolio has been providing interest and a some growth, within the context of a very volatile international market. The biggest unexpected impact this year has been due to the high value of the Australian dollar: the ESA's return from *Austral Ecology* has been substantially reduced (the contract we have with Wiley-Blackwell being based on $US). In addition, the anticipated investment into the website re-development (budgeted for in the 10-11FY) is now occurring in the 2011-12 financial year. Audited accounts will be presented to the membership at the AGM in Hobart.

The 11-12FY year has seen some major changes to the way that we organise ESA's finances. Over the last few years that I have been Treasurer of ESA, it has become quite clear that we need to change the way we run the finances of the ESA in order to stay relevant and viable into the future. A new Financial Governance Working Group has been set up (including Treasurer, President, Executive Officer, and Financial Officer) to formally manage the ESA finances. The working groups major aims are to:

1. To oversee the appropriate use and maintenance of the Ecological Society of Australia finances in the short, medium and long term.
2. To assess how audited finances at the end of each financial year compare with the finance projections developed in the business plan.
3. To re-adjust business plan financial estimates if large and unexpected changes to the business plan are deemed appropriate by ESA exec and council.
4. To regularly assess the performance of the ESA's share portfolio.
5. To develop and update financial management guidelines for ESA.

With major revenue streams coming from our journals, investments, membership subscriptions, the ESA needs to have more formalised mechanisms to provide guidance to future Treasurers, Executive, and Council members. This also enables the processes that we use to make financial decisions to be more transparent to the membership. In addition to a more transparent decision-making structure, new initiatives need to be implemented to diversify our income streams, and protect the Society from financial pressures so we can provide core functions for our members. A high value Australian dollar and global financial volatility currently are reducing the ESA's income stream. New initiatives such as the website redevelopment, membership drives, updated membership subscription types, tax-free bequests and donations, online shop, and sponsorship are all options that are being considered by Council.

With this in mind, a new Business Plan (BP11-15) was written this year to align with the ESA Strategic Plan 2011-2015. BP11-15 presents a new financial model that the ESA is implementing to align funds with our three major financial requirements: day-to-day expenses, Strategic Plan initiatives, long-term investments. In association with the BP11-15 a *Financial Governance and Investment Policy* was also developed to better structure the way we run the society and understand how our finances are working to best deliver the outcomes described in the Strategic Plan. This Policy was initiated by a meeting with one of our portfolio managers, *Perpetual*. As part of their business they provided their *Perpetual Private Client's Investment Policy Statement Service* to the Ecological Society of Australia. This service is offered exclusively to charitable and other not-for-profit organisations at no cost. The main reasons *Perpetual* provide this service is to develop and document a prudent and effective investment policy as a key requirement of good corporate governance. In broad terms the *Financial Governance and Investment Policy* covers three broad topics:

a) Aligns the whole portfolio approach to operational requirements- Short, medium and long-term;
b) Corporate Governance;
c) Evidence of prudence.

I urge you to read the BP11-15 and the *Financial Governance and Investment Policy*, to see how the ESA's finances will assist the Society achieve its Strategic Plan goals, and keep the financial side of the society healthy.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT
Sue Murray-Jones

Over the last few years, the proportion of bulletin issues being sent electronically has risen from a fairly steady 50% to over 70%. The switch to a new printer, Asprint, has been smooth, and all issues at the time of writing have managed to hit the mailboxes in the cover month (my performance indicator). The December issue might be a bit late, as the conference is bang in the worst time spot for publication deadlines.

I will be standing down after 10 years in the job, so I'd like to thanks all of you for your cooperation and help, and encourage you to help out the new editor as much as possible.

	MARCH	MAY	AUG
Hard copies	265	293	338
Electronic	626	739	871
Total copies	891	1032	1209
% electronic	70.3	71.6	72.0

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Gail Spina

As I write we are heading into the last quarter of what has been a quietly productive year for the Society with considerable behind the scenes activity aimed at delivering a solid and transparent platform to build on in coming years. This year, the Society's Executive and Council has had a firm eye on the future focusing on the development of solid strategic and fiscal governance through the development of a comprehensive five year Strategic Plan and a detailed review of the Business Plan including our investment strategy and guiding financial principles. These documents, amongst other internal governing policies, are available to all members on our website.

Despite the dreadful state of the global economy and the high US dollar, which ironically negatively impacts on our journal revenue, the Society's finances are in a relatively strong position which allows us to be able to continue most of our planned initiatives over the course of the Strategic Plan with confidence.

While this 'behind the scenes' action has been clicking over, momentum 'front of house' has also been significant. This year has seen a fantastic response to our grants and awards program with a record number of applications received across the suite of opportunities offered. Student travel grants in particular saw an almost doubling of applications which bodes well for both a dynamic student representation at our annual conference in Hobart, and an energised and enthusiastic student membership overall.

The Indigenous Program launched last year through the inaugural Remote Indigenous Participation Award, has expanded to become the Indigenous Travel Grant offering eligible applicants assistance to attend ESA11 and support the sharing of knowledge and Indigenous participation in the Indigenous ecology symposium, "***Indigenous Australia: culture and conservation***". This year we are hoping to assist 15-20 people to attend and we sincerely thank our sponsors CAEPR, Myer Foundation, TNC, & TNRM).

The very popular 'Ecology in Action' photo competition is back with two categories open for entry: Eats, Shoots & Leaves – Ecologists in Action & Beautiful and Bizarre; Australian biodiversity & Landscapes. More information available elsewhere in this bulletin and on the Society's website so jump on line and get the camera out.

Another annual conference is almost upon us (where does the time go!) and beautiful Tasmania is proving to be a popular destination. In addition to the academic program, the conference provides the opportunity for members to connect both informally and through organised social gatherings around poster sessions, research chapters and, of course, the conference dinner. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to talk to ESA representatives during the week, attend the AGM, and provide feedback on the many initiatives planned and implemented, and maybe even put up your hand to join a working group or to be a part of organising a local event. I look forward to talking to many of you there and hearing your ideas and suggestions!

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT
Lyn McCormick/Bev Watkins

The Society currently has 1334 financial members, 896 of these are Standard Members (including Family & Honorary members) and 416 Concessionary Members (a full breakdown of membership types is presented in Table 1). NSW contains the highest concentration of

members at 377, with Victoria (243) and Queensland (231) following (a full breakdown by state is presented in Table 2).

Table 1: Membership breakdown by category compared to previous years.

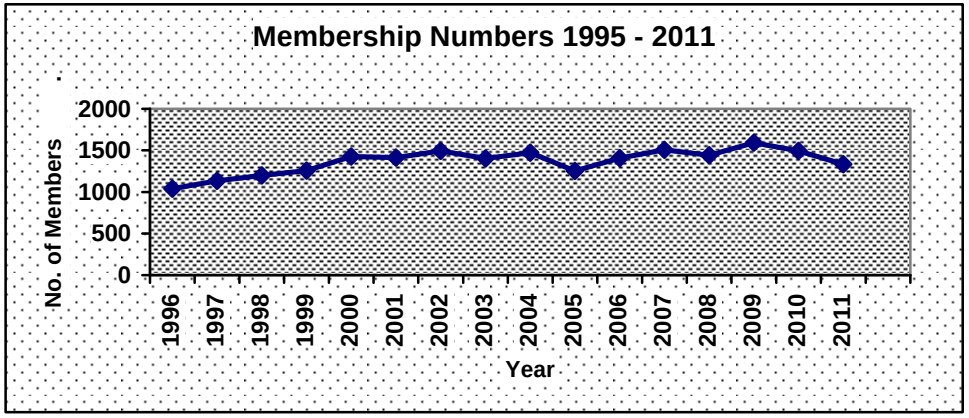
Membership Category	Number of members 2008	Number of members 2009	Number of members 2010	Number of members 2011
Regular (M)	934	1046	922	829
Concessionary (C)	386	419	462	416
Family	88	94	76	64
Journal & Bulletin only	27	27	26	22
Honorary	6	6	6	3
Total all subscribers	**1441**	**1592**	**1492**	**1334**

This year we retained 71% of our members from previous years. We welcomed 273 new members into the society (more than last year) however our membership base has decreased by 158 members.

Table 2: Membership breakdown by state compared to previous years.

State	Number of members 2008	Number of members 2009	Number of members 2010	Number of members 2011
NSW	387	430	408	377
QLD	256	312	269	231
VIC	265	271	268	243
WA	155	166	174	154
ACT	107	114	111	93
SA	102	114	104	88
TAS	70	71	65	79
Overseas	47	60	49	35
NT	56	54	44	34
Total all subscribers	**1441**	**1592**	**1492**	**1334**

Table 3: Membership numbers 1995-2011



REGIONAL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

South Australia: Nerissa Haby

The silver lining to having to complete administrative tasks while volunteering to be the SA Regional Councillor, is that you can carry this work around to do anytime you please! Like over a beer at the staff club, over a coffee at the central markets... or while the code running in several applications of R is jamming your desktop's RAM.

Over the last couple of years, we've had some fantastic success holding the ESA SA Ecology Day. Each event was packed with presentations and enthusiastic attendees representing an increasingly diverse range of backgrounds. However, the number of people interesting in presenting did not increase, suggesting this event is best run as a biennial event.

At the same time, the range of tasks requiring support and assistance in Council has increased, with the 5-year strategic planning day, and development of the Ecological Society of Australia Strategic Plan 2011-2015 (SP11-15) and ESA Business Plan 2011 - 2015. We've also modified the application process to make it easier for new members.

So does this mean we miss out on South Australia's regional event?

No! At the time this report was due, ESA, with support from the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (NCSSA), were planning a 'grant writing workshop' to be run by Margaret Cargill. Margaret Cargill has co-authored a successful guide to writing scientific research articles*, travels the globe providing professional advice to researchers writing scientific reports, and convened a workshop on 'writing scientific research articles' at the ESA 2010 annual conference in Canberra.

The 'grant writing workshop' was aimed at the beginner's level, targeting common mistakes and traps. Material to facilitate this workshop was provided by both ESA and NCSSA. The confidentiality of all authors of the material used was protected, so since we can't say who they were, to everyone who has ever submitted a grant application to either ESA or NCSSA, thank you! You have helped create generic material that will assist budding ecologists for years to come.

Finally, don't forget to send your updates on the cool work happening in SA for the ESA bulletin to SA@ecolsoc.org.au!

*Cargill, M. & O'Connor, P. (2009). Writing Scientific Research Articles: Strategy and Steps, Oxford UK: Wiley-Blackwell. www.writeresearch.com.au

Northern Territory: Christine Schlesinger

In 2011, for the second year, ESA has offered an *NT Student Travel Award* to assist with costs of attending the ESA11 Conference, as part of a regional initiative to support ecology students based in the NT to engage with other ESA members in the NT and nationally. The $1000 award was won by Alice Springs based Lauren Young, a recently completed honours student with Charles Darwin University. Lauren has received a first class honours for her project which looked at behavioural responses of birds to sites with and without invasive grasses present. As part of her award, Lauren will be presenting her work to a local NT audience providing the centre point for a regional ESA get-together, prior to travelling to Hobart to present at ESA11 in November. Thank you to NT members Don Franklin, Glen Edwards and Sean Bellairs for giving their time to assess the award applications.

ESA council was involved in a Strategic Planning meeting early this year and as part of this, the role of Regional Councillors was discussed. Apart from continuing to represent our regions, we are also taking on additional strategic portfolios, as appropriate, for the benefit of the society more generally. For me this has meant organising a small working group to look at the issue of how ESA can best engage with or support Indigenous people around ecological issues of common interest. The group's activities this year have concentrated on organising and administrating an *Indigenous Travel Award* and developing a program for the ESA11 Conference that includes a symposium – *Indigenous Australia – Culture and Conversation* and a post-conference field trip. The travel award and field trip are being generously sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Territory NRM, Charles Darwin University and Cradle coast NRM. The Travel Award and Symposium follow on from the very successful outcomes from the Indigenous Land Management focussed Symposium at ESA2010 last year which include the publication of a special edition of *Ecological Management and Restoration* Journal due to come out in early 2012. I would like to thank the members of the working group, Emilie Ens, Gail Spina, Jann Williams, Wayne Barbour, Ben Gooden and Rosemary Hill for their efforts as part of the working group this year.

ACT: Don Driscoll

The ESA year got off to an exciting start in February with the strategic planning workshop on the banks of the recently flooded Brisbane River. Many exciting strategic planning ideas emerged, with big-picture opportunities for improving the conduct, appeal and communication of ecology in Australia. Of particular note was the move to have regional councillors contribute to these strategic activities, with an option for less emphasis on providing regional roundups or local activities. In the ACT, where there is a scientist living on every street corner and emails about interesting local seminars clutter our in-boxes, this shift in emphasis can take place, pretty well without anyone suffering from lack of ecological-engagement options. Besides strategic planning, there was some hot news in the ACT this year with the award of the Gold Medal to long-standing fire ecologist, Malcolm Gill. We wish Malcolm many conflagrations for the future.

New South Wales: Ben Gooden

This year represents my first as NSW regional councillor for the ESA – I have loved it immensely, and I thank the ESA members for their

encouragement throughout the year. In particular, it has been wonderful engaging with the NSW members and consolidating the network of regional contacts. I wish to thank the following contacts for their continued contribution to the NSW section of the ESA Bulletin:

- Karl Vernes, UNE
- Anita Chalmers, University of Newcastle
- Russel McWilliam, University of Wollongong
- Bradley Law, Industry and Investment NSW (formerly DPI)
- Alison Hewitt, UWS
- Karen Ross, OEH
- Andy Beattie and Rachael Gallagher, Macquarie University
- Kirsten Connell and Adrian Davis, University of Sydney
- Pat Hutchings, Australian Museum
- Brad Murray, UTS

I wish to thank Luke Collins (UOW) and John Gollan (formerly Australian Museum), both of whom recently retired from their positions as regional contacts, for their valuable contribution to ESA.
It is clear from the reports supplied by these and other contributors that NSW ecologists have been extremely active this past year. Unfortunately, I failed to organise an official NSW regional event this year, although a successful post-conference dinner was held for Sydney students in February (thanks Carla Harris for helping to organise this!). Next year I am determined to get the ball rolling on several projects, including seminar series on urban and restoration ecology, and forums to engage policy makers with ecological research. Ultimately, the success of regional events and ESA activities in general lies with support and suggestions from members. If you have any ideas of things you'd like the Society to do (or not to do), please find me at the conference in Hobart for a chat.

Victoria: Peter Vesk

This year some financial support ($1000) was provided to supporting the conference Biodiversity across the Borders run at U Ballarat's Mt Helen campus on 9th June 2011. The one-day conference had over 400 registrants. They came from universities, city councils, catchment management authorities, Shires, DSE, DPI, Parks Victoria, environmental consultancies, several community conservation and Landcare groups.
The other activity of note is planning towards the ESA Conference in 2012, to be held in Melbourne. Our most likely venue in U Melbourne, PV is on the Local Organizing Committee

Queensland: Andrew Hayes

Well it is that time of year again, another AGM. I can't believe it. It looks like a fantastic programme planned for this year's conference in Hobart. This has been a busy year on Council with the new Strategic and Business Plans, the work done by of those on the relevant working groups has been huge, and they deserve our congratulations.

By the time of printing we will have had our Queensland regional event that is planned for October, a seminar on "Communicating Nature: trials, tribulations and rewards of science communication" by Michael Jeffords and Susan Post. The seminar is to be held (or has been held, depending upon your perspective) at the new Ecosciences Precinct, a multi-agency facility housing research scientists from two Queensland Government Departments and CSIRO. Any suggestions for future events from anyone throughout the region will be gratefully received.

This year the ESA, and myself personally, has been part of a new initiative to establish an international network to support early career researchers, the International Network of Next Generation Ecologists (INNGE), check out the website at: www.innge.net. This is an exiting new initiative to use the new media and connectivity to set up this network, and looks to be a stimulating new development in international research and communication within our field.

Thanks again to those local contacts who always send me something for the Bulletin report; it really makes the Bulletin more interesting to find out what other people are doing ecologically around the state. If anyone is interested in becoming a local contact, telling everyone what is happening in your work/study place please contact me, I'd love to hear from you.

Tasmania: Kerry Bridle

Well most of our focus this year has been on organising the conference. By the time the AGM comes around, we'll have a good idea of how well it is going. It has been a mighty effort by some dedicated people on the LOC and ConLog – many thanks to the Local Organising Committee for their dedication, determination and declarations! Many

thanks also to Tricia – our main ConLog contact who kept us all to task. It's great to see some new faces helping out with activities. Hopefully we can keep this momentum going beyond ESA2011.

Regional activities hosted in Tasmania include a co-funded event with the Centre of Environment on 'The Ashbed Effect' (see September Bull for a report). We also hosted an NCCARF Terrestrial Biodiversity Roadshow workshop in June (also reported in Sept Bull).

We have been liaising with other groups in Tasmania e.g. the Australian Society of Limnologists as there are many shared themes and members.

Thanks to everyone for their input into regional events. Please feel free to step up and organise other activities. ESA has a regional fund that is there to assist us in hosting events, so have a think about what we can do in 2012.

Western Australia: Eddie van Etten

As W.A. Regional Councillor I have participated in bimonthly meetings of the ESA Council, as well as the ESA Council Strategic Planning Day in February 2011 in Brisbane. I have also participated in a number of working groups for the ESA, including convening the Conferences working groups which is developing protocols and information booklet for future LOC's (local organising committees). WA members are encouraged to send any news items (eg changes to staffing, new research projects etc) to me for publication in the Bulletin and/or E-news. Also I'm always interested in your ideas for events and local activities.

AUSTRAL ECOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT

2011 Volume 36 In 2011 *Austral Ecology* will publish eight issues of about 960 pages. *Austral Ecology* continues to be widely accepted as a primary publication outlet for ecological research in the southern hemisphere. Data reflecting the journal's status are reported in more detail separately below.

Austral Ecology continues to attract a wide range of high quality manuscripts from ecologists in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil and Argentina, many of them members of the Ecological Society of Australia. As in last year's report, enthusiasm for the journal is also reflected by the willingness of ecologists from all regions to serve on the editorial board or to referee individual manuscripts. This is particularly pleasing given the increasing demands on the time of most professional ecologists.

A five-year publishing agreement with Wiley-Blackwell was finalised and signed in December 2008, and covers the period from 2010 - 2014.

Complete data up to 2010 Each year in April, the publishers provide an annual report which covers data from the previous year. In April 2011 they reported on results for the full year 2010, up to the last issue of Volume 35.

Volume 35 in 2010 had 990 pages and 106 articles published with an average period from acceptance to printed publication of 332 days. This is a slight reduction of the publication delay in 2009, but still too high. See below for discussion about moves we have taken to reduce this delay.

Access data are shown in the table below:

	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Institutional direct subscriptions	240	223	212	206	200	201	192	185
Consortia access sites	1, 702	1, 900	2, 537	2, 685	3, 107	3, 270	3, 223	3, 600
EBSCO access sites*	226	226	947	1, 127	1, 105	1, 113	2, 053	**
On-line article downloads	55, 043	72,3 29	81, 463	98, 106	111, 798	98, 219	85, 300	98, 450
e-alerting "table of contents" subscriptions	2, 062	2, 682	257 7	2, 956	2, 967	3, 094	3, 224	3, 298
Institutes with philanthropic access						2, 475	3, 003	3, 558

*Content provided through EBSCO is ≥12 months old and reaches a secondary market. Some institutions may take EBSCO content as well as a subscription or paid consortia access.
** Not available

Austral Ecology is holding "stand alone" institutional subscriptions very well in the face of mounting pressure from University libraries to cut journals

and to use larger subscription packages. Non-member journal subscriptions, and electronic subscriptions, through library consortia, are growing steadily. This reflects an increasing source of revenue from being a component of an online assembly of Wiley-Blackwell journals that are purchased as a complete package by libraries and institutions. Also very many institutions that did not subscribe to *Austral Ecology* now do as part of the overall package, so we get a higher exposure in libraries around the world.

Online access to articles in *Austral Ecology* recovered lost ground, partly as a result of the change over from the Blackwell Synergy system to the Wiley Online Library system. The latter only become fully operational and effective in late 2010 and we expect access to published papers to rise. The month by month analysis showed a marked increase (by 41%) in full-text downloads in Oct 2010 compared with Oct 2009.

The number of people asking to be electronically alerted to the Table of Contents of each issue continues to grow. Overall the data suggest that *Austral Ecology* is reaching a wider reading audience, and that the chance of an *Austral Ecology* paper being seen by researchers is increasing.

Budget:

The overall profit to ESA over the last ten years from *Austral Ecology* is shown below in $K.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
23.1	25.5	29.6	34.8	28.9	49.9	53.9	63.7	95.9	87.2	106.4	73.3

Note: these figures are the net profit AFTER the ESA contribution of $61K to pay for member subscriptions to the journal has been deducted from the total profit. This $61K by the ESA should be reduced in future years if more members opt for electronic only subscriptions.

The substantial decline in profit for the journal is almost completely due to the higher rate of the Australian dollar. Sales contracts are written in $US. The average conversion rate in 2009 was 68c /AUS$, while in 2010 it was 90c /AUS$. Our subscription income will be at an even lower rate in 2011.

To illustrate this we actually increased subscription revenue from $265K to $274K in US dollars from 2009 – 2010, but with the changed conversion rates this $9K US increase translated to an $86K decrease in Australian dollar revenue. The overall budget decline of only $33K has been achieved by substantial savings in other budget lines.

Wiley-Blackwell contribute an additional $5K towards student awards and sponsorships at the annual meeting of the ESA as part of the new publishing agreement for Austral Ecology

The annual budget for the ESA has an income stream of about $300K so the income generated by *Austral Ecology* represents over 24% of that income for 2010, or the equivalent of 862 new full member subscriptions at $85.

The forecast budget for *Austral Ecology* in 2011 sees a profit of about $74 K for the ESA.

Member electronic subscriptions

As part of the new publishing agreement the Ecological Society has agreed to encourage its members to move from print to electronic delivery of issues of their journal. This will of course reduce both printing and delivery expenses and provide greater financial returns to the ESA, as well as reducing green house gas emissions. The option of receiving electronic only versions of Austral Ecology is available when you renew your ESA membership.

In 2010 only 36 of 1292 ESA members (2.8%) opted for the electronic only format. If we can reach 5% then the publishing agreement reduces the cost to the ESA of member subscriptions by $4.5K, and there are increasing rewards for the ESA budget as higher percentages of members go for electronic only. In fact by March 2011 15.6% of members had opted for electronic only subscriptions, but for other members please consider this option when you renew your ESA membership for 2012.

Editorial arrangements. In 2011 (for volume 36) the Ecological Society of Australia has maintained the editorial system that has now been operating for 13 years, for the processing of manuscripts for *Austral Ecology*. There is a single Managing Editor and an Editorial Board of 42

Associate Editors, from five southern hemisphere countries, plus a Book Review Editor, Pep Turner. Pep sends messages to the Society via the regular ESA e-news letter offering regular opportunities to review newly released books. I am grateful for her continuing efforts in coordinating this important section of the journal. Since 2010, Jeremy Midgeley and Martin Whiting have retired from the editorial board. They have provided thoughtful advice and help with manuscripts over some years and their efforts have been greatly appreciated. In 2011 Tony Verboom from the University of Cape Town has joined the Editorial Board as a new associate editor.

I would like to acknowledge the sustained effort and support of all of the editorial board members. The journal relies on their consistent and helpful inputs.

Each manuscript is sent to a member of the Editorial Board (the Associate Editor) who arranges for two independent reviews of the paper. On the basis of those reviews the Associate Editor then sends a report and recommendation to the Managing Editor. The Managing Editor makes a final decision and communicates that decision to the author. This process has the advantage of spreading the load (most editors will handle five or six manuscripts this year), but ensuring a central review to standardise the criteria for acceptance or rejection of papers. The system has now operated smoothly for several years, with no adverse comments.

Unfortunately there are inevitable delays with reviewers sometimes taking longer than expected, and I also apologise that I sometimes build up a backlog of unprocessed manuscripts on my own desk. On the other hand we need to thank the large number of reviewers who return detailed commentaries promptly. The reviewers are listed and formally acknowledged in the last issue of the journal each year. The three levels of handling (managing editor – associate editor - referee) might increase the delays on some manuscripts a little. We ask authors to remain patient, remembering the largely voluntary assistance we rely upon. However, the handling delays have no impact on the publication time, which is still driven largely by the backlog of accepted manuscripts. I would appreciate any comments from contributors or from the membership in general on this process.

Austral Ecology manuscripts are submitted and processed through ScholarOne. For the majority of contributors and editors this operates smoothly, and processing and record keeping is substantially streamlined. Martha Rundell from Wiley-Blackwell has been extremely helpful, both in maintaining the specific templates for *Austral Ecology*, and in addressing questions from authors, editors and from the managing editor.

The Publisher. 2011 is the second year of a new publishing agreement with the merged company Wiley-Blackwell.

A component of the current agreement is for me to have an annual meeting with the publishers. On 19 April 2011 I spent time in discussion with Elissa Wilson (Associate Journal Publishing Manager with responsibilities for *Austral Ecology*), Martha Rundell (Scholar One coordinator), and via a phone link to Singapore, Chin Ang Ng (Production Editor of *Austral Ecology*).

Publication delays between manuscript acceptance and appearing in print

In 2010 there was an average delay between acceptance an appearing in print of 332 days or around 11 months. This was discussed at a planning day of members of the editorial board in August 2009, and then at an editorial board meeting in Nov 2010, and at the meeting with the publisher in April 2011. Part of the delay is from a backlog of already accepted manuscripts.

New initiatives to increase the number of papers that can be included in each issue include:

- Reduction of font size for abstract and methods sections
- Increasing use of appendices of supplementary information for large tables
- Moving book reviews from the printed issues to the electronic only issue
- Imposing a word limit of 7500 words on submitted manuscripts
- Reducing “white space” so that individual articles do not flow over to use less than 50% of the last page.

Additionally we now have

- More severe rejection rates of submitted manuscripts
- Rapid “Early-View” on-line publication of manuscripts with citable doi number within one month of acceptance, so that they rapidly appear in the electronic format.

We expect these initiatives will gradually reduce the delay to a more acceptable level

Frequency of Publication and Journal Format. In 2010 there were eight issues of *Austral Ecology* Vol 35. It is a general policy of the journal to try to publish one issue each year resulting from a symposium of general ecological interest and with international participation. However, there were no special issues in 2010.

The absence of a special issue has kept the publication delay for submitted manuscripts from increasing. It will be important to ensure that the flow of accepted manuscripts does not exceed the page limits we have available in each year.

In 2010 the journal front cover again featured photographs of ecological interest. We have continued to try to provide images from throughout the southern hemisphere. Submitting authors with suitable photographs are invited to submit those photographs as part of their manuscript submission.

Geographical range of contributions.

The table below represents the address of the first authors of all manuscripts submitted over the last 11 years. In some cases exotic addresses are merely the current location of researchers who are reporting what they did in Australia. There are some clear trends. NSW and Queensland have dominated the Australian submissions, with all other Australian states showing occasional stochastic surges. There have been steady growth rates of submissions from NZ and South Africa in recent years, with a dramatic acceleration from S. American countries (mainly Brazil, Argentina and Chile). Ecologists from Europe and N America are submitting their research (often from field work at southern hemisphere sites) in increasing numbers.

And the overall number of submissions each year is creeping upwards!

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	09	2010
QLD	13	18	18	17	21	25	19	24	17	23	19	15
NSW	24	22	23	34	34	25	29	47	34	38	36	30
Victoria	3	9	10	8	10	12	14	11	15	11	20	11
WA	6	4	5	11	11	13	7	15	7	16	6	12
SA	10	3	10	8	4	8	9	9	10	7	13	8
Tasmania	4	5	4	2	10	10	2	5	7	6	6	10
NT	7	9	10	4	6	2	3	5	6	5	5	4
ACT	3	6	2	5	3	5	9	6	11	13	6	11
NZ	5	3	5	5	7	12	17	6	13	10	13	13
S. Africa	2	1	4	7	2	6	10	4	14	17	20	21
S. America:	8										1	
Brazil		9	6	13	17	20	27	20	31	32	37	50
Argentina		5	7	11	17	20	24	25	29	21	31	23
Chile		3	2	8	4	5	7	2	10	11	9	14
Peru		0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0			
Uruguay						1	0	1	1	2	2	
N. America	2	3	5	1	7	3	6	6	5	2	6	7
Europe	5	3	7	6	4	9	10	17	6	10	8	12
Asia	3	5	2	3	6	14	17	8	7	10	11	4
Other	0	1	2	2	2	2	3	0	5	2	3	8
TOTAL	95	109	123	135	165	192	214	212	228	236	252	253

Manuscript status 1997-2010

The table below shows the number of manuscripts each year and the acceptance rate. For 2011 it is too early in the review process for many manuscripts, to get a overall acceptance rate figure. However with 7 months or 0.58 of the year completed we are tracking towards 230 manuscript submissions. This is a slight decline on previous years. It may be that some authors are discouraged by the long delay from acceptance to publication, but at the same time, this plateauing of submission rates could help to reduce the publication delay.

YEAR	SUBMITTED MSS	NO ACCEPTED	% ACCEPTED	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS PUBLISHED IN YEAR
1997	97	54	55.7%	54
1998	118	49	41.5%	38
1999	95	55	57.9%	49
2000	109	54	49.5%	60
2001	123	65	52.8%	55
2002	145	75	51.7%	67
2003	165	82	49.7%	65
2004	192	83	43.2%	66
2005	214	101	47.2%	87
2006	212	100	47.2%	90
2007	228	93	40.8%	109
2008	236	90	38.1%	114
2009	252	102	40.5%	107
2010	253	90	35.6%	106

In 2010 the acceptance rate was reduced to below 40%. We have tried to impose high standards so that the publication delay for accepted papers does not become too long, while at the same time encouraging new researchers who have little experience in publication. The table shows that the numbers of high quality manuscripts accepted stabilised over the last 6 years despite an increasing number of submissions. For the last 4 years

we have accepted fewer papers than we have published in an attempt to reduce the publication delay.

In discussions with Wiley-Blackwell it has been decided not to increase the number of issues per year, but to maintain a high level of editorial "filter" to keep the standard of the journal publication high.

Citation Impact:

Thomson Reuters (ISI) constructs a Science Citation Index each year. Impact factor (e.g. for 2010) is calculated as the average number of times each paper from the previous two years (2008 and 2009) was cited during 2010.

Thomson Reuters surveyed 105- 129 journals in the field of Ecology over recent years. Our ranking among these journals has remained in the top one third to one half of those journals. The impact factor took a fairly spectacular leap in 2005 and sustained that position with slow growth up to 2008. 2009 saw a disappointing drop but there has been a recovery in 2010.

Impact factor rankings are highly regarded by librarians determining University Library subscriptions. The ERA process in Australian Universities in 2010 took into account the impact factors of journals that researchers published in. In the ranked list of the ARC, *Austral Ecology* was included in category B; in the top 50% of research journals in its field. For the 2012 ERA exercise the ARC has now abandoned that journal ranking system and at least for the sciences will probably look at citation rates for individual papers rather than the impact of the journal they are published in.

Members should be aware that by citing papers, where appropriate, from very recent issues of *Austral Ecology* in their own publications, they can indicate the relative importance they ascribe to our journal and have an influence on the Impact Factor.

	YEAR	01 AJE	01 AE	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
	IMPACT FACTOR	1.323	0.658	1.291	1.319	1.273	1.769	1.771	1.674	1.826	1.578	1.82
	RANKING AMONG ECOLOGY JOURNALS	43	71	48 /109	48/ 105	52/ 107	42/ 112	51/ 114	54/ 116	57/ 124	66/ 127	64/ 128

Summary

In summary *Austral Ecology* continues to operate as a high quality outlet for papers that describe investigations of the processes leading to the ecological patterns observed in southern hemisphere ecosystems, and to fulfil one of the goals of the Ecological Society of Australia, to communicate ecological knowledge.

Michael Bull
Managing Editor (*Austral Ecology*)
Aug 2011

REPORT ON *ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT & RESTORATION* (EMR) SUMMARY

EMR's manuscripts, production and readership continue to track steadily in the year since the last report, although the global financial situation has negatively affected international institutional subscriptions, in line with all Wiley-Blackwell journals. Downloads of journal articles increased by 16% from 2009 to 2010, and have remained steady over the last 5 years, showing that the journal remains highly relevant. The production of EMR continued to run smoothly in 2010, with all issues published on or ahead of schedule.

Management focus has been on the shift to electronic manuscript submission through ScholarOne, setting up a website for project summaries and bringing forward the publication dates of each issue (as a strategy to increase EMR's citation rate and hopefully gain ISI listing). We plan to publish a special issue on Indigenous people's involvement in ecosystem management in Australia in January 2012. It is currently being compiled and edited by a guest editorial board led by Dr Emilie Ens.

Delays regarding copyright issues have stalled the launch of the EMR project summaries website, which we hope will be launched in time for the 2011 ESA conference, when improvements in promotion of EMR to ESA members will also be undertaken. This is to counter the decline in personal subscriptions by ESA members last year, relative to our other affiliate societies, from whom subscriptions increased.

READERSHIP

The 2010 (calendar year) Wiley-Blackwell report shows that more than 3,500 institutions have access to the journal through licensed sales. In addition, EMR is available in 3,558 libraries in the developing world through philanthropic initiatives, and more than 30,000 public and specialist libraries globally through the EBSCO database

Since the launch of the Wiley Online Library, we have seen an increase in overall traffic to the EMR site and in article downloads. In 2010, EMR articles were downloaded 34,552 times. This compares with 29,779 in 2009; an increase of 16%. From January to June 2011, there were 18,628 full text downloads to articles via Wiley Online Library; this represents an increase of 79% from the same period in 2010.

Figures 1-4 provide an overview of downloads and usage.

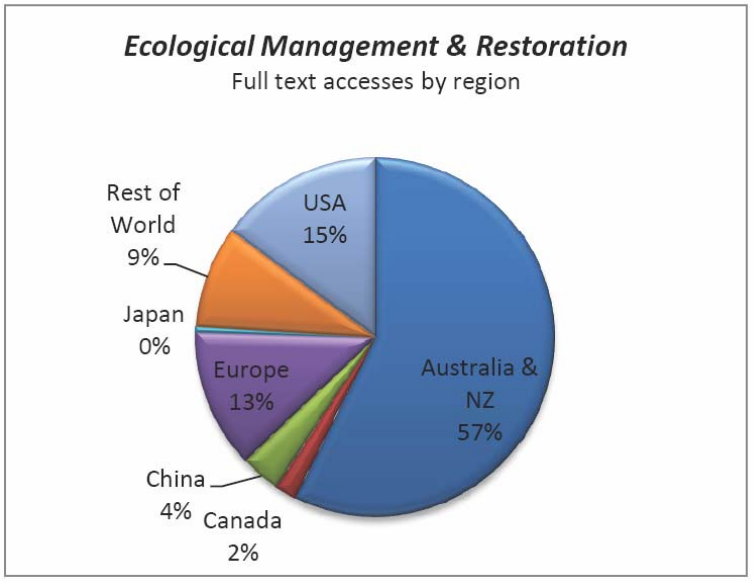


Figure 1. Usage by region throughout the world

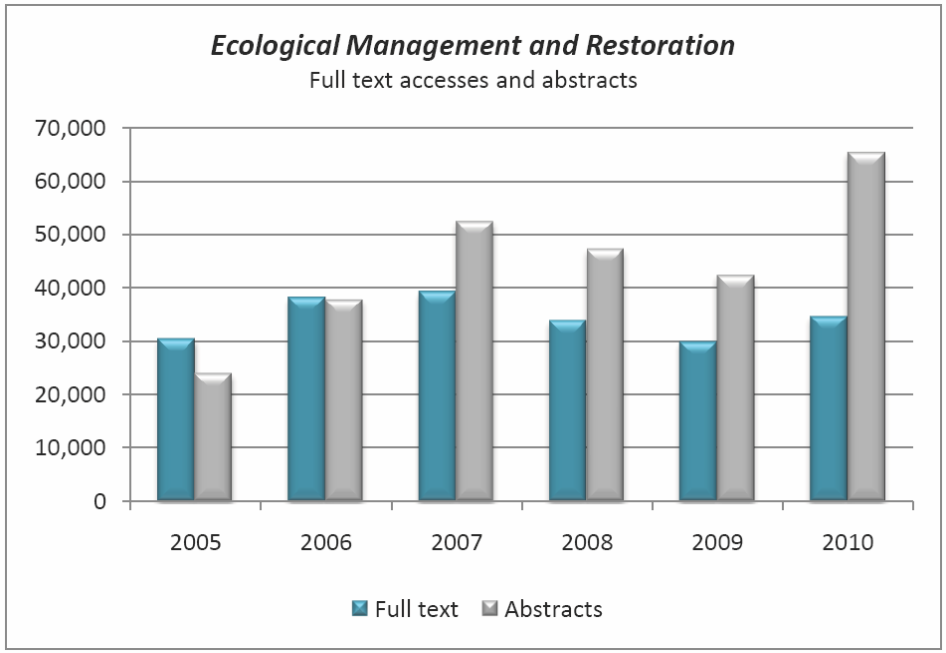


Figure 2. Comparing full text and abstract usage over the last 6 years.

Top ten cou

1. Australia
2. United States
3. United Kingdom
4. China
5. New Zealand
6. Canada
7. France
8. Germany
9. Brazil
10. India

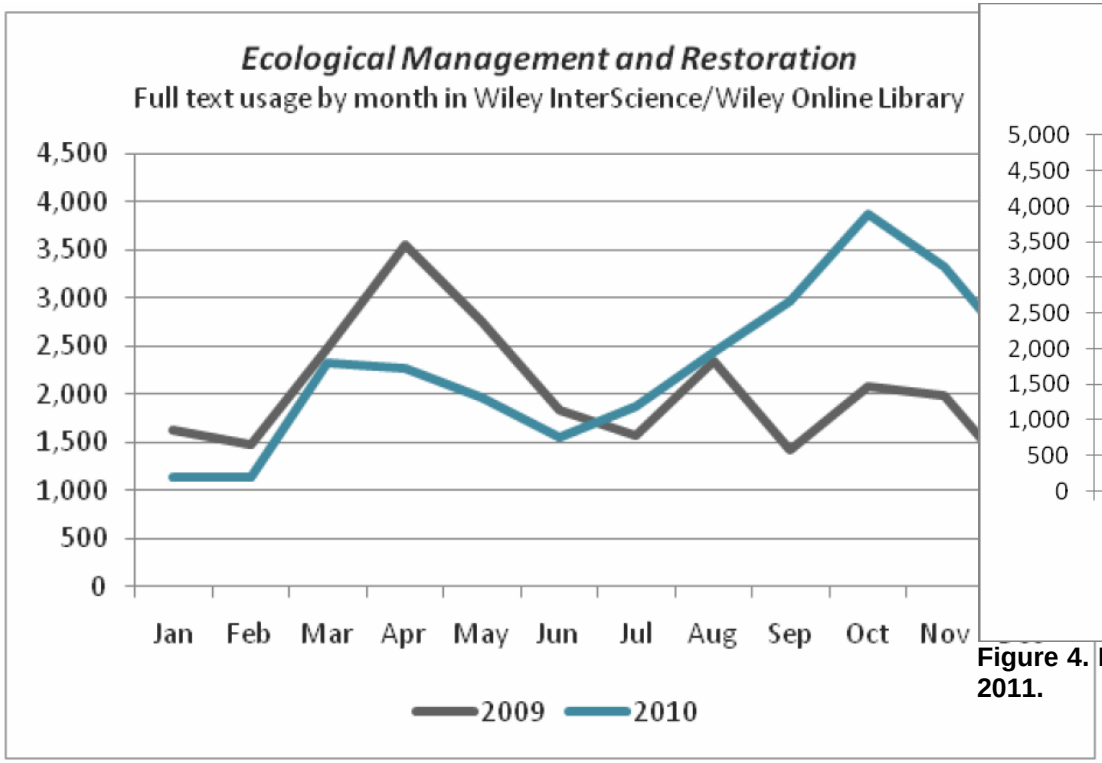


Figure 3. Comparing 2010's full text usage by month with that of 2009.

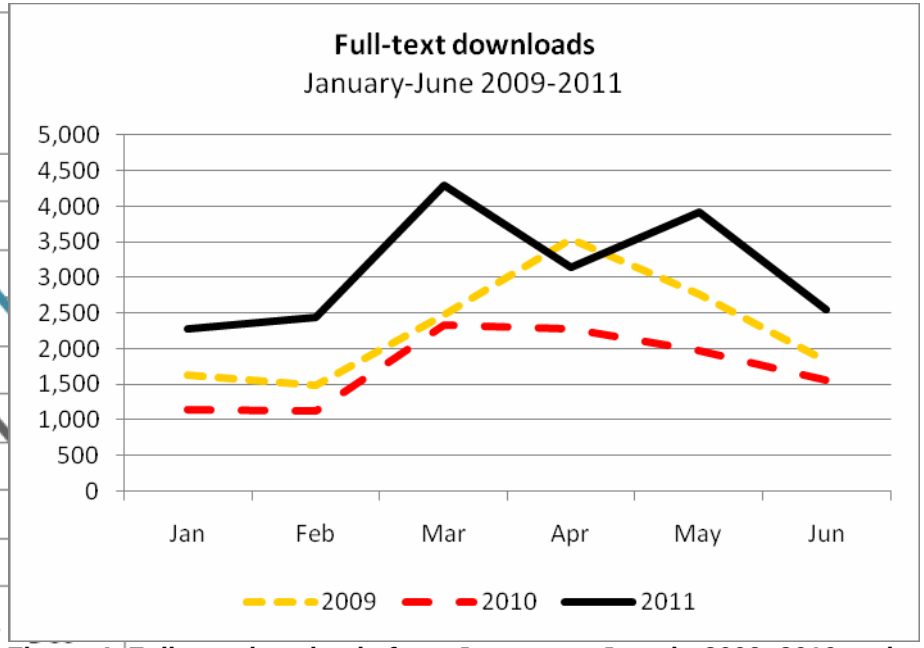


Figure 4. Full text downloads from January to June in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PROFITABILITY

EMR's profitability is derived mainly from licensed sales to institutions throughout the world, but institutional and personal subscriptions also contribute to profitability. As predicted in last year's report to the ESA, the 2010 (calendar year) Wiley-Blackwell annual report showed that there was a 14% decline in institutional subscriptions in 2010 compared to the previous year, reflecting the peak of the last economic downturn and restrictions to institutional budgets. (Note that nearly 30% of institutional subscriptions are from outside Australia). However, 2011 sees some of that decline reversing with 101% renewal on last year's subscriptions in the year to August. Australian personal subscriptions through affiliate societies declined from 460 to 442 – although it should be noted that subscriptions from six of EMR's seven affiliate societies either remained steady or grew, with the decline occurring only among ESA members. This is a worrying trend and suggests that EMR promotion to ESA members (through the Bulletin and at conferences) has not been as effective in 2010 as in previous years. This may be rectified somewhat with greater

promotion of EMR through the new ESA web site. The profit from the journal for the 2010 calendar year was $38,050, which is shared equally among the two partners, Wiley-Blackwell and the ESA.

PROMOTION

Promotion is continuing through Wiley-Blackwell's standard marketing campaigns, with EMR-specific promotion continuing with affiliate groups, many of whom regularly promote EMR in their newsletters. By the end of 2010, the total number of readers registered for EMR's email alerting service was 4,445; an increase of 29 registrants compared to 4,416 at the end of 2009 (as at June 2011, the number of email registrants has increased to 4,474). EMR was included in Wiley's biological sciences subject Twitter campaigns, namely through the @BiolSciNews profile, with promotion relating to EMR's 10th anniversary, particularly the Virtual issue, producing increased usage in 2010.

Wiley-Blackwell promoted EMR at nine conferences during 2010 including the Ecological Societies of Australia and America. In place of sending large numbers of printed journal sample copies, branded USB flash drives containing links to sample articles and issues were produced to distribute to delegates, and only a small number of printed copies of each journal were displayed. The USBs linked to sample issues of all ecological journals, including EMR.

One article published in EMR – 'Carbon stocks in above-ground biomass of monoculture and mixed species plantations and environmental restoration plantings in north-east Australia' was the subject of a press campaign which provided global exposure to peripheral markets beyond the core academic market.

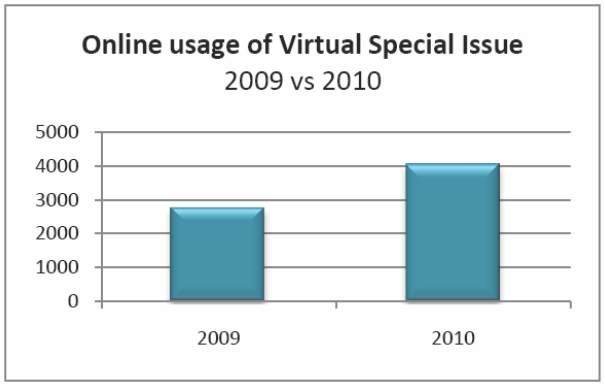


Figure 5. Downloads of the promotional Virtual Issue in 2009 and 2010 compared to 2009.

PUBLICATION SUMMARY

This section of the report is drawn from the online manuscript submission and tracking system, ScholarOne, and covers the period from December 2010 (when ScholarOne went live) to the end of Aug 2011. This report therefore approximately captures data from most of the manuscripts published in Volume 12.

Status of manuscripts submitted since Volume 11. High standard manuscripts continue to be submitted to EMR through ScholarOne, at a similar rate to previous years. The number and type of manuscripts published (or in the process of consideration) since the last report are shown in Table 1 - along with the level of revision required for each. (Note that all manuscript types are peer reviewed except editorials and book/conference reviews, which are screened by the editors.) Papers published or in the pipeline for Volume 12 (2011) are summarized in Table 2.

Volume 12 has also seen the commencement of **Early View** as an option for authors. As the time between acceptance and publication for EMR is very short, however, it is not necessary to use this facility for each issue.

Table 1. The number, type and status of manuscripts submitted to EMR since last report.

Manuscript Type	Total	Still under consideration	Minor revision	Intermediate revision	Major revision	Reject
Editorials	6	2	4	0	0	0
Features/interviews	6	2	0	1	3	0
Comments	7	1	3	1	1	1
Research ,reviews or technical reports	23	4	4	1	8	6
Short notes	16	3	5	4	2	0
Book and conference reviews	5	2	5	0	0	0
TOTAL	**63**	**14**	**21**	**7**	**14**	**7**

Table 2. EMR Volume 12 – Numbers of papers published or in the process of preparation and production

	ISSUE 1	ISSUE 2	ISSUE 3
Editorials	2	2	2
Comment pieces	2	0	1
Features	1	2	2?
Interviews	1	0	0
Research reports	4	3	4?
Reviews	0	1	0
Short notes	4	7	5
Book/conf reviews /	0	3	0
TOTALS	14	18	14?

INDIGENOUS SPECIAL ISSUE

EMR's 'Indigenous special issue' is being edited by the guest editorial team of Emilie Ens, Max Finlayson, Sarah Holcome, Karissa Preuss and Sue Jackson. Most of the papers were initially delivered at the 2010 Ecological Society of Australia conference Symposium titled "Combining Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge for land management solutions". The Symposium was funded by (a) the federal DSEWPC's Working on Country Project and (b) The Nature Conservancy, who are also funding the special issue. Contributors to the Symposium were invited to formally develop papers for submission to this issue, and other papers were sought to increase the geographic spread. To date, 16 papers have been submitted and include three comment pieces, six features, three research reports or reviews, and four short notes. At the time of this report (August) the issue was on track for January 2012 publication.

EDITORIAL BOARD CHANGES

We thank two retiring board members: Professor Sue Carthew and Dr Sandra Berry, whose contributions to the journal over the years have been much appreciated. We welcome in their place, Dr Jim Radford from Bush Heritage Australia and A/Prof Rachel Standish, from The University of Western Australia.

PUBLICATION ETHICS

During 2011, we developed a draft policy on publication ethics for EMR. This policy is designed to assist the Editor and Editorial Board Members to deal with issues of plagiarism and duplication that may arise from time to time. Wiley Blackwell has a comprehensive policy on plagiarism and the EMR policy relies heavily on this. However, there was no policy on duplication – that is, the acceptable level of duplication of material that has already been published by the same author(s) (e.g. as a journal article or government report). The EMR policy offers a number of guidelines when assessing appropriate/inappropriate levels of duplication and these have been reviewed and edited by the editorial board. The current draft policy is due to be discussed among the editorial board of *Austral Ecology* at the December ESA meeting to determine if both ESA journals should develop a consistent policy. If *Austral Ecology* decides to develop its own policy, the EMR policy will be forwarded to Wiley Blackwell for consideration and eventual publication on the EMR web site to allow access by potential authors.

Wiley-Blackwell have also proactively developed a new standard 'Conflict of Interest' policy and language for all their Life Science journals. This will be reflected in changes to the text on the journals' online submission systems.

PROJECT SUMMARIES WEBSITE

Some progress was made during 2011 in the establishment of a website to house EMR project summaries that were previously published in the journal. A draft letter of agreement was produced by Wiley-Blackwell and has been discussed and commented on by the ESA council. The Wiley legal team is currently considering the issues raised by the ESA council before producing a revised version of the letter of agreement. Wiley-Blackwell also finalized the approach that will be used to deal with copyright associated with publication of the project summaries online. The Editor has solicited and edited about 20 summaries that are ready to be published online and progress has been made on the design and layout of the web page.

While progress has been made on this project, issues within the letter of agreement have delayed the launch of the website. Once the Wiley legal team has finalized these issues, the website will be ready to launch immediately.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the EMR Editorial Board and its Executive for all their assistance during the year. We also thank the publisher and journal Partner, Wiley-Blackwell, particularly Journal Publishing Coordinator Elissa Wilson, Production Editor Chin Ang Ng and Marketing Coordinator Davina Quarteman.

Gary Luck (EMR journal Chair)

Tein McDonald (Editor, EMR)

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Acknowledgement of ESA Working Group Members

The many initiatives undertaken and implemented by ESA during the year would not happen without the significant time and energy that members of Council and broader membership donate on a volunteer basis. Membership of these working groups is listed below with our sincere thanks:

2011 Working Group Membership

1. Research Chapters

Glenda Wardle (convenor)
Nerissa Haby
Raghu Sathyamurthy
Gail Spina

2. ESA11 LOC

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Nick Bax
Kerry Bridle
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Neil Davidson
John Davies
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Sarah Fayed
Louise Gilfedder
Kristin Ginnivan
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Gretta Pecl
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Natasha Wiggins
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3. ESA12 LOC

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Roger Cousens
Barbara Downes
Georgia Garrard
Heloise Gibb
Peter Green
Andrew Hamer
Marie Keatley
Jill Lancaster
Josephine Machunter
Joslin Moore
Euan Ritchie
Libby Rumpff
Peter Vesk
Nick Williams
John Wright
Alan York

4. Student Affairs

Ian Williamson (convenor)
Andrew Hayes
Raghu Sathyamurthy
Ben Gooden
Gail Spina

5. Early Career Support

Andrew Hayes (convenor)
Kerry Bridle
Gary Luck
Petina Pert
Gail Spina

6. ESA Website & E-communication Review
Liz Tasker (convenor)
Kris French
Lyn McCormick
Carla Catterall
Raghu Sathyamurthy
Nigel Andrew
Gail Spina

7. Critical Topics
Glenda Wardle (convenor)
Don Driscoll
Peter Vesk

8. Indigenous Engagement Program
Christine Schlesinger (convenor)
Emilie Ens
Ben Gooden
Jann Williams
Rosemary Hill
Gail Spina

9. Financial Governance
Nigel Andrew (convenor)
Kris French
Lyn McCormick
Gail Spina

10. TERN
Jann Williams (convenor)
Carla Catterall
Glenda Wardle
Eddie van Etten

11. Conference Guidelines
Eddie van Etten
Peter Vesk
Kerry Bridle
Gail Spina

12. Vision for Australia

Glenda Wardle (convenor)
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Peter Vesk
Eddie van Etten

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Bob Pressey
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Caroline Gross
Barbara Downes
Helene Marsh

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Ben Gooden
Gail Spina