



Notice of Meeting

35th Annual General Meeting

To be held at Theatre T3, Australian National University, Canberra

12.30-1.30pm

Thursday 9th December, 2010

Agenda

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declaration of Proxies**
- 3. Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting**
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes**
- 5. Reports from Office bearers**
 - 5.1 President**
 - 5.2 VPs**
 - 5.3 Secretary**
 - 5.4 Treasurer**
 - 5.4.1 Presentation of accounts 2009/10**
 - 5.4.2 Presentation of Jill Landsberg Trust Fund accounts 2009/10**
 - 5.4.3 Election of auditors 2010/11**
 - 5.5 Membership Manager**
 - 5.6 Executive Officer**
 - 5.7 Austral Ecology**
 - 5.8 Ecological Management & Restoration**
 - 5.9 ESA Bulletin**
- 6. Election of Office Bearers for 2011**

7. Other Business

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

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."

8. Next AGM

9. Meeting Close

Addendum: Note to Members

A review of past AGM documentation indicates that the numbering system used to describe the Annual General Meetings since 2000 has been incorrect due to an error in the 2000 AGM papers.

The practical effect for the 2010 AGM is that this year's meeting will be our 35th AGM, not 36th as previously advised. Please accept our apologies for this anomaly.

While this error does not contravene the Constitution, and has no effect on any decisions taken at previous AGMs, the Executive has authorised that this be remedied by renumbering affected AGM papers to ensure that the numbering is accurate for historical purposes.

Any members who would like to obtain copies of the re-numbered papers can access them from the website at www.ecolsoc.org.au or by contacting executiveofficer@ecolsoc.org.au.

Carla Catterall
President

Ecological Society of Australia
34th Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes
Held at The **Shine Dome, Australian National University, Canberra**
December 4 2009

Meeting Started at 12:50 AEDT

1.0 ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Attendees: (28 members and 1 non-member attended the AGM)
Members – Carla Catterall, Nigel Andrew, Jason Cummings, Sue McIntyre, Kerry Bridle, Jennifer Taylor, Kris French, Larry Guo, Eddie van Etten, Jacqui Marlow, Christine Schlesinger, Sue Murray-Jones, Nerissa Haby, Stacey Mclean, Jann Williams, Ian Williamson, Petina Pert, Raghu Sathyamurthy, Elizabeth Tasker, Michael Fallon, David Gillieson, Carola Kuramoto de Bednarik, Maree Treadwell, David Keith, Paula Peeters, Margaret Kitchin, Barry Fox, Glenda Wardle
Non-members – Dave Meyers
Apologies:
Peter Fairweather, Michael Bull, Charles Morris, Andrew Hayes

2.0 DECLARATION OF PROXIES

Charles Morris, Scott Baker, Patricia Werner, and Andrew Hayes ceded their proxy votes to the President.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE 34th AGM

Due to a delay with the printers, the AGM papers were not distributed to members 30 days prior to the meeting.

MOTION: That the 35th AGM proceed despite the delay in circulation of papers to the ESA membership.

Moved: Nigel Andrew

Seconded: Kerry Bridle

All in favour. Motion carried.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Members noted that the incorrect version of the Treasurer's Report was included in the agenda papers, and Item 7 (page 4 of the papers) was incorrectly titled as "ESA Business Plan", when it should have been titled "ESA Constitution".

No other matters arose from the minutes of the 34th AGM.

MOTION: That the minutes of the 34th AGM be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting subject to a replacement of the Treasurer's Report with the correct version (and that the correct version of the report to be brought to the 36th AGM in 2010 for ratification by members), and correction of Item 7 (pg 4) "ESA Business Plan" to "ESA Constitution".

Moved: Barry Fox

Seconded: Kris French

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 (Petina Pert)

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 operating revenue for 2009 was \$508,754 relative to \$600,500 for 2008. There were less expenses in 2009 than 2008. Current assets of the ESA were valued at \$705,650, an improvement on 2008. The Global Financial Crisis which had caused an \$80,000 loss on shares during 2008, recovered during 2009 and this year improved by \$12,000. The ESA expects to have also made a profit from INTECOL and recent annual conferences; a \$3,000 profit was reported from the Perth conference in 2007, and a \$10,560 profit from the Sydney conference in 2008. The cash flow for 2009 was \$155,206 relative to \$14,682; this discrepancy is due to timing of receipts of money in 2008 by the society. The ESA accounts show a surplus of \$60,617 in 2009, compared with \$9486 in 2008.

5.4.1 Presentation of Accounts 2008/09
 The 2008/2009 audited accounts and Auditor's letter were presented to the attendees of the AGM by the Treasurer.
 MOTION: The 2008/2009 audit be accepted as a true and correct record by the membership
 Moved: Sue Murray-Jones
 Seconded: David Keith
 All in favour. Motion carried

5.4.2 Presentation of Jill Landsberg Trust Fund Accounts 2008/09
 The Jill Landsberg Trust Fund 2008/2009 accounts were presented to the membership by the Treasurer.
 These accounts showed an accumulated surplus of \$114,352 in 2009, compared to \$123,452 in 2008. Assets declined in value by \$3000.

5.4.3 Election of auditors 2009/10
 MOTION: That the ESA elects Deloitte (Alice Springs) as the auditors of the society for the 2009/10 financial year.
 Moved: Christine Schlesinger
 Seconded: Ian Williamson
 All in favour, Motion carried.

5.5 Membership Manager's Report (Lyn McCormick, Kirsty Cole)
 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.

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.

5.10 Conference Organizer
 Carla noted that a new PCO (Conference Logistics) has been appointed by the ESA for 2010-2012.

6.0 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2010
Council Position

Nominee

President	Carla Catterall
President-Elect	Kris French
Vice President – Research	Glenda Wardle
Vice President – Public Liaison	Paula Peeters
Vice President – Student Affairs	Ian Williamson
Secretary	Raghu Sathyamurthy
Treasurer	Nigel Andrew
Bulletin Editor	Sue Murray-Jones
Chairperson of Editorial Board – Austral Ecology	Mike Bull
Chairperson of Editorial Board – EMR	Jann Williams
Public Officer	Debbie Saunders
Regional Councillor – ACT	Jason Cummings
Regional Councillor – NSW	Liz Tasker
Regional Councillor – NT	Christine Schlesinger
Regional Councillor – QLD	Andrew Hayes
Regional Councillor – SA	Nerissa Haby
Regional Councillor – TAS	Kerry Bridle
Regional Councillor – VIC	vacant
Regional Councillor – WA	Eddie van Etten

Office bearers for 2010 were elected unopposed. Carla welcomed Kris French onto the Council as President-Elect. Jann Williams has agreed to continue to serve as Chair of EMR's Editorial Board until

a replacement is found and the vacancy for the VIC Regional Councillor is to be filled as an occasional vacancy.

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 ESA FASTS Membership

Members were advised of the intention to review ESA's membership of FASTS for 2010, with the outcome to be reported at the 2010 AGM.

8.0 NEXT AGM

The next AGM will be held as part of ESA 2010 Annual Conference, held between 6-10 December in Canberra.

Meeting Closed: 13:30 AEDT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2010

This will be my last President's Report, as 2010 marks the end of three years in this office, during which time I have had the privilege of working with interesting, committed and knowledgeable ecologists from around the country. Societies such as ours must perpetually struggle with the mismatch between what we'd like to achieve and what is possible within the time constraints of a volunteer executive. But working with like-minded people who are involved because they want to be has provided me with a welcome contrast to my institutional workplace, in which organisational goals at senior level sometimes seem seriously out of kilter with the values held by many scholars and scientists. I have also developed a great familiarity with that long-distance communications workhorse – the faceless teleconference. This type of meeting serves us very well, even if Council members get to know each others' voices much better than their faces (thank goodness we at least get to meet face to face at the time of the conference). Thanks to all Council members for their support and great work.

Out with the old and in with the new. In 2010 we welcomed Kris French into the position of President-Elect, and will be further welcoming her as the incoming 2011 President. In 2011, Council will say farewell to Paula Peters, who has defined the role of Vice-President (Public Liaison) since 2008, and undertaken a number of new initiatives for ESA during that

period. Thanks Paula! Liz Tasker is being nominated as Paula's replacement, which means that she steps down from her previous role as Regional Councillor for NSW. Jason Cummings (current RC for ACT) will also be stepping down in 2011. Jason has played a pivotal role in the organisation of the ESA 2010 Anniversary Conference, including acting as an important link between the local organising committee and the ESA Council. Since the 2009 AGM, Peter Vesk has been appointed by Council into the position of RC for Victoria. One important position that has proved difficult to fill during 2010 is that of the Chair of the Editorial Board for *Ecological Management and Restoration* – many thanks to Jann Williams for remaining in this position while a replacement was sought.

ESA communications and publications. Communications of different sorts are an integral part of why this Society exists – keeping ecologists in touch with one another and enabling us to convey important aspects of ecology to the wider public and decision-makers. But with the dawning of the electronic era a revolution is taking place in the way people communicate. The ESA conferences have become firmly established as a major event in the annual cycle, giving us an opportunity to meet, talk and socialise in the flesh. In 2010, ESA contracted a professional conference organiser, Conference Logistics, to assist with the running of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 conferences. The 2011 conference will be held in Hobart, and we are hoping that Melbourne will host the 2012 conference, although this had not been finalised at the time of writing this report. While the conferences keep being further tuned and developed, their structure has not changed greatly during the past two decades and still serves us well.

However the same cannot be said of ESA's other communications vehicles. For example, I suspect that the paper quarterly Bulletin is read by a dwindling proportion of our membership, and our website has a decidedly 1990s feel and functionality. Younger ecologists have reached maturity at a time when being interactively linked-in through web based e-communications media is a way of life, and they turn less frequently to paper for reading and writing than do older members. Older members are also discovering new e-possibilities now on offer. With all this in mind, Council has been reviewing its e-communications and website during 2010, with subcommittees formed to develop proposals for moving forward. One result is that ESA now has a presence in the social media (Facebook and Twitter).

During 2010 Gail Spina (Executive Officer) began sending the weekly e-news to all members, and this has developed into a dynamic means of sharing information in a timely manner not possible within the paper Bulletin. The website group has recommended a new web structure, whose implementation will require engaging a web designer. Council is also actively investigating options for moving our membership, email, website and data management to an integrated web-based platform, through an external contract for these services with a suitable provider. The publisher of ESA's two journals, Wiley-Blackwell, is also progressively upgrading and developing its web interactivity and delivery to keep pace with new technology. A review of *Ecological Management and Restoration* was conducted during 2010, and its results have been recently received – both the EMR Board and the ESA Council will be considering its recommendations, for implementation during 2011.

Anniversary activities. The December 2010 ESA conference will mark a high point in ESA's 50th anniversary year. A number of anniversary initiatives have been launched, many culminating at the conference. In brief, these include: "cameo perspectives" series of short written historical commentaries; ecological retrospective plenary, symposium, and exhibition of retrospective information and memorabilia at ESA10; photographic competition; special EMR interview; membership drive. As part of the latter, this year's AGM is being asked to approve a minor Constitutional change which replaces the need for new members to seek nominators' physical signatures with a more flexible process.

Subcommittees and staff. Council established a number of subcommittees in 2010. Their members are listed at the end of this set of reports. The time and effort contributed by these people helped provide Council with the basis for many important decisions during 2010. Amongst the Society's paid staff, Gail Spina has continued to ably coordinate the administration of the Society's affairs, Lyn McCormick to ensure that the finances and membership are well-managed, and Tein McDonald to provide high quality editorial work for EMR.

Awards and related processes. The three significant awards to mature ecologists in 2010 were the Gold Medal to Richard Hobbs, the AERA (Australian Ecology Research Award) to Corey Bradshaw, and the Member Service Prize to Craig James. Congratulations to all these awardees. ESA continued to bestow a number of grants and scholarships for research students in 2010, including the Jill Landsberg Scholarship and

the Nature Conservancy Award. There was membership turnover in the Jill Landsberg Trust (which manages the scholarship fund for this award): Craig James has stepped down and Richard Hobbs and Jacqui Stol have been appointed as new members.

Regional and special-interest activities. Members (especially student members) in South Australia and Northern Territory have had the opportunity to engage in regional activities: the "SA Day" conference in Adelaide organised by RC Nerissa Haby, and the NT student travel award to attend the ESA conference organised by RC Christine Schlesinger. On another front, Glenda Wardle (VP Research) has been progressing plans for setting up special-interest Research Chapters, using arid-zone ecology as a prototype. Watch out for more news about this in forthcoming months.

Indigenous people and ecology. It has been a strategic goal of the ESA for a number of years to increase the engagement between ecological science and indigenous people. In 2010, thanks to an initiative by Emilie Ens, some steps towards this have been achieved with the development of a Remote Indigenous Participation Award, with support from external funds to assist participation in a Symposium at ESA10. Moves are also under way to establish an Indigenous Support Working Group.

Strategic Planning. Looking to the future, Council will be holding a Strategic Planning Retreat in February 2011; the last previous retreat was held in 2006.

Carla Catterall
16 September 2010

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Report from VP Research – Glenda Wardle

The activities of the Vice President-research role have continued to expand this year in response to the evolving interests of the members and specifically to the opportunities for partnership of ESA with some of the activities of the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN). Together with Jann Williams and Carla Catterall, we are exploring ways for

ESA to support long-term ecological research in Australia. At this early stage it is too soon to report on outcomes but we have attended workshops and have provided input to various stages of the process. As you may be reading this at the AGM in Canberra we are pleased to note that ESA10 is our first ESA conference organised with the assistance of Conference Logistics, the new Professional Conference Organisers appointed last year. The on-going activities of AERA selection panel and the working group on ESA Research Chapters are reported on below.

Australian Ecology Research Award (AERA)

The AERA award lecture is now established as a prestigious plenary lecture delivered at the annual conference. Over these first few years we have incorporated suggestions and feedback and the final policy and procedures document has been sent to Council for approval. Discussions clarifying the eligibility for the AERA lecture and the ESA Gold Medal were assisted by the summary document of ESA awards for mature ecologists written by Carla Catterall. The AERA lecture recognizes excellence in research in Australian ecology for a specific body of recently published work. It is expected that the person will be an established ecologist peaking in their research career, but still currently active in research and therefore the specification of being “mid-career” is interpreted broadly in this context. The Gold Medal is awarded by the President for an outstanding contribution to Australian Ecology and is more of a whole-career award rather than for recent research activity.

The 2010 AERA lecture will be delivered by Professor Corey Bradshaw at ESA’s 50th anniversary conference in Canberra 6-10 December 2010. The award recognises Corey’s quantitative research in wildlife population management and climate change impacts on biodiversity. The work has revolutionised how ecologists can combine demographic, genetic, landscape and economic data within advanced mathematical models to design the most cost-effective and efficient invasive species control, to determine threats to biodiversity, and to estimate the impact of human activities on biodiversity on a global scale.

The AERA selection panel continue to be impressed with the strong pool of nominees and we encourage you to keep sending in your nominees to reflect the diversity of both topics and ecologists. Nominations for next year have been invited via the ESA website and will **close on 29th April 2011**. Send nominations to the Executive Officer of the Society

ExecutiveOfficer@ecolsoc.org.au. Criteria and nomination information are available on the website.

I would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to Associate Professor Paul Adam and Professor Helene Marsh, our two AERA panel members who will be stepping down this year, and to the other panel members, Professors Chris Dickman and Bob Pressey, for their time and service.

Research Chapter Working Group

Glenda Wardle (convenor), Nerissa Haby, Christine Schlesinger, Raghu Sathyamurthy, Gail Spina

The working group have drafted terms of reference and are establishing the policy and procedures of how Research Chapters might operate within ESA using the development of the first chapter as a prototype. It is expected that they will complement the regional and one-day events that are already run by ESA. At the time of this report, the planning is underway to launch the Arid Ecology Research Chapter at ESA10 in Canberra with the first activities to follow in 2011. It is envisaged that other Research Chapters will form in areas with sufficient interest from members. Once established, each Research Chapter will determine the type of events, or level of activity, that meets their needs. To minimize the burden on those involved the lines of reporting will be streamlined through the VP- research with the specific activities driven by the members of each chapter under the guidance of two facilitators. Website support will be available to drive the Research Chapter activities and for networking among members.

Research Chapters will reflect areas with a critical mass of interest among members and will not necessarily cover all topics. So, if you have ideas or wish to contribute in anyway please get in touch with Glenda by email at any time.

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 had been set at \$10,000 for many years, but was raised to \$15,000 for 2010. Individual applicants can now get grants of up to \$1,500.

In October 2009 there were 15 applications, with six applicants receiving grants of between \$725 and \$1,000. In April 2010 there were 19 applicants with six of these receiving grants of \$1250. Successful applicants are listed below.

October 2009

Ben Barth
Isobel Booksmythe
Mathieu Russell
Daniel Hancox
Tyge Hermansen
Vincent van Uitregt

April 2010

Annabel Smith
Justin Lathlean
Jennifer Anson
Stephen Griffiths
Luke Hedge
Ben Wegener

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 29 applications for travel grants to attend ESA10 in Canberra.

Prizes for student presentations at the ESA annual conference were not awarded at INTECOL in 2009 and the timing of the 2010 conference means that there are no student conference prize winners to report to the 2010 AGM.

The Jill Landsberg Trust Fund postgraduate scholarship has been awarded each year since 2007. There were a record 23 applications in 2010 with the \$6,000 award going to Clay Trauernicht from the University of Tasmania for work on his project examining the utility of *Callitris intratropica* as an indicator of ecological integrity on the Arnhem Plateau.

The Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award is in its third year. The number of applicants for the 2010 award (23) was also significantly

higher than in previous years. 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, David Gillieson, Peter Fairweather, Raghu Sathyamurthy, Grant Hamilton, Eddie van Etten and James Fitzsimons. Thank you also to Andrew Hayes, Eddie van Etten, Christine Schlesinger and Gail Spina for their input into reviewing and revising student grants and prizes.

Report from VP Public liaison - Paula Peeters

This year the energy and commitment of the ESA Public Liaison Working Group has been reflected in the diverse array of activities either completed or underway. Group members are Gail Spina, Jason Cummings, Liz Tasker, Nerissa Haby, Dawn Hawthorn-Jackson, Jann Williams (for information) and myself.

- The final ESA **Public Liaison Guidelines** are now on the ESA webpage.
- Jason Cummings led the preparation and publication of a **workshop report** describing the outcomes of the 2009 ESA Science and Policy Workshop. See Cummings *et al.* (2010) *Ecological Restoration and Management* 11:152-156.
- Nerissa Haby coordinated another successful **SA Ecology Day** which provided an opportunity for those working in ecology and conservation to showcase and discuss their work.
- Several Working Group members have been involved in a **review of e-communications**, to improve communication within the Society.
- Liz Tasker and several other council members have produced a detailed design for a **revised website**.
- Gail Spina has provided support for most Public Liaison activities and has also created the **ESA facebook site**, and continues to produce the weekly **e-news** posting to members. ESA now also has a profile on **Twitter**, courtesy of the Chief Twit (yours truly).
- Dawn Hawthorn-Jackson is drafting a **communications and marketing strategy** for the Society, in consultation with Council members.
- I have been coordinating the **'Ecology in Action' Photographic Competition** to raise the profile of the Society and compile a library of images for use in future promotion of the Society. Gail has played a

large role in organising the competition and uploading the entries to the facebook site, and Nerissa and Dawn will be serving on the judging panel for the competition.

- By the time you read this the ESA 2010 conference will be upon us. Jason Cummings is serving on the local organising committee for the conference, and I am convening this year's **ESA Science and Policy symposium** '*Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate – a forum for scientists, policy-makers and managers*' with the help of Nerissa Haby as chairperson.
- Also underway is the coordination of ESA input on EIANZ's **Ecological Assessment Guidelines** and efforts to raise the profile of ESA's 50th anniversary in the **media**.

After 3 very enjoyable years as Vice-President, Public Liaison, I have decided to step down so that I can increase my involvement in sustainability and conservation initiatives in my local area. It has been great working with the PLWG and ESA Council, and I encourage other members to get involved in the running of the Society, and to continue to raise the profile of ecology in the wider community.

Paula Peeters, Vice President, Public Liaison

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The ESA Council and Executive Committee fulfilled its statutory requirements by having the following meetings during the 2009-2010 financial year.

Council meetings were held on the following dates:

12 June 2009, 7 August 2009, 9 October 2009, 6 December 2009, 12 February 2010, 9 April 2010, 11 June 2010

The Executive Committee meetings were held on the following dates:

10 July 2009, 11 September 2009, 13 November 2009, 12 March 2010, 14 May 2010

The Executive also met informally on 29 January 2010 to plan the year's meetings, and schedule of activity.

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

Raghu Sathyamurthy, Hon. Secretary
September 2010

TREASURER'S REPORT 2009 – 10 Financial Year

This is my second year as Treasurer for ESA. This financial year the ESA's budget is looking healthy with both the hosting of INTECOL giving the society a profit and the upturn in global financial sector relative to 2008-09 giving further value back into our shares. As always, *Austral Ecology* is performing well and our membership continues to grow. Recently one of our financial share providers, Perpetual, closed the *Select Socially Responsible Balanced Fund* in which the Society had placed its share portfolio and moved our shares to the portfolio *Charitable and Community Investor Fund*. This fund is quite different from the one the society originally chose and the ESA Executive is currently assessing whether this portfolio is appropriate for our medium and long-term financial strategy. The timing of this change has also occurred at the start of the development of the ESA's new business plan.

The audit of the Society's accounts for 2009 – 10 is not to hand at the time of writing, but will be presented to the AGM in December.

Nigel R. Andrew
9th September 2010

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT

In 2010, ESA switched to a new printer, Asprint in Alice Springs, after being with the old one (Pirion, which became Blue Star, in Fyshwick) for all my time as editor, and who knows how many years before that. The transition was smooth, with only minor hiccups which have all been ironed out now.

My main performance indicator as Bulletin Editor is to get the hard copies into your mailboxes in the calendar month on the cover i.e. September issue in mailboxes by the end of September, and this was achieved for the past four issues.

We now have around 50% of copies received electronically, although this fluctuates a little as below, which shows numbers sent by snail mail and electronically, with the proportion sent as hard copies.

Issue	Hard Copies	Electronic	% printed
September 09	486	955	50.9
December 09	486	955	50.9
March 10	303	678	44.7
June 10	336	678	49.6

**Sue Murray-Jones, Hon. Bulletin Editor
September 2010**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

In this the year of the Society's 50th Anniversary, it has been very rewarding to see so many initiatives come to fruition. These initiatives have been both structural and strategic and primarily aimed at improving and increasing communication with our members and increasing the opportunities for engagement with the Society and with each other.

As this goes to print, an expression of interest has been launched for provision of an integrated e-communications platform to effectively and efficiently support the critical online functions which underpin the Society's business such as e-mail, document storage, web hosting, membership databases and services and technical support. It is hoped this will be finalised early in 2011. Alongside this process, a second expression of interest is about to be called for redesign of the Society's website. This redevelopment is aimed at increasing online functionality allowing more interactive and networking opportunities for members, a more intuitive layout and design, and the capacity for future expansion. It is hoped the new website will be launched by mid 2011.

This improved online and e-communication capacity will support the increasing scope of initiatives being developed by our working groups such as the research chapters coming online in 2011, indigenous support programs, public liaison activities, proposals for expanded regional activities and early career programs, and student grants and awards. Communication pathways have been expanded to include weekly e-news bulletins and social networking sites such as facebook and twitter

effectively complementing our traditional quarterly bulletin. An overarching communications strategy is also currently under development and any comments from members on future directions would be most welcome.

With a Strategic Review Workshop scheduled for February 2011, I would urge members to contact myself or their Regional Councillor with feedback on current programs and services and let us know what works and what doesn't and your thoughts on future directions. Both the strategic plan and business plan will be under review so now is the time to have your say.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the members of our many working groups who, despite already busy schedules, add their energy and hard work to progressing and expanding the Society's activities. Without their generous donation of time and expertise the Society could not deliver the scope of services and programs we now have available. I look forward to working with them in 2011.

**Gail Spina
Sept 10**

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

The Society currently has 1492 financial members, 1004 of these are Standard Members (including Family & Honorary members) and 462 Concessionary Members (a full breakdown of membership types is presented in Table 1). NSW contains the highest concentration of members at 408, with Queensland (269) and Victoria (268) 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 2007	Number of members 2008	Number of members 2009	Number of members 2010
Regular (M)	962	934	1046	922
Concessionary (C)	426	386	419	462
Family	86	88	94	76
Journal & Bulletin only	27	27	27	26
Honorary	6	6	6	6
Total all subscribers	1507	1441	1592	1492

This year we retained 78% of our members from previous years. We welcomed 258 new members into the society (more than last year) however our membership base decreased by 100 members.

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

State	Number of members 2007	Number of members 2008	Number of members 2009	Number of members 2010
NSW	420	387	430	408
QLD	254	256	312	269
VIC	265	261	271	268
WA	179	155	166	174
ACT	112	107	114	111
SA	101	102	114	104
TAS	68	70	71	65
Overseas	48	47	60	49
NT	60	56	54	44
Total subscribers	1507	1441	1592	1492

Table 3: Membership numbers 1995-2010.

Year	Number of members
1995	963
1996	1039
1997	1133
1998	1198
1999	1256
2000	1426
2001	1412
2002	1492
2003	1403
2004	1472
2005	1252
2006	1407
2007	1507
2008	1441
2009	1592
2010	1492

Lyn McCormick/Bev Watkins
Membership Manager

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

South Australia:

The wonderfully prolonged winter rains that we have been experiencing here in SA, look like laying the foundations for a blooming spring, and what better time to reflect on the last year's ESA activities within our state?

ESA SA Ecology Day (21st July 2010) was this year jointly sponsored by the University of Adelaide, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, EBS Ecology, Nature Conservation Society of SA, Emu Consulting and Ecology Results, and NRMjobs. Prof Peter Fairweather (Flinders University) and Assoc. Prof Sue Carthew (University of Adelaide) lead a further 15 oral presenters and 15 poster presenters. Kieren Beaumont (Flinders University) won the ESA Best Student Communicator Award (a year's free subscription to ESA), and Kirstin Long (DENR) and Chris Grant (DENR) the People's Choice Award for the best spoken and poster presentations, respectively (each receiving a \$200 book voucher).

The event attracted a greater proportion of professionals working here in South Australia. This possibly reflected the more diverse Organising Committee, and my sincere thanks go out to: Kenneth Clarke (The University of Adelaide), Blair Grace (Ecology Results), Lyn McCormick (ESA Finance Officer), Sue Murray-Jones (DENR), Sally O'Neill (EBS Ecology), Annette Scanlon (University of SA), Bev Watkins (ESA Membership Officer), Nigel Willoughby (DENR) and Mike Wouters (DENR). I'd also like to thank those who recognised the value of this regional event and endeavoured to participate or attend.

Bulletin submissions have included some interesting contributions, from;

- Robert Green (Bird Monitoring Contractor), Sharn Smith (PIRSA Forestry) and Bryan Haywood (ForestrySA), '*Bird Monitoring in Biodiversity Corridors*', and
- Assoc Prof Sue Carthew, '*Snippets from three PhD students in the Mammal Ecology Lab (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide)*'.

Well done guys! And for everyone stuck reading this, feel free to **let your wild side show** and submit a piece regarding your research activities to the ESA Bulletin!

Are you waiting for more encouragement? The ESA bulletin was recently endorsed by Bill Laurance as a great medium for communication between ecologists during his "Amplify Your Voice - Keys to Having a Prolific Scientific Career" presentation for the Environment Institute (University of Adelaide)!

The Australian Ecology Research Award was presented to Prof. Corey Bradshaw, now based at the University of Adelaide. More information can be found about Corey's work through <http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/prizes.html> or <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/corey.bradshaw>, or you could dive straight into his increasingly popular blog site on current conservation issues and research <http://conservationbytes.com/>

... if you're left wondering about the rest of the cool work happening in SA, please consider emailing a piece for the next ESA bulletin to SA@ecolsoc.org.au!

**Nerissa Haby, Regional Councillor (SA)
September 2010**

Northern Territory:

This year, coinciding with the 50th anniversary conference ESA10 in Canberra, we were very pleased to offer a new NT student travel award, as part of a regional initiative, to support ecology students based in the NT to engage with ESA in the NT and nationally, through attending the national conference. There were three high quality applicants for the \$1000 award that was won by Alice Springs based Tom Newsome, a PhD student with Sydney University. As part of the award, Tom will be presenting his work to a local NT audience providing the centre point for a regional ESA get-together, prior to travelling to Canberra to present at ESA10 in December. Thank you to NT members Raghu Sathyamurthy and Sean Bellairs for giving their time to assess the award applications.

There are now considerable benefits for NT student members from ESA membership. Applications for the new NT Student Conference Travel Award does not exclude application for the general conference travel awards for students which are allocated on the basis of the relative costs of travel of applicants. Students also can apply for ESA Student Research Grants, the Jill Landsberg Trust Fund Scholarship or the Nature

Conservancy Applied Conservation Award to support their research, and are eligible for a range of prizes if attending an annual conference.

Another award offered in 2010 which has particular relevance for the NT is the Remote Indigenous Participation Award, a joint initiative of the ESA, the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research and the Australian National University, to promote involvement in the 'Combining Indigenous and western ecological knowledge for future land management solutions' symposium at ESA10.

Christine Schlesinger, Regional Councillor (NT)

ACT

Efforts in the ACT this year have been singularly focused on delivering the Annual Conference for the Society. A great big thankyou to local members heavily involved in organising the conference: Mark Lonsdale, Geoff Baker, Sue Briggs, Don Driscoll, Frances FitzGibbon, Jim Hone, Rosemary Lott, Nicola Munro, Peter Neville and Debbie Saunders

Jason Cummings, Regional Councillor (ACT)

New South Wales

New South Wales ESA members were busy and productive over the 2009-10 year, as evidenced by the regular and informative news submissions to the Bulletin as well as many published journal articles, books and input to policy and management issues. Many thanks to the NSW Local Contacts for rustling up news, and to members who provided items throughout the year. It is much appreciated.

There was one (almost NSW!) regional event this year, hosted and run by the ACT, in which I was involved and in various NSW members participated either as speakers or attendees. This was the 'The Worlds of Ecology and Environmental Policy: Never the Two Shall Meet?' workshop held at the Shine Dome in Canberra, 4th December 2009. The workshop resulted in a summary published in EMR, thanks mostly to Jason Cummings who was the lead author, and disciplined organiser and made sure it got done.

Various NSW members provided input and feedback to me on the ESA's email and web communication throughout the year, in particular areas that

they think need improvement, and this information was useful in progressing the website revamp project (see elsewhere in the AGM papers) and ironing out some of the bugs with the email communications with members. There's much more to be done, and the Council welcomes member's continued feedback.

If you've got any suggestions for NSW Regional Events or any other things you'd like the society to do, or to stop doing (!), or to change, please don't hesitate to find me at this year's annual conference in Canberra and have a chat. I'll pass the message on at the next appropriate Council or working group meeting.

Liz Tasker
Sept 2010

Victoria

I am in my first term as Regional Councillor for Victoria. I have established a network of local contacts at the larger organizations. An aim is to get those contacts to feed information back from their colleagues and associates, but to date this has been pretty quiet. We plan to have mixer of some sort in the future in Melbourne. Observing the process of SA's Ecology day, the logistics are a bit daunting for just wanting to get together with colleagues. More formally and regionally, Florry (Singarayer Florentine) is planning the 4th in a series of conferences called "Biodiversity Across The Borders" for 2011 at U. Ballarat's Mt Helen campus. ESA could be fruitfully involved in this. There is general support for ESA2012 conference to be hosted in Melbourne. But nobody has come forward to be the champion in development of a Local Organizing Committee. This is a key task for the coming months.

Peter Vesk
September 2010

Queensland

.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. I would like to say a personal thank you to our Executive Officer, Gail Spina. She is always on hand to answer questions and help in any way that she can, and

she is a fantastic resource for our Society. Thanks for all your help Gail, and I look forward to another year working with you.

Last year I reported that I had begun negotiations to co-host an event with Brisbane City Council. Unfortunately the event hasn't come to fruition yet, a reflection on the busyness of the co-ordinators rather than a lack of desire to get together. The talks are still proceeding, so please keep an eye out for an event soon. It will hopefully be a great opportunity to connect first-rate ecological research with those practitioners with the day to day task of caring for our beautiful country.

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 here from you.

Andrew Hayes, Regional Councillor (Qld)
Sept 10

Tasmania

This year our focus has been on developing a local organising committee for ESA 2011. While it hasn't taken up too much of our time yet, I suspect that this will change very shortly. I would like to thank all participants on the LOC for their work to date and the hard work to be done over the next 12 months. Any additional offers of assistance will be much appreciated! We celebrated the 50th anniversary of ESA and the International Year of Biodiversity by holding a series of seminars presenting the research of five eminent ecologists based in Tasmania. David Bowman started off the series, followed by Louise Gilfedder and Fred Duncan and then Jamie Kirkpatrick. Finding an extrovert aquatic ecologist seems to be an issue at the time of writing (September) but I am sure that this will all be sorted before the end of the year.

The ESA has been asked to assist with funding 'Phylomania', an international phylogenetics meeting based at UTAS and co-convened by one of our new imports Barbara Holland. Supporting local events is a great way of promoting ecology across disciplines.

We aim to run a paper writing workshop before the end of the year, relying on the goodwill of a recently retired ESA member to help deliver this activity. This should suit post-graduate students, early career researchers

and others who just need some ‘time out’ to concentrate on finishing papers.

The local community has been kept up-to-date through the Bull (thanks to all who have contributed) and through various emails advertising local seminars (usually in Hobart). The monthly lunch-time seminars have not been held this year, but hopefully these will be reintroduced next year. If you are willing to organise these talks or any other activities, then please contact me (Kerry@utas.edu.au).

2011 will be a busy year for ecologists in Tasmania. We look forward to inviting you to next year’s AGM in Hobart.

**Kerry Bridle, Regional Councillor, (Tas)
September 2010**

Western Australia

As W.A. Regional Councillor I have participated in bimonthly meetings of the ESA Council, and have contributed to the ESA Bulletin and E-news. I have also participated in a number of working groups for the ESA, including the Student Affairs Working Group, and have acted as a reviewer for the ESA Student Research Awards (1st round 2010). I have also been involved in organising the 50th Anniversary Retrospective Exhibition at this year’s annual conference.

WA members are encouraged to send any news items (eg changes to staffing, new research projects etc) to me for publication in the Bulletin. Also I’m always interested in your ideas for events and local activities.

**Eddie van Etten
Regional Councillor, Western Australia**

AUSTRAL ECOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT

2010 Volume 35 In 2010 *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 will be in operation from 2010 - 2014.

Complete data up to 2009

Each year in April, the publishers provide an annual report which covers data from the previous year. In April 2010 they reported on results for the full year 2009, up to the last issue of Volume 34.

There were 107 articles published in 2009 with an average period from acceptance to printed publication of 334 days. See below for discussion about how to reduce this delay.

Access data are shown in the table below:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Institutional direct subscriptions	240	223	212	206	200	201	192
Consortia access sites	1702	1900	2537	2,685	3,107	3,270	3223
EBSCO access sites*	226	226	947	1,127	1,105	1,113	2053
On-line article downloads	55,043	72,329	81,463	98,106	111,798	98,219	85,300
e-alerting “table of contents” subscriptions	2062	2682	2577	2956	2967	3094	3224
Institutes with philanthropic access						2475	3003

*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.

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, largely through library consortia, remained steady. 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* decreased from 2008 to 2009, partly as a result of the change over from the Blackwell Synergy system to the Wiley InterScience system. The latter has only become fully operational and effective in late 2010 and we expect access to published papers to rise. The month by month analysis also shows a drop in online accesses in the period June to September when there were some problems with Google Scholar (or perhaps that is the northern hemisphere summer holidays?).

The number of people asking to be electronically alerted to the Table of Contents of each issue continues to grow (if only marginally). 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.

99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
23.1	25.5	29.6	34.8	28.9	49.9	53.9	63.7	95.9	87.2	106.4

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.

Wiley-Blackwell contribute an additional \$2.5K towards student awards 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 30% of that income for 2009, or the equivalent of 1250 new full member subscriptions at \$85.

The forecast budget for *Austral Ecology* in 2010 sees a profit of about \$120K 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 issue 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.

Editorial arrangements. In 2010 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 43 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 efforts in coordinating this important section of the journal. Since 2009, Kris French, Pete Green, Michelle Leishmann, Nicki Mitchell and Adele Pile have retired from the editorial board after many cumulative years of service. They have provided thoughtful advice and help with manuscripts over those years and their efforts have been greatly appreciated. In 2010 Andrew F. Bennett, Bruce Burns and Nicola Nelson joined the Editorial Board as new associate editors.

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 setting up the specific templates for *Austral Ecology*, and in addressing questions from authors, editors and from the managing editor.

The Publisher. 2010 is the first 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 23 March 2010 I spent time in discussion

with Amanda Davis (Publishing Director, Life Sciences & Professional), Rose Williams (Journal Publishing Manager), Martha Rundell (Scholar One coordinator), and via a phone link to Singapore, Chin Ang Ng (Production Editor of *Austral Ecology*).

The new Production Editor, Chin Ang Ng, from Singapore has maintained a high quality of production and a regular channel of communication. Rose Williams continued as Journal Publishing Manager for *Austral Ecology* until late in 2010 and has provided enthusiastic cooperation during regular discussions about publishing issues. Her role will be taken over by Elissa Wilson from October 2010.

Publication delays

- In 2009 there was an average delay between acceptance and appearing in print of 334 days or around 11 months. This was discussed at a planning day of members of the editorial board in August 2009, and some of the resulting changes include:
- Reduction of font size for abstract and methods sections
- Increasing use of appendices of supplementary information for large tables
- More severe rejection rates of submitted manuscripts
- Rapid “Early-View” on-line publication of manuscripts with citable doi number within one month of acceptance

Frequency of Publication and Journal Format. In 2010 there will be eight issues of *Austral Ecology*. 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 2009.

Publication times are currently up to 11 or 12 months from acceptance to print, although the citable electronic “Early View” version of each manuscript is now published on-line within two months of acceptance. The publication delay for the print version reflects the growing status of the journal and in particular the increased number of high quality submitted manuscripts. The absence of a special issue has kept delays down, but it will be necessary to decrease the acceptance rate, and economise on page space (for instance through the use of electronically published

supplementary material) so 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. Anyone with suitable photographs is invited to submit them to the managing editor for consideration.

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 submissions, with all other Australian

Year	98	99	00	01	002	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Old	21	13	18	18	17	21	25	19	24	17	23	19
NSW	30	24	22	23	34	34	25	29	47	34	38	36
Victoria	13	3	9	10	8	10	12	14	11	15	11	20
WA	7	6	4	5	11	11	13	7	15	7	16	6
SA	5	10	3	10	8	4	8	9	9	10	7	13
Tasmania	4	4	5	4	2	10	10	2	5	7	6	6
NT	4	7	9	10	4	6	2	3	5	6	5	5
ACT	8	3	6	2	5	3	5	9	6	11	13	6
NZ	1	5	3	5	5	7	12	17	6	13	10	13
S. Africa	4	2	1	4	7	2	6	10	4	14	17	20
S. America	2	8										1
Brazil			9	6	13	17	20	27	20	31	32	37
Arg			5	7	11	17	20	24	25	29	21	31
Chile			3	2	8	4	5	7	2	10	11	9
Peru			0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0		
Uruguay							1	0	1	1	2	2
N America	3	2	3	5	1	7	3	6	6	5	2	6
Europe	7	5	3	7	6	4	9	10	17	6	10	8
Asia	7	3	5	2	3	6	14	17	8	7	10	11
Other	2	0	1	2	2	2	2	3	0	5	2	3
TOTAL	118	95	109	123	135	165	192	214	212	228	236	252

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). Figures for 2010 are incomplete and not included.

Manuscript status 1997-2009

The table below shows the number of manuscripts each year and the acceptance rate. For 2010 it is too early in the review process for many manuscripts, to get an overall acceptance rate figure. However with 8 months or 0.67 of the year completed we are tracking towards 260 manuscript submissions, a jump from previous years.

YEAR	SUBMITTED MSS	NO ACCEPTED	% ACCEPTED	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS PUB IN YR
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

The acceptance rate is now being maintained about 40%. This is partly because we have had to impose high standards so that the publication delay for accepted papers does not become too long. The table shows that the numbers of high quality manuscripts accepted has started to stabilise despite an increasing number of submissions. We are now regularly accepting fewer papers each year than we are publishing 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 2009 is calculated as the average number of times each paper from the previous two years (2007 and 2008) was cited during 2009.

Thomson Reuters surveyed 109- 127 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.

Impact factor rankings are highly regarded by librarians determining University Library subscriptions. The ERA process in Australian Universities takes into account the impact factors of journals that researchers publish 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. Members should be aware that by citing papers 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	99	00	01 AJE	01 AE	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Impact factor	1.1 68	1.5 04	1.3 23	0.6 58	1.2 91	1.3 19	1.2 73	1.7 69	1.7 71	1.6 74	1.8 26	1.5 78
Ranking among ecology journals	49	35	43	71	48 /109	48/ 105	52/ 107	42/ 112	51/ 114	54/ 116	57/ 124	66/ 127

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.

Michael Bull
 Managing Editor (*Austral Ecology*)
 Sep 2010

REPORT ON ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT & RESTORATION (EMR)

Summary

The production of EMR continues to run smoothly, with a continued steady submission rate of quality manuscripts to fill the three issues published this year. Readership, download and subscription data for the 2009 year remain relatively strong. A slight decline in usage occurred due to a change to Google’s indexing system of scholarly journals, which has since been resolved. Results from the surveys of EMR’s future direction conveyed that respondents were satisfied overall with the journal but would support a range of minor changes. Wiley-Blackwell, the ESA Council and the EMR Editorial Board are working together to determine which changes will be implemented. EMR is also in the process of adopting ScholarOne, the same online submission and management system used by *Austral Ecology*. We anticipate that the system will be ready for use in early 2011. Changes at Wiley-Blackwell included a move of the role of Production Editor to the Singapore office and the inclusion of EMR on the new online journals platform, the Wiley Online Library.

Period covered by this report

This report covers the period between when the 2009 and 2010 AGM reports were written. The manuscript data and discussion of other issues therefore includes the period September 2009 – September 2010. The financial, subscription and readership figures are the most recent available from Wiley-Blackwell. They are based on the EMR Annual Report from the publishers and relate only to the 2009 calendar year.

Readership

The Wiley-Blackwell 2009 Annual Report on EMR shows that 3,138 libraries world-wide have access to the journal as part of the Wiley InterScience package, a further 1,179 libraries have access to embargoed content via the aggregator EBSCO (a substantial increase from 2008), and a further 3003 (again an increase from 2008) have access to the journal through philanthropic programs.

There was a slight decline in article downloads, which Wiley-Blackwell considers was affected by a major policy change at Google, which led to an interruption in their indexing of content.

Student use of the journal is an important measure of EMR's impact and is likely to contributing heavily to the downloads listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Top 10 institutional users of EMR in 2009

Title	Author	Vol Iss*	Full Text Access
The interpretation, assessment and conservation of ecological communities	David A. Keith	10:s1	399
Dealing with threats: Integrating science and management	Tony D. Auld, David A. Keith	10:s1	338
Evolving restoration principles in a changing world	Tein McDonald	9:3	335
Some practical suggestions for improving engagement between researchers and policy-makers in natural resource management	Philip Gibbons, Charlie Zammit, Kara Youngentob, Hugh P. Possingham, David B. Lindenmayer, Sarah Bekessy, Mark Burgman, Mark Colyvan, Margaret Considine, Adam Felton, Richard J. Hobbs, Karen Hurley, Clive McAlpine, Michael A. McCarthy, Joslin Mo	9:3	332
Detecting unacceptable change in the ecological character of Ramsar wetlands	Jenny Davis, Margaret Brock	9:1	263
A critical evaluation of science achievements under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 in New South Wales	Len Banks, Joe Woodward, Jack Baker	10:s1	236
Ecological processes: A key element in strategies for nature conservation	Andrew F. Bennett, Angie Haslem, David C. Cheal, Michael F. Clarke, Roger N. Jones, John D. Koehn, P. Sam Lake, Linda F. Lumsden, Ian D. Lunt, Brendan G. Mackey, Ralph MacNally, Peter W. Menkhorst, Tim R. New, Graeme R. Newell, Tim O'Hara, G	10:3	235
Understanding environmental change before it is too late!	Andrew F. Bennett	9:3	211
Decision-making under climatic uncertainty: A case study involving an Australian Ramsar-listed wetland	Terry Walshe, Tilo Massenbauer	9:3	207
Assessing the quality of native vegetation: The 'habitat hectares' approach	David Parkes, Graeme Newell, David Cheal	4:s1	206

Table 2. Top 10 most downloaded articles in 2009

Customer	Country	Full Text
University of Sydney	Australia	1,271
University of New England	Australia	1,084
University of New South Wales	Australia	923
Charles Sturt University	Australia	909
University of Queensland	Australia	876
North Carolina Wesleyan College	United States	865
University of Technology Sydney	Australia	675
Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW	Australia	608
Australian National University	Australia	601
Murdoch University	Australia	573

*Note, s1 denotes 'supplement 1'

Subscriptions

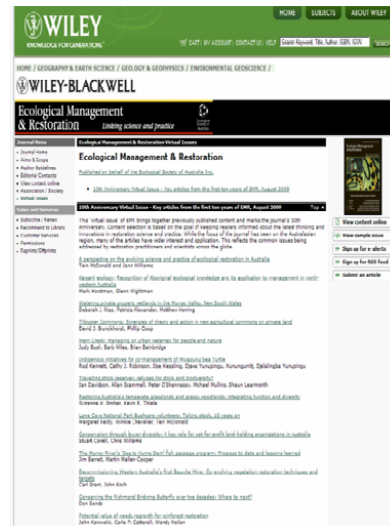
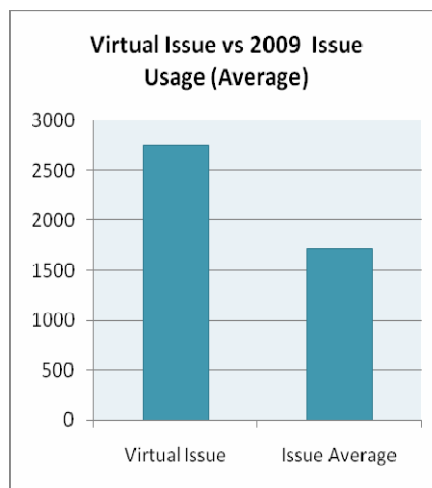
Subscriptions continue to be strong, although there was a decline in individual and affiliate subscriptions to EMR in 2009, possibly due to the impact of the global financial crisis as predicted last year. It should be noted that while personal subscriptions are an important revenue source for EMR, they are unpredictable particularly in times of uncertain economic stability.

Profitability

The profit from the journal for the 2009 calendar year was \$46,327, which is shared equally among the two partners, Wiley-Blackwell and the ESA. This significant increase on the 2008 profit (\$32,091) is due to publication of a Supplement in 2009 that was sponsored by NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Promotion

Wiley-Blackwell continue to promote the journal through a range of activities. These include specifically EMR-focused marketing activity, broad subject-area marketing activity, and marketing of their full collection to libraries. In 2009 EMR was promoted at 11 conferences through either a Wiley-Blackwell stand or sponsorship, including two key international conferences held in Australia: INTECOL 10 held in Brisbane and the Society for Ecological Restoration conference held in Perth. Promotion of EMR at these conferences and very broadly focused on the August 2009 supplement (which was made freely available online for promotional purposes) and the Virtual issue, the latter containing a mix of case studies and research reports. As a result there were 2,745 article downloads for the Virtual issue. Authors featured in the virtual issue also secured seven items of press coverage and Wiley Blackwell's List Marketing Manager, Davina Quarterman arranged publicity for one research report which successfully drew considerable media attention.



In 2009, Wiley-Blackwell continued its readership campaigns with advertising on the website and email promotion of the email alert system. At the end of 2009, there were over 4,400 registrants for email table of content alerts for EMR, an increase from the previous year.

Annual submission and rejection rates

The same high standards of peer review have applied in the last 12 months to previous years. We received fewer submissions of papers that were considered outside the journal's scope, while a somewhat higher number of papers have progressed to review than in previous years. Fewer manuscripts have been published compared to previous years, as some items have been slightly longer length (Table 3). The fate of those manuscripts submitted within the 2010 calendar year is given in Table 4, to provide an idea of the types of manuscripts being reviewed and published.

Table 3. Fate of 'peer reviewable' submissions since the journal started. [Note the table does not include manuscripts published in supplements and reviewed externally.]

PERIOD	Rejected before review	Registered for review	Reviewed but withdrawn/rejected in the period	Published in volume (inc some submitted 2008-9)
2009-10 - Vol 11	13	55	10	33
2008-9 - Vol 10	36	47	5	37
2007-8 - Vol 9	42	68	23	38
2006-7 - Vol 8	19	87	15	37
2005-6 - Vol 7	20	68	8	36
2004-5 - Vol 6	10	63	18	40
2003-4 - Vol 5	No records	59	16	42
2002-3 - Vol 4	"	59	48	54 (included bonus issue)
2001-2 - Vol 3	"	61	21	40
2000-1 - Vol 2	"	76	7	39
1990-2000 - Vol 1	"	92	3	39

Non-peer reviewed material published or accepted for publication in 2010 included 3 guest editorials, 5 book reviews or workshop reports and 34 project summaries.

Table 4. The fate of peer reviewed manuscripts submitted during the calendar year 2010.

MANUSCRIPT TYPE	PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED	STILL IN REVIEW	REJECTED
Features	6	1	0
Comments	1	0	0
Research, reviews or technical reports	9	7	5
Short notes	9	3	1
TOTALS	25	11	6

EMR Readers Survey

The response rate to the readers’ survey was gratifying and the feedback received from readers and the Editorial Board/Council were satisfied with the journal and the way it operated. Some very helpful comments were submitted. These pointed to the need to consider some of the formatting in the journal and expanding the content to cover regions and topics not yet included in the journal. Increased publishing of review articles was widely supported, as was continuing the effort of getting an impact factor for the journal. A Working Group has been set up by ESA to consider the survey documents and recommendations made by Wiley-Blackwell in detail. The Working Group will bring a draft response to Council and to the EMR Board meeting in December for discussion and further action.

Online Submission System: ScholarOne Manuscripts

In April 2010, the EMR Board and ESA agreed to transition EMR to the same online submission and management system, ScholarOne Manuscripts, used by *Austral Ecology*. This was after some debate as to

whether the new system would be easily used by practitioner authors. The transition process has commenced with the customizing of the system to meet EMR’s needs, supplemented by editorial assistance for practitioners to ensure they are not disadvantaged by the electronic submission system. We anticipate that the system will be ready for use in early 2011.

Changes to the Editorial Board

EMR expresses sincere thanks to the following retired members of the editorial board and welcomes the following new members.

- Retired members:** Peter Bayliss, Stuart Blanch, David Goldney, John Kanowski
- New members:** Paul Adam, Chris Dickman, Miriam Goosem, Anne Kerle, John Koehn

Acknowledgements

We thank the EMR Editorial Board and Executive for all their assistance during the year. Dr Angela Wardell-Johnson made a valuable contribution to analysing the EMR surveys, for which we are grateful. We also thank the publisher and journal partner, Wiley-Blackwell, particularly Rose Williams (Journal Publishing Manager), Chin-Ang Ng (Production Editor), Martha Rundell (ScholarOne Manuscripts Manager), Davina Quarterman (List Marketing Manager) and Amanda Davis, (Publishing Director, Life Sciences & Professional).

Jann Williams (EMR journal Chair) and **Tein McDonald** (Editor, EMR)

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:

Working Group Membership	
<p>1. Research Chapters Glenda Wardle (convenor) Nerissa Haby Christine Schlesinger Raghu Sathyamurthy Gail Spina</p>	<p>4. Early Career Support Andrew Hayes (convenor) Kerry Bridle Nigel Andrews Petina Pert Gail Spina</p>
<p>2. ESA10 LOC Mark Lonsdale (Chair) Sue Briggs, Don Driscoll, Frances FitzGibbon Jim Hone Rosemary Lott, Geoff Baker, Jason Cummings Nicola Munro Peter Neville Debbie Saunders Gail Spina</p>	<p>5. Public Liaison Paula Peeters (convenor) Nerissa Haby Liz Tasker Dawn Hawthorne-Jackson Jason Cummings Gail Spina</p>
<p>3. Student Affairs Ian Williamson (convenor) Eddie van Etten Christine Schlesinger Andrew Hayes Gail Spina Luke Hedge (student rep)</p>	<p>6. ESA Website Gail Spina (convenor) Lyn McCormick Liz Tasker Paula Peeters Ian Williamson</p>

<p>7. 50th Anniversary Carla Catterall (convenor) Eddie van Etten Gail Spina Dawn Hawthorne-Jackson Sam Lloyd Jann Williams</p>	<p>12. Indigenous Support Program Working Group currently being established (nominations welcome): Emilie Ens (convenor) Rosemary Hill Gail Spina</p>
<p>8. Financial Governance Nigel Andrew (convenor) Carla Catterall Lyn McCormick Gail Spina</p>	<p>13. E-Communication Review Group Carla Catterall (convenor) Kris French Paula Peeters Nigel Andrew Lyn McCormick Gail Spina Dawn Hawthorne-Jackson Lyndsey Vivian (student rep)</p>
<p>9. TERN Jann Williams (convenor) Glenda Wardle Eddie van Etten Paula Peeters (database advisor) Gail Spina</p>	<p>14. EMR Survey Review Group Jann Williams (convenor) Tein McDonald Andrew Bennett David Norton Carla Catterall Christine Schlesinger Gail Spina</p>
<p>10. Membership Strategy Gail Spina (convenor) Lyn McCormick Bev Watkins</p>	<p>15. JLTF Advisory Board</p> <p>Trustees David Gillieson Richard Hobbs Jacqui Stol Sue McIntyre</p> <p>ESA Representatives Carla Catterall Peter Fairweather Nigel Andrew Lyn McCormick</p>
<p>11. AERA Glenda Wardle (convenor) Paul Adam Chris Dickman Barbara Downes Helene Marsh New panel members sought</p>	

	Gail Spina