

EDITORIAL

David has promised me a print of the journal today, so if there is going to be an editorial it is time it was written. This year has been a rough one journal-wise. By the end of April, when all contributions should have been in, with the exception of one by Warwick Harris, 'Knowing Kanuka as *Kunzea*' (and it was at least a year late), and a promised review (see Book Reviews) by Lucy Moore, the cupboard was bare. However, the old faithfuls rallied round and thankfully we can produce another volume. It would be nicer still if there were a surplus that I could hand on to David Norton, who will be the next editor.

The standard of a journal does depend almost entirely on the supply of articles from authors sufficiently motivated to write it down on paper. I am extremely grateful to those who have contributed over the six years of my editorship. I started to list them but found the numbers too large and any selection produced invidious distinctions. So here I formally record my thanks.

The journal has a wider distribution than just the financial members of the Society. Several universities and institutions in New Zealand and overseas receive it regularly, and irregularity in the date of publication results in a spate of enquiry letters, all of which adds to the work load and cost. So this becomes a plea for articles to be sent in as soon as possible, not by some deadline, but as the facts are garnered. This gives the editor time for checking, addition of extra information and the selection of suitable illustrations where needed and possible, resulting in a much improved journal.

The change in layout in this year's journal has been made possible by David Norton's offer of the use of a word processor for which we are extremely grateful.

With a change in editorship comes the opportunity for a reassessment of the value of the journal to the Society. The effect that the proposed formation of a New Zealand Botanical Society and perhaps another Botanical Journal or Bulletin reaching the market should be taken into account. Be this as it may, it is for other hands and minds, and I cast this, my 'duck quack', before you with a general feeling of pleasure and gratitude that I have been given the opportunity over the past six years 'to have a go'.

Ross Elder