

Editorial

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Welcome to the new-look *SAO*. Most of you will have heard or read that the journal was going to change. However, it is not change for the sake of change and we hope that we have retained the best features of the journal. After all it is nearly a hundred years old and as our President said in the November *Newsletter*, it is one of the oldest ornithological journals in Australia.

We are proud of our journal, which has been remarkably influential over many years as is evidenced by its representation in the references in *HANZAB* and in many other ornithological publications. Our intention is to build on this reputation.

Many of the changes have been foreshadowed either in the *Newsletter* or at our monthly meetings and most of them have also been discussed at our regular monthly Management Committee meetings. Of course, not everyone agrees with all the changes, but there is a consensus. Like the *Newsletter* we have introduced colour. We have retained the size of the *SAO*, but improved the weight and quality of the paper and the design of the cover, with a small increase in the production costs. In terms of content, we intend to publish more book reviews and to that end we have established a good relationship with major publishers. One of the glories of ornithology is its rich literature, from field-guides to monographs and we intend to review the most interesting. We also intend to broaden the perspective of the journal so that it becomes less parochial, though we intend to retain a local flavour where appropriate.

Looking ahead we may consider more changes, but you can rest assured that these will be canvassed among the membership. We do not intend to make any further changes until completion of the present volume at the end of 2009. One problem, not of our own making, is that our first issue is being produced just as Australian ornithology is absorbing the new checklist. We hope that you will bear with us in this matter. Some papers came in well before the new list and others incorporate it. In this issue, we have accommodated both the old and the new checklists; naturally in future issues everything will be based on the new version. Ornithology is a living science and we reflect this.

As new editors we hope you enjoy the new-look journal and approve the changes. Inevitably some of you will have criticisms and we welcome hearing them, especially if they are directed at improving the journal. One way of improving the journal and incidentally making our lives easier, is to increase the flow of material. Other things being equal, the greater the flow of material the higher the quality of the journal. The journal is essentially a joint effort and together we can all make it even better.