

## 2008 Editorial

With my first volume as Editor of *New Zealand Journal of Psychology* complete, I would like to take a moment to again thank my predecessor, Mike O'Driscoll, for his continued support. Under his leadership, we saw the *Journal's* impact factor rise and the use of the web site sharply increase. With a quick visit to the site, visitors were able to review *NZJP* aims and scope, author guidelines, review tables of contents for specific articles, and purchase special feature issues. There were many publishing and operating policies that began during Mike's term that continue to guide the *Journal's* operations. I also wish to thank Pamela Hyde, Executive Director for the New Zealand Psychological Society, and Debra Ridgway, at the Society's National Office in particular for their support through the transition.

During the past 12 months, the *Journal* has benefitted from the expertise and valuable contributions of five Associate Editors: Neville Blampied (University of Canterbury), Bronwyn Campbell (Massey University, Palmerston North), Harlene Hayne (University of Otago), Janet Leathem (Massey University, Wellington), and Mike O'Driscoll (University of Waikato). Paul Jose (Victoria University of Wellington) has also supported the *Journal* as Book Review Editor. These individuals' knowledge and experience have been invaluable to ensure that the *Journal* remains responsive to the needs of its readers. I am also grateful for the Editorial Assistance provided by Helen McMaster (Massey University, Auckland).

As stated in my 2007 Editorial, my intention has been to serve as Editor in a manner that facilitated 'business as usual' for the *Journal*. With regards to *Journal* activity, there were a total of 33 manuscript submissions during the past 12 months (November 2007 issue to present issue). Of these manuscripts, 17 were reviewed, 12 were rejected outright or following review (36% rejection

rate), and 4 were withdrawn from the review process by authors. The review process took an average of 101 days (in late 2007) and 61 days (through 2008) to be reviewed, and an average of 32 days to be revised by authors. The time from submission to publication was 296 days on the average. The *Journal* also received a total of 11 book submissions, 4 were either reviewed or under review at the time of this report, and 2 were rejected either prior or following the review process.

A central purpose of an Editorial (and similar reports), in my view, is to introduce any new policies, procedures, or preferences that are characteristic of the next 12 months. This editorial will be relatively short, because there are few if any meaningful twists that submitting authors need to know. Of note, however, is a change the Editorial Board made this year whereby a new section will be included, entitled "*Psychology at the Cutting Edge*" in 2009 issues. This section will present invited contributions from prominent psychology researchers in New Zealand on their research areas. We are inviting each contribution to be consistent with the *Journal's* usual aims and scope, and demonstrate a commitment to bicultural issues where possible. The articles will provide a brief overview of the relevant research programme(s), a summary of the findings so far, and an outline of future directions. Michael Corballis has graciously agreed to support this initiative and contribute the first article in the first general issue of 2009.

The *Journal* will follow in the footsteps laid by the work of previous Editors and Editorial Boards. Consistent with the directives of the New Zealand Psychological Society, *NZJP* will continue to focus on empirical, review, theoretical discussion manuscripts pertinent to the broad field of psychology in New Zealand. The *Journal* will also continue to consider special feature issues, where the reader, in an efficient manner, can acquire concise

information on a specific topic related to psychological theory, research, and practice, together with integrative syntheses and related commentaries. The aim is to focus on topics that are stimulating, have widespread interest, and suggest how the field might advance. *NZJP* will now more closely follow the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines for manuscript submission.

In this current issue, Ian Evans presents a thought provoking article based on his Hunter Award Address presented at the Joint Conference of the Australian Psychological Society and New Zealand Psychological Society in 2006. Thoughtful commentaries by Neville Blampied, Bob Knight, and Catherine Love follow this paper, and address the various themes raised and discussed. Each contribution is excellent and a special note of thanks is extended to these esteemed colleagues for their valued contributions.

In order to best reflect and serve the needs of our membership, we invite submissions from readers of the *Journal*. The *Journal* is highly regarded in New Zealand, and we aim to review papers within 8 weeks. Please help us to best reflect Society's interests by encouraging your colleagues and students to submit papers for review and consideration.

To encourage younger members to publish in the *Journal*, the Editorial Board has committed itself to providing a rich opportunity for students of the Society to contribute to and become involved in the professional psychological community by starting the Outstanding Student Article Award in 2008. Students whose articles are published in *NZJP* will be automatically considered for the Award to be announced at the Society's Annual Conference. Three months prior to conference, a sub-committee will review and select the finalists from all of those articles submitted to the journal in the 12 months leading that date. Students are welcome to submit papers from masters

and doctoral levels of work. All papers must primarily represent the student's own work. Further information about the award is published this issue, and can be obtained from the Editor.

Submitted papers, in all of their diversity, will continue to be processed and evaluated in a timely manner. In an effort to process submitted manuscripts efficiently, manuscripts determined by the Editor to be out of the scope of the *Journal* will be returned to the author—there are simply instances when it is best not to burden reviewers with a submission that can be determined, at the outset, to be out of the scope of the *Journal*.

The Society's website has been recently reviewed and redesigned. The *Journal's* site has been updated to reflect the format and structure of the rest of the site. A new initiative will soon be implemented, visitors will be able to download full-text copies of articles. For the first 6 months, the journal will be available only to members (and to subscribers) on a protected part of the website, but after that it will move to a generally accessible area (i.e., open access).

It is intended that the next (2009) volume will mark the transition to an entirely electronic format for production. This decision was made by the New Zealand Psychological Society Executive Committee in 2008. This change is intended to provide the *Journal* to readers in a form that is most useful for rapid retrieval of information. The *Journal* will continue to be in the forefront of local psychological research and practice.

I will be taking up a new position La Trobe University in January 2009 where I will continue my service as Editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*. It is my intention to continue this service in a manner that maintains the current high standard of content and facilitates the *Journal's* ongoing value as a resource for psychologists in Aotearoa/ New Zealand.

#### **Nikolaos Kazantzis, Ph.D.**

Editor, *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*

In addition to the Associate Editors, the following reviewers were involved in the process of reviewing manuscripts for the 2008 issue.

Their efforts and sage advice are very gratefully acknowledged.

Adamson, Simon	Otago University
Babbage, Duncan	Massey University
Borrell, Belinda	Whariki Research Group/Te Ropu Whariki
Bushnell, John	University of Wollongong, Australia
Chamberlain, Kerry	Massey University
Deane, Frank	University of Wollongong, Australia
Durrant, Russil	Victoria University of Wellington
Gleaves, David	Canterbury University
Harre, Niki	Auckland University
Hedge, Barbara	Waikato University
Johnson, Malcolm	Auckland University
Jones, Todd	Victoria University of Wellington
Knight, Bob	University of Otago
Levy, Michelle	Waikato University
McCreanor, Tim	Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation
McDowall, John	Victoria University of Wellington
McIntosh, Virginia	Otago University
Mitrovic-Tosovic, Snezana	Waitemata District Health Board
Nairn, Raymond	Auckland University
Pearce, Jamie	Canterbury University
Ronan, Kevin	Central Queensland University, Australia
Stephens, Christine	Massey University
Stewart, Malcolm	Auckland University
Taylor, Jo	Massey University
Thakker, Jo	Waikato University
Tse, Samson	Auckland University
Walker, Freda	Private Practitioner, Wellington
Williams, Mei	Massey University