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EDITORIAL

This issue marks a transition in editorship. After 13 years Pat Grant has retired from editing the journal he founded. The Society and the Science in New Zealand should be grateful for his efforts which have ensured this journal is alive, if a little late.

That the list of officers of the New Zealand Hydrological Society as set out on the inside front cover revealed the change in the last issue is merely evidence of the major difficulty Pat had to contend with – a lack of contributed papers. Too few papers of sufficient standard have been submitted for each issue – albeit from a small catchment. His alternatives have been publish late or publish little.

This journal is by no means alone in its struggle. As in commerce so in scientific publication: the large grow while the small and weak succumb to the difficulties of voluntary assistance with correspondence, editing, draughting, and printing. Several hydrological publications are suffering through these problems but we are not. Without a continuous supply of papers articles, results, notes, and reviews, they do not even arise.

Why are we in this predicament?

While the specific discharge of some of our rivers may be among the highest in the world our specific discharge of written material about them must be one of the lowest. Comparisons with similar parameters from Israel suggest a definable inverse proportionality between natural water supply and published research results in hydrology.

Can the number of potential contributors support a journal?

At present the membership of the Society exceeds 400. If only half the members each submitted one paper every ten years the tide would begin to turn. Historically, a valiant few have supplied all the material – let's hear from the great, silent, majority.

Our potential contributors may be deterred by the possibility of having an article accepted by a more prestigious, international journal. Widespread adherence to this line of thinking will see the Journal of Hydrology (New Zealand) decay and die as standards are progressively eroded in order to fill each issue. If your thoughts stray in this direction, we suggest you repress them and add a little to our prestige and that of hydrology in New Zealand by submitting some of your gems to us.

Currently the Annual Symposium supplies the majority of our papers. Of course these should be published in their own right in a Symposium Proceedings. The next step in publications for the Society is obviously in this direction but until the journal is more healthy this will not happen.

It is our hope that the responsibility for the journal's fate will lie heavily on Society members and all engaged in hydrological research in New Zealand.

The plea is for contributions but, unusually, not in cash.