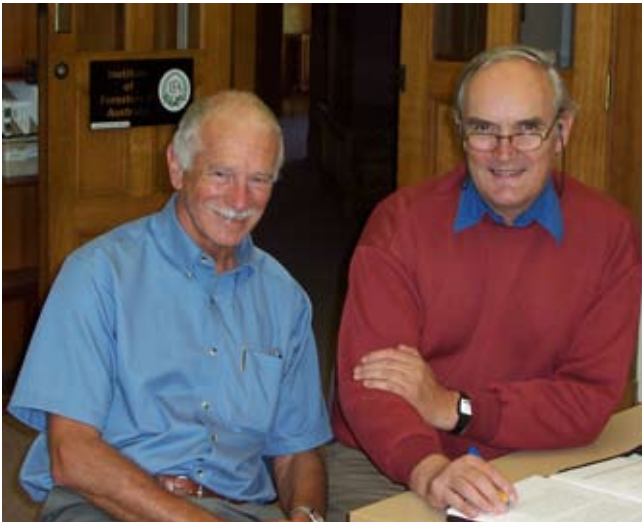


## Our editors and editorial policy

As from this issue of *Australian Forestry*, Dr Colin Matheson replaces Dr Brian Turner as Managing Editor. Alan Brown remains the Production Editor responsible for ensuring each issue is of a high standard, and for overseeing the final production process.

Colin recently retired from Ensis/CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products after a career of over 30 years working on quantitative and population genetics of radiata pine and other forest tree species. He is co-author of a book on experimental design for tree improvement and is author of numerous papers on breeding tree species for wood and pulp production. He is now a Post-Retirement Research Fellow at CSIRO Forest Biosciences and a Visiting Fellow at the Fenner School of Environment and Society where he teaches a course on Production Genetics.



Dr Brian Turner (left) and Dr Colin Matheson (right)  
(Photo Cassandra Spencer)

Manuscripts received by the journal are directed by the Managing Editor to supporting panel editors with relevant expertise. The panel editors nominate reviewers, consider the reviews and provide recommendations to the Managing Editor. The final determination on publication rests with the Managing Editor.

An invited Guest Editorial has been incorporated in each issue of the journal since December 2005. This editorial affords members of the Institute the opportunity to develop in a personal way matters of professional or scientific interest.

The journal has a policy of exploring important themes either by devoting a special issue to the topic, or by publishing a series of relevant papers in sequential issues. This practice has an important place in the journal, and we plan to maintain this contribution to Australian forestry literature. Themes already covered in this way include plantation management; silviculture of native forests; the impact of the 2002–2003 fires; bell miner associated dieback in

east coast forests, and achievements in forest tree improvement. A special issue on forest health is in preparation.

Brian Turner, who became Managing Editor in 2004, will retain responsibility for the Guest Editorials and special issues — a role he inherits from Ross Florence who is retiring from an active involvement with the journal which began in 1996.

For many years Ross carried out all the editorial functions himself. He gained a reputation among authors for the high standards he set in English expression and objective, clear and accurate reporting, as well as for maintaining a consistent editorial style. As Managing Editor and subsequently a panel editor he often rewrote paragraphs and more, particularly when the subject matter was well known to him, such as the ecology of Australia's native forests. Usually authors accepted his suggestions verbatim. In building on the high standards set by previous editors, Ross maintained the reputation of *Australian Forestry* as a vehicle for researchers to report on their work in expanding our knowledge of Australia's forests. Ross also extended that horizon by encouraging and publishing papers which reported and commented on Australian forest policy at a time of great change in this area. This editorial policy was continued by Brian and was further enhanced by Ross's innovation of having a Guest Editorial in each issue.



Dr Ross Florence (Photo Cassandra Spencer)

Readers will notice that this issue of the journal is the first to make use of colour printing for both the cover and some illustrations. If you have an interest in the ranking of forestry journals, you may wish to see the preprint of a paper by Professor Jerry Vanclay at <http://arxiv.org/abs/0712.1916>.

The journal's editorial committee would appreciate feedback on the content and format of the journal, and on ways in which the service it provides might be enhanced.