

MURUK

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EDITORIAL

This, the second issue of MURUK, contains one major article by Christopher Healey on the effects of hunting, gardening and other human activity on the Birds of Paradise of the Jimi Valley. Many hours of fieldwork were necessary during the preparation of this article and we welcome the care and professionalism that Mr. Healey has put into his contribution. Also included in this issue is a short note on nesting records in the Bulolo area which has been compiled by Lorraine Lamothe. Very little is known about the nesting and breeding habits of many Papua New Guinea birds and these brief notes are an important contribution to ornithological knowledge of the area.

Those of you who receive our Newsletter will know that Brian Finch, the founder and first Editor of MURUK, has left Papua New Guinea to take up an exciting new job with Abercrombie and Kent in Nairobi. We will miss his exceptional field abilities but know that he will soon be making birding news in Kenya.

Starting with this issue, MURUK will be produced by an editorial board. Each board member will be responsible for one issue a year. Members of the board are Michael and Helen Hopkins, Joan Oliver and Peter Storer. It is regrettable that the publication of our second issue has been delayed because of production difficulties but we hope to improve our performance when we obtain some professional secretarial help.

Once again we would like to thank those authors who have sent in manuscripts. Three or four of the shorter articles will be published in the next issue. As our expertise and credibility increase we hope that a greater number of authors will seriously consider placing their latest articles in MURUK. In the future we plan to create a panel of readers and make MURUK a refereed journal.

Joan Oliver, Editor