

Letter to the Editor

Following the resignation of Dr C. M. (Kim) King from the position of Editor of the *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, we wish to record our appreciation of her work in that position. Kim began as editor in 1984, her first edited issue being a combined issue 1+2 of Volume 13. Prior to that time the journal received scientific editing from a panel of volunteers and the technical editing was undertaken by Mary Cresswell. Thus, Kim became the first fully professional editor of the journal, and she remained in that position for no less than 19 years.

Like every editor, Kim has her idiosyncrasies. Journal editors should really issue an addendum to their “Guide to authors” that alerts those submitting papers to these personal quirks, which all of us, who deal with editors, learn to manage. With Kim, her great aversion to the occurrence (!) of *occur* would stand out.

A little levity aside, it seems to us that Kim’s tenure as journal editor has been highly successful. From the perspective of scientists writing papers, Kim has been a very good editor to deal with—particular and careful with detail, producing a journal to the highest international standards, but at the same time wanting to let scientists have their say, even sometimes controversially, as long as there is sound argument for such controversial views.

One of our number remembers with some warmth the guidance Kim offered a beginning author, contributing significantly to the clarity and structure of what was said while at the same time allowing the author to say just what was intended.

Publishing scientists, and the Royal Society as publisher of the journals owe much to Kim’s prolonged term as editor. We, as members of the newly appointed Editorial Advisory Board, would like to see public acknowledgement of, and appreciation for, her long commitment to the journal, and to wish her well as she devotes more of her time to the work on small mammals that she so clearly enjoys.

Janet Davidson, Carol Diebel, Bill Lee, Bob McDowall, Simon Pollard, Paul Scofield, and Trevor Worthy

