

The *Whistler* EDITORIAL

During the last decade we have worked with numerous authors and referees to produce over 600 pages of information about the birds of the Hunter Region. Throughout that time we have been supported by Liz Crawford who has tied up many things that we missed and helped achieve a consistent standard. Chris Herbert and Rob Kyte have played important roles in the final layout and production phase. We thank the many experts who have acted as referees for their constructive comments. Numerous photographers have helped produce a vibrant product. We extend our thanks to all these people and hope they will share with us the overwhelming satisfaction of a job well done.

When *The Whistler* was first published in 2007 it was unclear whether we could attract sufficient copy to sustain an annual publication. The publication of this, the twelfth issue, resolves that question. Not only is annual production possible, but most years available copy exceeds the 64 pages which is our size limit.

Writing, editing and producing articles for *The Whistler* is at times difficult and frustrating for all concerned. However, those who have survived the ordeal will know the pleasure and sense of achievement in seeing their contribution circulating and their observations permanently recorded. As Editors perhaps our greatest satisfaction is seeing people who would not have dreamed they were capable of writing a technical paper making useful contributions. They too should be proud that they have documented the outcomes of their field studies and opportunistic observations to advance our knowledge of the behaviour of Australian birds and to document the bird communities of the Hunter Region.

The Hunter Region itself, with its diversity of habitats that support so many avian species, many of them threatened to a greater or lesser extent, will continue to inspire the efforts of residents and visitors alike to understand these species and their distinctive needs better, and to share their enjoyment not only of their observations but of what these observations might teach us. There is no doubt that our understanding of the Hunter Region's birds needs to keep growing if our efforts to conserve them are to have maximum effect. As we celebrate what all that collaboration has achieved through *The Whistler*, let us celebrate equally our source of inspiration, the birds of the Hunter Region, which have offered us so much and must continue to do so.

In finishing our term we wish the incoming Joint Editors, Neil Fraser and Alan Stuart, every success, in the knowledge that *The Whistler* is in good hands.

Mike Newman and Harold Tarrant
Joint Editors