

Editorial: Adding *The Wētā* to the Auckland Museum Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Heritage Library.

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Foremost I would like to thank the outgoing editor of *The Wētā* Simon Hodge for his time and effort. Simon was editor of *The Wētā* for five years from 2017 till 2022 (issues 51-56). I presume one of the most difficult tasks as editor of *The Wētā* is to gather enough submissions to fill a yearly complete issue worthwhile to bring to the printing press. Following in the footsteps of previous editors of *The Wētā* it is only natural that I like to encourage submissions of papers on any topic related to entomology. Particularly I would like to encourage students whether undergraduate or postgraduate to submit any type of project or essay they have prepared as requirement for their studies. Whilst such assignments might not be eligible to be published in a peer reviewed journal, they might be well worth placed in *The Wētā*. Such publications can be stimulating for any follow up studies or lead to interesting question to be posed in other research. Otherwise, I am sure, enough has been said about the purpose and scope of *The Wētā* by my predecessors (see Tenquist 1977; Leader 2014; Hodge & Cruickshank 2017). Well at least that is what I thought. I am now half way into my first year as editor of *The Wētā*, but I have received so far only two submissions for the 57th issue of the Bulletin of The Entomological Society of New Zealand. So, is *The Wētā* threatened of extinction? I hope *The Wētā* doesn't go down the same road as its predecessor namely the "Scientific Newsletter" of the Entomological Society of NZ when lack of submissions forced its suspension. (Tenquist 1977).

New Zealand has over 100 species of wētā with some listed as threatened in the New Zealand Threat Classification System <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/invertebrates/weta/> As far as I can tell at least they are still abundant in my garden. I have seen wētā on and of since I have moved seven years ago to the fringes of Whanganui, where I enjoy a partially overgrown garden. A few years ago, I lodged a couple of hollow silver birch tree cuts into the forks of some shrub branches and those hollow logs have been occupied by wētā ever since (Fig. 1). One doesn't have to have sophisticated wētā hotels to provide shelter for wētā. But of course homemade wētā hotels are more convenient when wanting to show off ones wētā or monitor their populations (see: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/toyota-kiwi-guardians/take-action/build-a-weta-motel/>).



Figure1. Silver birch log wedged in tree with insert showing wētā inside.

Well coming back to *The Wētā*. Manuscripts submitted to *The Wētā* are not subject to peer reviews and the editor is pretty much in charge of what gets published. The editor's role however is not to judge the material. This means that the authors alone are responsible for the accuracy of the submitted content. The editor ensures formats of manuscripts are suitable for *The Wētā* pages, checks grammar/spelling etc, and hopefully "It is not the intention of the Editor to spend hours re-writing copy ..." as stated by Tenquist (1977): The editor's role further is to make sure the writing is clear, concise and unambiguous. Last not least the editor writes an editorial, which I hope is not just to fill up the required 80 pages for a volume.

The fact that manuscripts submitted to *The Wētā* are not peer reviewed doesn't diminish the worth of an article's publication in the Bulletin. Articles published in *The Wētā* are an important contribution to the understanding of entomological issues in NZ and sometimes lead to further discussions. *The Wētā* is free online through the Entomological Society of New Zealand website <https://weta.ento.org.nz>, and all issues are available from the beginning of *The Wētā* with [Vol. 1 No. 1 \(1977\)](#).

Walker in 1977 reports that all available official Entomological Society archives have now "been sorted and filed and are 'being held in the Systematics Section of the then Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Auckland. It must have been a tremendous effort to keep physical archives. The same goes to say for scanning older versions of *The Wētā* making them available online. Of course, in present times manuscripts are submitted digitally and uploaded in PDF for publication. This doesn't solve the problem of properly managed archival systems for the long-term preservation of digital documents and making them worldwide available. The Auckland Museum became a partner of and has received funding from the Lotteries Grants Board to establish a New Zealand arm of the <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>

The BHL is a repository of literature about biodiversity and the natural world. The BHL is based in Washington DC at the [Smithsonian Libraries and Archives](#). The global consortium works together to digitize and make

openly accessible natural history literature for researchers, students and the general public. As part of this project The Auckland Museum is looking to work with institutions, museums archives and national scientific societies to digitise and make New Zealand related biodiversity literature available <https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/discover/collections/partnerships/biodiversity-heritage-library>. The Auckland Museum has offered therefore to scan or upload existing PDFs issues of *The Wētā* as well as issues of the Bulletin of the Entomological Soc of NZ into the BHL. in principle, this has been approved at this year's Entomological societies' AGM, but I had been asked to provide some more information. One of the positive benefits of having material freely available via the BHL is that it makes the research and information in *The Wētā*, and the earlier Bulletin, available to a worldwide audience of over 14 million people, including researchers, educators and students. It also enables citizen scientists to link information uploaded to the BHL to other platforms. All that is needed for this is for the Entomological society of NZ to grant to the Biodiversity Heritage Library NZ/Auckland War Memorial Museum to assign a Creative Commons Licence (in this case: CC-BY 4.0). A Creative Commons Licence allows copying and redistribution of material in any medium or format; remixing, transforming and building upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. However appropriate credit must be given, a link to the license provided, and any changes to the material must be indicated (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

PS: Since writing this editorial, I found a further recent 3 online submissions to this issue of the Weta, which I was unaware of due to notification not being forwarded to the editor's emails. I hope this will have been resolved soon and like to thank those who made use of the possibility of an online submission of articles to *The Wētā*, which I will prefer. I am sure I will become accustomed to using the system confidentially.

Looking forward seeing you at the 71st Entomological Society of NZ Conference in Auckland.

References

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