Phytogen 2010-2012 Editors report

The last report I wrote was after my first year as editor in 2009. Since then I have edited three issues of each of Volume 12 and 13 and two issues of Volume 14. The issues have been in March/April, August/September and November/December the timing depending on available articles for inclusion and my other commitments. Issues have ranged in length from 33 – 45 pages and contained different mixes of articles.

In 2009 I inherited a well-organized format from Helen Irving who had done an exceptional job of producing Phytogen for five years. I have retained many of the sections she had used while adding new ones including *Our Society – An Historical Perspective*, *Our New PhDs* and an *Education Section.* Each of these sections have been retained, appearing at least once in each volume. In 2009 I also asked Hans Lambers, who presented the *Robertson Lecture,* if he would write an article, which he did with enthusiasm. I have continued with this initiative since then and included the presenters of the *JG Wood Lecture.* I am aware that the society would benefit from a similar article from the presenter of the *Annals of Botany Lecture* and will endeavour to ensure that this happens for the last issue this year. Although there have been some breaks in the sequence *"State of Affairs"* remains an excellent way of society members catching up on what is happening in other states, not to mention in their own. In each issue there has been at least one new PhD member of the society providing the highlights of research findings and some comments on their experiences. In issues following ComBio Meetings there have been highlights in the form of summaries of symposia, articles from the recipients of awards and conference photos.

There are two areas that I would like to raise for discussion.
In 2009 I initialled a *Discipline Highlights* section – Having canvassed the opinions of the Discipline Representatives this section was set up for articles addressing new advances/issues within plant science disciplines. The first article from Environment & Ecophysiology: Global Change was in Volume 11-3. Sadly it has been very difficult to maintain interest in contributions for this section. My question is should it be pursued?

Advertising Conferences – My question here is whether this is better done on the website only.

I apologize for being unable to attend the Council Meeting.

Tina Offler
22 September, 2012