

Editorial

At the Annual General Meeting held in Nelson last November (2011) there was a robust discussion about the format and style of this *Journal*. The matter was passed on to the Committee for discussion and decision. The style and format describe the ‘look’ of the *Journal* and consists of the page size, font type and size (in points), the number of columns, the width of the margins (top and sides) and the

LINE SPACING. CONSEQUENTLY THE ‘LOOK’ SEEMS TO HAVE DEPENDED UPON THE WHIM OF THE EDITOR. [THIS IS COPPERPLATE] PRIOR TO VOLUME 28 (2008) THE *JOURNAL* WAS PRINTED ON TRIMMED B5 SIZE PAPER (171x242 MM OR 6.8x9.5 IN). BEGINNING WITH VOLUME 28 THE PAGE SIZE WAS INC-

reased to A4 size (205x295 mm). [This is Century Gothic] Prior to Volume 21 (2001) it was printed with 2 columns, probably in Times New Roman typeface (size 10 or 12 point) with side margins of 1 cm (left) and 0.5 cm (right) and single line spacing.

Volume 21 saw a change of editor and a change of style [This is Arial] to 1 column, Arial typeface, and 1.5 line spacing. Another editor and another change occurred with Volume 28 (2008): A4 page size, 1 column, Arial 12, 1.5 line space, 2cm margins.

THE MARGINS [THIS IS SYNCHRO LET] (TOP / BOTTOM AND SIDES) INCREASED TO 2.5 CM WITH VOLUME 29 (2009) AND TO 3.17 CM (TOP/BOTTOM) AND 2.54 CM (SIDES) WITH VOLUME 30; HOWEVER THEY WERE REDUCED TO 2.54 CM ALL ROUND WITH VOLUME 31.

The main criticism of this latest ‘look’ was that it didn’t give the appearance of an academic journal but was more like a newsletter. In its defence several members (of more mature years) did say it was easier to read. [This is Times New Roman]

But an editor has to consider both the electronic and the printed format – the former can be zoomed easily on the computer but not the latter. As we move towards more electronic versions should the printed format be ignored? These were the considerations put to the Committee. In order to facilitate their decision making, the editor produced 20 versions of a draft article included in the present Volume and circulated them (with some difficulty) to the Committee. The article covered about 24 pages with about 7,000 words, one table and 8 figures. There were 5 different typefaces: COPPERPLATE, Century Gothic, Arial, SYNCHRO LET, ‘Times New Roman’. These are all shown, in sequence, above in the column format. Side margins varied between ‘usual’ (2.54 cm) and ‘narrow’ (1.5 cm), and 1, 2 and 3 columns (for ‘Times New Roman’ and Century Gothic only) were included. No one was in favour of the 3 column versions and a majority preferred the 2 column versions with ‘Times New Roman’ being the preferred typeface. Single line spacing at 14 point size was also suggested but turned down in favour of 12 point. All the margins have been set at a compromise 2 cm. So this is the ‘look’ of the current issue of *Weather and Climate Journal* – we hope you like it.