

EDITORIAL

What "Melanesian time," "South Pacific time," and "PNG time" all have in common is their exclusion of the western concept of punctuality. Within the Papua New Guinea context, the fact that this Journal, intended to be published on an annual basis, is now appearing for only the third time since 1984 takes few people by surprise. And although a "delay" of two years might not be typical, it is understandable.

As John Price pointed out in the first volume of this Journal, political independence in Papua New Guinea was associated with almost revolutionary changes in the establishment of psychology in this country: gone was the voice of psychology in PNG, the *New Guinea Psychologist*; gone was the Psychological Service Branch of the Public Service Commission; gone too was the PNG branch of the Australian Psychological Society. Clearly, psychology has been forced to remake itself in the fifteen years since national sovereignty was regained.

After the *New Guinea Psychologist* published its final issue in 1974, ten years passed before this Journal was founded by Barry Richardson. Founding the Journal must have been something of an act of faith, for at that time there were few psychologists in the country to call upon as potential contributors, few individuals to use--or hear--this new voice of psychology. And in this respect, the Journal still represents an act of faith: that the slowly growing number of psychologists in the south pacific will be committed to the development of their discipline, that they will be actively involved in research and other scholarly activities, and specifically that they will choose to use this Journal to communicate among themselves.

Meanwhile, the Journal has undergone its first change of editor. The publication policy of the Journal will, however, remain broadly the same. Although the intended focus of the Journal remains the South Pacific region, the actual content of the Journal is necessarily dependent on the content of manuscripts received. Similarly, although it is my hope that subsequent volumes of the Journal will appear on a more frequent basis, for the moment publication depends on the rate at which new material is received.