

A theme issue on landscape ecology

THIS issue introduces a new feature of *Pacific Conservation Biology* — a theme issue. In this case the theme is “Landscape Ecology”, a developing field in conservation biology which is strong in Australia and which, as these papers indicate, has considerable application to practical conservation. The papers are of high quality — all were subject to critical review and revision — and demonstrate the breadth of disciplines contributing to Landscape Ecology. A particularly pleasing feature is the range of organizations from which the authors come; Universities, CSIRO, State conservation agencies and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney. This approaches the ideal we have set for the journal. The papers were submitted subsequent to a symposium on the topic at the 1993 meeting of the Ecological Society of Australia and were edited by Richard Hobbs; my thanks to him for the original suggestion and his extraordinary efficiency! I expect that we will have more such theme issues in the future, perhaps one a year, and I would welcome suggestions.

This issue also includes a critical essay on the state of conservation management in New Zealand (with a broader message) as well as news items, including a statement on the current research priorities of the CRC for Biological Control of Vertebrate Pest Control established in Canberra two years ago. My hope is that this news/views function of the journal will grow as this was one of the primary needs the journal was formed to meet. To this end, Prof. Roger Kitching has accepted an invitation to become the News and Views Editor. If you have information or an opinion that you would like to present to a broad audience of conservation biologists in the region, please contact him as follows:

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CRAIG MORITZ, Editor



ON FRONT COVER

Lunette landscape in the Western Australian wheat-belt. Lunette lakes which were part of the natural landscape mosaic now exist as isolated features in the highly modified agricultural landscape. Photo by Denis Saunders, CSIRO.