

# Book provides a forest focus

**The Jarrah Forest: A complex Mediterranean ecosystem.** Edited by B. Dell, J.J. Havel & N. Malajczuk. Published by Kluwer, Dordrecht, 408 pages.

This book, long in preparation has just been published and to my knowledge represents the first concerted attempt to synthesise all that is known about a Western Australian ecosystem.

This was a feasible task because the northern jarrah forest is the best studied of all of WA's ecosystems, with plenty of information available.

The book is organised within three themes — biophysical elements (12 chapters), historical review (3 chapters) and management (5 chapters).

## Authority

Most chapters are multi-authored, adding to their authority and balanced treatment. Twelve authors are either present or former CALM/Forests Department staff, eight are from the CSIRO, five are academics, two are from Alcoa, two are from WAWA and two are unattached.

Topics covered are: soils, landforms, climate, jarrah biology, floristics, dieback, macrofungi, invertebrates, leaf-miner, vertebrates, nutrient cycling, hydrology, fire, Aborigines, European impact, land-use conflicts, silviculture, mining, and conservation. In summary, nothing important has been omitted.

This book should lead to further appreciation of the jarrah forest locally, nationally, and internationally. It is not often remembered that south-western Australia is the only Mediterranean region on earth with a forest. — IAN ABBOTT