

# Whitley Award for Kimberley book

**THE Whitley Awards Committee of the NSW Royal Zoological Society has awarded a Highly Commended Certificate for the book *Kimberley Rainforests, Australia*.**

Edited by CALM scientists Norm McKenzie, Richard Johnson and Peter Kendrick, the book was released last December.

Norm said the book was the culmination of several years' hard work by CALM, the WA Department of Land Administration, the WA Museum, the Kalumburu Aboriginal Community, Curtin University, the University of WA, CSIRO and the Chicago

Field Museum of Natural History.

"*Kimberley Rainforests, Australia* details the 1987-1989 study of more than 1 500 rainforest patches scattered across an area twice the size of Tasmania," Norm said.

"The ecological study was carried out by 15 scientists - specialists in remote sensing, botany, zoology, soils, conservation ecology and biogeography.

"The book not only tells the biological story of the rainforests, it also reflects the recent advances in biological survey, a field that was once considered a 'raw science'.

"The study was made possible by a Federal government grant through the National Rainforest Conservation Program, and administered by the Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories (DASET).

"Also greatly appreciated is the wholehearted support given throughout the program by successive departmental officials and Ministers including the present Environment Minister, Bob Pearce."

The Whitley Awards began in 1978 in recognition of the important role that Gilbert Whitley (1903-1975) played in

fostering Australian zoology.

They are presented annually by the NSW Royal Zoological Society to authors and publishers whose works significantly further Australian zoological science.

The awards logo may be used by successful publishers as a means of advertising to the buying public that the book is superior to its competitors.

According to the convenor of the Whitley Awards Dr D S (Woody) Homing, *Kimberley Rainforests, Australia* represents a significant contribution to the knowledge of a unique Australian area.

"Three years of research has yielded 21 papers, covering a broad range of topics," Dr Homing said.

"One of the outstanding values of the book is the collection of papers on invertebrates.

"This group is mostly neglected in faunal surveys.

"It is also notable that the results of such a comprehensive survey were researched and written up so soon after the survey was finished!"

*Kimberley Rainforests, Australia* was published by Surrey Beatty & Sons, New South Wales, and sells for \$93 per copy.



Norm McKenzie, one of the editors of *Kimberley Rainforests, Australia*, during a biological field survey.  
Photo by Kevin Kenneally

