

INTRODUCTION

This publication is the report of a workshop on the theme "Ecological Theory and Biological Management of Ecosystems" held on 23-24 March 1987. The workshop was the result of an approach made by the Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research, CSIRO to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) to explore some of the issues seen by managers as problems associated with the management of ecosystems. To make the most of the time a residential location was chosen. This set a limit of 24 people and the composition was evenly divided between those regarded as research workers and those involved in management and planning. Within these groupings were people studying and managing nature conservation areas as well as those studying and managing production forestry. The workshop was structured to provide for interactive discussion groups to explore each of the set topics. The first morning was devoted to 3 prepared lectures to set the scene for the subsequent discussion topics; Andrew Burbidge introducing the theme with Richard Hobbs and Roger Underwood presenting the research and manager's viewpoints respectively. The remaining day and a half was devoted to the nominated discussion topics. The participants were divided into two groups of 12 with a balance of management/planning and research represented in each. The discussion leaders had been contacted 6 weeks before the workshop and asked if they would lead a discussion on the nominated topic. This involved preparing a set of briefing notes and devoting 10 minutes or so at the start of the discussion period to introduce the topic. The total discussion period was one and half hours for each topic and there were 2 groups discussing each topic. A "scribe" took notes during the discussion and these were used by the discussion leader to prepare a five minute summary for the plenary session and to write up the results of the discussion for this bulletin.

All papers and reports published here have been refereed by participants. In the case of the workshop reports they were refereed by at least two of the people who took part in that particular discussion group and then returned to the discussion leaders for redrafting if necessary.

We would like to thank Richard Hobbs and Peter Kimber, who were the other members of the organizing committee, and the participants who worked so hard to make the workshop the success it undoubtedly was. We would also like to thank Rob Hopkins and the staff at the Manjimup Research Centre for help with logistic problems associated with our use of the Perup Field Ecology Centre. This Centre proved to be ideal for such a workshop. We would also like to thank Jill Pryde of CALM's Wildlife Research Centre for typing this publication.

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