

PREFACE

The Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia is proud to include four important papers in issue 99/1, the first issue to be published entirely online.

Ecologists are frequently enjoined to utilise the ecosystem concept for segments of nature of any magnitude, from the entire biosphere down to the tiniest natural entity, and in this issue we see a careful study of clam shrimp populations in relation to their environment in small ephemeral rock pools on granite outcrops in WA's Wheatbelt.

Scientists are also encouraged to take 'a long-term view' and to study the nature of changes in the environment by repeating observations at relatively long intervals. It is thus a pleasure to be able to present a study undertaken on mammal assemblages in a Western Australian Nature Reserve in 1986 and 2012.

Rottneest Island has served the purpose of an 'outdoor laboratory' for Western Australian schools and universities for over a century and this issue includes a significant contribution to the geology of that island. The return of earth science papers to the journal is particularly welcome and serves to emphasise the interdisciplinary nature of the journal.

The marri is often taken as an organism for special study in the field and in the laboratory in the State; the final paper reveals that there is much to be found out about a most familiar organism.

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