

About the Authors



Dr Philip Groom

Philip was a Lecturer in Environmental Biology at Curtin University, Western Australia for seven years, specialising in teaching and researching on the ecology of the southwestern Australian flora, especially strategies to survive the fire-prone, hot, dry summers. He has conducted research on post-fire recovery, drought responses, groundwater dependency, leaf morphology and biogeography of the flora, focusing mostly on the sandplain vegetation. He has a great passion for the ecology of the genus *Hakea* (Proteaceae) that served as the focus of his PhD, awarded in 1996.



Emeritus Professor Byron Lamont

Byron is a Distinguished Professor (Emeritus) in Plant Ecology at Curtin University. He has been studying the ecology and ecophysiology of the southwestern Australian biota since 1969, pioneering experimental work on specialised (proteoid) roots and canopy seed storage (serotiny) in the Proteaceae. Byron has undertaken research on the nutrient/water relations, reproductive biology, population dynamics, species diversity, evolution and management of the southwestern Australian flora. He was awarded a Doctor of Science for this work by the University of Western Australia in 1993. Prof Lamont is regarded as the father of ecological studies on the southwestern Australian sandplains. He was inaugural Director of the Centre for Ecosystem Diversity and Dynamics at Curtin. Byron was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2010 for his services to the Australian flora as an educator, researcher and author. In 2012, he received the Clarke Medal from the Royal Society of NSW for distinguished work in the Natural Sciences.