

# PREFACE

This book presents a synthesis of many aspects of the biology of the suborder Macropodiformes. Throughout the book I refer to all members of the suborder Macropodiformes as kangaroos. Technically the suborder has three extant families these being the Hypsiprymnodontidae, the Potoroidae and the Macropodidae, and where necessary I will refer to these as Hypsiprymnodonts, Potoroids and Macropodids. This book uses common names as listed in the *CSIRO List of Australian Vertebrates*; however, occasionally I use common names that are more familiar to the audience such as common wallaroo as well as euro.

I have endeavoured to provide an informed basis to areas of debate such as the sustainable harvesting and farming of the larger species. Likewise I try to clarify and explain simply the variety of measures being adopted to resurrect populations of critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable

macropodiform species. Like any book of this nature it relies on the enormous energy and endeavours of a great number of past researchers and scholars who, in all their various ways, have built up the scaffolding for current studies of kangaroos. Although this book is not fastidiously referenced, access to the primary literature can be sought using references from the Bibliography. To develop the distribution maps I have used numerous sources to determine distributions, including the IUCN Red Book and data from members of relevant state and territory departments responsible for wildlife under their jurisdiction.

Hopefully this book will bridge the ever-widening gap between the mountains of detailed information found in the serious scientific literature and the many members of the public who wish to be better informed about Australia's iconic kangaroos. In today's rapidly changing world, the better we are informed about our native animals the better their prospects for survival.