

Preface

Why study a pond?

'It's fun' says A, the enthusiastic naturalist.

'It's in the syllabus', snaps B, the disillusioned teacher.

'Well', says C, the calculating careerist, 'I believe it might throw light on a problem which interests X and Y. They are two coming men, and if I can catch their eye I shall have friends at court in a few years' time when I am looking for a top post'.

'A pond presents a limited environment without a continual interchange of population with neighbouring biotopes and is, therefore, suitable for the study of principles,' enunciates D, the serious ecologist.

'World starvation is a real threat. In many tropical lands an important amount of protein is raised in ponds. We should study production in ponds wherever we can' explains E, the scientist with a social conscience.

We can ignore B and C; A, D and E merit our attention.

The first paragraph of *Ponds and Lakes* by T.T. Macan, published by Allen and Unwin in 1973.

Brian Moss

April 2016