



Rainer Rehwinkel

I had the great fortune to grow up in the last street in a suburb in Canberra at the foot of Mount Ainslie. I spent the greater part of my childhood in the woodlands and dry forests on Mount Ainslie. It is here that I developed a deep love of the Australian bush and its birds and plants. When I was not bushwalking, I was off on my bike down to the lake to see what waterbirds I could find.

When I left school, I did a horticulture course, and worked as a gardener and nurseryman for several years before changing my career, when, as a mature-age student, I did a university degree in wildlife and vegetation management. When I graduated, I became a plant community ecologist and have been working in this field in ACT and NSW government agencies.

In my work, I have intensively studied the grasslands and woodlands of south-eastern NSW. I have surveyed many sites with these plant communities and have found populations of very rare plants and have even discovered plant species previously unknown to science. I have developed mapping techniques that have involved using images from satellites and have co-written a book on grassland plants.

I have worked with terrific people, including other scientists and people from the community, working on the conservation of plant communities. In my spare time, I still love to garden using Australian native plants and have recently travelled to Borneo several times to see rainforests and wild Orang Utans, just for something different!