

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Details

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Qualifications

1981-1984 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, CANBERRA**

Master of Science (Environmental Studies) by thesis.
Title: Environmental classification as a basis for faunal survey.
Awarded in 1985.

Masters of Science (Environmental Studies) Qualifier
Awarded in 1981.

1978-1980 **UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA**

Bachelor of Science (Resource and Ecology)
Majors: Natural Resource Management, Geography, Ecology, Remote Sensing,
Vegetation Science.
Awarded in 1980.

Publications

- A list of publications and who is citing these over time is found at <http://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=sez7nXEAAAJ>
- Attachment A

Précis

Richard Thackway, BSc, MSc

Richard is a research scientist with the University of Queensland. In late 2010 he commenced as a Visiting Fellow and then as an Adjunct Associate Professor. He worked as a research scientist with the Australian Government for much of his career. In late 2011 he resigned his position in the Australian Government, taking up a position as Adjunct Associate Professor in School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management (GPEM), Faculty of Science. While at GPEM he developed a national system for tracking and accounting for the impacts of land use and land management on the transformation of vegetated landscapes. He is also an Adjunct Fellow, at Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University, Canberra (2014-17) and an Adjunct Fellow, at School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences (PEMS) University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy (2015-18). His research aims to help others improve their decision-making about natural resources, by developing and implementing decision-support tools, frameworks and information systems. While in the Australian Government he led the development of major national spatial and temporal datasets including the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia for the National Reserve System, the Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia for the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas, National Vegetation Information System, Vegetation Assets, States and Transitions (VAST) and the Dynamic Land Cover Dataset. Many of these initiatives have involved collaborative partnerships and programs with state, territory and national land management and research agencies. He has extensive experience working in, and with, government policy and science agencies in Australia. Richard's current research involves assessing ecological change and trend associated with the transformation of native vegetation condition and extent caused by the effects of land management practices and associated climate patterns.



Affiliations and Employment History

2012 to present

- Member of the Cumberland Plain Grassy Woodland Restoration Program Advisory Group (2014-), Greening Australia and University of Western Sydney
 - Adjunct Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University, Canberra (2014-17). Research interest involves assessing the changing role of the Australian government in land use policy and planning on Australia's vegetated landscapes.
 - Member of the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative, Rangelands Technical Working Group (2013-14).
 - Member of Alliance for Regenerative Landscapes and Social Health, Australian National University (2014-present). <http://www.arlash.com/>.
 - Member, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists', Scientific Standards and Accreditation Committee of the Regional Environmental Accounts Trial (2013-). <http://wentworthgroup.org/programs/environmental-accounts/>
 - Associate Consulting Research Scientist for Niche Environment and Heritage, Parramatta, NSW (2013-present).
 - Associate Consulting Research Scientist for Auricht Projects, Adelaide, SA (2013-present)
 - Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, Faculty of Science, The University of Queensland, Brisbane (2012-present).
 - Manager, VAST Transformations (2012-present). <http://www.vasttransformations.com/>
 - Chair, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Vegetation Information and Mapping External Scientific Advisory Committee (2012-present).
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<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/>

- Consulting research scientist for Soils for Life, Outcomes Australia, Canberra (2012-present). <http://www.soilsforlife.org.au/case-studies.html>
- Member, NSW Environmental Trust, Biodiversity and Green Corridors Subcommittee (2012-present).
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/trustreport.htm>

2011-2012

- Sabbatical Fellow, Australian Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network, The University of Queensland, Brisbane (2011-12). Project involved evaluating case studies to underpin the development of a national system for reporting the transformation of vegetated landscapes.
- Sabbatical Research Fellow, Division of Ecosystem Sciences, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra (2011-12). Project involved evaluating case studies to underpin the development of a national system for reporting the transformation of vegetated landscapes, including rangelands.

**Senior Research Scientist - Vegetation and land cover Information,
Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Sciences, Department of
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra**

2002- 2011

- Study Tour in Washington, DC (Feb-Mar 2007). The objective of the tour was to compare and contrast Australian and US approaches for characterising vegetation (e.g. indicators type, extent and change, condition and management) and to evaluate how this information is used to inform public-private natural resource management policies and programs.
- Managed staff and budgets in the delivery of science-related vegetation and land cover information for Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) including internally and externally funded projects. Prepared reports for the executive on the progress of projects against agreed milestone dates.
- Managed numerous projects often working in collaboration with relevant federal, state and territory governments and research agencies to develop national guidelines for compiling and reporting vegetation and land cover data and information.
- Coordinated and led the development of national reviews and frameworks for assessing, monitoring and reporting native vegetation, land cover and ecosystem services. For example, assessments of the use and management of native vegetation and land cover types, their extent and condition. Underpinning these reviews was the development of national datasets based on nationally agreed core attributes and spatial and temporal databases for e.g. weed incursions, native vegetation extent, type and condition, as well as, revegetation interventions.
- Assisted the DAFF, as a senior scientific advisor, supporting the Department's representative on the Executive Steering Committee for Australia Vegetation Information. My role required regular collaboration across federal, state and territory governments and research agencies. This committee promoted the development of, and agreement to, national approaches for vegetation information.
- Represented DAFF and ABARES on numerous high level committees to further the development of national environmental information including Forests (NFI), Land cover (ACLUMP and TERN AusCover), Land use and management (ACLUMP), biological specimen-backed records (ALA, TERN EcoInformatics and TERN AusPlots).
- Managed client liaison and relations on behalf the Department and the Bureau, involving the Environment Department and other agencies including Research and Development corporations, CSIRO and the National Land and Water Resources

Audit.

- Initiated and developed a range of communication products including reports, journal papers, newsletter articles, workshop and conference papers and book chapters.
- Provided national leadership in the development, implementation and on-going data and information management across a wide range of biophysical themes.
- Facilitated numerous workshops involving Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies, researchers and regional bodies.
- As required I have regularly fulfilled acting positions at a higher level e.g. Program Leader/ Section Head.

Research Scientist - Vegetation information and analysis, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra

2001 -02

- Managed the implementation of the National Vegetation Information and Analysis work plan for DAFF including recruiting professional staff to the project team.
- Managed expenditure, staff performance, and coordinated scientific analysis and reporting.
- Provided strategic leadership of communications and science-related vegetation briefings for the NRM Division of Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.
- Provided leadership in the development, implementation and on-going management of vegetation information frameworks, principally the National Vegetation Information System, with state and territory government agencies for the compilation of national datasets.
- Managed client liaison relations for science-related vegetation projects involving Department of Environment and Heritage and other agencies including Research and Development agencies and the National Land and Water Resources Audit.

Research Scientist, National Vegetation Information System, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra

1999 -
2001

- Part of the leadership team that developed and led a five day study tour for visiting ecologists, academics and land managers for an international conference on Landscape Futures: Advances in Research for Natural Resource Planning and Management across Regional Landscapes. Held at the University of New England, Armidale.
 - Developed and managed a partnership involving Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies to implement NVIS vegetation attributes framework in consultation with the relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies.
 - Negotiated and managed contracts with State and Territory data custodians with Audit funding.
 - Managed data compilation and quality assurance of 103 mapped vegetation data sets.
 - Coordinated a national technical group to enhance the NVIS framework and steer the compilation of data.
 - Developed data and information products of a high standard and meeting agreed timelines with the Audit.
 - Liaising with policy and program areas to identify vegetation data and information gaps and setting priorities to fill these gaps in NVIS Stage II.
 - Developed and steered the endorsement of the NVIS Stage II work plan (renamed the National Vegetation Information and Analysis work plan).
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**Scientific Coordinator, Environmental Resources Information Network ,
Environment Australia, Canberra**

1998-1999

- Developed Environment Australia's capacity to analyse and maintain vegetation-related data sets for assessing conservation priorities.
 - Worked with the National Land and Water Resources Audit to draft the Audit's Theme 3 Work Plan for Vegetation Cover, Use and Condition.
 - Represented Environment Australia on the Commonwealth technical vegetation committee (VEGCOM) and providing scientific advice to Commonwealth Executive Steering Committee for Vegetation Information (CESCVI).
 - Coordinated a national technical group to develop National Vegetation Information System (NVIS) framework for compiling vegetation data for the Audit.
 - Collaborated with key Commonwealth, State and Territory officers to test NVIS attributes using data from selected State and Territory vegetation survey data sets.
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**Scientific Coordinator, Reserve System Section, Environment Australia,
Canberra**

1994-1997

- Developed terrestrial and marine regionalisations for Australia (IBRA & IMCRA) using best available natural resource data.
 - Provided scientific leadership to achieve Ministerial endorsement for regionalisations as a basis for assessing national reserve system conservation priorities.
 - Analysed and reported on the relationship ecosystems (i.e. vegetation) and protected areas to define gaps in protected area systems.
 - Coordinated national technical groups to set national conservation priorities.
 - Initiated the development of the Indigenous Protected Areas initiative to fill gaps in the national reserve system.
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**Scientific Coordinator, Environmental Resources Information Network,
Environment Australia, Canberra**

1991-1993

- Developed regionalisations for conservation planning and priority setting.
 - Compiled and analysed natural resources data and information including vegetation information.
 - Prepared internal and external bids for funds.
 - Assessed conservation assessments for filling gaps in the national reserve system.
 - Coordinated national technical groups to set conservation priorities.
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**Program Coordinator, Cooperative Programs, Australian National Parks and
Wildlife Service, Canberra**

1988 - 91

- Developed and maintained program management systems for collection and analysis of scientific data and information, aggregate budget of \$2.2 million (1990 dollars).
 - Assisted in the compilation of national GIS datasets including soil, vegetation, geology, and landform.
 - Developed applications for deriving biophysical regionalisations for conservation planning and priority setting.
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1984 - 88	Scientific Coordinator, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compiled natural resource data layers for park management and reserve design.• Analysed spatial data and prepared scientific reports.• Prepared internal and external bids for funds.• Designed and undertook vegetation survey and mapping projects and conservation assessments to identify gaps in the representation of vegetation communities.• Coordinated national technical groups to set conservation priorities.
1982 - 85	Experimental Officer, CSIRO, Division of Water and Land Resources, Canberra
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed and participated in several vertebrate fauna surveys, compiled and analysed habitat and fauna data and interpreted the results.• Classified air photos and field data to map patterns of vegetation and fire history.• Checked data entry, interpreted results, and wrote technical reports.• Liaised with landholders and Government representatives.• Developed spatial databases for on ground management.
1979 - 80	Part-time tutor at the University of Canberra
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trained students to interpret and analyse natural resource information from air photos e.g. vegetation patterns.
1980	Technical Assistant with Department of Prehistory, Australian National University, Canberra (Volunteer)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classified air photos for developing a stratified sampling design for the field-based survey of indigenous artefacts and middens on the northwest coast of Tasmania.
1979	Technical Assistant with CSIRO Wildlife Research, Canberra
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classified air photos and satellite imagery to prepare a vegetation map of Yathong Nature Reserve, NSW, to provide stratified sampling framework for planning rabbit control programs.
1977	Technical Assistant with Resource Management and Research in Sudan, Africa
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classified air photos and compiled of survey data, checked data entry, interpreted results, writing technical reports, liaising with national and international Government representatives. Gained skills in hierarchical ecozone (i.e. bioregion) mapping, data analysis and reporting using ecozones.
1976	Technical Assistant with University of New England, Armidale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted in the design of a field survey, and collected data on the number and types of bird species across a wide range of habitats in the cotton growing areas of the Namoi Valley, NSW.• Assisted in the collection and management of field.

Community Involvement

2009-present	Diaconate and Board Member, Hughes Baptist Church
2011-present	National Advisory Council, Australian Christian Lobby
2011-2015 2001-2009	Territory Director, Australian Christian Lobby, ACT
1997-2000	Chair of School Board, Covenant College Tuggeranong, ACT
Mid-1980s to present	Held numerous leadership positions in the Canberra Christian community

Professional Society Memberships

Current	Ecological Society Australia (Financial member)
	Institute of Australian Geographers (Financial member)

Awards

2007	Staff Development Award. Spent one month in Washington, DC. Research topic was the <i>Role of vegetation information in developing policy and programs in government and non-government organisations</i> . Award was funded jointly by the Bureau of Rural Sciences and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Australian Government.
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Fellowships

2010 October - 2011 November	Visiting Sabbatical Fellow. Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network, Australian Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. University of Queensland, Brisbane. Research topic – <i>Transformation of Australia's vegetation</i>
	Sabbatical Research Fellow, Division of Ecosystem Sciences, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra. Project involved evaluating case studies to underpin the development of a national system for reporting the transformation of Australia's vegetated landscapes.