

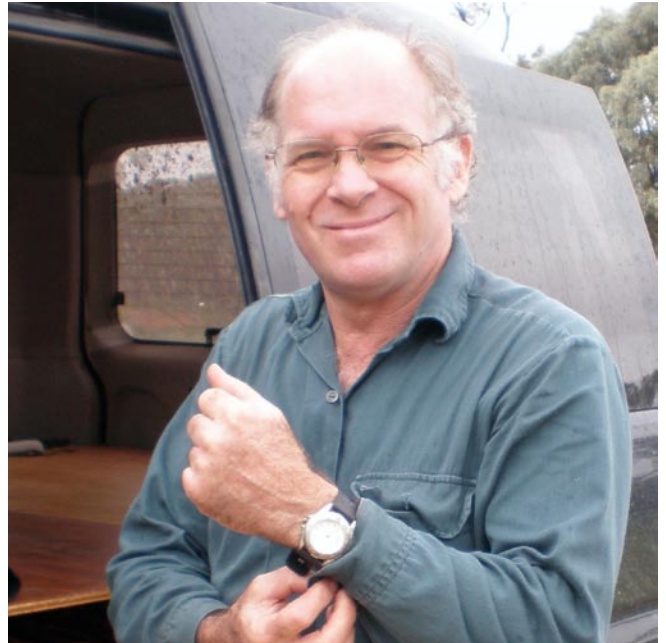
SCIENCE FOR LIFE!

SHOWCASING QUEENSLAND MUSEUM SCIENTISTS, THEIR CAREERS AND CURRENT RESEARCH

DR ROBERT RAVEN

SENIOR CURATOR – ARACHNIDS (SPIDERS)

Dr Raven featured in the highly-awarded Kaufmann documentary, *Tarantulas – Australia's King of Spiders*, shown on Discovery Channel.



HOW I GOT HERE!

My interest in spiders was *inspired* by my irrational fear of them as a child. I managed that fear by studying them.

While a Museum technician I studied for a **Bachelor of Science in Zoology** at university, and then pursued a **PhD in Spider Taxonomy**. I was awarded a CSIRO Post-doctoral Fellowship during which I worked at the **American Museum of Natural History (New York)**, and at the **Australian National Insect Collection**, Canberra before returning to **Queensland Museum**.

Having never visited a museum until the “tender” age of 21, I have now spent the last 33 years in and out of one!

WHAT I AM WORKING ON!

I provide a **spider identification service**, especially on bites, to the general public, hospitals and physicians.

I **present talks** to medical groups, conferences, and state-wide hospitals through video hook-ups, and have been appointed **Spider Bite Consultant to Royal Brisbane Hospital**.

My **work with Public Health issues** has assisted bite management, especially from White-tailed and Redback Spiders and their infestations.

At present, I am working on Australian Tarantulas and Racing Stripe Spiders (family *Miturgidae*). I am a world authority on **Tarantula** and **Trapdoor Spiders** and I have described new species world-wide, including 300+ new Australian species.