

Paddy Ryan (Dr. Patrick Ryan) has been blessed with an exciting and interesting life – mostly due to his parents who took him from Nottingham, England where he was born, to Jersey in the Channel Islands for four years. Then it was off to New Zealand for a year before four years in Fiji – followed by a year in the United Kingdom and then a return to New Zealand where Paddy did his secondary school education. At the age of 17, Paddy headed off to Sarawak in Malaysian Borneo as a volunteer on New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad. He taught at the Marudi Government Secondary School and during his vacations did some real life exploring – highlights included visiting the Deer Cave near Mt Mulu decades before it became widely known and a 400 mile river journey/trek up the Tinjar River, over the Dulit Range and down to Sibu on the Rejang River. He also learned to print black and white photos; a simple act that was to change his life forever.

Doing his undergraduate degree in zoology at the University of Canterbury seemed almost mundane in comparison but he continued to play rugby (another enthusiasm that hasn't left him). After completing his doctorate in ecology Paddy obtained a position with the Biology Department at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. Here he learned to dive and take underwater photos, twin passions he still pursues with enthusiasm (he is now a Dive Master with around 1300 dives logged). He also got into marathon running, became Race Director of the Fiji marathon and competed in ten marathons including Boston (he completed the Denver marathon in 2009). After the second military coup in 1988, Paddy, his wife Felicity, and Fiji born daughter Sarah started a new life in New Zealand punctuated by birth of second daughter Lucy. Dr. Ryan worked as Freshwater Biologist and then Environmental Planner for the West Coast Regional Council until downsizing gave him the opportunity to set up his own Environmental Consultancy business. A bunch of books also followed including the first edition of *Fiji's Natural Heritage*, *Fiordland Underwater*; *New Zealand's Hidden Wilderness*, *The Snorkeller's Guide to the Coral Reef* and *Wild at Heart; the South Island's West Coast*. During the three expeditions to Fiordland Paddy dived in every fiord and racked up over a hundred dives. He was also photographer for an expedition to the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands, a Samoan lowland ecosystems survey, World Heritage applications for Rennell Island and the Marovo Lagoon in the Solomon Islands, a journey down the Darling River in Australia and various others. He has worked with the BBC, Grenada television and Television New Zealand on various documentaries.

In 1997, Paddy moved to Denver to start a new life in the States. He worked at Metro State for a couple of years, loaded bags into planes at DIA for 18 months and then joined the faculty at Johnson & Wales University where, until recently, he was a full professor. He also teaches Ecology at the Colorado School of Mines, Landscape Ecology at CU and Biology at Metro.

Paddy has continued to actively write books and in addition to his still photography has recently moved into documentary film making. In 2011 Dr. Ryan drove from Denver to Costa Rica and back. Recent trips with his partner Laura include diving in Lake Malawi and climbing Mt Kilimanjaro. Last year they went to Guyana. They have produced Blu-ray documentaries about both of these adventures.