

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CSIRO Publishing provides an important avenue for publishing natural history and science publications that highlight Australia's unique and wonderful natural heritage. I would like to thank them for taking on the book and the opportunity to document here aspects of the cultural significance and biology of the Australian bustard in an easily accessible and quality format. I would especially like to thank John Manger, Tracey Millen and Janet Walker for their assistance in preparing this publication.

Although until recently the Australian bustard had not been formally studied in detail in the field, the pioneering work of Max Downes and Kate Fitzherbert, and the many observations made by numerous observers that are well summarised in the *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* (HANZAB) series, have significantly added to our knowledge of the species. In addition, several other closely related bustard species have been studied in detail by various researchers. I am indebted to their contributions and insights, many of which I draw on here. Much of the information presented in this book is based on research conducted for my PhD thesis while based in Darwin at the Biodiversity Conservation Unit (BCU) of the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, and while enrolled at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide. These studies and this book were made possible by the substantial in-kind and logistical support of these institutions. I would like to thank all the staff at the Biodiversity Conservation Unit in Darwin, with particular thanks to Irene Rainey, Charmaine Tynan, Brooke Rankmore, Owen Price, Craig Hempel, Cameron Yates, Riikka Hokkinnen, Felicity Watt, Alaric Fisher, Brydie Hill and Jenni Low Choy for support and specific help at various times. I am particularly grateful for the support, encouragement and patience of John Woinarski (BCU) and David Paton (University of Adelaide). More than just academic supervisors, both are friends, role models and significant inspirations to wildlife biologists across the country and further afield.

Field studies for the PhD research were primarily conducted at the Douglas-Daly Research Farm and the Victoria River Research Station (Kidman Springs) in the Top End of the Northern Territory. Both stations are run by the NT Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources. Thanks to Peter O'Brien, Don Cherry, Tony Moran