



**Dr Damon Oliver**

As a child growing up in Adelaide, I always loved spending my time outdoors exploring our local creek and surrounding farm paddocks which are sadly now replaced by houses.

After high school I studied sciences including biology at the University of Adelaide. During that time I was lucky enough to be taken under the wing by Dr David Paton who has shown hundreds of students the joys of bird watching and learning about how plants and animals interact through field-based research.

Later, I worked with David for about 5 years and spent almost every day out in the bush studying birds, bees and native plants and how they are pollinated – it was an amazing experience.

I then went on to study the endangered Regent Honeyeater in the Bundarra-Barraba region west of Armidale in northern NSW for my PhD. Since 1999, I have worked for the NSW Government trying to save threatened birds in western and coastal areas in NSW.

My main interests are threatened and declining woodland, mallee, grassland and coastal heath-land birds, but I also love native plants, particularly *Banksias* and *Eremophilas*.