

July 2015 Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust Newsletter

Issue 1

Thank you for subscribing to the **Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust** mailing list!

This is the first update from the Trust. As a new organisation, we're still in the process of setting up many of our communications systems. In the coming months we will be developing a quarterly newsletter of biodiversity related activities taking place in the Great Victoria Desert. You're invited to provide submissions to this newsletter and help spread the word about activities taking place in this remote and beautiful region.

For now, here's a quick glimpse of activities that have taken place in the **first half of 2015**.



1 July – The Trust releases first round of EOIs

On July 1 the Trust released the first round of Expressions of Interests for activities related to threatened species in the Great Victoria Desert. The EOIs range from foundational projects which will set the framework for future research, to an adaptive management project that aims to work with Traditional Owners to produce sustainable, on-ground measures to help protect threatened species. The focus of these EOIs are two threatened species, the Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and the Sandhill Dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*).

The EOIs will close on 31 July.

For more information, please see our press release (attached) or visit the website:

<http://www.gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au/our-projects/>

22 June – Many thanks to Mike LeRoy – retiring from the Trust's Management Panel

Mike LeRoy has been a valuable member of the Trust since its inception. He played a key role in helping to select the Chair and the Trust Co-ordinator. He provided valuable guidance to the Trust throughout the first year of its operation. The Trust would like to warmly thank Mike for his services and wishes him all the best in enjoying retirement.

AngloGold Ashanti was proud to nominate Norman Galli to replace Mike on the Management Panel of the Trust. Norman brings with him a wealth of environmental experience having worked as an Environmental Manager for over 20 years and having experience with the challenges of working in remote regions.



Mike LeRoy



Norman Galli

1 April - Technical Advisory Panel established

In March the Trust advertised for Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) members. The Technical Advisory Panel is a panel with the role of providing environmental expertise to guide the assessment of applications for biodiversity activities to be funded by the Trust. The TAP will provide recommendations to the Management Panel of the Trust for the applications and the Management Panel will make the final decisions.

The Trust was lucky to receive many high calibre applicants. The appointed Panel members have a broad, complementary range of experience. The appointees are: Blair Parsons, Katherine Moseby, Belinda Bastow and Ryan Ellis. Kathryn Sinclair, Trust Co-ordinator, will act as Chair of the TAP. The Trust is looking forward to advice provided by the Panel on the current EOIs.

March – Sandhill Dunnart and Malleefowl Research and Adaptive Management Plans drafted

Following successful workshops in November 2014 for three threatened species – the Sandhill Dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*), Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and the Marsupial Mole (*Notoryctes typhlops* and *Notoryctes caurinus*), the Trust is developing Research and Adaptive Management Plans (RAMPs) to help guide activities related to these species, in the Great Victoria Desert. So far, the Trust has drafted the RAMPs for the Sandhill Dunnart and Malleefowl. These have been reviewed by experts and will be posted shortly for public review. The Trust would like to give a **massive THANKYOU** to all the experts who provided their advice and feedback on the RAMPs. For the Sandhill Dunnart RAMP, the experts were Glen Gaikhorst and Amanda McLean. For the Malleefowl, Dr Joe Benshemesh, Dr Blair Parsons and Dr Rick Southgate provided review. Many thanks to all those at the Department of Parks and Wildlife who also reviewed the documents, particularly Dr Fran Stanley for co-ordinating the feedback.



Thanks!

Kathryn

Kathryn Sinclair

Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust Co-ordinator

M: 0407 143 893

E: kathryn.sinclair@gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au

W: www.gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au