

IDNYA e-NEWS

Welcome to the fifth edition of “Idnya e-News”, a regular update on the trial reintroduction of the western quoll to the Flinders Ranges National Park. Idnya is the Adnyamathanha name for the western quoll.

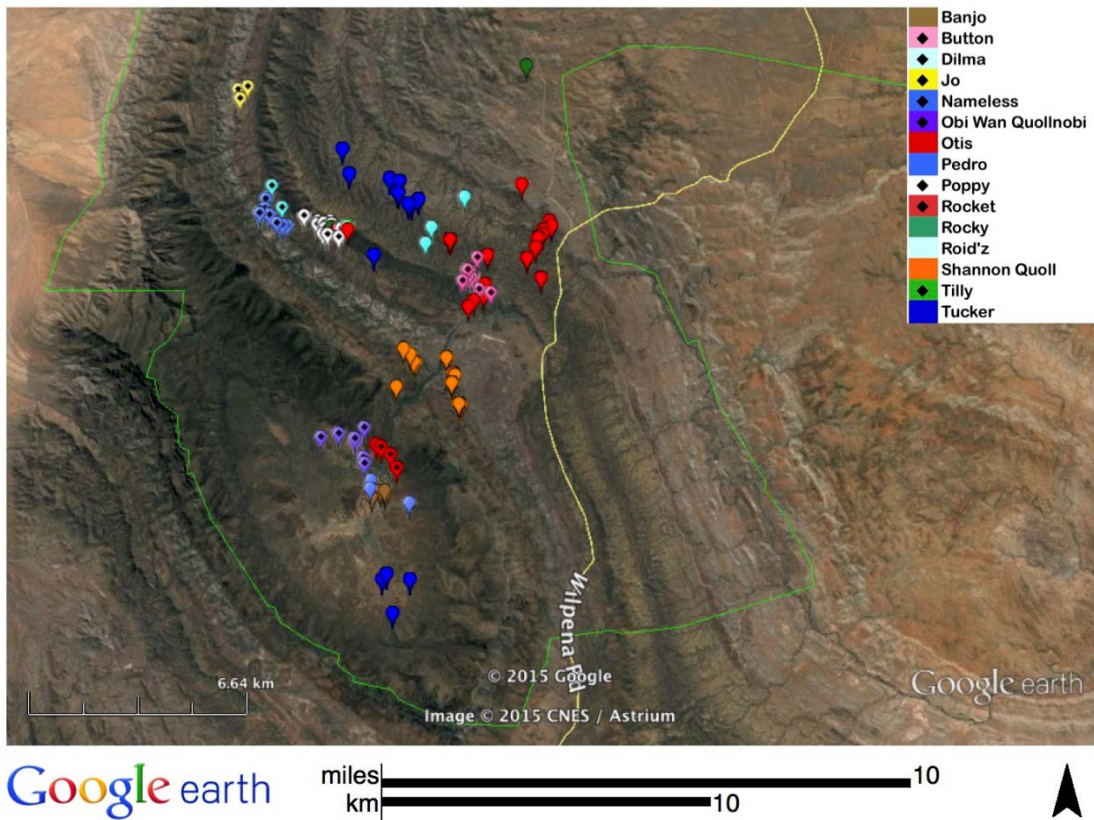


BACKGROUND

During April and May 2014, 41 idnya (21 females and 20 males) were released into the Flinders Ranges National Park after an absence of more than 100 years. The release heralded the start of a partnership between the Foundation for Australia’s Most Endangered species (FAME), the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and the Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW).

UPDATE

During trapping in December 2014 we were excited to catch new individuals and radiocollared 17 subadults to study their survival. A total of 420 radiotracking days were recorded for the 17 subadults and encouragingly, no deaths were recorded. Subadults were tracked to 185 diurnal shelter sites over the two months of radiotracking. They used a variety of shelter sites with more than half consisting of rabbit warrens. The den site usage of adults and subadults was similar with both groups using similar proportions of den site types. Most of the subadults set up home ranges close to their mothers with some males travelling further afield.



Movements of the subadult quolls radiotracked over the summer.

Juvenile collars were removed in late January and we trapped 162 trap sites for four nights in March 2015 to determine idnya survival over the summer months. We captured 29 individuals including 13 of the 37 released from WA last May, 2 of the 4 released from the Desert Park last May and also 14 first generation (subadult) individuals. This means that more than one third of the idnya release last year have survived to this point – almost a year since release. The total quoll trap success was 4.5%, considerably higher than the 2.6% trap success recorded from the December trapping when 16 individuals (8 new, 8 released) were captured. A great result!

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted during the trapping, it was a very productive week.



Steve, one of the original release males that was recaptured in March 2015.



Volunteer Sonya Medhurst, releasing a captured idnya



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Eighteen feral cats have been removed from the release area through cage trapping since December, and baiting for feral cats has also been conducted using special Eradicat baits.



Edeowie Gorge, one of the release sites for the May 2015 release

The next release group of idnya will be released on the 6th of May and will include animals from up to 5 different locations in Western Australia in order to maximise the genetic diversity of the Flinders Ranges population. Idnya will be released adjacent to known populations in the Flinders Ranges to expand the area of occupancy and also enable mixing of the two groups. Cat control will be conducted each month including trapping and shooting. At this stage the release is going well and it is encouraging to see a large number of new animals recruited into the population.

Report by Katherine Moseby (Ecological Horizons Pty. Ltd.)

THE IDNYA TEAM

Idnya Reintroduction Team- **FAME** Peter Kay (Chair, Executive Taskforce), Cheryl Hill, Elizabeth Davis, David Peacock; **DEWNR** Anthony Freebairn, Rob Brandle, Trish Mooney, Greg Patrick, Peter Copley, Jenny Barker; **Ecological Horizons** Katherine Moseby (Project Coordinator); **WA Department of Parks and Wildlife** Keith Morris.

Idnya contractors - Pat Hodgens



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Idnya volunteers- Bronwyn Fancourt, Hannah Bannister, Sonia Medhurst, Daniel Saliba,
David Paton, Tom McIntosh and Brendon Bevan

Idnya Pilot- Matt Graham

Idnya research student- Mel Jensen, The University of Adelaide

Donate now!

FAME is leading the drive to raise approximately \$1.7 million over a five-year period to fund the recovery of the Western Quoll (Idnya).

They greatly need your help to continue this vitally important project and make it the success it deserves to be.

Donations to the Western Quoll project can be made by visiting fame.org.au/projects/western-quoll or contacting fame@fame.org.au for more information.

Contact Mary Rayner (Director of Business) on 0414 634 094.



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Last seen in the Flinders Ranges during the 1880s, the Western Quoll is a small Australian native carnivorous marsupial which once thrived across 80% of the Australian continent. Until the start of the trial re-introduction project, the nation's western quoll population could only be found in the south-west of Western Australia.

Expected to bring ecological and tourism benefits to the Flinders Ranges, the western quoll also has great cultural significance for the Adnyamathanha people, for whom the quoll (Idnya) is a totem and an integral part of their Dreaming.

Following the first release, the quolls' survival rates and well-being were actively monitored by radio tracking individuals. Since the re-introduced quolls have established themselves in their new habitat, trapping has been undertaken to assess their condition and breeding status.

With positive signs that the first release group is surviving and breeding successfully, a second idnya release is planned for May 2015.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Through its Bounceback program, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources has been controlling predators such as foxes and cats, and herbivores such as goats to protect the habitat in the Flinders Ranges needed for the quoll's long term survival.

FAME is leading the drive to raise approximately \$1.7 million over a five year period that will support the recovery of the species in one of its former territories.

Western Australia's Department of Parks and Wildlife has donated the Western Quolls from their conservation parks.

Thanks to the many donors, land managers and partners of *Bounceback* for their support for this project.

KEEP INFORMED!

To receive these regular e-updates please email SAAridlands@sa.gov.au with the subject 'Quoll update' and you will be added to or contact the Natural Resources Centre in Port Augusta 8648 5300.



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