

Media Release:

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Larapinta Trail Sets Foundations for Success

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service are calling for expressions of interest for the Larapinta Trail Foundation, to be established to assist management of one of Australia's premier remote, long distance walks the Larapinta Trail, located in the West MacDonnell National Park.

Parks and Wildlife Senior Ranger Phil Cowan said an information evening will be held on Thursday, 24 March for those interested in joining, supporting or becoming a board member of the Larapinta Trail Foundation.

"The Larapinta Trail Foundation will work in partnership with Parks and Wildlife to care for and maintain the trail to the highest possible standard to fulfil both management and on-ground operational duties," Mr Cowan said.

"The Foundation will play an important role in promoting the amazing experiences to be had on the Larapinta Trail by planning and coordinating special events and activities on the trail.

"The Foundation will also play an important role in developing community relationships, working closely with the community, tourism industry and trail users to promote best practice while using the trail.

"Other objectives of the Foundation would be to seek funding through grants, donations and sponsorship to invest in the trail, and assist with care and maintenance of the trail."

The Larapinta Trail stretches 223 kilometres over rugged terrain, through the West MacDonnell National Park, starting from Alice Springs and finishing on top of Mt Sonder to the West.

Mr Cowan said there will be no changes to current management of the trail from Parks and Wildlife Service that includes maintenance to the trail surface and trail infrastructure, trail safety, taking enquiries and providing advice, website updates, and producing promotion material.

"The Foundation will play an important supportive role, working in partnership with Parks and Wildlife to manage and promote the Larapinta Trail," Mr Cowan said.

"The Larapinta Trail has become unique landmark of Central Australia that needs to be looked after, and I encourage Territorians that are eager to become involved in managing and protecting the Larapinta Trail to attend the information evening."

The information evening will be held at the Andy McNeill Room at the Alice Springs Town Council at 6.30pm on Thursday, 24 March.

For more information contact Phil Cowan on 8955 0310.

Ends

Media Note – for more information and interviews contact Phil Cowan on 8955 0310.

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