

ANGOLA DIAMONDS APPEAL

Kennedy sparkles with handy \$5m Lucapa raising

SPINIFEX

■ Nick Evans



With a little interest coming back into the diamond sector over the past six months, former Sandfire Resources chairman

Miles Kennedy has cashed in on De Beers' announcement in late March it was planning to return to diamond exploration in Angola, making a quick trip back to the markets on behalf of Lucapa Diamond Company late last week.

Lucapa has been regularly spruiking some of the big carats it has been finding at its Lulo

diamond concession in Angola, and applied for an alluvial mining license at the beginning of March. But the company's cash balance was down to \$307,000 at the end of December. However, it said its Angolan joint venture vehicle had \$772,000 available to it for exploration.

It is understood Lucapa will

emerge from a trading halt this morning to announce it has raised about \$5 million in an oversubscribed placement after De Beers African announcement. It seems Africa has been heavily pushing itself as an investment destination.

And diamonds aren't the only items on Mr Kennedy's busy agenda over the next few

months; a little excitement is also returning to the nearology play at his old corporate home of Sandfire Resources.

Sandfire is bedding down steady state production at DeGrussa and has been mopping up a few of the hopefuls, Ventnor Resources and Talisman

► CONTINUED P3

Kennedy's \$5m raising sparkles

◀ FROM P1

Mining, that rushed in five years ago in the wake of its spectacular initial discovery.

The lack of any discovery in the region to rival that of Sandfire has caused the nearology business in the region to wane a little, in favour of the rush into the Fraser Ranges.

There's still a bit of hope out there, however. Thundelarra had a fairly impressive run on the market through the back end of March after finally sorting out a long-running

dispute with prospector Bill Richmond over the ownership of its Red Bore prospect, only a stone's throw from DeGrussa.

Thundelarra shares topped out at 12¢ last week, before falling back to close at 8.5¢ on Friday. But there may be more to come, with the company set to kick off an exploration campaign at Red Bore by the end of the month.

And, not to be left out, Mr Kennedy's Resource and Investment is set to test its own prospects in the region. Mr Kennedy, who is chairman, told Paydirt's gold conference

last week Resource and Investment was about to start drilling at its Forest Gimp and Wodger prospects, after running a portable XRF scanner over some old drill samples and declaring copper grades of up to 13.8 per cent.

Wodger is next door to Horseshoe Metals' Horseshoe Light project, about 75km west northwest of DeGrussa. Coincidentally Horseshoe is in a trading halt of its own, chasing money to continue its exploration in the region.

✉ nick.evans@wnews.com.au