



Friends of the Pinnacle AGM July 2018

Convenor's Report

The AGM provides a good stimulus to reflect on the year and summarise our achievements, events and things that have had an impact on the Reserve and our contributions to it.

Weed control

This is probably the most important thing we do, and, like housework, there's no end to it. Thanks to everyone for their effort. This work is ongoing, largely thanks to a dedicated team of regular weeders, expertly coordinated by Warren. A summary of [effort for the 2017-18 season](#) can be found on our web site.

When fotpin started up, the Reserve was a weed-infested mess. Now it's one of the least weedy reserves in Canberra. Some weeds that used to absorb a considerable amount of our time at the beginning, such as Spear Thistles, Horehound and Paterson's Curse, have declined markedly and now require little time. Others, such as Briars, Blackberries and other woody weeds, along with Verbascum and Saffron Thistles are also showing signs of being well under control. St. John's Wort continues to be a concern, but indications are that we are also making progress with that.

As our main target weeds become less prevalent other weeds seem to spring up to take their place and while they are less aggressively competitive than our initial targets they still need to be controlled to improve the prospects for native vegetation.

We've come a long way, but there's more to do and we can't take our foot off the pedal. The number of fotpins involved in weed control has been dwindling over the last few years for a variety of reasons and I'd like to take this opportunity to send out a call for more fotpins to rally to the cause, especially anyone willing to get a Chemcert qualification to enable them to spray herbicides on reserves. The use of selective herbicides provides the most efficient, effective and non-destructive means of controlling most of the weeds we target. A one-day Chemcert training course, targeted to ParkCare volunteers, is available free through the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS).

Pipeline construction

Since early July signs of the imminent construction have become obvious with the erection of a fenced compound at the entrance near the water tanks and a fenced corridor along the pipeline track through the Bottom Pinnacle. Before long the pipeline corridor through the Reserve will also be fenced. This will necessarily restrict movement between the eastern and western sides of the Reserve.

A [pipeline web page](#) has been set up to keep members and other users of the Reserve informed of relevant aspects of the pipeline construction process. This page contains copies of the contractor's notice about the works and a map of the fencing and the access through the pipeline corridor that will be available.

Since the commencement of planning by the Land Development Authority, we have had good communication and constructive interactions with the planners and now with the construction contractors. While the construction won't be without impact on the Reserve and its users, we are confident that all parties recognise the need to minimise this and will aim to do so.

The latest development has been a proposal that fotpin undertakes, and be remunerated for, the weed management in the revegetation corridor along the length of the pipeline that is

stipulated in the planning for two years after the contractors have completed their obligations. We have agreed to this in principle but the details have yet to be negotiated.

Displays

As in previous years, fotpin had a presence at the Weetangera (October) and Hawker (March) Primary School Fetes as well as considerable input to the joint ParkCare display at Jamison Centre in September. These events are terrific ways to inform the wider community of what we do and to involve more people in our activities. A big thank you to everyone who helped out with these.

Guided Walks

A total of nine guided walks at the Pinnacle were organised by fotpin this year (it must be a record!). These included our first ever [butterfly walk](#) and an [Aboriginal Heritage Walk](#) guided by Ngunawal elder Wally Bell. The latter was made possible by funding from an ACT Heritage Grant, which will also pay for another walk to be held this Spring (stay tuned for details).

Involvement with local schools

In addition to the fetes, we have also been working with Belconnen High, helping to supplement their curriculum by providing opportunities for the kids to engage in activities at the Reserve. There were three visits to the Reserve by groups of students last Spring – two in September and another in October. One of these was a community support activity for “Belconnen Day” when the kids spent an hour or so removing tree guards and stakes from the planting we put in a few years back along the Valley track between the Central and Dam paddocks. We hope that this connection with Belconnen High will continue into the future.

Kangaroos

At the 3rd attempt, this year's roo count was partially successful. The results showed a predictable uptick in the roo population. You can find a full description in the last [fotpin Update](#).

There was no cull at the Reserve this year, as PCS were focusing on other reserves where overgrazing is having a very serious impact on biosystem health (including Mt Majura, Aranda Bushland, etc.)

fotpin on Facebook

Thanks to the efforts of Denise and Margo, fotpin now has a presence on social media. We invite everyone to submit their comments and photos to the page.



PCS Support Changes

As of a few weeks ago we have a new ParkCare Ranger Marty Bajt. Marty replaces Phil Selmes, who did a fabulous job taking over from Craig Wainwright and will be sorely missed.

We also welcomed Michelle Nairn this year as our new Pinnacle Ranger. She's settling in well and doing a great job of looking after the Reserve and supporting us as and when required.

So, all in all it has been another eventful year. It remains only for me to thank all the fotpin members who have contributed so wonderfully this year and to thank the hard-working people at the Parks and Conservation Service for all their help and support.

Cheers,

John Brannan