



Annual General Meeting

20 July 2014

Weetangera Primary School

Minutes

The meeting opened at 2.35pm.

Present:

Members: Penny Atkinson, Barbara Allan, John Brannan, Warren Bond, Vaughan Cox (Pax), Don Driscoll, John Fitzgerald, Mike Hall, Denise Hall, Bob Hodgson, Graham Muller, Carolynne Parker, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Wilkinson

Non-members: Nina Bruns (Senior Ranger, North District, PCS), Steven Kennedy, Nola McKeon, Craig Wainwright (Parkcare Support Officer, PCS)

Apologies:

Dierk von Behrens, Rosemary Blemings, Lesley Harland, Gilbert Hughes, Mary Porter, Keith Thomas, Alana Wilkes, Wendy Witham, Matt Wolnicki

Accepted

1. Welcome by the Convenor

The Convenor welcomed our visitors: Craig Wainwright (Parkcare Officer), Nina Bruns (CNP Ranger and volunteer returning officer) and member, Don Driscoll (speaker)

2. Guest speaker: Dr Don Driscoll, fotpin member and coordinator of the Grasslands Project at the Pinnacle: Defeating the Weed Menace

Don reported results of the grass experiment that he has led with the support of people from fotpin, ANU, ACT Parks and Conservation Service and the Federal Department of Environment (via the compelling recruitment skills of Pax). The project was funded by grants from the ACT Government (ACT Environment Grant 2010), Australian Government (Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant 2010-11) and Belconnen Labor Club.

Surveys were undertaken each year in spring from 2010 (before fences were installed around the grazing exclusion plots) until 2013. Treatments included adding sugar, slashing, a crop, burning and a control plot, with treatments inside and outside of a kangaroo-proof fence. Ten replicate sites were located throughout the Pinnacle, Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama. Soil nutrients (P, N and C) were measured prior to treatments. PCS burnt the plots in 2012 and 2013.

The results indicate that there is no single treatment which will be a panacea, though the use of sugar to reduce nutrients in the soil does seem to help the growth of some native plants, but only in the absence of grazing.

Two native plants and two exotics respond favourably to burning, while others responded to burning as they did to any of the disturbance treatments (slash, crop and burn).

Some natives and some exotics respond favourably to slashing and grazing. This is probably because dominant weed species (such as wild oats) are heavily grazed in non-enclosed plots, which gives other plants a chance to grow. Kangaroo grazing at the levels observed over the past few years helps to maintain native and exotic species richness.

Take home messages were:

- Nutrients. Generally if nutrients can be reduced, native species will benefit.
- Treatments. none have made a clear improvement.
- Fences. Grazing at current levels maintains species richness (of exotics and natives)

There was enthusiastic and informed discussion of the results of the research and its implications, and what further research might be done using the existing fences. A small working group agreed to meet to discuss future research, consisting of Don, Pax, John Fitz Gerald and Scott Wilkinson.

3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM

http://www.fotpin.org.au/minutes/Minutes_fotpin-AGM_14-Jul-13.pdf

The minutes of the last meeting were *accepted*.

4. Convenor's Report

- a. John Brannan spoke about the achievements of fotpin over the last year, including ongoing weeding activities, plantings (NB. Woodland Restoration funding seems likely to continue) and Autumn Walks. We hope that the very popular indigenous walk, lead by Wally and Tyronne Bell; and the equally popular post-settlement talk by Craig Wainwright, will be repeated in Spring.
- b. fotpin has met, even exceeded, the weeding targets set out in our original weeding plan, even though these were initially thought to be rather ambitious. Congratulations and thanks to all our weeders
- c. It was delightful to hear that PCS has agreed to provide three seats at the Pinnacle, suggested by a foundation member, Malcolm Fyfe. The seats will be similar to those in Mt Majura. Many thanks to PCS.

5. Treasurer's Report

Warren Bond presented his report: www.fotpin.org.au/minutes/fotpin_Audited-Financial-Statement_2013-2014.pdf. It was noted that fotpin's financial situation is healthy. The

Warren Bond moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Seconded: Pax.

Accepted.

6. Stand-down of the current Coordinating Committee

- a. Members of the previous fotpin Coordinating Committee stood down at this point in accordance with meeting rules and the positions were declared vacant. No office-holder can remain in the same position for more than two years.
- b. Nina Bruns, Returning Officer, called for nominations from the floor.

7. Election of new Coordinating Committee by show of hands (by members only)

In accordance with our Management Rules, all Committee positions were declared vacant and Nina Bruns, acting as Returning Officer, called for nominations from the floor, noting that no member of the Committee may hold the same office for more than two years consecutively.

The following office holders and ordinary members were nominated and elected unopposed.

Convenor: Pax

Nominated: Warren Bond; Seconded: John Fitz Gerald

Coordinator: John Brannan

Nominated: Pax; Seconded: Mike Hall

Secretary: Carolynne Parker

Nominated: Elizabeth Smith; Seconded: Pax

Treasurer: Warren Bond

Nominated: Pax; Seconded: John Brannan

Ordinary Members

Keith Thomas

Nominated: Warren Bond; Seconded: John Brannan

Denise Hall

Nominated: Elizabeth Smith; Seconded: Pax

Elizabeth Smith

Nominated: John Brannan; Seconded: Pax.

The incoming committee members were congratulated.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.