

Friends of the Pinnacle (fotpin)

Annual General Meeting

22 July 2012.

Weetangera Primary School

Minutes

The meeting opened at 2.30pm

Present:

Members

Heather Burness, Rosemary Blemings, Wendy Witham, Gilbert Hughes, Bob Hodgson. Warren Bond, Don Driscoll, Andrew Martin, John Brannan, Mark Burness, Mary Porter, Elizabeth Smith (*ex officio note-taker*), Barbara Allan, John Fitzgerald, Lesley Harland, Mat Wolnicki, Pax.

Invited speaker and volunteer returning officer: Craig Wainwright, ACT Parks and Conservation Services (PCS) Ranger

Apologies:

Sally Paton, David Tongway, Harry Nyman, Felicity Jones, Mark Hallam, Jan and Keith Thomas

Business

1 Acknowledgement of First Australians by the Convener; and welcome to members

The Convener acknowledged the First Australians and that we were meeting and undertaking land management practices on Ngunnawal Land.

The Convener also welcomed all who attended the meeting, including our guest speaker, Craig Wainwright.

2 Guest Speaker – Craig Wainwright, Parks and Conversation Service

Craig spoke with great enthusiasm about the work he does as a PCS Ranger and about the contribution of land care volunteers such as fotpin. He mentioned the diversity, inclusion and good fellowship of fotpins, and the scientific and other hands-on work of our volunteers: in particular, the work we do, eg in weeding, which P&CS does not have the resources to do.

Weeds

Due to the fact that PCS focuses on weeds of national significance, their resources were prioritised to that end. However, fotpins are able to tackle other weeds such as verbasum which is outside the scope of government resources.

Rabbits and other animal pests

PCS uses fumigation and some ripping of warrens as the primary means of **rabbit** control. In the last year, 333 warrens have been fumigated across the ACT and 10 ripped. Most warrens in the Pinnacle are relatively small. Ripping is done by PCS with a single tine Backhoe, is selective, takes account of significant Indigenous sites and of environment/habitat issues.

Foxes cannot be dealt with due to restrictions on baiting with 1080.

Hares are not a priority at this stage.

Deer are in the Molonglo Reserve and there have been unconfirmed sightings there. Any further sightings should be reported to PCS.

A major problem with all reserves is the porous boundaries, allowing animal pests to come in from elsewhere and replace those that have been removed. Therefore PCS likes to be on good terms with the neighbours of the reserves such as leaseholders.

Craig also responded to a range of questions from the floor.

Among other things, he mentioned the problem of compliance with eg, tree-felling for firewood collection in the Pinnacle, as well as other infractions.

ACTION: fotpin Secretary (in consultation with Coordinating Committee) to coordinate draft signage for consideration and use by PCS about the illegality of collecting firewood in reserves.

ACTION: fotpin Secretary (in consultation with Coordinating Committee) will discuss with Mary Porter the possibility of an article on firewood collection for the *Northside Chronicle*.

3 Report by Mary Porter

Mary Porter, MLA and fotpin member provided an update on government activity in relation to The Pinnacle.

- The ACT government has allocated \$30,000 to assess the potentially contaminated sheep-wash area, associated with the shearing shed in Kama. Remediation is not included in that amount, as it will depend on the extent of contamination.
- The issue of environmental offsets in relationship to the future of the Nth Kama leasehold was mentioned and raised a number of concerns among those present. The Offsets Policy has not been released.

ACTION: Mary Porter to pursue release and publication of the Offsets Policy

In regards to the concerns about illegal collection of firewood from reserves, Mary pointed out that wood-heaters will not be allowed in new developments. It was also noted that they are often not used correctly, eg using green or otherwise unsuitable timber. Reducing the use of wood-heaters in existing suburbs is more problematic for government policy.

4 Minutes of the last meeting (24 July 2011)

Minutes of the last meeting as circulated, were:

Moved: Warren

Seconded: Pax

Agreed: unanimously.

5 Reports

a) Convenor on behalf of the Coordinating Committee

The Convenor summarised fotpin's considerable achievements over the last year in several areas, and particularly in relation to the weeding effort, plantings, erosion control, and walks in the Pinnacle as tabled.

Moved Pax

Seconded Warren

Agreed: Unanimously

b) Treasurer's Report

The Friend's of the Pinnacle *Statement of Receipts and Payments* for the period 01-Jul-2011 to 30-Jun-2012, and the *Independent Auditor's Report* 21 Jul 2012 were tabled and received.

Moved: Warren

Seconded: Heather

Agreed. Unanimously

6 Voting in of new Committee

The meeting was reminded that members of the Executive may only remain in any one position for a maximum of two years. This provides for fresh ideas and for new people to become involved.

When voted on, all nominees were agreed unanimously.

Convenor: - John Brannan

Proposed Pax

Seconded Heather Burness

Secretary: - Elizabeth Smith

Proposed Warren Bond

Seconded Mark Burness

Treasurer: Heather Brannan

Proposed Mark Burness

Seconded Warren Bond

Coordinator: Pax

Proposed Heather Burness

Seconded Warren Bond

Ordinary members

1 Don Driscoll

Proposed Pax

Seconded Heather Burness

2 Warren Bond

Proposed Lesley Harland

Seconded John Brannan

3 Vacant

Proposed -----

Seconded -----

It was noted that the Coordinating Committee is able to co-opt ordinary members, including, as needed, an individual with specific skills for a specific project or issue, for a limited time.

The outgoing Coordinating Committee was thanked for their hard work over the last two years. The new Coordinating Committee was welcomed and congratulated.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm