

Fotpin Coordinating Committee MINUTES

Monday 02 December 2013, 7.30 pm

1) Present

Pax, John Brannan, Warren Bond, Mark Hallam, Keith Thomas, Elizabeth Smith

2) Apologies

Denise Hall

3) Minutes of the last meeting (02 September 2013)

Accepted.

4) Actions Arising from previous meetings

Accepted.

5) Correspondence

Correspondence received by email had been previously circulated. Items discussed under relevant agenda items or Other Business

6) Convenor's Report (John)

Accepted, as circulated.

It was agreed that John's report would become the fotpin Update on the website. Details are included under specific agenda items below.

ACTION: Warren to convert report to Update on the website.

7) Coordinator's Report (Pax)

Since the Coordinating Committee met in early September, fotpin has undertaken a range of coordinated activities:

- four guided walks, from 6 October to 17 November;
- the 2013 groundlayer experiment surveys, supervised by Don Driscoll, and completed over three consecutive weekends and one late afternoon;
- many hours of weed control (reported on in detail by Warren Bond); and
- a modest planting exercise on the boundary of Forest and Kama paddocks.

The above are covered in more detail under specific agenda items below and in the Convenor's Report.

8) Treasurer's Report (Warren)

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report as circulated was moved Warren, seconded Pax, and accepted unanimously. Noted that payment was expected from FAB for sale of booklets to \$26, at the Jamison Centre Park Care display (see Item 17b below).

9) Membership Report (Warren)

Current membership stands at 68 (an increase of 3 since the September meeting). We welcome Geoffrey Buchanan, Sarah John and Cameron Landers to our membership. The number of other people on our email lists increased by one to 70.

10) Weed Management (Warren)

The last 3 months (September to November) have been busy (341 hours). Although this was slightly less than the total effort for the same 3 months last year the amount of effort spent on the Reserve in this 3 month period (293 hours) was the most since records began in 2010.

Half of the time in this 3 month period was spent on St. John's Wort and Saffron Thistles (in about equal amounts). The other principal weeds tackled during this period, also in approximately equal amounts) were Paterson's Curse, miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds and Verbascum. These five weed types accounted for 88% of weeding effort during the September to November period.

11) Native Grass Regeneration Project (Don)

Nil report. It was noted that surveys of Don's project had been undertaken. Refer coordinator's report.

12) Revegetation Strategy (John)

A modest planting had been achieved below the Forest Block. Refer Convenor's report as circulated and latest Update on the website. Planting is planned to continue, especially where shrub layer is needed. Priorities, timing and plant types will be further developed. Briar roses are a priority to be replaced with an alternative shrub layer. Plants appropriate to specific locations will be sourced from and in discussion with Greening Australia (GA). It was noted that GA needs 12 month's notice to propagate required seeds.

13) Soil and Water Erosion (Pax)

PCS has discussed with fotpin the placement of berms across tracks to reduce runoff and some have already been installed by the PCS Ranger. fotpin has offered to assist..

14) Rabbit Control (Pax)

Rabbit control is going well so far, but fotpin needs to continue monitoring and reporting as some warrens are opening up.

15) Kangaroos (Pax)

ACTION: Pax and Warren to waypoint kangaroo camps as they go about the Reserve spraying.

16) Focal Point (Keith)

Keith and Elizabeth have been thinking through the issues related to the revised focal point project, but it is still a work in progress. The project needs considerable rethinking in view of PCS financial constraints and the inability to use the shearing shed and cattle barn on North Kama, for various reasons.

ACTION: Elizabeth, Keith and Pax to discuss and provide a progress report to the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

17) Information and outreach (John B)

a) Spring walks included a bird walk (John), a wildflower walk (Rosemary), a longer walk by Pax and David Tongway's walk focussing on ecological processes, especially soil erosion. Attendance was around 10-12, for each, although Pax's walk was less well-attended.

ACTION Committee to consider issues for next program – eg timing of notice, promotion, a mid-term reminder?)

b) Shopping centre displays. The Jamison Shops display, 6-8 September was very successful, with excellent representation from fotpin members. Our display may need refurbishing. The Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CMAG) and their Myna trap, attracted considerable interest from the public. There were enjoyable and profitable interactions between different parkcare groups taking part.

c) Noticeboard. There has been some interest from fotpin members in providing photos for the noticeboard, which needs to be revamped. Suggestions include including photos of flowers and insects.

ACTION: John to arrange laminating of A3 photos for the noticeboard.

18) Website update (Warren)

The main change to the website in the last 3 months was to improve the information available on the monthly weeding effort summary page to make it more useful for planning and analysis.

The number of unique visitors in the three months September to November 2013 was 540 (compared with 592 for the previous 3 months and 656 for the same months in 2012). This is the first time we've seen a decline in year-on-year numbers for the same 3 month period.

“Recent Weeding” regained its position as the most accessed page on our site in the last 3 months, with the resurgence of weeding activity in Spring. “About the Pinnacle” and the walking page continue to rank highly.

It was noted that website visitor numbers are down for the first time and it suggests we are not engaging with our members or others (eg casual visitors to the site).

19) Events (future)

- a) There will be a ‘*slash-off*’ in the Bottom Pinnacle on Saturday 18 December, focussing on saffron thistles.

ACTION: Pax to coordinate. Elizabeth to provide refreshments.

- b) *Future guided walks*

Heritage walks (as for 2013) need to be submitted by 12 December.

ACTION: John to submit application for Heritage walks and follow up on other walk leaders.. Other proposed walks include an aboriginal/timeline walk and a ranger led walk.

20) Other Business

1. In view of some of the issues raised above, the Committee agreed that it should work to improve engagement of fotpin members, and involvement of the community in fotpin activities including walks. Suggestions included:

i) walks to be led by a range of people such as a PCS Officer, an indigenous park ranger and scientific or historical experts, including topography and geology; local history’:

ii) Competitions for children and young people such as Snap-Film-Draw as at Mulligan’s Flat (see below).

iii) Improved promotion of activities and issues, and timing of same.

ACTIONS: Members of Coordinating Committee to consider how to best to implement these ideas and bring to next meeting for discussion. John to ask Jasmine about possible Indigenous and PCS speakers/walk leaders

2. *Farrer Ridge Rare Plant Survey*. Park carers were asked to assist with this project on Tuesday 26 November with about a week’s notice. The survey is also during the working week.

ACTION: John to discuss the issues re timing face to face at the Ginninderra Catchment Group Christmas Party with Jasmine Foxlee.

3. *Exposure Draft of Nature Conservation Bill 2013*. The Committee noted that there had been some improvements in management and protection.

4. *Snap-Film-Draw*. Jasmine Foxlee had mentioned via email that Mulligan’s Flat would be undertaking a ‘Snap-Film Draw Nature Competition for Kids’ in late Spring. The Coordinating Committee agreed this would be an excellent activity to engage children and young people (5-15 yrs) in The Pinnacle. It would also build on the work done by Heather in ‘Drawn from Nature’.

5. *Equestrian Event Sun 10 November* through the Pinnacle and other reserves. There had been no ill effects to the Pinnacle.

- 21) **Proposed date for next meeting** 03 March 2014 (subsequently changed to Monday 17 March). John Brannan to host.