

Fotpin Coordinating Committee Meeting

4 March 2013

Minutes

Present: John Brannan, Heather Burness, Don Driscoll, Pax, Elizabeth Smith

Apologies: Warren Bond

1) **Minutes** of the last meeting

Minutes were agreed to unanimously.

2) **Outstanding actions** from previous meeting:

No records kept. To be dealt with at next meeting.

3) **Correspondence**

Noted

4) **Convenor's Report** ([Attachment A](#))

John reported that fotpin has made good progress on several fronts in the last three months. PCS are very appreciative of our efforts and achievements, and in particular weeding.

Two planting projects are coming up in Autumn and should be announced shortly.

John had a very productive meeting with PCS rangers and further regular meetings are planned, to be held shortly after our committee meetings.

For comments on the Shed, and on Canberra Heritage walks, see those specific items below.

Report noted.

5) **Coordinator's Report**

Pax reported that the period since the last meeting has been busy, dominated by weed control, native grass regeneration project, planning for kangaroo counting, rabbit control and ISV. These activities are reported on separately in the meeting.

Report noted

6) **Treasurer's Report** ([Attachment B](#))

It was suggested that voluntary contributions be mentioned at the AGM.

Moved, Heather, Seconded Elizabeth. Accepted unanimously:

7) **Membership Report**

Warren's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Current membership stands at 64, an increase of one since the December meeting. We welcome Jim Garvey to our membership.

The number of people on our other email lists has remained static at a total of 55.

Noted.

8) International Student Volunteers (ISV)

See Report from Matt Wolnicki ([Attachment C](#)).

The committee was disappointed that ISV was not able to go ahead with this project with fotpin in 2013 in view of the global (and particularly USA) financial situation. The research and planning done by Matt and Elizabeth will be useful for future such projects, when they are possible.

9) Weed Management ([Attachment D](#))

Warren presented a report summarising the nature of the weeding season in the last 3 months. He highlighted the major weeds posing a threat this season, and how the weeding effort has been expended.

Report noted.

10) Native Grass Regeneration Project

- i) Treatments planned for implementation in April include slashing the crop plots and sugar addition.
- ii) Fire treatments currently being organised in consultation with Parks staff.
- iii) Data analysis from 2012 under way.

The project continues to progress well, strongly supported by particular fotpin volunteers.

Report noted

11) Biodiversity Monitoring Project

The written report on the fotpin bio-monitoring project is in train and expected shortly. fotpin has been quite successful in terms of results and methodology according to informal discussions. Elizabeth and John will need to check progress on the plantings on a plant by plant basis and undertake a follow-up report in Spring.

Report noted

Action: Elizabeth and John to follow up on the Bio Monitoring project results report and to review plantings when appropriate

12) Revegetation Strategy

Upcoming plantings

There has been discussion about species and timing. Three or four hundred plants are planned for in April/May/June in North Kama as part of the Woodland Restoration Project, with fotpin support to be invited via our usual channels from fotpin volunteers.

Action: John. Follow up coordination of planting day/s with Greening Australia and engagement of fotpin volunteers.

13) Soil and Water Erosion (includes Assessment Program and works)

Pax reported that Greening Australia has committed to fund, under their *ACT LandKeepers – Veglink* program, the purchase of an additional 20 coir logs to finish the instalment of these erosion control devices at erosion control Site 2 in the Bottom Pinnacle.

The coir logs have been delivered, and will be installed at the first opportunity

Report noted

14) Rabbit control

Further rabbit control is planned for the reserve in early April, in the meantime fotpins will map rabbit warrens as they go about weed control activities. Warren will provide this information to Parks for use by their contractors.

15) Kangaroos

A survey of Pinnacle kangaroos is yet to be confirmed by PCS, however fotpin is supporting a kangaroo survey in Kama Nature Reserve on 10 March 2013.

16) Focal Point

Little has changed since the previous meeting

There was some confusion about timing of the testing but it now seems likely to be finished in this financial year.

John Brannan has sent a letter to Shane Rattenbury, the relevant minister, requesting the status of the testing process, and for intrinsic support of the project from Government. We are awaiting his response.

17) Belconnen Hills Woodlands Strategy

Refer to Greening Australia plantings in Revegetation Strategy item ([item 12](#)) above.

18) Coordinating Committee member responsibilities

The responsibilities as shown in the table on the governance page of the fotpin website were reviewed.

Action: **Elizabeth** to advise Warren re changes

19) Information, outreach and website

a) Newsletter, flyers, brochure

i) The newsletter is in abeyance for the time being, until further notice.

ii) Brochures are in train and will be completed as soon as possible. They will include maps and tracks and how to find the Pinnacle. Sue's previous words will be used as a basis.

iii) Heather asked for photos to use on the noticeboard. She wished to represent the wider community and their involvement in our display.

Action: **All** to send photos to Heather if they have them.

b) Letterbox drop

There has been no letterbox drop planned

c) Guided Walks.

There will be two guided walks as part of the Heritage festival; a short more general birding walk led by John and a longer walk to the river with Pax. They will be widely advertised.

Elizabeth indicated that she was happy to coordinate morning and afternoon teas for returning walkers. Fotpin members will be contacted to support this event by supplying refreshments and food.

Elizabeth will provide further planning information to CC for their consideration and/or agreement.

Proposed banners and brochures for fotpin, if available in time, would be very useful for the walks and continuing PR.

Action: **John, Pax, Elizabeth** to follow up and organise walks and refreshments etc.

d) School fetes, shopping centre displays

None current.

e) Noticeboard

See call for photos in item 19 (a) (iii), [above](#). Update is in train by Heather.

f) Website update/priorities

There have been no major changes since the last meeting, but incremental updates. The number of unique visitors in the three months December 2012 to January 2013 was 452 (compared with 656 for the previous 3 months and 383 for the same months in 2011-12). "Recent Weeding" continues to be the most accessed page on our site.

g) Other

It has been proposed that we explore a 'flag' for fotpin activities, in the form of a 'teardrop' banner, sandwich board and/or similar promotional item to identify fotpin when we hold walks, sausage sizzles, kangaroo counts and so forth at the Pinnacle. Discussed at the previous meeting (Item 20 f ii). John and Elizabeth were to follow-up implementation and possible funding from Ginninderra Catchment Group.

20) Events

- (1) Heritage Walks - 28 April 2013. See guided walks, Item 19 (c), [above](#).
- (2) Greening Australia planting day. Refer Revegetation Strategy, Item 12, [above](#).

21) Other Business

Fencing and grazing.

It was noted that Pax has discussed fencing with Craig Wainwright (Parks).

22) Date of next meeting

- a) Next Coordinating Committee meeting provisionally to be held on June 3 2013
- b) AGM possibly to be held on Sunday 14 July at 2pm at Weetangera Primary School, if available.
Action: Pax to confirm and book the school facilities.

fotpin Convenor's Report

December 2012 to February 2013

In the last 3 months, fotpin has made some good progress on a number of fronts.

Due to the very hot and dry weather (officially Australia's hottest ever Summer, I heard today), the weed infestation burden eased slightly and so our weeding effort numbers are slightly down on last year. But that meant that we were able to target more effort into the Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama, which is a very worthwhile investment in the future. I was told by the senior ranger for this part of the ACT that our efforts have not gone unnoticed by the higher echelons of PCS, and they are very appreciative of the effort we've put in, particularly in terms of tackling St Johns Wort. Of all the fotpin activities, our weeding program may be the most demanding, but it is also certainly the most important and the most rewarding in terms of the outcomes achieved. Everyone involved deserves the highest praise for their hard work.

We are now looking at two planting events in the coming Autumn, and following in-principle approval by PCS, we're now able to start working out the details. Some clear announcements should be possible in the next couple of weeks. One planting, to be held at the bottom end of North Kama, will continue the work of the ACT Government and Greening Australia towards the Woodland Restoration Project. The other will be primarily and understory planting, most likely along the northern edge of Kama paddock. It will be aimed at further extending the high-conservation value areas of the Forest block into adjacent woodlands and grasslands.

I attended a very productive meeting with the PCS rangers (which I have already reported on at length elsewhere), and I am optimistic that this will mark the beginning of an improved and more constructive relationship between fotpin and PCS (or PACS, if you prefer). It was decided that such meetings are now to be regular events, since they provide a far more efficient and less error-prone method of communication than the email exchanges that have been the past practice much of the time. The idea is that we meet with PCS shortly after each committee meeting.

After a long period of inaction, there may at last be some real progress on the Focal Point project, which was discussed at length at the meeting with PCS. The assessment we've waited so long for should now be happening in the next month or so, and the results of that assessment will determine whether any further progress is possible. If the outcome is positive, we can then begin to formulate concrete plans for how best to use the Focal Point.

One regrettable development was the withdrawal of ISV from its proposed collaboration with fotpin. Lack of funds has forced them to cut back their programs and it seems that there is little chance at this point of a resumption any time soon.

In addition to the two planting events, this Autumn also sees The Pinnacle as a focus for a couple of Canberra Heritage Festival events. This presents us with an opportunity to bring the reserve to the attention of a wider audience, and the two walks planned for late April will, weather permitting, present some of the lovelier facets of The Pinnacle. It would be ideal if we could have our new brochure ready to go by then, and I am working to bring that about. There will also be another sweep by the PCS rabbit treatment contractors in early April, and another kangaroo count at a date yet to be determined.

Friends of The Pinnacle
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the period 01-December-2012 to 28-February-2013

Opening balance on 01-December-2012 **\$437.08**

Receipts

Interest on account at end November + 00.07

Membership donation Mr James Garvey + 25.00

Payments

Mr Warren Bond cheque # 07

Approved by CC for reimbursement of
 payment of fotpin domain name renewal fee - 49.00

Closing balance on 28-February-2013 **\$413.15**

Reconciled to:

CPS Account 03356841 at 28 February 254.55

Plus Petty Cash 158.60

Total **\$413.15**

Heather Burness
 Treasurer
 Fotpin Committee
 2012/13

International Student Volunteers (ISV): Community led conservation in the ACT
Report from Mat Wolnicki on cancellation of ISV project

ISV Project final report from 2013 proposed project

Dear Fotpin CC

As you are most probably aware, ISV has had a shortage of students this year and has subsequently cancelled the ISV-Fotpin project for 2013. As the intermediary between ISV and Fotpin, I would like to thank Fotpin for its support for this project and also apologise for inconvenience caused arising from its cancellation. Given that much of the project groundwork has been done, I suggest utilising the project capital and contacting ISV later this year about the potential for a 2014 project. As the adage goes, no pain no gain.

Kind regards, Mat Wolnicki

Further details in correspondences previously circulated to CC members.

Weed Management Report

The last 3 months (December to February) have seen 401 hours of weeding effort reported, quite a bit less than in for the same three months the previous season (527 hours). Reasons for this decline include: the weather conditions being much less conducive to weed growth so far this season; the move to more efficient methods (a three-fold increase in spraying this season); and not having an Australia Day weeding event.

The main weed species treated during this period were briars (94 hours), Saffron thistles (77 hours), Verbascum (68 hours) and Thistles (other than saffron – mainly Spear and Scotch - 55 hours).

Other species worth mentioning are St. John's Wort (41 hours), spraying of which ended in December, but bagging of which continues, and African Lovegrass (24 hours), the nastiest weed we have in relative abundance (though thanks to the efforts of our members in far less abundance than in many other places).

The species mentioned above accounted for 90% of the effort in this 3 month period.

Just over a third of our effort in the last three months has been spent in the neighbouring Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama paddocks. This is nearly 3 times the amount of effort spent off-Reserve in the corresponding three months last season. A large percentage of which was a concerted effort to slash Saffron thistles which, unlike on the Reserve where our efforts in the 2010-11 seem to have been effective in keeping the numbers down, have not previously been slashed. Considerable time was also spent lopping and bagging Verbascum.

The late January rain and the follow-up at the end of February has seen the germination of a lot of new weeds, notably Paterson's curse and Verbascum, but likely thistles as well. These should keep us busy during the next three months.

Warren Bond

2 March 2013