



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 4th May 2020 7-30 pm [by Zoom video conference]

Minutes

Present: John Brannan (Convenor), Warren Bond, Denise Hall, Margo Hellyer, Len Taylor, Alana Wilkes

1. Apologies and Welcome

All present. John welcomed the committee to its first video conference meeting and thanked Warren for organizing it.

2. [Minutes of the Last Meeting](#) / Business Arising

It was moved by Len and seconded by Denise that the Minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting held on 10th February 2020 be accepted as a true and fair record of that meeting.

Agreed.

Consideration of Actions carried forward from previous meetings:

20161205: Item 11 (e)

ii. Member Survey

Action: Warren and Margo to draft a survey to determine members' communication preferences.

Some progress but still outstanding.

20170306: Item 14 (b) FOMP – Belconnen Hills Strategy

Action: This item cannot be progressed until PCS has finalised its Landscape Classification Assessment.

Action pending. It is hoped that the finalisation of the Canberra Nature Park Management Plan may allow this to be progressed.

This has now been further delayed because of the COVID-19 disruptions.

20190805: Item 11 (b) Subscribing to National e-deposit (NED)

Action: Warren to follow up and do whatever is required (if anything).

It is thought that we don't need to do anything but Warren will check.

Still pending.

20200210: Item 10 (c) Pipeline corridor restoration

Action: Warren to raise our concerns about plant condition and weed control with the appropriate people who met previously for a site inspection when we first raised concerns in October.

Completed. See further discussion in Item 10 (a)

20200210: Item 10 (d) Clean-up of remaining gravel piles near the tanks

Action: John to follow up.

John contacted Ranger Riko but there has been no action as yet. John will follow up again.

20200210: Item 12 (c) Review of Weed Plan 10 years on

Action: Warren to follow up with Pax and report back

Warren met with Pax in late February and discussed how we might proceed with reviewing the weed plan, including the possibility of repeating the weed survey of 2009 when conditions were right. Subsequent events (strong weed growth, COVID-19 concerns) have delayed further follow up. It will be pursued again in the next few months.

3. Correspondence in and out (Warren) ([Attachment A](#))

Noted.

4. Convenor's Report

John had previously circulated his report which was noted. The main topics were:

- Impact on the Reserve and footprint of COVID-19 restrictions
- Extraordinary plant growth in response to the very wet late summer and autumn
- Growing number of native flora and fauna species reported on the Reserve, including the recent significant sighting of a Macleay's Grass Yellow butterfly, the first sighting as far south as the A.C.T.
- Revegetation of the Molonglo Watermain corridor
- Weetangera Revegetation Project

5. Treasurer's Report ([Attachment B](#))

Margo's report had been previously circulated and was unanimously accepted

Also circulated was a request from Len Taylor for reimbursement of \$30-52 for expenses associated with the Weetangera revegetation project. **Approved.**

6. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership had remained at 98 in the last 3 months, while the net number of other people who have requested to be on our email list increased by 3 to 192, bringing the combined total to 290.

7. Weed Management

Warren reported that the total effort spent on weed control between 1 February and 30 April was the second smallest in our 10 years of records (impacted in part by COVID-19 restrictions). Key targets were St. John's Wort, Paterson's Curse, Miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds and Saffron Thistles, which comprised 70% of the effort.

Total effort for the season to date was 465 hours, the smallest in our 10 years of records.

8. Information and Outreach**a. Website**

Warren reported that there were no major changes to the website in the last three months apart from regular updates to the flora and fauna, weeding and rainfall pages.

The number of unique visitors to the website per month rebounded from a low in the previous 3 months to be about average, largely on the strength of recent interest in walking as a result of COVID-19. The most popular pages in this period were "Walking Tracks", "About

the Pinnacle”, “Newsletters”, “Recent Weeding”, the “Walking” home page, “Plants of the Pinnacle”, the “Corridor map”, “Flora and Fauna” and the “Photo Gallery” home page.

b. Social Media

Denise reported that we’ve had 102 likes on our facebook page and that she has just set up a new Instagram account linked to our facebook page.

c. Weetangera Primary School Fete (John)

It is uncertain whether or not this will go ahead as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

Action: John to ask if a tentative date has been set.

9. Events Program

All autumn events were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The planning of spring events will be subject to the speed at which the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

10. Molonglo Watermain

a. Corridor restoration follow-up (plant replacement, weed control – current and future)

The weed infestations reported at the last Committee meeting were dealt with by the contractors but the subsequent rainfall resulted in more widespread infestations along the corridor and the sighting of 3 weed species previously not seen on the Reserve: Witchgrass, Barnyard grass and Dwarf Marigold. In the meantime most of the trees, shrubs and native grasses planted along the corridor had died or failed to germinate. These issues were drawn to the attention of the contractors, resulting in a further round of weed control and the commencement of replanting.

Regular monthly site inspections by all parties involved have now been established to review progress and recommend further remedial actions as required. Fotpin was invited to attend these and was represented by Warren at the first one on 24th April. The next is scheduled for 22nd May.

b. Clean-up of remaining gravel piles near the tanks

John raised this with Ranger Riko who responded that discussions were underway to resolve this issue. No further action as yet.

Action: John to follow up.

11. Groundcover Revegetation Project Report

a. Report on progress of work carried out so far

Len’s report on planting activities to date and the survival rates is attached. ([Attachment C](#))

Key points include the high survival rate of the plantings to date and the progress with propagating new seedlings for planting.

Report noted.

b. Update on proposal for trial of seed broadcast method

An application to Friends of Grasslands for a *2020 Grassy Ecosystem Grant* of \$1150 was prepared by Len and John Brannan and submitted after out of session review and approval by the Committee. An indication of the success of this application is expected by the end of May.

12. Other Business

a. AGM

Under the current COVID-19 restrictions it would not be possible to hold a face-to-face AGM. Even when the restrictions are eased it is likely that many of our members would be unwilling to attend such a meeting. Video conferencing was considered but it was decided that the simplest way to proceed was to ask members to vote to defer the AGM for a year.

The Management Rules require an AGM to be held “once every year”, but the only items of business required are confirming the minutes of the previous AGM, electing the Coordinating Committee members for the following year, reviewing the Annual Financial Statement and receiving other reports on fotpin activities. It was agreed that we would ask members to vote by email to approve the deferral of the meeting using the same rules that apply to changing the Management Rules, namely 14 days’ notice of the proposal, a quorum (ie the number of votes received) of 10 members and the requirement for a majority of votes in favour. At the same time we would ask members to confirm the minutes of the 2019 AGM and to confirm an extension of all Coordinating Committee members for a further 12 months.

Action: Warren to prepare a notice to members to explain the proposal to defer the 2020 AGM and organize the voting.

b. Fotpin’s 10th birthday

It was agreed that celebrations would be postponed until COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and members felt comfortable to mix in large groups again.

c. Review of Weed Plan 10 years on

Warren and Pax had an initial meeting to discuss the way to proceed but it has been put on hold until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

d. Weed experiment (2010-2012) plots

Issues have arisen over dangerous star pickets in the grazed plots. These were last used by University of Canberra PhD student Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent and Warren contacted him to ascertain that he had finished. The way is now clear to remove the offending items. This also raises the question of whether the grazing exclusion plots have any further use or whether we should plan to have them removed. It was decided to ask Don Driscoll’s and John Fitz Gerald’s opinions before making any decision.

Action: Warren to contact Don Driscoll for input into future uses of the grazing exclusion plots.

e. Water our wildlife

While the need to provide water for wildlife is now well and truly over, remnant watering containers remain on the Reserve.

It is proposed to put a message on the facebook page reminding people to remove anything they put out and also to mention it in the email accompanying the next Update. We will have to remove any containers that remain a month or so after that.

Action: John and Margot to remind people via facebook and the Update email to remove their remaining watering containers.

13. Proposed date for next meeting

August 3rd 2020 (at John's home provided COVID-19 restrictions permit and members are comfortable with a face to face meeting).

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

Warren Bond

Fotpin Secretary

11th May 2020

Attachment A. Summary of Major Items of Correspondence since February 2020 meeting**ParkCare**

| From | To (if specific) | Date | Subject |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Alison McLeod | | 11 th Feb | ParkCare Update: Ministerial announcement about increased funding |
| | | 11 th Feb | ParkCare Hub Update |
| | | 11 th Feb | Request for updates to ParkCare Hub Calendar |
| Alison McLeod | | 13 th Feb | More details of funding announced on 11 th Feb |
| Alison McLeod | | 18 th Feb | First Aid Training |
| John Brannan | Alison McLeod | 17 th Mar | Request for PCS attitude towards ParkCare activities following the COVID-19 outbreak |
| Alison McLeod | John Brannan | 17 th Mar | Response to above; policy to be forthcoming |
| Friends of Black Mountain | | | Nature in our City Report available online |
| Alison McLeod | | 20 th Mar | ParkCare and COVID-19 |
| Alison McLeod | | 23 rd Mar | COVID-19 ParkCare Convenor Update |
| Marty Bajt | | 4 th Apr | Update on COVID-19 impact on Parkcare ranger work |
| Marty Bajt | | 13 th Apr | Weed Mapping App |
| Marty Bajt | | 14 th Apr | Collector App for Mapping – explanation of previous message |
| Julia Raine, Friends of Mulligan's Flat | | 13 th Apr | Seeking thoughts of other groups on ParkCare Covid-19 policy Seeking assistance in identifying issues and approaches for Gossan Hill |
| John Brannan | Julia Raine | 14 th Apr | Relaying verbal advice from Alison McLeod about ParkCare Covid-19 rules Offering assistance with Gossan Hill |
| Julia Raine | John Brannan | 14 th Apr | Response to above |
| Alison McLeod | | 17 th Apr | ParkCare Update |
| | | 17 th Apr | Request to fill in a survey of ParkCare priorities |
| | | 20 th Apr | Update on Reserve issues during the Corona virus lockdown and the PCS response |
| | | 20 th Apr | Implications of the 'Jobs for Canberrans Fund' for Reserves. |
| | | 21 st Apr | How PCS districts manage weed control |
| Marty Bajt | John Brannan | 27 th Apr | Response to John's email to Riko on 23 rd Apr |

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Alison McLeod | | 28 th Apr | More information about how PCS manages weeds in the ACT |
| | | 28 th Apr | How to report alleged illegal activities on reserves |
| | | 28 th Apr | ParkCare- survey results |
| | | 29 th Apr | Call to nominate works to be done by the 'Jobs for Canberrans Fund' work teams |
| John Brannan | Alison McLeod | 29 th Apr | Querying whether works already discussed with Rangers should be nominated |
| Marty Bajt | John Brannan | 4 th May | Cleaned notice board |

* ParkCare Coordinator: Alison McLeod

* ParkCare Ranger: Marty Bajt

* Volunteer Program Coordinator, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve: Karen Williams

PCS Rangers

| From | To (if specific) | Date | Subject |
|--------------|---|----------------------|--|
| John Brannan | Riko Ahlers, CC: Marty Bajt | 13 th Feb | Cleaning up gravel piles in Icon water tanks compound; the rehabilitation of the De Salis St carparking area |
| Riko Ahlers | John Brannan | 27 th Feb | Initial reply to above; nothing to report |
| Kate Boyd | John Brannan | 3 rd Apr | Craig Wainwright has now joined the northern offsets team and The Pinnacle offset |
| John Brannan | Kate Boyd | 3 rd Apr | Acknowledgement of above |
| John Brannan | Riko Ahlers, CC: Marty Bajt, Alison McLeod | 23 rd Apr | Drawing attention to issues at the PNR: Reserve security (Dungowan St. gate, West Marakai St. entrance); amateur road repair at Dungowan St entrance; need for track maintenance in several places |
| Kym Birgan | | 28 th Apr | Introducing herself as Acting Senior Ranger |
| John Brannan | Kym Birgan | 28 th Apr | Response to above |
| Riko Ahlers | John Brannan | 29 th Apr | Response to John's message of 23 rd Apr and proposed actions |
| Kym Birgan | John Brannan | 29 th Apr | Confirming that action on issues in John's message of 23 rd Apr have commenced |

* Kate Boyd: Offsets Ranger, Northside

* Acting Senior Ranger, Northside: Kym Birgan

* Pinnacle Ranger: Riko Ahlers

Ginninderra Catchment Group

| From | To (if specific) | Date | Subject |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| Various | Various | 12 th Feb to 20 th Apr | Multiple emails concerning TCCS proposal for LandCare groups and individual members to register and formalise their volunteering (in a similar way to Parkcare) |
| Ann Milligan | | 28 th Feb | February Newsletter available |
| Ann Milligan | | 31 st Mar | March Newsletter available |
| Bernie Bugden | | 15 th Apr | Update on changes of operation as a result of Covid-19 |
| Anke Maria Hoefler | John Brannan | 16 th Apr | Updating fotpin page on GCG web site |
| John Brannan | Anke Maria Hoefler | 17 th Apr | Updates responding to above |
| Bernie Bugden | | 20 th Apr | Deferral of general members meeting until 4 th May |
| | | 27 th Apr | Draft Agenda for above |
| | | 4 th May | Papers for meeting on 4 th May |
| Ann Milligan | John Brannan | 4 th May | Changes to the newsletter production team and contribution process. |

* Bernie Bugden: GCG Executive Officer

Molonglo Watermain

| From | To (if specific) | Date | Subject |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman | 13 th Feb | Follow-up to October site inspection about pipeline corridor revegetation status, weed problems and plans |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 13 th Feb | Interim reply to above |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 19 th Feb | Details of short-term and long-term actions proposed |
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman | 20 Feb | Acknowledgement of message of 19 th Feb and further information about weeds |
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman | 16 th Mar | Request for status of implementation of plans referred to on 19 th Feb |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 16 th Mar | Update: first spraying and chipping complete; second round to follow; reseeding to follow that and this plus replanting shrubs etc to be finished by end of March |
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman, Andrew Halley, Mark Sweaney | 2nd Apr | Further follow-up on status of weed control in light of a number of new weed species appearing and no weed control evident since February |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 7 th Apr | Response to above, notifying of reason for delay and that spraying (and replanting of shrubs/trees) would commence on 9 th April. Also that he had reminded Wodens of their responsibility to ensure weed control takes place throughout the maintenance period, and reminded them and Ables of the urgency of getting the weeds under control. |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond, Mark Sweaney | 9 th April | Reporting that Ables were seen replacing shrubs/trees and commenced spraying but got bogged and left. Photos of problem weed areas attached. |
| Warren Bond | Mark Sweaney | 9 th Apr | Updating on our suspicions of weeds introduced to Reserve by pipeline revegetation contractor and pointing out need for close oversight by PCS when they are no the commissioning agency of work on Reserves |
| Warren Bond | Mark Sweaney, Michael Mulvaney | 13 th Apr | Update on Ables failed spaying efforts on 9 th April and copying former message to Michael Mulvaney to bring those issues to his attention |
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman | 13 th Mar | Follow-up on message of 7 th April and query about weed spray being used |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 13 th Apr | "Out of Office" reply to above – on leave until 20 th April |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 14 th Apr | Response to email of 13 th March saying Calibre would be following up on Ables in the next few days |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman | 22 nd Apr | Request for update following observation of revegetation activity over the weekend |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 22 nd Apr | Response to above and offer to get an update. Invitation for fotpin to be represented at a series of regular on-site inspections |
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman | 22 nd Apr | Accepting offer to participate in on-site inspections. |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 23 rd Apr | Copy of Monthly report from Envirolinks Design , who are monitoring Ables performance on the watermain easement on Calibres behalf. Confirmation of site inspection 8 am 24 th Apr |
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman | 27 th Apr | Follow-up of site inspection; recommendation to include PCS (Riko or Kym) in future regular inspections |
| Warren Bond | Tim Berriman, Steve (Ables) | 27 th Apr | Details of introduced weeds (CNM sightings) and map of Witchgrass plants on 26 th Apr |
| Warren Bond | Riko Ahlers, Kym Birgan | 27 th Apr | Apprising them of message to Tm Berriman (27 th Apr) and forwarding copy of email to Mark Sweaney of 13 th Apr |
| Kym Birgan | Warren Bond | 29 th Apr | Response to message above and asking to be kept in the loop |
| Riko Ahlers | Warren Bond | 30 th Apr | Response to message above, asking to be kept in the loop and asking if there are any specific issues |
| Warren Bond | Riko Ahlers | 30 th Apr | Outlining key issues we have with restoration of the pipeline corridor |
| Tim Berriman | Warren Bond | 30 th Apr | Forwarding report from Dan Steenbergen (Wodens) of the site inspection on 24 th Apr |
| | | 30 th Apr | CC of email to Kym and Riko to include them in the site inspection group |
| | | | |

* Tim Berriman: Calibre (overseeing pipeline contract compliance)

* Andrew Halley: Assistant Director (Area Manger) – Urban Reserves North

* Mark Sweaney: A/g Assistant Director (Area Manger) – Urban Reserves North

* Michael Mulvaney: Conservation Research

* Acting Senior Ranger, Northside: Kym Birgan

* Pinnacle Ranger: Riko Ahlers

Weetangera Grass Sowing an Fencing Project and Application for Friends of Grasslands Grant

| From | To (if specific) | Date | Subject |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Andrew Zelnik | | 6 th Mar | Call for Applications, Friends of Grasslands 2020 Grassy Ecosystem Grants |
| Len Taylor | Riko Ahlers | 31 st Mar | Advising of proposed grass seeding and fencing project and seeking PCS permission |
| Len Taylor | Riko Ahlers | 6 th Apr | Follow up to email of 31 st March |
| John Brannan | Andrew Zelnik | 6 th , 7 th Apr | Flagging intention to submit an application for FoG grant and requestion extension of time |
| Andrew Zelnik | John Brannan | 7 th , 8 th Apr | Acknowledgement of above and requesting application by 17 th Apr |
| Riko Ahlers | Len Taylor, John Brannan | 8 th April | PCS Approval of proposed Weetangera grass seeding project |
| John Brannan | Andrew Zelnik | 14 th Apr | Application for FoG grant |
| Andrew Zelnik | John Brannan | 16 th Apr | Acknowledgement of application and query |
| John Brannan | Andrew Zelnik | 17 th Apr | Response to query and correction to application |
| Andrew Zelnik | John Brannan | 17 th Apr | Acknowledgement of above |
| | | | |

* Andrew Zelnik: Friends of Grasslands, Coordinator, FoG Supported Projects Sub-committee

* Pinnacle Ranger: Riko Ahlers

Miscellaneous

| From | To (if specific) | Date | Subject |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Jonathan Deryngowski, Zinfra | John Brannan | 19 th Feb | Reply to query about works on Coulter Drive |
| Susan Gray | | 29 th Feb | Canberra Planning Action Group www.canberraactiongroup.com |
| John Brannan | | 17 th Mar | Cancellation of Hawker PS fete |
| Warren Bond | Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent | 6 th Apr | Asking whether he had finished using toe Grass Experiment plots so that we could start decommissioning them |
| Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent | Warren Bond | 14 th Apr | Responding to email saying plots could be decommissioned. |
| Mary Gleeson (ACT Heritage) | | 21 st Apr | 2020-2021 ACT Heritage Grants Program; call for applications |

* Andrew Zelnik: Friends of Grasslands, Coordinator, FoG Supported Projects Sub-committee

Attachment B. Treasurer's Report**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 31-Jan-2020 to 30-April-2020**

| | | |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Opening balance on 31-Jan-2020 | | \$2377.74 |
| Receipts | | |
| Interest | \$0.00 | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| Payments | | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| Surplus/deficit of receipts over payments | | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| Closing balance on 30-Apr-2020 | | <u><u>\$2,377.74</u></u> |
| Reconciled to: | | |
| "Beyond Bank" Account 03356841 | \$2195.39 | |
| Petty Cash | \$182.35 | <u>\$2,277.74</u> |
| Less unrepresented Cheques | \$0.00 | <u>\$2,377.74</u> |
| Total | | <u><u>\$2,377.74</u></u> |

Notes:

1. Total value of funds held by Ginninderra Catchment Group as at Jan 28 2020 - \$8342.52
Funds are also held for general use by fotpin as well as residual funds from the Commonwealth Caring for Country Grant and the Labor Club Grant (both for the Native Grass Regeneration Project) and Spicers (for the 2011 tree planting project).
2. Reimbursement request of \$30-52 received from Len Taylor for revegetation works – TBC.

Margo Hellyer
Treasurer
2 May 2020

Attachment C Weetangera Groundcover Revegetation Project Progress Report

Since the February report only one *Microlaena* has died. There is noticeable difference size and health of the plants, with those in good soil are doing much better than those in poor soil. The use of wire cages was a good since it has allowed the plants to easily deposit seeds outside the cages. This has resulted in new seedlings which are largely protected by the surrounding cages. Where the soil is good this recruitment has been good. I have not counted these additions but they would probably outnumber those that died. It did require a lot of watering over the rather dry Summer to get the parent plants established.

The Daisy plants purchased from Greening Australia were planted at two sites, with 10 at each site. Three died at the site enclosed by plastic guards and one was dug up by rabbits at the other site.

The 297 Red Leg and 7 *Calotis lappulaceae* (Yellow Burr-Daisy) which survived the hail storm were all planted out. Of these 4 Red Leg and one *Calotis lappulaceae* have died.

Interestingly all but one the plants which died (other than being dug up by rabbits) has occurred at the same site, which is now enclosed by plastic guards. The initial small planting of *Microleana* resulted in 19 being lost before we realized that the soil was hydrophobic and treated subsequent planting with soil wetter. So although soil wetter has improved the soil condition it is still not good. As previously stated the rabbits dug up a lot of plants, mainly unguarded *Senecio quadridentatus* and *Vitadinia*. As these are not heavily grazed plants most did not have a guard around them.

Summary of Survival

| Species | Number planted | Number Died |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <i>Microlaena</i> | 308 | 20 |
| <i>Senecio quadridentatus</i> | 23 | 4 possibly many more dug up by rabbits |
| <i>Arthropodium fimbriatum</i> | 5 | Possibly 1 |
| <i>Calotis lappulaceae</i> | 2 | 0 |
| <i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> | 5 | 4 from this group |
| <i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i> | 5 | |
| <i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> | 8 | |
| <i>Red Leg</i> | 297 | 4 |
| <i>Calotis lappulaceae</i> | 7 | 1 |

Sarah Hnatiuk (Friends of Mt. Painter) has kindly lent us a lot of growing tubes and the carriers for them. The number of plants we germinate is now only limited by the number of hours put into sowing the seeds, germinating them and later planting them out. To speed up sowing we tried sowing seeds directly into the tubes. With Knead Spear Grass (*Austrostipa bigeniculata*) seeds provided by John Fitzgerald I had a practice sowing of 70 seeds. Then Tim Gill and his two young daughters came in and sowed another 200 tubes which they took away to germinate. Tim says the germination rate has been approximately 80%, which is the same as mine.

We also have another keen member of the revegetation team in Chantal Jackson

Only nine of the Yellow Burr Daisy germinated two of which got too badly damaged by hail that they died.

Len Taylor
May 4th 2020