



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 5th December, 2016 7-30 pm

Draft Minutes

Present: John Brannan, Warren Bond, Denise Hall, Margot Hellyer, Keith Thomas.

Meeting opened at 7:35pm

1. Apologies – John Brannan for lateness – attending GCG AGM.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting / Business Arising

It was moved by Warren and seconded by Margot that the Minutes of the FOTPIN CC meeting held 1st September, 2016, 2016 were a true and fair record of that meeting.

Actions arising:

010916/Item 2.11 (b) Walks Program (John)

Action: John and Warren to discuss the organization of a Pinnacle Extension walk for spring. Dates were to be determined and publicized.

Completed – action closed

010916/Item 2.12 (b) Pinnacle Extension - suggestions from General Meeting (17th April) (John)

Action: John to raise with PCS the suggestion that an underpass or pipe tunnels be provided to facilitate wildlife movement across William Hovell Drive.

This was raised at the Planning Meeting and was noted by PCS – action closed

010916/Item 2.14 (c) PCS works on the Reserve – tracks (John)

Action: John to discuss options for preventing short-cutting of tracks with John Fitz Gerald and PCS.

Completed – action closed

010916/Item11 (b) Information and outreach – Spring walks (John)

Action: An introduction to the extension walk was being proposed, another bird walk for November was being considered

Completed – action closed

010916/Item 11 (c) Information and outreach – Interpretive signage (Keith)

Action: update document and circulate for comment.

Completed – further action: Keith to circulate to PCS (Lois Padgham) and discuss with her early in new year.

010916/Item13 Restoration Plan (John)

Action: Site details and schedule for an ecological burn are to be finalised with Ken Hodgkinson.

Ongoing, and carried over into 2017.

010916/Item 14 (d) PCS Planning meeting (Denise, John, Warren, and Margot (possibly))

Action: Attend annual PCS Planning Meeting on 6th September, 2016.

Completed – action closed – Margot unable to attend.

3. Correspondence in and out / Business arising (see [Attachment A](#))

All relevant correspondence was circulated to members via e-mail and a summary table provided with the agenda.

Correspondence report received and accepted.

4. Convenor's Report ([Attachment B](#))

This report is to be updated and published on the webpage and a message sent to members (**John/Warren**).

John will add more about the PCS Planning Meeting held in September.

Report received and accepted. No action items were raised.

5. Coordinator's Report

Warren provided a verbal report. Items of interest included the following:

- Response to the call for new people to assist with weed control
- Coordination of fotpin involvement in the Frogwatch Census .
- Liaison with PCS, including the Offsets Ranger.

Report received and accepted

6. Treasurer's Report / Business arising

Report circulated by hand ([Attachment C](#)) was received and accepted.

An additional income of \$60 in cash from sale of information leaflets is to be added (**John/Denise**).

John moved and Margot seconded that the report be accepted subject to this update.

Expenditure on maintaining the FOTPIN weed spraying equipment of \$80.22 was approved by the meeting. Warren to be reimbursed for these out of pocket expenses (**Denise**).

7. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership increased by 4 since the last meeting to a total of 83 and the number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists also increased by 4, to 115.

8. Weed Management

Warren reported that the effort spent on weed control in the last three months was 240 hours, about two thirds of the total for this period last season reflecting the absence of Pax's contribution. All this effort was spent on the Reserve with 50% of the effort being spent on Verbascum and St. John's Wort.

The meeting re-iterated the desirability for weeding teams to report their activity in order to keep other teams aware of their activities and the need to ensure sign-in sheets were being completed and maintained.

9. Website

Warren reported that the weeding pages for the new season were the main update to the website in the last 3 months; other minor changes are documented on the [website updates](#) page.

The number of unique visitors to the website in the last 3 months was below trend. Popular pages in this period were the “Walking home page” and “Walking Tracks” page.

10. Revegetation

Nothing to report, although some of the exotic grasses are being slashed and different ideas are being trialed.

Another planting was proposed and it was noted that GCG indicated that there were funds available for revegetating endangered grasslands and other woodlands. It was suggested that the bottom Pinnacle area be considered for this. **John** to consider a possible activity in Autumn.

11. Information and outreach

- a. Positive responses to the FOTPIN stand at the Weetangera Primary School fete 13th November, 2016 were observed.
- b. Spring Walks went well with two bird walks and one in the Pinnacle Extension area (~30 attended this walk).
- c. Interpretative signage concept document circulated and to be provide to PCS for discussion in the new year (**Keith**).
- d. Proposals for Autumn Walks & further outreach are to be considered by the Committee over the Christmas/New Year break. Some suggestions include the following:
 - i. Bird walk;
 - ii. Planting;
- e. Further outreach:
 - i. Some ideas were considered for further outreach to interested people.
For example: -
 - More regular updates and newsletters – Margot happy to work with Elizabeth Smith to produce a Spring Newsletter. Ideally there should be three updates a year and at least one newsletter. **Margot** to consider this further.
 - Possibility of involving students and other people in some FOTPIN activities. **John** to follow up recent Belconnen HS approaches and excursions to the Pinnacle Nature Park and find out more about their Pinnacle Extension Program.

12. Pinnacle Extension

Warren arranging a meeting with Nina Bruns about the management of the offset area. This is likely to occur in the new year.

13. Other Business

- Grasslands slashing project – discussed in item 10 above
- Christmas get-together – It was decided that there was too little time to arrange a BBQ and that a social gathering in February would be more appropriate. At this, some ideas and discussion of activities would be encouraged.

It was proposed that a BBQ be held at Denise’s place on 26th February – more details later.

14. Proposed date for next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 6th March, at John Brannan's place.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Attachment A. Summary of Major Items of Correspondence between since July 24th meeting

Date (2016)	Sender	Topic	Action items
06/09	Greening Australia	The Leaf September edition	Publications for circulation
06/10		The Leaf – October edition	Publications for circulation
14/09	Nic Mikhailovich, PCS	Eucalyptus Melliodora planting	In response to a planting suggestion from John
17/11		Spray contractors	Area in Pinnacle being sprayed for Grassy Weeds from 18 th Nov.
06/09	Bodhana Szydlak, LDA	Plan for the final alignment of the watermain from the water tanks in Springvale Drive to the new suburb of Whitlam	For information and feedback in response to input from FOTPIN
06/10	Phillip Selmes, PCS	Invitation to threatened species recovery hub showcase – 17 th Oct, 16	Attend if interested
06/10	Karissa Preuss, GCG	Invitation to help with citizen science project restoring grasslands	For information and involvement if interested
16/09		GCG General Meeting supporting papers and election platform	For information
10/10		GCG General Meeting outcomes	For information
03/10	Anka Hoefler	Frogwatch Census update	For information
05/12	Bonnie Jackson (LDA)	Watermain construction report	For information

Attachment B. Convenor's Report

An extremely wet winter has given way to an initially cool and damp Spring, with the customary warm, dry weather only arriving in the last few weeks. The result has been an outstanding season for almost every plant species. On the positive side, this has meant wonderful arrays of blossoming native wildflowers, including a pretty much unprecedented profusion of orchids, lilies, daisies and other flowering natives. The native grasses are also going gangbusters, with species such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) now taking over more and more areas of the reserve. On the less positive side, it has also resulted in enormous stands of exotic annual grasses, including virtually impenetrable thickets of head-high (and higher!) wild oat grass, and widespread germination of weeds such as St John's Wort and Paterson's Curse. (See the "**Weeding**" section below for more details.)

So the last couple of months have been even busier than usual for the footpin weeding teams, while other reserve-related business has successfully filled in any other pockets of free time we might otherwise have had.

1. Spring Walks Program

In addition to two very successful birdwatching walks, this season's program included a very well attended tour of the new extension to the Pinnacle Nature Reserve, with myself, John Fitz Gerald and Warren each providing a guide to the birds, the vegetation and the background and management respectively. Fortunately, this visit coincided with the flowering of some stunning areas of native wildflowers, such as the Billy Buttons shown below. Feedback on the walk indicated that the participants had a very enjoyable and worthwhile visit.



2. Other events

The two main events in which fotpin participated this spring were the annual Jamison Joint ParkCare Display running over three days in September and the Weetangera Primary School Spring Fete in November.

I'm pleased to say that both events were very successful, with the Jamison event in particular attracting a lot of interest among the weekend shoppers. As always, my profuse thanks go out to everyone who gave up their free time on a weekend to come along and help out with the setting up, staffing and tearing down of the displays.

3. Weeding

While we have necessarily had to limit the reach of our weeding program since Pax's withdrawal, we have still managed a very creditable 240 hours of weed control effort, particularly bearing in mind that this figure does not reflect all the effort put in by our weeding teams. While this is a very abundant year for certain weeds, particularly Verbascum, St John's Wort, Capeweed and Paterson's Curse, the relative scarcity of weeds such as thistles and the steady declines in Verbascum and St John's Wort coverage suggest that our past efforts to eradicate those weeds have been successful in preventing seed germination.

We're also very happy to welcome Mike and Denise to our team of certified weed sprayers, which will help to spread the workload in what remains a very busy year.

4. Vegwatch Program (Biodiversity Monitoring)

Yet again, John Fitz Gerald was on hand to help with this year's survey. The profusion of annual exotic grasses meant that there was a little less diversity than in some previous surveys, but we are also starting to see the first clear evidence that our 2011 plantings are producing offspring of their own. This is very encouraging as it suggests that other plantings we have undertaken may have a long term effect by multiplying and spreading so that our woodlands start to include a viable shrub layer, instead of just groundcover and trees.

5. Grassland Slashing Trials

Len and Grahame have taken some time out from weeding to undertake a trial slashing program in selected plots in Weetangera paddock. The aim is to prevent seed set by some of the exotic annual grasses so that those areas can be re-colonised by the later-flowering native grasses that are still relatively abundant in the area. With Len and Grahame's help, I am trialling a similar experiment in the triangular plot between the Dowling and Springvale tracks in the northwest corner of the reserve. This will be a long-term undertaking, and only time will tell whether we are successful in promoting a recovery by native grasses, but if we can demonstrate that this is beneficial, then it may be something we can apply to larger areas of the reserve in the future.

6. PCS ParkCare Coordinators' Meeting

These quarterly meetings are an opportunity for the Parks & Conservation Service (PCS) to communicate with all the ParkCare and Landcare groups they supervise, and for those groups to exchange information among themselves. The meeting on November 22nd raised a number of issues that could impact on fotpin:

- The positions of ParkCare & Volunteer Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator (currently held by Phil Selmes and Craig Wainwright respectively) are to be spilled, and an Aboriginal Programs Manager position will be established. Phil intends to re-apply for his current position, but Craig has an opportunity to take up a new position out at Tidbinbilla and will likely leave us early in the new year. This is sad news, as Craig has been a highly effective and energetic supporter of and

advocate for ParkCare and Landcare groups in the last 4 or 5 years. He will be sorely missed. He assured us that his replacement will be carefully chosen and coached into the job (by Craig himself), but Craig's will be a very big pair of boots to fill.

- There is funding available for "Reserve Orientation Signage". This will include permanent versions of the temporary Activities Declaration signs we've had around the reserve for several months, but will also include maps and the opportunity to highlight walking loop trails in each reserve, with information on length, degree of difficulty and possibly some highlights of the walk. This will be developed in consultation with the relevant ParkCare/Landcare group during the first half of 2017, and will be supervised by Lara Woolcombe and Lois Padgham at PCS.
- PCS are also in the process of developing a policy position with respect to electric bikes. They foresee that, because these machines straddle the divide between pushbikes and motorbikes, permitting them access to reserves may push the current boundaries of what constitutes "low-impact" activity in a reserve. Our input on this issue is invited.
- A position of "Community Groups Support Officer" has been established within Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) (what used to be TAMS). The position is currently held by Nick Bakker, and he will now be the contact point for us when we want to talk to City Services. I spoke to him briefly about weed control, but he's still feeling his way into the job and couldn't give me any useful answers regarding ALG spraying around the Pinnacle NR. He did say that one of his tasks will be to improve the coordination between PCS and TCCS weed management.

7. Collaboration with Belconnen High

Following a chance encounter with a school-led group of Year 7 Belconnen High School students at the reserve, we were recently contacted by teachers at the school with a view to enlisting fofpin members to provide advice and guidance on future visits to the Pinnacle. The first of these took place on November 30th, with a second scheduled for December 5th. These visits are part of the school's ecology studies program and offer the students a chance to learn about local ecosystems and the flora and fauna species in those habitats. I accompanied about 25 students and 3 teachers on the visit last Friday and found the students very friendly and occasionally inquisitive and interested. A few already showed considerable familiarity with the reserve and its plant and animal species. The visit went extremely well, I think, and hopefully will lay the foundations for an ongoing relationship with the school. My hope is that this relationship will serve to broaden community awareness of our work at the reserve and make more young people (and their families) aware of the values that the reserve has to offer.

8. Upcoming Events

This year's Christmas gatherings for ParkCarers include the AGM and Christmas Party for the Ginninderra Catchment Group, to be held at the Kippax Tennis Club on December 5th, the Mulligans Flat Christmas BBQ on December 14th at the Mulligans Flat reserve woolshed, and the PCS ParkCare and Landcare Christmas party, which will be out at Jerrabomberra Wetlands on December 20th (5.30-8.00 pm).

John Brannan
5/12/16

Attachment C. Treasurer's Report**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-Jul-2016 to 30-Nov-2016**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2016		\$752.69
Receipts		
Membership and donations	\$40.00	
Interest	0.03	
		<u>\$40.03</u>
Payments		
Fotpin domain name renewal		<u>\$34.95</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>\$5.08</u>
Closing balance on 30-Nov-2016		<u><u>\$757.77</u></u>
Reconciled to:		
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$569.82	
Petty Cash	\$187.95	
		<u>\$757.77</u>
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Total		<u><u>\$757.77</u></u>

Notes:

1. Funds to the value of \$241-78 (at 30 June 2016) are also held by The Ginninderra Catchment Group for general use by fotpin.
2. Ginninderra Catchment Authority holds and administers in fotpin's name 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).

Denise Hall
Treasurer
05 Dec 2016