



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 7 December 2015 7-30 pm

Minutes

Present: Vaughn Cox (Pax), John Brannan, Carolynne Parker, Denise Hall, Nathanael Coyne, Warren Bond, Keith Thomas.

1. **Apologies** – None

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting / Business Arising**

Moved: John. Seconded: Warren; Accepted (subject to confirmation that the actions arising from the June meeting were complete). **Confirmed.**

Actions from September meeting (see [Attachment A](#))

3. **Correspondence in and out / Business arising**

In the September to December period 61 pieces of correspondence were recorded.

The 14 outgoing consisted of responses and coordination on subjects including

- Updates to FOTPIN members
- Offset Management plan comments and requests for feedback
- Spring Events Program
- Planning meeting minutes
- Pipeline from Pinnacle to Molonglo
- FOTPIN contribution to Scribbly Gum

The 35 incoming correspondence included:

- ACT Landcare award winners
- Newsletters from various groups including GCG, Weeds Digest, Frogwatch, Conservation Council, Yellow Box Dispatch, SEE Change.
- Fence removal
- Pipeline from Pinnacle to Molonglo
- TAMS Volunteer ChemCert Course in February
- Jamison Joint ParkCare Display report from Jean
- Jasmine's tree change and new contacts
- GCG Meetings and Christmas Party
- Parkcare Landcare Christmas Party
- Clare's response to FOTPIN's request for feedback on draft OMP
- Molonglo Catchment Group AGM
- Pink tailed Worm-Lizard mapping
- Request for rabbit data

The 12 Committee correspondence included:

- Including BP in the reserve
- Draft Offset Management Plan discussion and feedback
- Bottom Pinnacle photos from Nat
- BBQ planning
- ParkCare coordinators' meeting feedback

All correspondence has been saved to Dropbox and most was circulated to members.

4. Convenor's Report

Pax reported on the following:

- Communication with Parks re the Offset – to be covered in Item 14
- Sunday morning BBQ. The committee decided that this event did not work, with few people attending, and alternatives were discussed. Denise and John were thanked for their work in setting it up.
- The weeding effort for the last 3 months was the largest of the last 6 years for the September to November period.
- ParkCare Christmas party.

Action: John to forward the invitation to members.

5. Coordinator's Report

John tabled the previously circulated Coordinator's Report (see [Attachment B](#)) which included:

- Spring Events Program.
- Other events
- Weeding
- Vegwatch Program (Biodiversity Monitoring)
- Future Planning.

The committee discussed ways of engaging with the public.

- Tie the BBQ to an event
- Advertise events using stand-alone signs on the main road
- Schedule an education/information event at the Hawker Shops to promote the Autumn walks program

Action:

- John to do a Christmas update note to members and to talk to Woolworths or Hawker Centre Management about setting up a stall
- Pax to organise a new banner

6. Treasurer's Report / Business arising

Denise tabled the previously circulated Treasurer's Report ([Attachment C](#)) and moved that it be accepted. Seconded: Carolynne. Accepted.

The committee noted that fundraising was not necessary at this point as nothing needed to be purchased.

7. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership stands at 77 (no change since the September meeting). The number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists increased to 107.

Noted

8. Weed Management

Warren reported that the effort spent on weed control in the last three months was 366 hours, the largest total for September to November of the last 6 years. Of the 366 hours 75% was spent on the Reserve. The main targets were St. John's Wort and Verbascum, followed by Saffron Thistles, Miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds and African Lovegrass.

The committee discussed a recommendation to reconsider the St John's Wort control strategy. Spraying was possibly started too early so it may be more effective to wait till they start to flower. Revisit the strategy next year.

Two species of Tragopogon (known variously as Goat's beard, Salsify or Oyster plant), have become prevalent across the Reserve this season and have attracted a growing amount of effort.

9. Website

Warren reported that there have been only minor changes to the website in the last 3 months (see [website updates](#)).

The number of unique visitors to the website in the last 3 months fell, defying the overall trend of a steady increase. Popular pages in this period were "Recent weeding", "About the Pinnacle", walking-related pages and the Plants and Birds pages.

10. Native Grass Regeneration Project

There is nothing to report on this item. Fotpin hasn't had any communication in this reporting period with the University of Canberra PhD student who is using the experiment sites for his research.

11. Revegetation

The committee discussed restoring grasslands in the Reserve. It was proposed that a long term project be developed, in consultation with experts. Three or four areas could be used on a trial basis to see what happens. Slashing and removing biomass is one strategy to be considered. The Committee will revisit this issue in winter. It was recognised that 2015 was a good year for native grasses.

12. Focal Point (Keith)

Keith circulated a paper on the proposed focal point to committee members on 9 October. He asked for comments to be provided by the end of January. He will review comments then the committee can decide whether to continue with the idea.

13. Information and outreach (John)

See notes on discussion in Item 5 above about a proposed stall at Hawker shops.

14. Biodiversity Offset in North Kama (Pax)

Pax expressed concern that the Offset Management Plan that has been submitted by PCS to the Commonwealth Government lacks integrity and needs to be investigated further. The Committee agreed that we should approach ACT Parks for further clarification on baseline assessment, performance indicators and budgetary issues. The Committee is aware that we have a window of opportunity to raise concerns and have those concerns addressed before the Plan is approved and locked in. Pax and John will continue to negotiate with Clare Henderson.

Action: Committee members to provide comments to Pax as soon as possible (within the next few days please) on Clare's response to our feedback on the OMP.

15. Mapping Weeding Effort for PCS using ArcGIS

At a recent ParkCare Meeting, groups were requested to supply mapping information on areas treated for weeds directly into the PCS ArcGIS-based weed mapping database. This reporting tool was designed for groups with low numbers of inputs each year and, based on testing by Warren, is very tedious for inputting the several hundred weeding events that fotpin carries out each year. Warren has asked Craig Wainright (ParkCare Support Officer) to organise a meeting with Steve Taylor to find a more efficient way to provide PCS with the data they desire.

16. Restoration Plan (Nat)

At this stage the separate working groups have not reported on their progress. Nat is waiting to hear back from David Tongway about whether he's still expecting to conduct Land Functional Analysis in the Pinnacle late Summer (Feb – March) as indicated last year.

17. Other Business

Rabbit control is happening (unexpectedly) in December and will concentrate on priority areas. Warren has provided PCS with waypoints for these from our database.

18. Proposed date for next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 7 March 2016** at Nat's home.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Attachment A.

Action arising from the meeting 7 September 2015

3. Correspondence in and out / Business arising

Action (Pax): Business arising from correspondence - We received draft outcomes from the meeting with Parks. Some items need clarification and feedback.

Completed

5. Coordinator's Report

- ParkCare Forum – Community Voices in the Reserve.

Action: Carolynne to report on the ParkCare forum. Consider actions that we can apply to the Pinnacle, especially woodland restoration.

In progress.

- Rabbits.

Action: John to send GPS locations to Warren.

Completed

13. Information and outreach (John)

Action: John to officially thank Elizabeth for her work with the notice board display

Completed

15. Biodiversity Offset in North Kama (Pax)

Action: Warren to set up a web page on the FOTPIN site.

Nothing to be posted at this stage.

16. Other Business

- Spring Walk

Action: John to email targeted audience to attend Warren's walk e.g. all other Canberra ParkCare coordinators, Parks staff, GCG, David Tongway, Mark Hallam.

Warren's walk was successful despite not attracting many other ParkCare coordinators

- Spring BBQ – The Committee discussed ways of advertising the proposed social event and the need for someone to organize the BBQ.

Action: Pax to ask Susan to design a template for a banner and a business size card with FOTPIN contact details.

In progress

Contact the Chronicle re a story which will also advertise the social event in November.

Reconsider for Autumn program

Attachment B. Item 5. Coordinator's Report

1. Spring Events Program

In the absence of the popular walks we've held in previous programs led by Wally and Tyrone Bell and Craig Wainwright, this season's program consisted of my usual bird walk and a reprise of Warren's walk looking at the impact of ParkCare at the Pinnacle. We also held a social BBQ to see whether an event of that sort would generate broader community interest. As a sort of afterthought, I also led a second bird walk later in the season for people who'd complained that they couldn't make it to my initial walk.

While the walks were reasonably well attended, the BBQ really didn't garner much custom at all, though there was a late flurry in the last hour. Some lessons to be learned there perhaps. It might've worked better if we'd held it earlier, to catch the morning joggers and dog-walkers, or later so that it coincided with lunch. Hard to say. My thanks to Warren for his excellent walk and to Mike & Denise and everyone else who helped to set up and run the BBQ. Particular thanks to Bob for providing the wonderful idiot-proof marquee!

2. Other events

Following on from last year's 25th anniversary ParkCare Forum, there was a similar but smaller event -- "Community Voices in Reserve Management" -- held at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Yarramundi Reach. There were several speakers from local Landcare/ParkCare groups, as well as speakers from government (ACT and NSW) and from non-government organizations like the Conservation Council and Greening Australia.

As with all such events, it was primarily an opportunity to exchange ideas and compare notes about what works and what doesn't when it comes to landscape restoration, and this forum was very successful on that front.

3. Weeding

I was impressed to read Warren's report that we've broken our previous record for weeding effort this season. I suspect this is down to an enormous effort by a very limited number of individuals, and all credit to those apparently tireless few!

The bird surveys that I carry out each month take me to pretty much every part of the reserve, and I can honestly say that I don't think I've ever seen the reserve looking so good. Particularly in the November surveys, the condition of the native grasses and wildflowers was amazing, and it's wonderful to see the way that some areas that were once full of St Johns Wort or Saffron Thistle are now a sea of native grasses, wildflowers and regenerating shrubs and trees. I was particularly pleased to see extensive swathes of flowering Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) in several parts of the reserve, something I don't recall ever seeing before, though this may be largely due to the reduced grazing pressure from roos following the most recent cull. But the overall results clearly show that if we can continue to keep competition from weeds in check, the native plants will claw their way back.

4. Vegwatch Program (Biodiversity Monitoring)

I again called on the expert plant ID skills of John Fitz Gerald for this year's surveys of the biodiversity monitoring plot in Kama paddock. Perhaps due to the prolonged dry spell, the plot was less swamped with Oat Grass this year, though it was still abundant in some patches. The plant species we found pretty much matched those found in previous years, but the new species found included Kangaroo Grass (yay!) and Serrated Tussock (boo!). Needless to say, the ST was promptly removed. A notable absentee this year was Briar Rose, no doubt thanks to Warren's sterling efforts.

5. Future Planning

Pax's push for us to take a more strategic approach to revegetation and the gradual depletion in weed abundance has me thinking that we should be turning our attention (and our energy) towards restoring native grassland species in certain areas of the reserve. This is still something to be discussed, but I think that well-timed slash-and-remove interventions in areas of exotic grasses that are adjacent to high conservation value areas might well have a beneficial effect in the long term. By preventing seed-set by introduced annual pasture grasses and slowly pushing down soil nutrient levels, we can create the preconditions for a resurgence of native species in those areas. I plan to do some more reading on this and talk to a few experts in the field, but I think maybe it's time to broaden our approach beyond simply eradicating weeds and look at how we can transform the setting in which the weeds appear.

John Brannan

Attachment C. Item 6. Treasurer's report**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-Jul-2015 to 30-Nov-2015**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2015			\$622.64
Receipts			
Membership and donations	\$100.00		
Interest	0.02		
		<u>\$100.02</u>	
Payments			
nil		<u>\$0.00</u>	
Surplus of receipts over payments			<u>\$100.02</u>
Closing balance on 31-Aug-2015			<u><u>\$722.66</u></u>
Reconciled to:			
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$529.76		
Petty Cash	\$192.90		
		<u>\$722.66</u>	
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00		
Total		<u><u>\$722.66</u></u>	

Notes:

1. Funds to the value of \$241-78 (at 30 June 2015) 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
02 December 2015