



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 7th May 2018 7-30 pm

Minutes

Present: John Brannan (Chair), Denise Hall, Keith Thomas.

Meeting opened at 1930. John warmly welcomed all in attendance. It was determined that there was a quorum of Committee members present.

1. **Apologies** – Warren Bond, Margo Hellyer, Alana Wilkes
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting / Business Arising**

It was moved by John and seconded by Denise, that the Minutes of the FOTPIN CC meeting held 5th March 2018 be accepted as a true and fair record of that meeting. **CARRIED**

Actions (see e-mailed Agenda):

010916/Item 13 Restoration Plan (John)

PCS is developing this.

Action: Closed.

051216/Item 10 Revegetation –

John is following up with John Fitzgerald with a view of planting the trees he has along the creek.

Action: John - Ongoing

051216/Item 11 (e) Ideas for consideration: -

- i. Social Media: Facebook page being updated and is looking good. A question of privacy was raised as the page contains photos of several people. A new sign-on sheet is to be developed by John to enable people to authorise the use of their images on Facebook and Web pages.

Action: John (sign on sheets) and **Margo and Denise** (updating Facebook page).

- ii. Member Survey: No action to date.

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

- iii. Student involvement: Nothing from Belconnen High School and John followed up with them. Point of contact has moved on and the meeting was unsure if this involvement will continue.

Action: Closed

060317/Item 11 (c) Interpretive signage: -

No action until the current landscape classification process is finalised.

Action: Keith to continue to liaise with whomever about signage.

060317/Item 14 (b) FOMP – Belconnen Hills Strategy

John still talking to Sarah (of FOMP) and whole question is waiting for decisions from PCS at present. No real progress from last meeting.

Action: John - ongoing

180917/Item 6 (b) Treasurer's Report

ACTION: Account signatories to be updated. **Warren** to arrange. - ongoing

180917/Item 11 Information and Outreach

ACTION: Publicity materials were updated for the Hawker PS fete on 25th March and used. **Closed.**

050319/Item 3 Correspondence

ACTION: FOTPIN will only advertise kangaroo counts and not be involved in planning them – **Done and action Closed**

050318/Item 4 (a) Convenor's report

ACTION: Margo to raise an invoice to cover design of posters and other promotional materials

ACTION: John to arrange for local printer to print and laminate posters. **Done and action closed**

050318/Item 4 (b) Convenor's report

ACTION: John to inform Landcare Australia of a possible activity in the Pinnacle Nature Reserve. GCG were contacted but nothing eventuated. **Action closed.**

050318/Item 6 Treasurer's report

ACTION: Margo to provide receipt to Andria Kannane for \$15. Not sure if this occurred – **Keith** to follow up with Margo

050318/Item 8 Weed Management

ACTION: John and Warren to encourage more spraying volunteers. This is still underway, but need more people with Chemcert qualifications - ongoing

050318/Item 10 (a) Social Media

ACTION: Denise to look at Facebook sites of other Parkcare Groups. **Done and action closed**

050318/Item 10 (b) Hawker Primary School fete

ACTION: John to pull out display material and see what can be distributed and whether anything needs to be updated. **Done and action closed.**

050318/Item 11 (a) ACT Government Inquiry

ACTION: John to send members of the CC the link circulated by Rosemary. This was done and **John** is to put a page together by mid-May, based on responses obtained.

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

The report was noted.

A question was raised if FOTPIN has an ASIC registration – it does not, and that item of correspondence is a scam.

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

John delivered his Report verbally and a written report is attached. In summary the following items were discussed:

- **Hawker Primary School fete** – went well and quite a lot of interest;
- **Walks** – all well attended. They were:
 - Greening Australia breakfast with the birds and tree walk;
 - Aboriginal heritage walk – oversubscribed and excellent – 26 to 27 people attended; and
 - John's bird walk – 22 people attended
- **Whitlam pipeline** – Pipeline contractor and their project team met with John and went over the pipeline route. They discussed revegetation, access, and signage matters. They will continue to liaise with FOTPIN during the project. Given that John will be away for the first few months of the actual construction, **Warren has been acting as first** point of contact for this project and will continue to do so.

5. Coordinator's Report (Warren)

There was little to report. Noted.

6. Treasurer's Report ([Attachment C](#))

Margo circulated a Treasurer's report via e-mail and this was noted. No decisions were required.

John raised the possibility that Len Taylor may require some funds to build a wheeled herbicide applicator for use in managing weeds on open spaces. It looks to be most innovative with a high degree of applicability for Parkcare activities across Canberra. The amount is yet to be determined and **John** will follow up on this. Any funding provided for this will be contingent on PCS agreeing to the use of Len's proposed applicator in the reserve. An email with details of the idea was sent to Phil Selmes in early April, but no response was received.

7. Membership Report

Warren submitted a written report that our current membership increased by 1 to 90, while the net number of other people who have requested to be on our email list increased to 134, bringing the combined total to 224. John indicated that he had another 10 names of people interested in being put on the contact list.

Action: John to inform Warren

8. Weed Management

Warren submitted a written report that the effort spent on weed control in the two months March to April was 197 hours, 76% more than last year because of the improved availability of regular weeders. St. John's Wort, Briars, Verbascum and Nightshade absorbed 68% of the effort. For more details see the [season's weeding effort](#).

9. Website

Warren report Warren submitted a written report that there were only minor changes and additions (as documented on the [website updates](#) page) in the last 3 months.

The number of unique visitors to the website per month doubled from the previous report to 224, a return to the long-term trend line. The most popular pages in this period were the "About the Pinnacle" and "Recent Weeding" pages followed by the ever popular "Walking home page", "Walking Tracks" and "What's On".

10. Information and outreach (All)

This focused on the webpages and Facebook (dealt with in items 2 and 9).

11. Other Business

- a. **AGM** – scheduled for 29th July at 2:00pm, Weetangera Primary School staff room. The following needs to be done:
 - i. Book venue – **Denise**
 - ii. Book a guest speaker – suggestion is to invite Phil Selmes' replacement or Alison McLeod to talk on the ParkCare Hub and related issues – **John** to contact Alison McLeod and delegate to Warren to finalise arrangements whilst John is away over June/July
 - iii. Call for nominations for Committee members – **John** to send out an e-mail outlining the AGM details and a call for nominations. Positions of Convenor, Secretary and Coordinator will be vacated at the AGM as per FOTPIN's management rules.
 - iv. Actions arising from the last AGM are to be listed and an Agenda is to be prepared by **Keith**
- b. **Assistance with recruiting replacement for Phillip Selmes** – refer e-mail from Kathy Eyles to Joachim Zeil and copied to a variety of people. The meeting considered that active involvement in recruiting key Parkcare personnel such as Phillip Selmes' replacement is very important. **John** to follow up.
- c. **Hazard Reduction burns** in Eastern and Weetangera paddocks were carried out on 17th and 18th of April. They appear to have been quite cool burns and went well; good preparation protected the larger trees and their roots. See the [Convenor's Report](#) for more information.

12. Proposed date and place for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29th July at the AGM venue (Weetangera Primary School) at 1:30pm.

Meeting closed at 2045.

Attachment A. Summary of Major Items of Correspondence between since March meeting**Major items of correspondence – emails only**

Date	Sender	Topic	Summary content
26 th Feb	John Brannan to Mary Gleeson	Heritage Grant progress activities	Provided a progress report and list of walks organised in the Pinnacle area
5 th Mar	John Brannan to Katherine Jenkins	2018 Kangaroo counts	Planning the next count
6 th Mar	Fiona Spier to John Brannan	Corporate Volunteer team – 22 nd March	Seeking a site for corporate volunteers to help with.
	John Brannan to Fiona Spier	Corporate Volunteer team – 22 nd March	Offering a site for this activity
	John Brannan to CC	Inquiry into the value of the natural environment	For input by Committee members
7 th Mar	John Brannan to Mary Gleeson	ACT Heritage Grants requirements	Poster layouts and details
8 th Mar	Mary Gleeson to John Brannan	ACT Heritage Grants requirements	Details as requested
9 th Mar to 13 th Mar to 30 th Mar	John Brannan to Katherine Jenkins, Melissa Snape, Claire Wimpenny;	2018 Kangaroo counts	List of volunteers and progress
13 th Mar	ASIC to FOTPIN Secretary	Renewal of Business name	For Committee – do we have a listing with ASIC?
23 rd Mar	Simon Stratford to John Brannan	Water Pipeline	Progress report
	John Brannan to Leigh Crocker	Water Pipeline	On site meeting with contractors
28 th Mar	Michelle Z to fotpin@fotpin.org.au	New volunteer	Interest in bushcare volunteering.
29 th Mar	John Brannan to Michelle Z	New volunteer	Follow up to enquiry
1 st Apr	Jenny Andrews to many	Fungi Forays in 2018	List of fungi forays by the Canberra Fungi Group
5 th Apr	Karissa Preuss to Landcare and Parkcare contacts	GCG General Meeting	Invitation and agenda to meeting
6 th Apr	Ann Milligan to various	GCG newsletter	Routine mailout
6 th Apr to 10 th Apr	A few to fotpin@fotpin.org.au	Aboriginal Heritage walk	Request for details
13 th Apr	Alison McLeod to many	Safety alert – European wasps	Warning of bad season for European wasps

	James Painting (Calibre Group) to webmaster@fotpin.org.au	William Hovell Drive Duplication Feasibility Study	Enquiring about the status of the North Kama Nature Reserve
	Warren Bind to James Painting	William Hovell Drive Duplication Feasibility Study	Response to request
7 th Mar	Len to John Brannan	Wick Weeders	Proposal that wick weeders would be effective on perennial grasses and the like
14 th Mar	John Brannan to Philip Selmes	Wick Weeders	Passing on Len's proposal for feedback
16 th Apr	John Brannan to membership	Hazard Reduction burn	Details of burns to be carried out in April.
	John Brannan to Dorinda Lillington	Hazard Reduction burn	Answers to questions and suggestions
18 th Apr	John Brannan to Katherine Jenkins	Pipeline and 'Roo count	Update of provision of a fence along the pipeline route and its impact on the proposed roo count.
19 th Apr	Richard Milczarek to webmaster	Bush walk request by Ginninderra Sea Scouts for 12 th May	Heads up on their plans to do a bush walk in the Pinnacle area
26 th Apr	Samantha Ning to John Brannan	Tree Walk walk	Proposal to issue a Tweet on the guided walk in the Pinnacle during tree week.
27 th Apr	Rebecca Palmer-Brodie (Regional Landcare Facilitator) to Community Programs	ACT Region Landcare gateway	Outlining recent updates and calling for input into the development of the Gateway, with more details of Landcare groups
	Ann Milligan to Landcare groups	GCG Coordinator	Call for news for Ginninderra and Yass River catchments
3 rd May	Alison McLeod to Community Programs	New ACT Region Landcare Gateway	Invitation to have our group listed on the new website.
	Kathy Eyles to Joachim Zeil and Parkcare coordinators	ParkCare Ranger support	Phillip Selmes absence and suggestions on having a ParkCare volunteer involved in recruiting a replacement.

Attachment B. Convenor's Report

Convenor's Report

May 2018

This certainly feels like it has been a very eventful few months since the last update. We've taken part in the Hawker Primary School fete, had our Aboriginal Heritage and Tree Week walks plus an additional "Breakfast with the Birds" walk with Greening Australia, had a hazard reduction burn at the reserve and finally managed to run our annual Kangaroo Count with PCS.

1. Hawker Primary School Fete -- Sunday March 25th

The organisers at the school made a courageous decision to go ahead with holding the fete outdoors despite a not very promising weather forecast. In the event, it turned out to be the right decision. The wind and rain held off and the fete was a great success. Our stall was well attended, and our volunteers did a terrific job of responding to people's inquiries about the reserve. Thanks to everyone who has helped out, particularly to Wayne for supplying the much-needed tent pegs when the wind threatened our display boards and they needed anchoring in place!

2. Autumn Walks

• Aboriginal Heritage Walk

**This event is supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.*

Ngunawal elder Wally Bell led a highly successful Aboriginal Heritage walk at the Pinnacle Nature Reserve on Sunday April 22nd. Almost thirty people turned up to hear Wally talk about the connection that his family and his people have to the land that we now call Canberra. He discussed Ngunawal cultural practices, passing around artefacts to illustrate his talk, and gave a welcome to country in language, something that I think made a deep impression on everyone present. His walk took us through woodland and grassland areas, giving Wally the opportunity to show us how his people have used some of the local plants, and finished with a stroll to the top of the Pinnacle, where he talked about his people's pathways through the landscape and touched on the different types of scar tree found in the area.

Despite it being a chilly and at times damp morning, everyone found the event extremely informative and rewarding. I for one am very much looking forward to the second of Wally's walks at the Pinnacle, currently scheduled for some time in October. Keep an eye on the Fotpin website for details closer to the time.

• COG Tree Week Bird Walk

On an absolutely perfect Canberra Autumn morning, 22 people turned up to enjoy a relaxing stroll around the Pinnacle, in the company of each other and some very cooperative birds, to commemorate Tree Week in the ACT. After a quiet start, we encountered a trio of Scarlet Robins in the southeast corner of the Forest block, and shortly after a large mixed feeding flock of thornbills, weebills, pardalotes and (briefly) a Speckled Warbler -- one of the locally threatened species that we regularly encounter at the reserve. Such flocks (MFFs, for short) are a regular feature of birdwatching in the colder months of the year in Canberra, and it was especially nice in this case to have some very clear views of Striated Thornbills -- normally a canopy species that is easily overlooked -- clustering around a tree hollow which probably contained a pool of water they were drinking from.

En route to the summit of the Pinnacle, we encountered another group of four Scarlet Robins, including two brilliantly coloured males engaged in their usual contest for the attention of the females. After a pause at the summit, we headed back towards our starting point, encountering another large MFF that included another of the altitudinal migrants, the Golden Whistler. Alas, this was an immature bird, so did not have the brilliant colours that make the older males of this species such a spectacular bird. A little later, we were fortunate to see a flock of 50-60 honeyeaters passing over, part of the seasonal migration that takes place around this time every year. This flock

consisted mostly of White-naped Honeyeaters, but with a large number of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters also. That brought the total for the morning's outing to 31 species in all, which is not a bad haul for this time of the year.

3. Kangaroo Count

Originally scheduled for March 18th, some extraordinarily bad weather meant that the count had to be hastily rescheduled for April 22nd. On the 22nd, around 16 people turned up on a blustery morning with hopes of getting this event knocked over. However, it was not to be. Melissa Snape from PCS decided that, given the windy conditions, we did not have sufficient numbers to run the count safely, either for ourselves or, more importantly, for the kangaroos. By this stage, we were running out of available Sundays, so it was decided to try for Saturday May 5th as our third and final attempt.

Mercifully, conditions on the day were perfect and we had ample volunteers to come along and cover the ground. The first sweep appeared to go well, with the tally coming to 440 Eastern Greys and half a dozen Red-necked Wallabies. After a delicious lunch of Turkish pide and dips furnished by PCS, we started the second count and were about two-thirds completed when a very large mob of something over a hundred roos all crossed the sweep line at one point, completely overwhelming the poor volunteers trying to keep track of the numbers. At that point, Mel decided that the margin of error was too great and decided to pull the plug on the rest of the count. Later, it transpired that there had been a similar episode during the morning sweep and Mel had been hoping for a better outcome in the afternoon.

Ultimately, the result from the morning sweep will be combined with a count made using another method that involves rangers walking a fixed transect and then extrapolating their observations across the reserve using mathematical modelling. Mel explained that the method was trialled at the Pinnacle (and several other reserves) a few years back and found to yield results that tallied well with sweep counts.

I took the opportunity to ask Mel why the Pinnacle was not included on the list of reserves to be closed this year, and she explained that this year they need to prioritise some of the other reserves around Canberra that are in particularly bad shape due to overgrazing.

4. Hazard Reduction Burn

As many of you will know, the ACT Government conducted a hazard reduction burn in the Weetangera and Eastern paddocks of the reserve on April 17-18. I have walked around the burned areas a few times since the burn, taking photos of the aftermath and observing the reactions of the bird life in the area. Only time will tell, but my impression is that the burn went very well. It appears to have been a successful "cool" burn that avoided inflicting too much damage on the larger trees, many of which were cordoned off from the burn, and which left some areas unburned, especially in Weetangera paddock. Eastern paddock was more extensively burned, but most of the canopy and larger trees again escaped unharmed.

Interestingly, birds are still plentiful in the burned areas. In fact, some bird species find recently burned areas especially attractive, as the insects they feed on no longer have as much grass and leaf litter in which to hide. I found the areas overrun with Magpies, White-winged Choughs and Australian Ravens, while the canopy was still full of the usual mix of resident and migrating species. Notably absent, however, were the Superb Fairy-wrens and Speckled Warblers, both of whom rely on long grasses and dense low-level foliage for habitat. Burned areas typically attract various robin species, notably Flame Robins, so keep an eye out next time you're in those areas! A similar burn was conducted in the early 2000s in the Forest block, and the burned area has recovered wonderfully, so I am optimistic that the long-term outcomes for the areas burned this time will also be good.

5. Whitlam Pipeline

In the period since my last update, the tender for the construction work on the Whitlam pipeline was awarded to Woden Contractors, the firm currently working on the construction of the new

John Gorton Drive section (replacing the old Coppins Crossing Road) south of William Hovell Drive. On April 17th, we had our first meeting with three representatives from Woden Contractors: Ben Helmers, Construction Manager, Jessica Shute, Project Manager for the pipeline construction, and Peter Middleton, a former MD at Woden Contractors who is helping Jessica as a consultant on this project. Warren, John Fitz Gerald and I met with the contractors at the reserve and walked part of the proposed construction corridor with them, discussing our concerns and priorities regarding the project.

We were generally pleased with the level of interest shown by Ben and Jess in our concerns, particularly with respect to weed control and reserve access during the construction phase, and rehabilitation in the post-construction phase. There was some discussion of collecting grass seed at the reserve for use in the rehabilitation, but we agreed that it was already too late to collect seed at this point and we would be better off waiting until next summer. We were also assured that a wash-down station will be set up at the Springvale Drive entrance to the reserve where vehicles coming from other projects will be hosed down to avoid introducing invasive weeds from outside the reserve.

The meeting was useful as a way of touching base with the construction contractors and establishing lines of communication. We are currently arranging another meeting to take place in the next couple of weeks.

6. AGM 2018

The Friends of the Pinnacle AGM for 2018 will be held at **2.00 PM on Sunday July 29th at Weetangera Primary School**, as usual. I'm sad to announce that our tireless Secretary Keith Thomas will be leaving us as of the AGM. We're very sorry to lose him and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work he's put in during his time as Secretary and as a member of the fotpin Coordinating Committee. Which means that the position of Secretary for 2018-19 is officially up for grabs! We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who'd be interested in stepping into Keith's shoes, or indeed in taking up any of the positions on the fotpin committee. In terms of organising the AGM itself, I have confirmed with the school that the room is available for that date, and will approach Alison McLeod, the PCS ParkCare Coordinator, to ask whether she would be available to attend as guest speaker and Returning Officer. Failing that, it would be a good opportunity for us to meet and hear from the new ParkCare Ranger who will be taking Phil Selmes' place.

Which brings me to the other piece of recent news, which is that Phil Selmes, who has served excellently as ParkCare Ranger since our old friend Craig Wainwright moved on, recently stepped down from his position to take some leave and will not be returning to that position. Phil brought an immense amount of experience and knowledge to the role of ParkCare Ranger and all of us who worked with him experienced first-hand his dedication and enthusiasm for the job. He was totally committed to the ParkCare/Landcare cause in the ACT and was a tireless advocate on behalf of all the local volunteer groups in Canberra. Like Craig before him, he will be sorely missed, and whoever succeeds Phil in that position has some very large boots to fill.

John Brannan
Fotpin Convenor
May 8th, 2018

Attachment C. Treasurer's Report**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-Jul-2017 to 07-May-2018**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2017		\$2,101.11
Receipts		
Membership and donations	\$265.00	
Interest	\$0.10	
	<u>\$265.10</u>	
Payments		
nil	\$0.00	
	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>\$265.10</u>
Closing balance on 07-May-2018		<u><u>\$2366.21</u></u>
Reconciled to:		
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$2149.96	
Petty Cash	\$216.25	
		<u>\$2,366.21</u>
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Total		<u><u>\$2,366.21</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).

Margo Hellyer
Treasurer
07 May 2018