



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 9 March 2015 7-30 pm

Minutes

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

- 1. Apologies - Elizabeth Smith**
- 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting / Business Arising**

Moved: Warren. Seconded: John; Accepted

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

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

In the December to March period approximately 90 pieces of correspondence have been recorded.

The 38 outgoing consisted of responses and coordination on subjects including:

- The Autumn Walks program
- Hawker School Fete 2015
- Updates to FOTPIN members
- Rabbit control
- Clean Up Australia
- Draft Offset plan

The 50 incoming correspondence included:

- Autumn planting
- Newsletters from various groups including GCG, Friends of Groups, Weeds Digest.
- Kangaroo counts
- Hazard Reduction burns
- Recording Hours
- National Landcare Survey
- Landcare Peak Body
- Canberra Nature Map
- Erosion control

There has been email traffic within the CC re:

- Chronicle article
- Hawker Fete
- Kangaroo Count
- Heritage Festival

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

4. Convenor's Report

Pax reported that a highlight for this period was the Clean Up Australia activity conducted at the Pinnacle. This was a new, positive and beneficial thing to do. The clean up is covered more comprehensively in the Coordinator's report.

He talked about offsets in North Kama. fotpin has not had feedback on our detailed response and we are not sure who has responsibility for delivery.

Action: Pax to follow up on interim offset plan for North Kama

5. Coordinator's Report

John tabled the Coordinator's report. ([Attachment B](#))

The report included:

- Weeds
- Hazard reduction burn
- Clean Up Australia Day event
- Autumn Walks Program.

Noted.

Action: John to scan the Parks 'Calendar of events' document which shows what Parks has planned for the next three months e.g. chemical certification sessions.

6. Treasurer's Report / Business arising

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

Warren recognised the generous donations from two new members.

7. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership stands at 75 (an increase of 2 since the December meeting).

The number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists is 93.

8. Weed Management

Warren reported that the last three months (December to February) have seen us notch up 365 hours of effort. This is 13% less than last year and the lowest since our first recorded season (2010-11). This is attributed largely to the unavailability of some key weeders. Despite the lower effort numbers, we seem to be providing adequate weed control thanks to the reduced prevalence of some weed types.

The [effort report for the season to date](#) may be found on our website.

9. Website

Warren reported that there had been no major changes to the website in the last 3 months.

The number of unique visitors to the website in each 3 month period continues to increase steadily. Popular pages in this period were "Recent weeding", "About the Pinnacle" and the "Walking tracks map".

Noted.

10. Native Grass Regeneration Project

The project hasn't been completed as the results are not back. We need to talk to Don again.

Action: Pax to arrange another meeting with Don.

11. Revegetation

John reported that the next stage of the revegetation program will take place on Sunday 26 April 2015 (tentative date). Plantings will be along both sides of the Valley Track, using ground covers and shrubs to link trees and add complexity to the existing woodlands. Extra watering will be needed so the water cube will need to be emptied (water adjacent plants) then moved to the new site.

Action: John to email Craig to confirm who will dig the holes. John to organise a team to empty the cube.

12. Focal Point

Keith reported that this project is in train.

13. Information and outreach

The newsletter is being prepared.

The Committee discussed developing a visual tool (for publication on our web site) that shows FOTPIN's role in the governance of the Pinnacle. It will demonstrate our relationship with Government and show how we work with and depend on organisations like the Catchment Groups.

Action: Pax and Denise to prepare a draft

14. Biodiversity Offset in North Kama

Discussed in Convenor's report.

15. Other Business

- **Hawker School Fete**

Upgrade materials to use for the display to tell a story – use images to show how the Pinnacle has changed.

- **Kangaroo count**

Action: Pax to call for volunteers. Suggested date 3 May 2015.

- **Autumn planting**

Dealt with in Coordinator's report

- **Bushfire management**

John explained that a new Internet site has been developed which allows the public to see which areas are listed to be burnt. At this stage the Pinnacle burn is listed but no date has been set. The Burn Plan linked to the site shows the extent of the burn (Forest, Hawker and part of Central). The dates are an indication only as it is important to consider various factors that can change quickly. It may be too wet, too dry or too windy to burn on the planned day.

- **Autumn walk program**

Dealt with in Coordinator's Report. John is still waiting to hear back from Tyrone re the Indigenous walk.

The Committee discussed the possibility of conducting a walk to review the state of the Pinnacle and see where and what needs to be done to rejuvenate certain areas.

Participants in the walk could be encouraged to participate in developing a strategy to rejuvenate areas in the Pinnacle under stress or to be part of its implementation.

16. Proposed date for next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm on 15 June 2015** at Pax's home.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Attachment A.

Actions arising from the meeting of 08 December 2014

- a. **Item 8:** Membership – how do we engage with new members and encourage people to have ownership.

The committee discussed the issue that FOTPIN has a membership of nearly 200 people however only has about 12 active members.

It was suggested that we target recruitment at those who may be able to contribute on a long term basis. Retired people may have the time and interest to be involved.

People are needed for plantings, kangaroo counts and as participants in the walks program.

However maintenance work is essential. 70% of the weeding is done by 2 people. The weeding program is at risk unless new people are recruited and trained. The Committee recognises that members engaged in weeding activities can be exposed to risk so this recruitment must be focused and targeted.

Action: John to send an email to all members focusing on how they can learn about and enjoy the Reserve. Before and after photos showing the difference systematic effort makes could be included. Members will be encouraged to identify priorities and indicate their interests.

- b. **Item 11:** Native Grass Project – Pending

Need to negotiate with Parks to decide if the project will continue or if the plots can be used for another purpose.

Action: Pax and John to meet with Don to discuss.

- c. **Item 14:** John to expand his Coordinator's report then send out to members as an update (Completed) Continue to do this on a regular basis.

- d. **Item 18:** Hawker Fete

A roster will be drawn up. The display will be similar to last year's

17. Other Business

- **Pinnacle Clean up**

Action: Follow up in the next 3 month period.

Completed. The clean up recognised as a success.

Attachment B. Item 5. Coordinator's Report

Well, it's been an odd Summer, and a busy one, especially for our weeding teams. The regular rainfall through December and January, followed by a very dry but relatively mild February kept our favourite weeds thriving long past their due date. The St Johns Wort had an extended season, requiring several passes over most areas, while the rain triggered an explosion of verbascum germinations. Interestingly, other reserves are complaining of rampant Saffron Thistle outbreaks, whereas we've had a fairly quiet year on that front. This suggests to me that our Herculean efforts in previous years have eased the ongoing burden of Saffron Thistle control on a long-term basis. At least, I'd like to think that was the case; only time will tell. The battle against African Lovegrass continues, with significantly more help from the ACT Government this year -- it seems that they're finally getting the message, albeit many years too late. Their spraying around the perimeter of the reserve has been very welcome, though the patchy coverage provided by the contractors still required extensive follow-up by our own sprayers.

The focus at a couple of external events this Summer has been on hazard-reduction burns. The PCS Coordinators' meeting heralded a talk by Brian Levine, head of the FMU based at the PCS Stromlo depot, addressing the concerns of parkcarers around the burns conducted in the urban and peri-urban reserves. The meeting is also an opportunity for the various ParkCare and Landcare group coordinators to talk about more immediate concerns and share their insights and apprehensions with the other groups. Notably, Bernie Bugden from the Molonglo Catchment Group announced that small grants (up to \$5,000) are now available for ParkCare/Landcare groups. MCG is also sponsoring one team from the Green Army, who will be available to local groups for specific projects. One team consists of ten 17-25-year-olds and includes a supervisor, which means that they can (in theory) be directed to a task and then left to it. They will also be Chemcerted, which broadens the potential uses for the group.

Waltraud Pix from Friends of Mount Majura voiced her mounting despair at ever being able to restore the vegetation communities in her reserve as long as the grazing pressure from roos remains. Since the start of the Majura Parkway construction, the local roos are confined to the reserve, and the proximity of housing apparently makes culling infeasible, so roo numbers are continuing to grow to alarming levels.

Brian Levine's briefing on prescribed burns gave us an overview of how the various levels of government formulate and implement hazard-reduction burns. In short, a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, which is revised every 5 years, gives rise to a Regional Management Plan (also revised every 5 years), and this then forms the basis for the annual Bushfire Operation Plans, which more specifically dictate what gets burned, how and when.

Each year, 30-50 burns are planned, mostly in urban reserves, and each burn has its own "Burn Plan". These are available on the TAMS website at http://www.tams.act.gov.au/parks-recreation/bushfire_management.

This is the site to watch for updates on when our own burn might happen.

Individual burns are implemented by an "Incident Management Team", which includes a "Values Officer" whose job it is to protect the ecological values of the burn site. Usually the Values Officer will be either Michael Mulvaney or one of his colleagues from the TAMS Conservation, Planning and Research office.

Brian also went into the extensive (and evolving) science behind fuel hazard assessment and fire management, and spoke of his commitment to open communication, noting that the website is being improved to make it more accessible to the public, including an RSS feed for information on Burn Plans and the on-ground assessments carried out by Brian and his colleagues in sites where burns are scheduled.

Ultimately, the outcomes of any burn depend to some extent on the specific conditions on the day and the competence of the individual on the Incident Management Team. We just have to hope that conditions are as good as they can be when our turn comes around.

Last weekend fotpin held its first ever "Clean Up Australia Day" event. We decided to restrict our outreach to email notices to the membership, and the 12 people who turned up on a lovely Sunday morning did an amazing amount of rubbish clearing. I think we're all aware that the Pinnacle is largely free of significant amounts of litter. There are a few hotspots around the main entrances on Dungowan St and Springvale Drive, but generally it's in pretty good shape. So for us, the event was an opportunity to clear out some of the larger bits of rubbish that have been cluttering the reserve for years, including tires, barbed and fencing wire, old sheets of tin and even some old bits of farm machinery. We filled two trailers and the back of Pax's Subi with what we collected, and the reserve will never be the same again!

Our walks program for this Autumn is still taking shape. My bird walk is locked in for April 19th, but I'm still waiting to hear from Wally and Tyronne Bell on whether they can lead another aboriginal heritage walk this season. The other major upcoming event is the next planting event, which is currently planned for April 26th. I'm only looking at planting around 120 plants, so it will be a fairly small (but significant!) planting on either side of Valley track, so will straddle the Central and Dam paddocks. The aim, as with the Kama paddock planting last year, is to complement the existing vegetation (mostly mixed eucalypts planted in the 1980s) by providing native groundcover and shrublayer species.

John Brannan

Attachment C. Item 6. Treasurer's report**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-Jul-2014 to 01-Mar-2015**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2014			\$517.60
Receipts			
Membership and donations	\$160.00		
Interest	0.02		
		<u>\$160.02</u>	
Payments			
fotpin domain name renewal	\$30.00		
MCG membership	\$25.00		
		<u>\$55.00</u>	
Surplus of receipts over payments			<u>\$105.02</u>
Closing balance on 30-Jun-2014			<u><u>\$622.62</u></u>
Reconciled to:			
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$439.72		
Petty Cash	\$182.90		
		<u>\$622.62</u>	
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00		
Total		<u><u>\$622.62</u></u>	

Notes:

1. Funds to the value of \$241-78 (at 30 June 2014) 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).

Warren Bond
Treasurer
03 March 2015