

Fotpin Coordinating Committee Meeting

10 December 2012

Minutes

Present: Warren Bond, John Brannan, Heather Burness, Pax, Elizabeth Smith

1. Apologies – Don Driscoll

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted, moved Heather, seconded, Elizabeth.

3. Outstanding actions from previous meetings: ([Attachment A](#))

4. Correspondence – (Elizabeth)

Noted.

5. Convenor's Report (John)

John's extensive report ([Attachment B](#)) was noted.

6. Coordinator's Report (Pax)

Pax reported that the period since the last meeting has been dominated by grass project surveys, weed control, transporting woody material to Bottom Pinnacle (to cover the coir logs). These activities are reported on separately in the meeting.

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

Accepted.

Payment to Warren Bond of \$49 for renewal of fotpin domain name.

Moved Heather, Seconded Elizabeth. Approved.

8. Membership Report (Warren)

Warren reported that current membership stands at 63, an increase of 6 since the September meeting. We welcome Gerard Newman, Carolynne and Bob Parker, Norma Vernon, Irene Kiely and Ray Lukunic to our membership.

The number of other people on our email lists has also increased by 5, to a total of 55.

9. International Student Volunteers (ISV): Community led conservation in the ACT (proposal by Mat Wolnicki previously circulated)

Mat's documents including proposed contract had been circulated and were discussed.

ACTION: Mark B to examine the documents including contract from a legal and financial, liability and insurance perspective and advise CC as soon as possible.

There are questions to be resolved about supervision; possible MOU with GCG if the proposal goes ahead; and issues relating to planning, agreement and rostering.

CC noted that Mat would be spending considerable personal time overseeing the ISV activities and there would also be a dedicated mentor from ISV.

10. Weed Management (Warren)

Warren presented a report ([Attachment D](#)) summarising the nature of the weeding season so far this year. He highlighted the major weeds posing a threat this season, and how the weeding effort has been expended.

11. Native Grass Regeneration Project (Don)

- a. The issue of promoting this project through schools in the Belconnen area had been discussed out of session.
- b. A list of schools in North Canberra had been developed by Malcolm Fyfe who was willing to prepare the posting etc, subject to CC's agreement on schools to be targeted. It was agreed that all the schools on the list should receive brochures. Envelopes should be addressed by hand.
- c. It had become urgent to arrange funding through Don's grant to cover the postage in order to meet the end of school term deadline. **ACTION: Don**

12. Biodiversity Monitoring Project (John)

John and Elizabeth had attended a workshop at Stromlo about the biodiversity monitoring project, where friends of the various reserves were introduced to the new coordinator and also spoke about their experiences and success in their specific projects. Individual times for the next follow-up on monitoring would be arranged shortly. Fotpin seems to be doing well with its monitoring which is rather more wide-ranging than some other projects

13. Revegetation Strategy (John)

Future directions and goals

- a. Fotpin needs a broad revegetation strategy for Top Pinnacle, Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama; to include seed gathering and collection etc. (Note forthcoming propagation workshop at Greening Australia).
- b. **ACTION John B** to draft paper to promote to members re collection and propagation and a calendar for what might be collected when. Note that permission for gather seeds is required from PCS. fotpin should work with GA on this issue.

14. Soil and Water Erosion (includes Assessment Program and works) (Pax)

Pax reported that since the last meeting, cut Cootamundra Wattle has been moved to the Bottom Pinnacle ready for covering the coir logs and protecting grass growing adjacent to the logs (this is encouraged as a means of enhancing biomass accumulation, infiltration and nutrient/water retention/cycling). David Tongway and Scott Wilkinson have assessed additional treated drainage lines, to be mapped and uploaded in due course.

15. Rabbit control (Pax)

Pax reported that despite a rabbit fumigation program in August a large number of warrens have reopened, as well as new warrens formed. Committee expressed concern that fotpin data was inconsistently used for control purposes, and we encourage Parks to use fotpin data for future activities.

16. Kangaroos (Pax)

Pax reported there have been no developments on kangaroo management since the 19 August survey. Survey details can be found on the website.

17. Focal Point (HB)

Heather had circulated a detailed report ([Attachment E](#)). Discussed and noted.

ACTION: Heather to draft a letter for Convener's signature to Minister Rattenbury seeking action on the contamination assessment.

18. Belconnen Hills Woodlands Strategy (John)

John advised that the Woodland Strategy plantings are on hold as it is not planting season. It is likely to occur in mid-to late April, depending on rain. *An apology was received* for not consulting over the plantings in North Kama – this was a 'rush job'. They will consult re autumn plantings.

CC noted there is a continuing issue about grazing licences in Lower Kama.

19. Reviewing and allocating CC responsibilities (Pax)

as shown in the table on the governance page of the fotpin website www.fotpin.org.au/governance.html
Committee reviewed and reallocated responsibilities, with outcomes to be reflected in the website governance page ASAP.

20. Information, outreach and website (Heather)

Heather provided a detailed report ([Attachment F](#)).

a *Newsletter, flyers, brochure* (and the artwork required)

As regards the brochure, GCG has funds available for a brochure and is keen to disburse funds as soon as possible.

The purpose of the brochure would be to stimulate interest in The Pinnacle and to recruit new members. It was decided to print 3,000 in DL size, 100gsm. Given the numbers printed and the longevity of the publication, the brochure should be fairly generic, not referring to specific events.

ACTION John B to confirm with GCG as soon as possible, re funding, as a general proposal.

ACTION John B and Elizabeth to prepare the text, **John B** to call for photos, **Beth** to design, **Heather** to proof.

It was noted that Beth had kindly agreed to help with the design and that John B now has Sue's artwork.

b *Guided Walks*

Rosemary had guided two successful walks in Spring.

Pax's walk was cancelled due to insufficient numbers (4).

John B's U3A walk had attracted 10 people.

Heather's *Drawn from Nature* walk attracted 9 children and 10 accompanying adults, resulting in very positive feedback.

c *School fetes, shopping centre displays*

None were attended during this period due to fotpins' other commitments.

d *Noticeboard*

Heather is updating the noticeboard, removing weathered photos, and collating photos of fotpin activities for printing (A4 format) for display as *What have we been up to*.

ACTION: Heather to email Warren re photos. **Anyone** who has photos please send to Heather.

e *Website update/priorities* (Warren)

Warren reported that there have been no major changes since the last meeting, but incremental updates.

The number of unique visits in the three months September to November was 656 (compared with 505 in these months in 2011).

f *Other*

i) *Sausage Sizzle*;

The sausage sizzle had proved very successful with many attending as a result of word of mouth referral. It was hard to assess the effectiveness of the brochure. About 50-60 people attended, with several expressing interest in joining, or following up the website and with one or two joining on the day. Environmental brochures were well received. Several fotpins turned up to help with setting up, cooking and talking to people about the Pinnacle. Special thanks to Susan, Lesley, John F, Bob H and Gilbert.

ii) *'Flag' for fotpin activities.*

John, Elizabeth and Pax had informally talked about the possibility of a banner or 'flag' to identify fotpin when holding events such as walks, sausage sizzles etc. Elizabeth had undertaken some research on options.

Teardrop banners, similar to that used at the Greening Australia planting, and seen outside many businesses, could cost up to \$200 depending on size and artwork.

A-frames (aka sandwich boards) would be similar in price for the large size (600mm x 850mm) including frame, artwork and two inserts. An advantage is that these could be designed with permanent fotpin identification (eg name, email address etc) at top and bottom, with a space for fotpin produced customised A3 inserts to be attached in the centre for specific events.

It was noted that funding could be available from GCG for this.

ACTION John to speak with Kelly Behrens (GCG) about funding.

ACTION: Elizabeth to write up the options.

21. Events

N/A

22. Briefing on Secretariat duties (Heather/Elizabeth)

Discussed – summary to next meeting in light of further comments.

23. Other Business

24. Date of next meeting,

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 4 March at 7.30pm, to be held at Pax's.

Outstanding actions from previous meetings for consideration.**3 d) Outstanding actions from earlier meeting 9 July 2012 referred to incoming CC.****3 d i) OH&S Guidelines; ACTION CC.**

Done: Heather had previously advised that there have been changes to the ACT OH&S Act and regulations, which is now termed Workplace Health and Safety (WHS). This means that every person involved in activities must comply with reasonable requests for safety precautions. Every person, volunteers and workers, are personally responsible for complying with these reasonable requests. Fotpin is already covered by insurance by P&CS as that is our pathway of responsibility. Fotpin is not required to take any further action, other than to comply with P&CS volunteer policy.

v) Seed collection and propagations etc **John** advised that this continues in progress . Continuing progress to be reported by John B

Outstanding actions from last meeting 3 September 2012.**12 Revegetation Strategy (JB)**

b) John B is awaiting a reply from Craig at P&CS about this issue. John has provided a map and species list re further plantings.

ABS has expressed interest in taking part in a planting day in collaboration with fotpin. .ABS involvement depends on response from P&CS, and possibly GA. .

John B to follow up with Craig and respond to ABS after response from P&CS .

13. Soil and Water Erosion (includes Assessment Program and works) (Pax):

b) ACTION: **Pax** to assess status of coir logs, to plan brush moving and installation. **Done, but Pax to review and map.**

17 ACT Bushfire Management Plan (Presentation 16 Aug 2012) (JB)

a. **Warren and Pax** to follow up with Will Osbourne and Kelly Behrens (GCG) **Done:** Kelly has been advised re Will Osbourne.

b. Nesting sites for endangered birds and forb regeneration could be provided to PC&S for inclusion in the burn plan. ACTION: **JB**

i. Following discussion, **John** will follow-up, discuss with Kelly and advise P&CS about key elements of strategic and significant environmental aspects (eg habitat, nesting sites, etc.).

18 Belconnen Hills Woodlands Strategy (JB)

a ACTION: **John B** to email Minister Corbell thanking him for taking part in the planting day on 01-09-12, and for his support for the Woodland Strategy. **Done**

20. International Student Volunteers (ISV): Community led conservation in the ACT (proposal by Mat Wolnicki) [Refer Drop Box 2012-09-03 20120720 ISV project overview – Fotpin Proposal]]

a. viii ACTION: **Mat** will confirm what if any contractual obligations are involved for fotpin, and will provide a half page summary of the proposed project to circulate to fotpin members and others for expressions of interest in participation.

b. v) ACTION: **Elizabeth/ John** to discuss engagement through MCG Biomonitoring group whether Sarah Sharp or other could be involved (in setting up a Biomonitoring plot.. .

c : ISV will need an expression of interest as soon as possible, and a firm proposal by November or earlier if possible. ACTION: **CC** to discuss and decide in principle asap.

d. ACTIONS: **John** to

i. check interest with other Park Care groups, and Ginninderra Catchment Group (query, contact Molonglo Catchment Group?), Belconnen Hills Groups in particular, Greening Australia

ii. confirm agreement with P&CS (Craig Wainwright).

20 Reviewing and allocating CC responsibilities as shown in the table on the governance page of the fotpin website (Pax) Refer www.fotpin.org.au.au/governance.html

b. **ACTION: CC** To consider and confirm out of session.

21 Information, outreach and website (HB)

Convener's update as soon as possible, before Newsletter. **ACTION: John**

v *Noticeboard*

a. **Action. CC** to further consider proposal for a noticeboard at Dungowan St entrance and at the Boundary of Eastern and Weetangera Paddocks.

22 Briefing on Secretariat duties (HB/ES)

ACTION: CC to provide advice on Secretary's duties out of session.

Item 5 Convenor's Report.*September to December 2012*

It's been a pretty busy few months for your humble Convenor, what with Spring Walks, weed identification workshops, seed propagation workshops, and AGMs for GCG and GA, not to mention bird surveys, weed spraying and a second round of biodiversity monitoring surveys.

As a group, we've achieved a great deal since September, including moving the erosion control works along in the Bottom Pinnacle, running a series of successful community events (and assisting in others), spraying an impressive amount of weeds of all types, running the next round of plant surveys for Don's project, and making some serious inroads into weed control in the Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama.

In my own areas of interest, attending a seed propagation workshop run by GA put the last piece of the puzzle into place, so I now feel that I have at least a rudimentary grasp of the whole revegetation process, from seed collection and storage through to propagation, site selection/preparation and planting. My efforts to engineer a planting event in the Top Pinnacle are moving forward only slowly, largely due to staffing issues at PCS (or PACS as they now prefer to be called, apparently). But GA are very supportive and encouraging, which gives me hope that it will eventually happen.

Equally tortuous is my progress towards developing a broader revegetation program for the reserve – something we badly need. My vision for this is that it should include a self-sustaining cycle of seed collection, propagation and planting, with spin-offs that will support community events and our fellow ACT Parkcare groups by providing surplus seedlings. More difficult is formulating a broader vision for plantings both in the reserve and in the Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama. More difficult because it requires approvals from PCS and the FMU/RFS – not something achieved quickly or easily.

In the meantime, the Woodland Restoration Project is on hold for the Summer following the last plantings for the season in October, which added some shrubs and groundcover among treed areas in North Kama. The plantings will resume in Autumn and fotpin will have a role to play.

This weeding season has seen us make some serious inroads into the Bottom Pinnacle, and minor incursions into North Kama thanks to communications established with the grazier who runs the cattle in NK. This work is useful and important if we are going to prevent weeds coming back into the Top Pinnacle and negating our efforts there. At the same time, we've spent a lot of time and effort and used a lot of chemical tackling weeds such as thistles, St Johns Wort, verbascum, Paterson's Curse and briar rose in the Top Pinnacle. The successes we've achieved there are largely built on our hard work in past years. The encouraging aspect of this is the lessening of the workload with each passing year, and the resurgence of native species (well, sometimes) in areas we've cleared.

Projects to look forward to include producing our own full-colour brochure with funding from GCG, an Autumn Walks program, the ISV project and, best of all, taking the brushcutters to the saffron thistle in the Bottom Pinnacle! Bring it on!!

John Brannan

Dec 2012

Item 7 Treasurer's Report

**Friends of The Pinnacle
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the period 01-September-2012 to 30-November-2012**

Opening balance on 01-September-2012	\$397.08
Receipts	
Donations	40.00
Payments	
Closing balance on 30-November-2012	\$437.08
Reconciled to:	
CPS Account 03356841 at 30 November	278.48
Plus Petty Cash	158.60
Total	\$437.08

Heather Burness
Treasurer
Fotpin Committee
2012

Item 10. Weed management

It has been a busy 3 months for weed management, particularly by the sprayers. What looked like being a bad year for weeds when the Paterson's curse was virulent in late winter has been tempered by comparatively low rainfall and higher temperatures which has introduced early water stress across large parts of the Reserve and lessened the intensity and longevity of individual weed seasons.

Another feature of the weeding season so far is that in general weed infestations in the Reserve itself seem to be less intensive than in previous years, so a greater proportion of effort has been devoted to the neighbouring Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama paddocks. The reason for the latter is two-fold: firstly to continue the improvement and conservation efforts in Bottom Pinnacle, and secondly to minimise incursion of weeds into the reserve from those directions. Control in North Kama has been somewhat restricted by the stock grazing there and the need to obey spray withholding periods. We were grateful for the liaison between Craig Wainwright and the grazier which resulted in two weekends in September when stock would be absent for the required time allowing spraying of Paterson's curse and Horehound. Only the selective herbicides have withholding periods, so fortunately it has been possible to continue careful spraying of those weeds (eg African lovegrass) that are best treated with glyphosate. More general use of glyphosate on other weed is possible, but not recommended because of the collateral damage.

As expected, September was dominated by spraying Paterson's curse. In October we switched to spear thistles, while November has been St. John's Wort month. Verbascum spraying also started in October and continued through November.

Verbascum Thapsus is not very much in evidence this year, a result of a combination of the intensive spraying of it last season and the dry weather this season limiting germination. Verbascum virgatum, however, is having a good season, perhaps because it grows and matures earlier. Verbascum spraying has concentrated on that.

Briars are also having another good year, no doubt still benefiting from germination during the favourable season last year, and spraying has just commenced. Similarly Saffron thistles are more prevalent than last year (though much less than in 2010). Control on the reserve so far has been by scything and grubbing. Some scything and grubbing has also been carried out in Bottom Pinnacle, and, because the densest stands of thistles are there, slashing with brushcutters is expected to start next week.

Patrolling of the Reserve by the grubbing teams has been less than last year and, apart from the Forest, has also been dominated by effort outside the Reserve itself, especially in Bottom Pinnacle.

Full details of the weeding effort to date this year should be available on the website later this week.

Warren Bond
3 Dec 2012

Item 17 Focal Point

We are still waiting on the result of the contaminated site assessment. We have been told that it will be to us by Christmas.

After this we will need to know what amelioration there will be of the site and what effect that will have on our plans, for example, will we have access to the site and/or how much of the site we will be able to use.

If the contamination is confined to the sheep wash area then fencing is likely to be the method used. If, however, the buildings are found to be contaminated then I am not sure what happens.

I am envisaging that we will need to lobby for funding for this project both in the private and not for profit sector and government.

It would be damaging to our cause to lobby for funding too early as funding bodies are less likely to be positive if a contaminated site is involved especially if it is unresolved in the amelioration process.

In the new year, if the current timing is still going to plan, we could begin to work on our plans again as we will then know what buildings and areas may be used.

Due to my limited free time on weekends I have not organized a visit to Mulligans woolshed.

Heather Burness

Dec 2012

Information and outreach

Brochure

Discussion cues:

We have access to funding for the printing of a brochure. It would be best to strategize what we want.

Questions to answer:

- What do we want the brochure to do?
- Who do we want it to speak to?
- Who do we want it to reach?
- How are we going to get it there?

What it looks like is then shaped by the answers to the above questions.

We have had two previous brochures that have been printed in colour which I will bring to the meeting.

- Do we want to continue with the format of those?
- Do we have access to the design files that Sue has previously used for these?

I previously presented to Committee examples of various formats as examples.

- Who will be doing what for this project?
- Text
- Photographs
- Design file
- Proofing

Time frame?

My advice would be to keep it as general as possible in the information within the text so the brochure may be used for a long time.

Letterbox drop

Sue designed a great little flyer for advertising the BBQ day which was delivered to about 1000 homes in Weetangera and Hawker. Thanks to letterbox droppers in both suburbs.

Guided Walks

The Spring program is now complete and I am waiting for final numbers.

From the two booked walks the *Drawn from Nature* walk went ahead with sufficient numbers; nine children plus 10 adults as minders came along. I have had very positive feedback concerning this walk. We might want to think about doing more creative activities at the reserve both for children and adults in the future. Needless to say the focal point would be a great venue for this.

School fetes

None attended during this period. Weetangera School fete was during this last period

Noticeboard

The Spring program was advertised on the noticeboard and the photos were tidied with particularly weathered ones taken away. I am now collating photos of our activities for printing as A4 format to place on the noticeboard under the title *What we have been up to*. If you have any photos of the activities that you have been involved in could you please send them to me for possible inclusion?

Heather Burness
Dec 2012