

Fotpin Coordinating Committee, Meeting #10
7.30pm, 13 February 2012

Minutes

Attended: Heather Burness, John Brannan, Warren Bond (Treasurer), Pax (Convenor)

1. Apologies: Don Driscoll

2. Minutes of Meeting #9, 12 December 2011: Draft minutes amended by Heather Burness. Moved Heather; seconded Pax; accepted unanimously.

Actions arising from Meeting #9 [see [Actions arising from last meeting](#), attached to this document]:

- to be done (1), (2), (5) and (7)
- completed (3), (4) and (6)

3. Correspondence: placed by Pax in Committee's dropbox for perusal. Key items:

- support from Hawker Primary School for the focal point;
- invitation to the Weed Forum 9 March 2012;
- slow progress with the focal point contaminated site assessment;
- Andy Westcott has left Molonglo Catchment Group. Recruitment underway for Coordinators position;
- the Convenor's agenda item at the recent Parkcare Coordinators meeting.

Moved Pax, seconded John.

4. Convenor's Report: The Convenor spoke to the following items:

- Parkcare coordinators meeting and Convenor's agenda item regarding valuing parkcare effort (which was well received by Coordinators present); and
- GCG AGM (Convenor's position remains vacant, interim Convenor Peter Davey).

5. Treasurer's Report

[Attached](#). There has been no change to income, expenditure or balance since the last meeting. Moved Treasurer, seconded Heather; accepted unanimously.

6. Membership Report

Warren reported that there have been no new members since last meeting. One new addition to email list (by request from website).

7. Weed Management

Warren reported that December and January were very good months in terms of effort – 171 and 222 hours, respectively (compared with 111 and 202 for last year, and the target of 161 each month)

Total for the weeding year to date (to today) is now 893 hours (compared with 625 last year, and our target of 928).

The weeding scenario has continued to be quite different from last year. Effort last year in December and January was predominantly on Saffron thistles (56% of time) while this year the greatest proportion of time has been spent on Verbascum (37%). St John's Wort received about the same degree of attention (17% and 21%, respectively). In 2010-11, the largest contributors to the

remainder were Verbascum (6%) and Spear Thistles (5%) while in 2011-12 there was time devoted to a wider range of weeds: Spear thistles (12%), African Lovegrass (9%), Briars (9%) and Fleabane (7%).

A greater proportion of effort was able to be spent on the more time efficient spraying this season as well (57% compared with 19%), whereas last season 57% of effort was in slashing and scything.

A summary of the effort for the season (to the end of January) is expected to go on the website this week.

8. Native Grass Regeneration Project

Heather moved that Don report on progress with the grass project, for attachment to these Minutes; seconded John; accepted unanimously.

9. Biodiversity Monitoring Project

Molonglo Catchment Group is supporting parkcare groups to design biodiversity monitoring programs. Fotpin took up the opportunity. John Brannan and Elizabeth Smith are leading this project. John reported on progress with fotpin's monitoring program.

Sarah Sharp, who designed the monitoring protocols/methods, visited the October 2011 planting site at the Pinnacle on January 19th and spent a morning walking Elizabeth and John through the steps of setting up a monitoring plot (50m x 20m) with an internal 20m x 20m plot, to monitor herbaceous plant diversity in more detail and then conducting a plant survey along two 50m transects inside the plot.

We began with a general survey of the entire planting site before selecting a plot that encompassed several clusters of plantings of shrub and groundcover species. This site was selected because one of the key aims of the monitoring project is to study the extent to which species introduced by a planting event successfully spread into adjacent areas. If we can observe and demonstrate this sort of "recruitment", then we will know that it is possible to effectively introduce understorey plants into some of the existing woodlands by planting in open areas around the woodlands rather than planting inside the woodlands where conditions are less conducive to direct planting.

The corners of the plot were waypointed and each marked with special lime-green plastic pegs (supplied by Sarah) that can be driven in to ground level as permanent markers. Fluoro-green cord was then stretched between the pegs to mark the boundaries of the plot during the surveying phase.

Elizabeth also began the photo-monitoring phase, by placing marker posts and taking a number of baseline photos that we can replicate in years to come.

There are additional surveys that need to be conducted in the plot, and we are also planning to mark out another plot in a different and more open part of the site to give us a comparison of planting success in predominantly grassy areas vs success in open woodland areas.

The project is currently designed to run for 5 years, with surveys conducted either annually or at longer intervals depending on the information collected, and after critical events such as fire. In addition to the initial surveys conducted when the sites are established, we will conduct another set

of surveys in Spring of this year (October) that will act as the "official" starting point of the monitoring project. This is because the vegetation visible in Spring is more easily identified and provides a more representative dataset for native and introduced plant species.

Bird surveys will also be conducted covering the entire planting site 4 times a year in conjunction with COG bird monitoring.

A separate monitoring exercise will involve checking the success of individual plantings compared with different protective screening methods.

10. Soil and Water Erosion (includes Assessment Program and works)

Pax reported that no further erosion assessments have been conducted. Erosion control measures are being planned for the actively eroding gully and several other streams in Bottom Pinnacle, to take place ASAP:

- woody weed material, derived from rabbit harbour removal at Bunny Central, has been deposited at the gully for making brushpacks;
- Parks have supplied 6 coir logs for that gully;
- Cootamundra Wattle material from the weeding party on 11 Feb has also been placed near that gully; and
- David Tongway and Pax have visited erosion sites in the western and central portions of Bottom Pinnacle, and developed a broad plan for erosion control activities over autumn and winter 2012. Pax advised Parks that a further 60 coir logs and sufficient wooden stakes would likely be required in the mix of materials to stabilise the Bottom Pinnacle.

11. Rabbit control

Pax reported that rabbit monitoring activities since the last Committee meeting are limited to opportunistic marking of active warrens during for example weeding. Outcomes of the last rabbit warren mapping exercise need to be reported (by the Convenor) on the website. The Convenor understands that Parks may be baiting rabbits when the wet weather concludes.

12. Kangaroos

Pax reported that the next fotpin-Parks kangaroo survey is planned for June 3 2012.

13. Focal Point

Heather reported on the following:

- There has been no further contact from Stuart or any PCS officer regarding the focal point and contaminated site since the last meeting
- The shed group sent out draft Project plans to the schools within the local collegiate with an informative cover email
- Email supporting the project was received from Mandy Kalyvas of HPS
- One line email supporting the project was received from Phil Gray WPS
- Email in response to my contact supporting the project and asking for details for a support letter was received from David McCarthy of Belconnen High School
- There has been no response from the college
- Heather approached Mary Porter regarding the status of the contaminated site at the woolshed and seeking further information.

- The shed group proposed that the sheep wash area being downhill and away from the shed may be fenced so that we could gain access to the woolshed to commence renovation preplanning and general clean up processes.
- Mary has responded and is on the hunt for further information for us.
- EPA have advised TAMS on appropriate procedure and it is now in the hands of TAMS to see them through
- Mary's staff are on the hunt as to where it is up to in TAMS

Heather notes that it is difficult to seek funding and/or sponsorship for the project at this stage until the contaminated site is being dealt with. Our next step is to obtain more formal letters of support from the local schools, other local park care groups and GCG.

Heather will continue to contact PCS officers and Mary Porter for information regarding the clean up of the site as it is a matter for community and environmental well-being.

Heather also notes that the woolshed and its accompanying buildings (excepting the farmhouse) are better renovated, at least for heritage purposes, rather than left as a wasted resource.

14. Pinnacle Environmental Education Project

Heather hasn't heard Peter Kalyvas or Brian Dobbs regarding the project.

15. Belconnen Hills Woodlands Strategy

John reported that following an email from John Fitz Gerald querying the content of Draft 2 of the Works Plan for the Belconnen Hills, which included a rather "aspirational" and thoroughly outdated revegetation map I drew up in February 2011, I contacted Ange Calliess and Kate Boyd to ask that it be removed from the draft and that related paragraphs be amended to reflect our current revegetation policy for the existing reserve. Following further input from Don Driscoll, I sent Kate another email reflecting both Don's comments and additional input from John Fitz Gerad. Presumably, the next draft of the Works Plan will state our position accurately.

On January 27th, I met Kate Boyd, Nicki Taws from Greening Australia and Jenny Bounds and Chris Davey from Canberra Ornithologists Group at Dungowan St and we all went for a bit of a drive around North Kama and the Bottom Pinnacle to discuss the planned vegetation enhancements in those areas.

The aim of the visit was to discuss the proposed planting sites and whether they would achieve the best possible outcomes, particularly in terms of providing breeding sites for the Superb Parrot and habitat for Brown Treecreepers, both of which are locally threatened species. It was generally agreed that planting along the existing drainage lines (generally running N-S) would provide the best outcomes and that a mixture of locally endemic tree and shrub species would suit. The tree species discussed were Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*), Blakey's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) and Scribbly Gum (*E. rossii*), and the shrub species mentioned were bursaria, cassinia, Dodonea and indigofera. Plantings of acacia species were also recommended since these provide a food source for Superb Parrots. It was felt that groundcover plantings should follow at a later stage.

Also discussed was the introduction of logs, particularly as habitat for the Brown Treecreeper, and the point was made that logs *with the branches still attached* were far more effective in providing protective hollows for a range of birds, mammals and insects. Kate said she'd look into that and could probably provide some suitable logs -- though the branches on trees felled by Parks did have a tendency to fall prey to people scavenging for firewood.

The point was also made that plantings in North Kama would need to be fenced to prevent grazing by cattle, since such grazing would continue as a way to reduce the fuel load for potential grassfires. Some of the areas earmarked for plantings were chosen because they can be fenced off with minimal cost for additional fencing, which will be one of the major costs involved in the planting.

As I understand it, the next step will be to ground-truth specific planting sites and select the species to be planted. The proposed timetable for the (Bottom) Pinnacle and North Kama is for tubestock plantings to go in during Autumn 2012 (April-May), so I would expect to see some movement in the next month or so.

16. Information, outreach and website

Heather reported on the following items.

16.1 Newsletter, flyers

John Brannan to pick up last newsletter material to coordinate the next one.

16.2 Letterbox drop

It would be great to do another letterbox drop in Spring of this year but it will need funding and coordination time. The former needs some research to investigate where to get the money for printing and the latter is scarce for the next twelve months at least. Where would we get funding? Rotary possibly. Quotes need to be researched first. Heather will do this.

16.3 Guided Walks

We need to have an Autumn program drawn up. Suggest that we build in planting days and any Grass experiment activities into the following two seasons of guided walks /workshops etc. Heather is endeavouring to get a photography group happening on a fairly regular basis, and a photo workshop during the next guided walk program would be an ideal launch for it. The last attempt was rained out. Should there be a long walk taking another route?

Suggestions from the meeting included:

- subject to availability and interest, David Tongway lead a walk on erosion titled "*Down Deep Creek*"
- *The Greater Walk: The Pinnacle to Uriarra crossing*
- *Third Sat Walk*
- Possible Woodlands walk.
- Photo workshop

Noting that the Autumn program deals more with ongoing park care issues than the Spring program, any other ideas would be gratefully received. Heather will look at dates for the autumn season of walks within the next week. Could other leaders of programs please let her know of dates during the next 2.5 months that will be needed for their activities to avoid double bookings please.

16.4 School fetes, shopping centre displays

We need to make contact with the HPS fete committee, and discuss with fotpin Gillian Treloar (fete committee and chair Hawker P&C association). Heather to contact the school and fete committee and administer the coordination of the fotpin stall if there is one.

16.5 Noticeboard

Has not been updated and still needs a makeover. Sue and Heather to do

16.6 Website update/priorities

Warren noted that approximately 1400 unique visitors to the site to date, with the previous trends continuing steadily. The most popular 10 pages since 12 March 2011: Recent Weeding (1161 hits), Weeding Effort, Weather, Calendar, Photo Gallery, Governance, News, Weeding log, New Content and About fotpin (314 hits).

Since the last meeting the webmaster's time has been occupied with spraying weeds and recording and analysing weeding effort, with little time for new additions to the website. One change, to assist with keeping weeders informed of progress during this season, was a revamping of the weeding maps pages to make them easier to keep up to date. The other new content has been addition of two new photo galleries: Planting Day 2011 and Australia Day 2012.

16.7 Other

Bill Gammage lecture to be attended by Heather Burness was booked out, and live-streaming was unsuccessful.

Pax to send a fotpin update to members and after this a monthly focal issue communication to members.

17. Australia Day BBQ and weeding parties

Pax reported that the Australia Day BBQ was enjoyed by all. Some 30 fotpins shared a fabulous selection of salads, and a fotpin 'hotseat' contest. 19 fotpins conducted a range of weeding activities that morning, including spraying horehound, thistles and briar rose, bagging verbasicum and grubbing and bagging weeds in The Forest.

The Committee thanked the host family for their hospitality.

18. Proposed ACTNRM Council weed control forum, 9 March 2012

Pax reported that following an approach from the ACT Natural Resource Management Council, fotpin will be giving a 15min presentation to a Weed Forum, hosted by the Council, on 9 March 2012. The forum will be comprised of agency, NRM, park/landcare, academics, researchers. The fotpin presentation will review:

- the location and context of the Pinnacle NR and fotpin;
- our weed control plan, mapping, strategies, tracking and reporting; and
- weed control priorities, native grass restoration project, strengths, areas for improvement, challenges.

19. Other business

Susan Cox to email Heather re availability to review the noticeboard display.

20. Next meeting

7.30pm Monday 23 April, Cox residence.

Meeting concluded 9.06pm.

Tabled Reports/papers/documents

[Agenda Item 2: Action list from meeting of 12 December 2011](#)

[Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report](#)

[Summary of Actions arising from this meeting](#)

Agenda Item 2: Action list from Meeting #9, 12 December 2011

1. **Pax** to follow up advice on incorporation from Environment Defenders Office.
2. **Pax** to prepare a discussion paper on membership of peak bodies for the next meeting.
3. **Pax** and **Warren** to inform members of the opportunity to comment on the Belconnen Hills Woodland Restoration Plan via an email and a notice on the website.
4. **Warren** to make the draft Belconnen Hills Woodland Restoration Plan available via a public DropBox.
5. **Heather** and Susan Cox to update the Pinnacle Noticeboard.
6. **Warren** to foreshadow an Australia Day event on the website calendar.
7. **Pax** to circulate revised Operational Plan draft when received and collate comments

Summary of Actions Arising from Meeting #10

1. **Pax** to follow up advice on incorporation from Environment Defenders Office.
2. **Pax** to prepare a discussion paper on membership of peak bodies for the next meeting.
3. **Pax** to prepare and circulate an 'update' and brief monthly notices to fotpins.
4. **Don** to provide a report on progress with the grass project.
5. **Heather** and **Pax** to follow up on design etc of the autumn program.
6. **Heather** to administer the coordination of the HPS fete fotpin stall
7. **Heather** and Susan to update the Pinnacle Noticeboard.
8. **John** to lead preparation of newsletters.
9. **John** to consider inviting fotpins on walks to explain implementation of the woodlands strategy.
- 10 **Pax** to circulate revised Operational Plan draft when received and collate comments

**Friends of The Pinnacle
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the period 01-Jul-2011 to 13-Feb-2012**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2011		\$429.45
Receipts		
Membership	\$20.00	
Interest	\$0.11	
		\$20.11
Payments		
Stationery	\$19.00	
Equipment	\$28.55	
		\$47.55
Surplus of receipts over payments		-\$27.44
Closing balance on 13-Feb-2012		\$402.01
Reconciled to:		
CPS Account 03356841	\$283.41	
Petty Cash	\$118.60	
		\$402.01
Less unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Total		\$402.01

Warren Bond
Treasurer
13 Feb 2012