



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 14 March 2016 7-30 pm

Minutes

Present: John Brannan, Denise Hall, Nathanael Coyne, Warren Bond, Keith Thomas.

1. Apologies

none

Note: Carolynne Parker resigned as Secretary in mid-February because she will be unable to attend further meetings. The Committee accepted her resignation with regret and noted, with appreciation, her contributions as Secretary during the last 18 months. Vaughn Cox (aka Pax) resigned as Convenor shortly afterwards; see item 4 below.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting / Business Arising

Moved: Warren; seconded: Keith; Accepted

Actions arising from December meeting (see [Attachment A](#))

3. Correspondence in and out / Business arising

Most correspondence had been previously circulated to committee.
No business arising other than already included in the agenda.

4. Convenor's Report

Pax resigned as Convenor in mid-February. In accordance with the [fotpin Management Rules](#) the Committee accepted John Brannan's nomination as acting Convenor. On 22nd February John called for nominations from the membership to fill the casual vacancies caused by the resignations of Carolynne as Secretary and Pax as Convenor. To date there have been no nominations and John will continue to act as Convenor. Warren Bond has agreed to act as Secretary.

The Convenor's Report is included with John's Coordinator's Report in the following item.

5. Coordinator's Report

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

- Weeding
- The Offset
- Clean Up Australia Day report
- Upcoming events

John elaborated on the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) Fringe Forum on weeds, including that Phillip Selmes had undertaken to organize meeting between fotpin and PCS to find a way for us to input our weed effort into the PCS database.

John and Warren will convert the report to an Update for members.

6. Treasurer's Report / Business arising

Denise tabled the previously circulated Treasurer's Report ([Attachment C](#)) and pointed out that there had been no change in our financial situation since the December meeting.

Moved: Denise; Seconded: Warren; Accepted.

7. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership stands at 78 (an increase of 1 since the December meeting). The number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists also increased by 1 to 108.

Noted.

8. Weed Management

Warren reported that the effort spent on weed control in the last three months 446 hours, 22% more than for the same period last year. Of the 446 hours 65% was spent on the Reserve and 10% in the new Offset area. The main targets were St. John's Wort and Verbascum, followed by Briars, Miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds, Saffron Thistles and African Lovegrass.

Noted.

9. Website

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

The number of unique visitors to the website in the last 3 months fell, for the fourth quarter in a row, returning to 2014 levels. Popular pages in this period were "Recent weeding", "About the Pinnacle" and walking-related pages.

Noted.

10. Revegetation

John reported that there are no immediate revegetation plans, and that the next efforts are likely to be in spring and focus on improving the grassland.

Warren remarked that previous plantings on the Bottom Pinnacle that he had visited recently are doing well.

11. Focal Point

Keith reported on his review of the viability of continuing with trying to develop a focal point. He pointed out that since the North Kama shearing shed had been ruled out as a possible physical focus, the concept had changed considerably and broadened its focus, resulting in the project becoming more difficult and time-consuming. At the same time, there were less people interested in helping to pursue it.

He outlined a number of potential courses of action, but concluded with the following recommendation:

Recommendation: that the Focal Point Project be discontinued and energies be refocused on other matters of direct impact on fotpin.

The Committee **agreed unanimously** to adopt Keith's recommendation.

The Committee also discussed Keith's suggestions for related but more achievable goals, including improved interpretative signage. John pointed out that the PCS attitude towards interpretative signage was in a state of flux, with a move from physical displays to an emphasis on digital delivery. The Committee agreed that we should push for a balanced combination of the two, with fotpin providing the digital delivery.

Action: Keith (and John) to pursue the options for interpretative signage with PCS.

12. Information and outreach

- a. Hawker Primary School Fete, 3rd April.

John reported on the state of planning and that he will soon email members a call for assistance with staffing the display. Elizabeth Smith has volunteered to assist with setting it up. John discussed the need for refreshing our display materials. The possibility of a display demonstrating the use of the Canberra Nature Map to find out more about the Reserve was discussed and will be pursued if time permits.

- b. Autumn Program

The Autumn Program will consist of John's bird walk, another reprise of Warren's "Achievements & Challenges" walk and the Kangaroo count. Suitable dates between mid-April and end of May were discussed, and it was agreed to fix a date in May for the roo count first, leaving scope for a bird walk to be scheduled in April.

Action: John to fix a date for the bird walk, liaise with Pax and PCS to fix the date of the kangaroo count and then schedule Warren's walk.

13. Pinnacle Extension (previously referred to as the Biodiversity Offset)

After the December meeting Pax (as the then Convenor) provided final fotpin comments on the Draft Offset Management Plan for the area that will become the Pinnacle Extension, pointing out some concerns with it. We understand from PCS that the Plan has now been submitted to and reviewed by the Federal authority responsible for approving these plans. Last we heard, PCS was in the process of responding to their comments.

Action: John to follow up with PCS and arrange a meeting to discuss the revised Offset Management Plan.

Prior to resigning as Convenor, Pax also identified potential concerns with the adequacy of the quality and size of the Pinnacle Extension as a suitable offset for the land being developed that it is being offset against. He initiated contact with PCS and the contractor who assessed the offset to gain more detail about their assessment process. Some information has been forthcoming but insufficient to properly assess the adequacy of the offset. The Committee discussed how to proceed with this matter in light of the lack of information. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed with PCS when we meet with them.

Action: Transparency of the offset assessment process to be discussed at the meeting with PCS.

14. Other Business

- a. Setting the date for the AGM

It was proposed that the AGM be held at 2 pm on Sunday 24th July, preceded by a brief meeting of the outgoing Committee.

Action: John to liaise with Pax about arranging to hold it at the Weetangera Primary School again.

- b. Rabbit control

Warren updated the Committee on the latest interactions with PCS about rabbit control. It was agreed that our database should be improved by revisiting each currently mapped burrow to assess whether it was currently active and to mark their locations with flagging tape as suggested by PCS. Nat, Keith and John said they could spend some time on this.

Action: Warren to provide Nat, Keith and John with the list of currently mapped burrows, and to provide Keith with some training on GPS use.

Report on Clean-Up day

See item 3 of the [Coordinator's Report](#).

- c. Scheduling the 2016 kangaroo count

Dealt with under agenda item 12 b.

15. Proposed date for next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be 6th June at John's home.

Meeting closed at 9-35 pm

Attachment A. Item2. Actions arising from December meeting**Actions arising from the meeting 7 December 2015****4. Convenor's Report**

Action: John to forward invitation to ParkCare Christmas party to members.

Completed

5. Coordinator's Report

Action: John to do a Christmas update note to members

Completed

Action: John to talk to Woolworths or Hawker Centre Management about setting up a stall.

In progress

Action: Pax to organise a new fotpin banner.

To be followed up with Pax.

14. Biodiversity Offset in North Kama (Pax)

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.

Completed

Attachment B. Item 5. Coordinator's Report

1. Weeding

As always around this time of year, we're starting to feel that maybe the worst of the weeding season is over, though the unusual run of warm days above 30° has made it feel as though Summer would never end. We have had another prolonged season battling St John's Wort, but the steadily declining figures for the amount of chemical used tell an encouraging story. Speaking to other ParkCare/Landcare coordinators, other reserves are certainly having a much harder time with wort than we are, so I think our past efforts are definitely paying off.

Of course, African Lovegrass is a continuing concern, especially given the explosion of growth in the suburbs along the verges and open urban spaces. This season has been wonderful for grasses of all sorts, and the ALG is no exception. The good news is that we've largely succeeded in containing its incursions into the reserve, largely thanks to the untiring efforts of John Fitz Gerald. If you want to check out our progress on the weeds front, the weed maps on the website paint an interesting picture (http://www.fotpin.org.au/weeds/weeding_maps.html).

On a related note, I attended an information evening (or "Fringe Forum" as PCS called it) on the topic of weeds last week, and the two PCS weed experts, Steve Taylor and Jenny Connolly, spoke at some length about the difficulties they face staying on top of weed outbreaks in the ACT. Jenny, who is the Weeds Officer for City Services (the guys who mow the nature strips), was despairing of ever getting ALG under control. Her focus now is on trying to keep it out of urban native grasslands and preventing outbreaks of new invasive weeds, such as Madagascan Fireweed, from following in the footsteps of African Lovegrass. The guys at PCS have been particularly stressed this year as their budget was cut significantly (from \$2.1 million down to \$1.5 million), but they're optimistic that they'll have their budget restored next year. One reason for that optimism is the weeding data they've been able to compile on their new ArcGIS mapping system, which comes with an accompanying smartphone app (called Collector). This enables them to record their effort in much more detail with far less trouble. To better capture the effort by all the ParkCare and Landcare groups, they're encouraging us to use the app also. Of course, we've been recording our weeding data electronically since 2010, and we're currently working with PCS to find a way to port our data into the ArcGIS system.

These Fringe Forums are going to be happening monthly, it seems, and will cover topics such as fire, rabbits and erosion.

2. The Offset

As you are probably aware, a 19.5-hectare area stretching from the southern boundary of the reserve down to William Hovell Drive, linking the Pinnacle to the Kama Nature Reserve, has been established as an offset area and will, in time, formally become part of the Pinnacle Nature Reserve. A management plan for the offset is being drawn up and fotpin has already had some input in the process. In the meantime, improvements of the offset area have already begun in the form of logs ("coarse woody debris") being placed at various points in the area. Needless to say, fotpin will continue to carry out weed management in the area as we do in much of the adjacent North Kama and Bottom Pinnacle areas, but this will now be part of a coordinated management regime with the PCS Offset Management team. At least, that's the theory. We've already had our first meeting with PCS to discuss ongoing management and we are optimistic that we can achieve good outcomes in the future.

3. Clean Up Australia Day

Following on from our first involvement in this program last year, we held another clean-up day at the Pinnacle on Sunday March 6th. On a pretty much perfect morning (if a little warmer than we'd like), we got a really good turnout, with 16 people coming along to help out. Warren excelled himself by organizing maps and GPS units with pre-loaded waypoints to help the groups pinpoint the larger bits of rubbish we've noticed around the reserve in the past. The result was a full trailer load of old barbed wire, fencing wire, sheets of tin, concrete posts and rubble, as well as a number of regular clean-up bags full of litter. Thanks to everyone who came along to lend a hand on the day, and special farewell thanks to Stacy, who is about to leave us for the green shores of New Zealand. Particular thanks to Pax for supplying the trailer and the Subi to pull it round, as well as the tables and chairs for our "headquarters". Thanks also to Bob for lending us his idiot-proof pop-up marquee again. And of course our thanks as always go to the PCS rangers who came along to collect everything and truck it away for disposal or recycling. Our next challenge is to find enough rubbish on the reserve to make it worth holding another event next year!

4. Upcoming Events

Autumn may be a little quieter on the weeding front, but there is still lots happening for footpin. **Sunday April 3rd** is the date for this year's **Hawker Primary Fête**, and we will have a stall there as usual. We're already working on our display for the stall, and I'll be in touch closer to the day to organise a roster for volunteers to help staff the stall. If you can help at all, even if only for a short time, please mark the date in your diary.

Our usual **Autumn Walks Program** is still taking shape, so we don't have any confirmed dates at this point, but I'll be in touch again soon to give you the details.

The other big event will be our annual **kangaroo count**. If you've been involved in these events in the past, you'll know what a fascinating exercise this is and how it can show you a whole new face of the reserve. Even though I spend many hours surveying birds and spraying weeds all over the reserve every month, I still find that the roo count almost always takes me to spots I've never been to before. We're still negotiating with PCS to pin down a date for this year's count, but we know it will be held on a Sunday in April or May. Once again, you'll hear from us as soon as we have a firm date.

John Brannan

Attachment C. Item 6. Treasurer's report

Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-Jul-2015 to 29-Feb-2016

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

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 March 2016