



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 15 June 2015 7-30 pm

Minutes

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

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

Moved: Keith. Seconded: John. Accepted

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

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

In the March to June period 84 pieces of correspondence were recorded.

The 40 outgoing consisted of responses and coordination on subjects including

- Updates to FOTPIN members
- Exclusion Plots
- Calls for volunteers to: empty and move water tanks, staff the Hawker Fete display, participate in the kangaroo survey and plantings
- Draft Offset plan comments
- Autumn Walks Program
- Reports of vandalism (noticeboard, signs, fences planting)
- Green Army
- Cows in the Eastern paddock, BMX track
- Hawker Primary School after school care program

The 44 incoming correspondence included:

- Conservation Council Symposium
- Drumming up Community interest in Parkcare/Landcare.
- Newsletters from various groups including GCG, Friends of Groups, Weeds Digest, Frogwatch, Greening Australia, Conservation Council, Parkwood Project.
- Offset Plan
- Insurance
- Weed mapping and Biodiversity monitoring
- Hawker Primary School after school care program
- WAYG reporting

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

4. **Convenor's Report**

Pax reported that highlights for this period included the kangaroo count, Hawker fete, planting and weeding. He noted that the weeding program has been quite successful and noted the recent concerted effort at Verbascum and Saffron thistle control in North Kama and Bottom Pinnacle.

He commented on the feedback that was given to Parks re the Offset Plan.

5. Coordinator's Report

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

The report included:

- Hawker Fete
- 26 April planting event
- Autumn Walks Program including a walk led by Warren which highlighted the transformation since initial plantings in the 1980 and since the establishment of FOTPIN.
- Kangaroo count
- Damage to tree guards
- Launch of LandcareACT
- Combatting weeds
- AGM

6. Treasurer's Report / Business arising

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

7. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership stands at 77 (an increase of 2 since the March meeting).

The number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists is 97.

8. Weed Management

Warren reported that the last three months (March May) have seen us notch up 394 hours of effort. This is the highest March to May total since we began keeping records. While only 38% of this time was spent on the Reserve, the main target weeds there seem to be adequately controlled and effort is being spent to bring the neighbouring paddocks to a similar level of control. This is particularly important in the ungrazed areas where weed proliferation is greatest.

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

9. Website

Warren reported that there have been a number of additions and updates to the website in the last 3 months (see [website updates](#)).

The number of unique visitors to the website in each 3 month period continues to increase with a big jump in the last 3 months. Popular pages in this period were "Recent weeding", "About the Pinnacle", walking-related pages, the Newsletters index page (for the latest Update) and the "kangaroos" page.

The Committee discussed possibly developing an 'Offset' page.

Noted.

10. Native Grass Regeneration Project

Pax reported that he had contacted Don, a PHD student from UC and the student's supervisor to discuss their proposal for ongoing research at the grass experiment plots.

Action: Pax to follow up with an email to see where they are up to with the research proposal. Issues to discuss include:

- Is it relevant to FOTPIN?
- What is the source of funding? UC, GCG, other?
- Issues with depending on volunteer effort
- Goal: Grassland restoration

11. Revegetation

The latest planting was covered in Coordinator's report.

The Committee discussed options for a Spring planting, possibly in the Bottom Pinnacle area. This planting would be planned considering ecological communities and what the area should look like, and take into account Park's plans for the buffer area outside the Offset Zone. The Committee is aware that the location being considered is in a fire abatement zone so may concentrate on understory plantings – groundcovers and small shrubs. Another area inside the reserve is also being considered as an option. This would involve a groundlayer/shrublayer planting similar to the last planting.

Action: At the July AGM, call for volunteers and establish a working group which will develop a strategy to revegetate Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama.

12. Focal Point (Keith)

Keith reported that this project is in train.

13. Information and outreach

The Committee recognised and thanked Elizabeth for the effort she has put into providing the FOTPIN community with information and looking after the notice boards.

The newsletter was undergoing final edits at the time of the meeting and has since been circulated and published on the FOTPIN web site.

The Committee agreed with Elizabeth's suggestion by email that there is value in putting up posters at local shopping centers to advertise upcoming events.

14. Restoration Plan

Covered as part of revegetation planning.

15. Other Business

• Kangaroo count

Pax thanked volunteers. The kangaroo count was successful again this year but we did have some issues. Lessons learnt include:

- Need to have experienced and competent people at strategic points including both ends of the line
- Need experienced (and more) people in Bottom Pinnacle (without compromising the number needed at widest part of the reserve)
- Adults only to have radios
- Start the top line sooner

• Kangaroo cull

Some damage had been done to locks and fences since the commencement of the cull. Also, posters were stuck onto the notice board and were promptly cleaned off by PCS.

- **Walk program**

The committee discussed repeating the walk presented by Warren recently as part of the Autumn program. Date to be confirmed by new Committee. An introduction to the Offset area could also be included in the Spring Walk program.

- **Rabbits**

While there aren't many active burrows on the Pinnacle, it would appear that this year's fumigation effort may not have been very well executed by the new contractor.

Action: Warren to do more checking of waypointed burrows and inform Parks of findings.

- **Planning for AGM**

The Committee discussed that some office bearer positions would become vacant. Elizabeth notified us that she is happy to continue as newsletter editor but she will not be standing for committee membership next year.

We also discussed who to approach to be the speaker at the AGM. The options presented were Claire McInnes to speak on the ACT Government's Offsets policy and Karissa Preuss from GCG to discuss the role of GCG and the new Landcare ACT peak body.

16. Proposed date for next meeting

The next meeting of the Coordinating Committee will be immediately before the AGM.

It was proposed that it be held at **2.00pm on Sunday 26 July** at Weetangera Primary School.

The CC meeting will be held at the same venue at 1-15 pm.

Action: Pax to book the school.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Attachment A

Actions arising from the meeting of 9 March 2015

a. Item 4: Converor's Report. Pax to follow up on interim offset plan for North Kama.

Completed. Lots of feedback was received and submitted. Pax followed up and confirmed that Russell will be taking our comments into account. The Plan may not be as detailed as we thought. Detail will be contained in the operational plans (to be developed later).

b. Item 5: Coordinator's Report. 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.

Completed. Emailed to Committee. John, Pax and Warren have undergone chemical certification training.

c. Item 10: Native Grass Regeneration Project. Pax to arrange another meeting with Don.

The UC PhD student, supervisor and Don met. No tangible outcome at this stage.

d. Item 11: Revegetation John to email Craig to confirm who will dig the holes. John to organise a team to empty the cube.

Completed. Plant guards were recycled.

e. Item 13: Information and outreach. Pax and Denise to prepare a draft visual tool to show FOTPIN's role in the governance of the Pinnacle.

Open. To be actioned.

Attachment B. Item 5. Coordinator's Report

The Autumn period is generally a time when ParkCare activities start to slow down somewhat heading into the quieter time over Winter, but this year I barely had a weekend in April or May when there wasn't some sort of activity at the Pinnacle.

March 29th was the Hawker Primary School Fête, where this year our stall was strategically positioned right next to the plant stall, so both benefited from the mutual shared interests. As usual, there was a good level of interest in fotpin and what we do. Thanks again to Elizabeth for organizing the exhibits on the stall and to everyone who came along to staff the stall during the day.

Early in April we began the preparations for the April 26th planting event by emptying the water cube set up for the October 2013 planting and removing most of the tree guards from the plants, which are doing very well overall and were all grateful (we like to think) for the drink. The empty tank and used tree guards and stakes were then trailed over to the new planting site, where PCS kindly refilled the tank for us. Again, my thanks to everyone who helped with the watering, guard and stake removal and tank relocation.

The first of the Autumn Walks program was my bird walk on April 19th. The turnout was good for a very pleasant (if slightly breezy) morning's walk, and the birds were good enough to also participate in good numbers. Autumn is a time when we see the return of many of the birds who leave us for the Summer, and there is a brief period when we can see both the local breeding species as well as the species who breed elsewhere and then return for the Winter.

The next key event was the planting in Central paddock. Like the October 2013 planting, this was intended to supplement the trees planted in the 1980s and early 1990s by adding missing groundlayer and shrublayer species. The planting spanned the Valley track on the way down to the dam, with the bulk of the groundlayer species going in under the trees on the eastern side of the track, where there are extensive patches of bare, and hence erosion-prone ground under the trees. This contrasts with the area west of the track where there is a lush growth of grasses and forbs (mostly exotic, alas) under the trees. Consequently, most of the shrubs ended up on that side of the track. Many thanks to everyone who turned up to help with the planting on the day, to Greening Australia for supplying the seedlings, and to the ACT Government for providing the funding through the Woodlands Restoration Project.

Fotpin's now annual kangaroo count was held on May 3rd, which was an absolutely perfect day, much to the relief of those who can still remember the soaking they got during last year's rain-drenched event. Once again, Pax cajoled an amazing turnout of volunteers for the morning and afternoon counts. The results from the two counts, while not as close as we have achieved in previous years, were still well inside the tolerance accepted by PCS ranger and macropod authority Don Fletcher who, with his usual wit and energy, coached and guided us all through the morning and afternoon counts. The final count (averaged from the two results) was 613, which is down from last year's count of 772 but still more than twice the sustainable number for the reserve and the adjoining areas. For those of us doing the counting, it was a wonderful excuse to spend the day (or part of it) walking through the reserve on what was probably the last really warm and sunny day of Autumn. My thanks to everyone who came out to share the day with us and give up their time and energy, and particularly to Pax for mustering the numbers we need to make the exercise successful. Thanks also to Don Fletcher and his colleagues at PCS for their excellent support and advice.

Our esteemed Treasurer, webmeister and all-round data wizard Warren led his inaugural walk on May 17th, highlighting the transformation that the reserve has undergone since it was first established, both since pre-planting days in the 1980s and since the establishment of fotpin. Armed with a portfolio of before-and-after photos and charts, Warren made a very impressive argument for the value of well-considered intervention by volunteer organisations (with the assistance and under the auspices of government, of course). For those who missed out, I shall be endeavouring to persuade Warren to repeat his excellent outing in the Spring.

My next intervention at the reserve was less auspicious. Following the start of the reserve closures for kangaroo management at the beginning of May, someone (and I point no fingers here) decided it would be fun to pull the tree guards off around 30 of the seedlings we had planted in April. More annoyingly, they opened the stopcock on the water tank and wasted around 700 litres of water. Several fotpins noticed the removed guards and alerted me, so I organized a small group to head out and replace the tree guards. Fortunately, the plants themselves had not been touched and all survived OK. This was followed by another visit several days later to give all the plants a much-needed drink from the tank, which PCS had kindly arranged to refill in the interim. My thanks to the gents who came out and helped on both visits and to PCS for refilling the tank yet again.

Finally, last weekend, I attended an event held at a primary school close to the Garran-Hughes woodland, which is just north and east of Woden town centre. The occasion was the official launch of Landcare ACT. This is a new peak body made up of members of all of the local catchment groups and representatives from local ParkCare and Landcare groups. Its function is "to provide strategic support and a unified community voice for the catchment groups and the groups that they support." (Quotes taken from the Landcare ACT press release.) As part of the National Landcare Network, Landcare ACT will be in a position to coordinate and assist the work done by on-the-ground volunteer organisations in our region by providing "a community voice for landcare programs at the national level". It also includes rural landholders and members of the local Aboriginal community. The event was attended by many of the local ParkCare/Landcare group coordinators, as well as local MLAs, Aboriginal representatives and speakers from other state Landcare organisations. After the speeches and cake (nice!), we all wandered up to the local woodland and planted a few trees, before heading back to the school for a BBQ lunch and a longer chat with old friends.

As we head into Winter, my thoughts are already turning to the Spring and all the work that lies ahead of us. Our amazing efforts combatting weeds over the past 5 years mean that that particular burden is steadily lessening and we can turn more of our attention to the adjacent Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama paddocks. This is becoming increasingly interesting as a large chunk of that area will soon be put in reserve as an offset area, and fotpin will doubtless have a key role in the rehabilitation of the new area.

However, in the more immediate future is our next AGM, which will be held next month at Weetangera Primary as usual (on a date yet to be decided). So, if you have an inkling that you might want to play a more active role in fotpin, please consider coming along and sitting in on the committee. Hope to see you there.

John

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

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2014			\$517.60
Receipts			
Membership and donations	\$160.00		
Interest	0.04		
		<u>\$160.04</u>	
Payments			
fotpin domain name renewal	\$30.00		
MCG membership	\$25.00		
		<u>\$55.00</u>	
Surplus of receipts over payments			<u>\$105.04</u>
Closing balance on 01-Jun-2015			<u><u>\$622.64</u></u>
Reconciled to:			
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$439.74		
Petty Cash	\$182.90		
		<u>\$622.64</u>	
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00		
Total		<u><u>\$622.64</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
09 June 2015