

Fotpin Coordinating Committee Minutes

Monday 17 March 2014 7.30 pm

- 1) **Present:** John Brannan, Pax (Vaughan Cox), Warren Bond, Denise Hall, Keith Thomas, Elizabeth Smith.
- 2) **Apologies** Mark Hallam
- 3) **Minutes** of the last CC meeting 2 December 2013, as circulated by email.
- 4) **Actions arising** from previous meetings (see minutes).
 - a) **Kangaroos:** Note:Pax is continuing to follow-up on kangaroo issues.
- 5) **Correspondence** – (Elizabeth)
 - a) Correspondence has been circulated to members by email and are included under specific agenda items for discussion as needed.
- 6) **Convenor's Report** (John)

Previously circulated.

ACTION: Warren to convert John's report to a fotpin Update for the website.
- 7) **Coordinator's Report** (Pax) ...

There were two coordinated activities, both slashing saffron thistles, one across 3.2 ha in Bottom Pinnacle and the other in Kama Paddock. See also specific items under Rabbits and Kangaroos below.
- 8) **Treasurer's Report** (Warren) Previously circulated....
 - a) **Report** Accepted
 - b) **Clarification of reimbursements to fotpin members for fotpin expenses**
 - i) *Appropriate procedure for approval is specified in fotpin's Management Rules.* Noted
 - ii) *Appropriate purposes for expenditure subject to reimbursement*

After discussion, the issues were that providing refreshments to fotpin workers on major projects such as the fotpin Saffron thistle slashing morning on 21 December had value in rewarding fotpin members and in dealing with very hot conditions. However, these should not be funded by fotpin.

Other options were for individuals to provide their own refreshments, or for fotpin to provide refreshments and request a gold coin donation from those taking part to (partly) compensate the provider. No refreshments are required for those attending walks. Pax stated that he and Susan would provide refreshments for Kanga Counts.
 - iii) *Reimbursement by PCS for repairs to equipment*

Noted that PCS can't assist Parkcare Groups with repairs to equipment those groups have purchased. However, they are looking at providing further equipment which they would be able to maintain.
- 9) **Membership Report** (Warren)

Current membership stands at 67 (a decrease of 1 since the December meeting).
We farewell Andrew Martin, who has moved out of Canberra.

The number of other people on our email list increased by 2 to 72.
- 10) **Weed Management** (Warren)

The last 3 months (December to February) have been our busiest 3 month period of the year (417 hours). Saffron Thistles (134 hours; 32%) absorbed the most time for this period and also for the year

to date (30%). Despite this large effort, Saffron thistles were not effectively controlled on the reserve and an improved approach to this weed is required in future.

The other principal weeds tackled during this period were Briars, St. John's Wort and Verbascum, with lesser effort also spent on Thistles other than Saffron thistles and African lovegrass.

For a full report, see www.fotpin.org.au/weeds/weed_effort.html

There was a brief discussion surrounding the fact noted in the Report that one third of reported weeding effort so far this year has been spent on Saffron thistles, without a terribly good result.

ACTION: Coordinator (Pax) to arrange a meeting with weeders to discuss future approaches to Saffron thistle control in the context of the broader weeding strategy.

11) Native Grass Regeneration Project (Don Driscoll)

No report received in time for the meeting.

ACTION: John to contact Don asking him to speak at the AGM about the Native Grass Regeneration Project.

ACTION: John to ask Don to follow up marking his project areas so that they aren't inadvertently burnt by PCS, and also to maintain the plots.

12) Revegetation Strategy (John)

a) *Plantings:* An Autumn planting is planned with agreement from PCS. Obtaining 250 plants from Greening Australia is in train.. Date to be decided, but will probably be in May. Noted that this activity needs to fit in with the Indigenous guided walk.

ACTION . John to confirm timing with Karissa.

b) *Proposed revegetation of waterways and ponds in Kama:* Request for fotpin involvement from Frogwatch Coordinator declined with regret. Noted

c) *Rare Plant Survey* (M. Mulvaney, Conservation and Planning Unit) Completed with useful results (see www.fotpin.org.au/news.html#n140117). Noted.

d) *Watering October plantings in January* It was noted that members carried out several waterings of the new plantings in January.

13) Nature Conservation Bill and Biodiversity Offsets

a) We have received a copy of the *Draft Nature Conservation Bill* for comment

b) *Biodiversity Offsets* –Craig Wainwright has said that an attempt by PCS to arrange a forum is no longer on. PCS prefers to meet with individual groups on site and that fotpin CC including any other members meet with him and Clare McInnes 'to discuss the Bottom Pinnacle and talk generally about the Offset process and why PCS prefers land to come under its management via this process'.

ACTION: John to arrange a meeting with PCS as suggested by them. Wed 2 April, morning, to be confirmed. John, Elizabeth, Warren to take part in the meeting.

14) Fire management

Bushfire Operational Plan (BOP) Information Session 18 February

Noted: that there had been little new information provided about the BOP advised by Karissa at the Ginninderra Catchment Group.

Noted: that PCS would prefer to have information about areas to be protected provided collectively, rather than from individuals, and through Ranger Nina.

Noted: that fotpin has done what we can through our Rare Plant Survey and burns at the Pinnacle are now expected in autumn only, and not in spring as well.

ACTION: Pax to record footprint of burns (with help from fotpins) and organise a review of the impact on vegetation following the burns, starting from 2 weeks after the burns and ongoing.

15) **Soil and Water Erosion** (includes Assessment Program and works) (Pax)*

ACT Parks has installed timber berms across the nature trail adjacent to the Forest. The Coordinator noted increased erosion in some of the vehicle tracks (Valley Track, Central Track) as a result of the February/March rains.

ACTION: John to talk to Ranger Anthony about the opportunity for fotpin members to assist with this.

ACTION: Maintenance is needed on some of the coir logs on the Bottom Pinnacle. Pax to coordinate.

16) **Rabbit control** (Pax)

Fotpin's rabbit control contribution continues by recording the location and size of warrens across the Pinnacle, Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama and reporting that information to Parks. Our recent records suggest a continued relatively low density of warrens. Parks and Conservation has been fumigating.

17) **Kangaroos** (Pax)

a) Kangaroo forum 9 April 2014

ACTION: Warren plans to attend. Noted.

b) Kangaroo count, date to be confirmed, but possibly 1 June.

ACTION: Pax to follow up and coordinate.

18) **Focal Point** (Keith)

Keith's proposal to revise the project, beginning with re-engagement of stakeholders, in light of recent Parks and Conservation Services decision making the use of the North Kama Shearing Shed unlikely to proceed, was accepted, following discussion.

Agreed, in light of change in location, to refer to the project as, for example, The Pinnacle Focal Point. The project should also have a broader context, beyond the Pinnacle to include Mount Painter, Molonglo and so forth.

ACTION: Keith to:

- Develop a list of potential stakeholders;
- Discuss these with Elizabeth and Pax
- Develop an suitable approach to each stakeholder
- Complete a stakeholder matrix and analysis.

19) **Information, and outreach** (John)

a) *Newsletter, flyers, brochure*

Newsletter. Elizabeth was to invite members by email to contribute ideas re rejuvenated newsletter. Agreed.

ACTION Elizabeth to email members.

b) *Letterbox drop*

Letterbox drops can be effective but must be targeted to specific events such as the Autumn Walks. No plans for one at present.

c) *Guided Walks Autumn*

John advised that the program was to be as follows:

April 6: a bird walk by John

Date to be determined: Wally and Tyronne Bell to lead an indigenous heritage walk (to be also part of a series being organised by GCG).

Date to be determined: Craig Wainwright to lead a walk having as its theme the history of The Pinnacle Nature Reserve; timing to be after the indigenous heritage walk.

d) *School fetes*, shopping centre displays

There was a discussion about our participation at the Hawker Primary School Fete on 6 April.

ACTION: John to discuss with chair of PCA (Gillian Treloar) if possible to set up on Saturday before the fete, and availability of display boards

ACTION: Elizabeth to arrange display boards from PCS if not available from Hawker PS and to set up on Saturday. Any assistance welcome.

ACTION: Elizabeth to investigate a possible 'Guess the No. of gumnuts' competition and related quiz and prizes.

e) Noticeboard

Noted that there still needed to be a refreshing of the noticeboard.

20) **Website update/priorities** (Warren)

There have been no major changes to the website in the last three months.

The number of unique visitors in the three months December 2013 to February 2014 was 560 (compared with 540 for the previous 3 months and 452 for the same months in 2013/14). We continue to see an overall year-on-year increase in visitors to our website, albeit at a slowing rate.

"Pinnacle Weather" was the most sought after page on our site in the last 3 months, with "About the Pinnacle" and the walking page continuing to rank well.

21) **Events (future)**

Conservation Council Symposium: Being an Effective Voice for the Environment Sat 29 March 2014

22) **Other Business**

23) **Proposed date for next CC meetings:**

Agreed: date for remaining Committee meeting in 2013-14 is June 16 2014 (June 9 is Queen's Birthday)

ACTION: Later dates to be decided by incoming committee after AGM.

ACTION: Committee members to consider future changes of committee positions in view of the 2 year maximum time frame for position-holders.

Suggested date for fotpin AGM is 20 July 2014.

ACTION: John and Elizabeth to draft agenda with committee.

ACTION: PAX to discuss availability of Weetangera School venue with Principal, preferably in same discussion as revised fotpin focal point with Keith and Elizabeth (see fotpin focal point item.).