

Update from the Convenor
30 March 2010

Hi Everyone

Hope this email finds you and yours well.

A few things have come up that I need to update you on, and in some instances, get your feedback/input. Apologies for the long email.

1) Rosemary and I have discussed the need for regular newsletters, and feel we should restart them. We suggest those newsletters compile reports from people doing or leading particular activities. And so a newsletter might be comprised of a weeding report, bird report, some planning work, liaison with Government etc. Perhaps just four items. With a few pics and some design work this could be circulated widely in pdf format. Limited hardcopies could be made available at the noticeboard, schools etc.

Beware, I'll chase you for contributions. And I'll try to spread the load.

2) Rosemary's previous newsletters will be occasional observations/seasonal resumes/notes either seasonally or as the Pinnacle's moods shift. This will be an important balance to rather less creative, word limited, to-the-point informative newsletters.

What do you think about the role/function of (1) and (2)?

3) I crossed paths with Maxine Cooper, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. Maxine is interested in our work, is expecting to be invited to the public release of the weed plan and is keen for some dot points from FOTPIN against the Terms of Reference to her inquiry into management of the Canberra Nature Park. For the ToR go to ...
http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/investigations/nature_reserves_investigation

I understand Rosemary has made a personal submission, but Maxine was very encouraging of a FOTPIN submission.

If you have any ideas you'd like submitted under the FOTPIN banner then please email them to the group and Rosemary or I can collate. I'll circulate to you my ideas in the unlikely event some come to mind :-). Might be the first opportunity to use our FOTPIN letterhead! We can afford the time to draft something and bounce it off the group before transmittal.

Please let me know ASAP if you intend to collect some ideas so I know to expect them, and/or, I can hassle you for them when I've not heard from you by the due date!!

4) Rosemary will continue to lead every 3rd Sunday weeding, and is open to leading a Saturday morning event. Unless someone puts up their hand, I'll cover the other Sundays. Of course Bob, Gilbert and Warren have Thursday mornings covered. These options are to create more opportunities for people to join us (I know several people that would come Saturday).

Once Rosemary is settled on a Saturday of the month, I'll update the blog and web to reflect the above.

Are there any issues with the above?

5) I plan to make the draft weed plan available on CD, and to include on the CD relevant weed management policies, technical information, publications ... generally turn the CD into a resource for other weed warriors and parkcare groups to use should they embark on a plan. Also, these inclusions will provide some of the background to the content of the plan. Please let me know of any weed related documents that would be good to include on the CD.

6) We have submitted the warren waypoints to PCL, Gilbert will soon return the field record sheets, boards and GPSs. Gilbert and I have copies of the field record sheets, and I have collated this information into an excel file from this we can extract warrens from paddocks that meet certain characteristics as per the record sheet. And we can use this to track warren numbers, size and nature over time.

I have also started drafting a rabbit management strategy for the Pinnacle and environs - rabbit control needs to be implemented between the houses, Coulter Dr and William Hovell Dr, and it may as well be integrated. I've advised PCL of this and hope to engage them in what should translate to a joint program.

I am happy to share any of what I've done with you. I'm also happy to take comments on the draft Table of Contents, and what I've drafted to date (which is mostly policy/scene setting stuff).

7) During next week I should get feedback from PCL on the draft weed plan. Then we'll revise, do more design work, add pics, and prepare for release ... but we need to get together as a group and discuss/agree to its implementation. I'm open to organising an afternoon tea here ... coffee and cupcakes (for you Mark) and a chance to go over it again, including PCL comments. Could be an open house ... likely only have space for 6-8 people in the lounge at one time, but that should be OK - co-authors Penny and Don are close by, and you can walk over with questions on their sections.

8) We have a team photographer. One of Andrew's images is on the blog, and Andrew is creating an image library for use in our business plans (eg the weed plan), newsletters, displays etc etc. Nicely complements Susan's design work, and will prove to be an invaluable resource. Thank you Andrew.

9) Bob and I started spraying last weekend, but I allowed some gunk into Bob's sprayer which put him out of action. It's since been cleared. You don't need chemcert to spray glyphosate, just a certified member supervising. Other chemicals will require all operators to be chemcerted. Who would like to be on my glyphosate sprayers list?

10) Don and I have been in contact with Will Osborne at UC about surveying the Pinnacle for Pink Tailed Worm Lizards and their habitat. PTWL and its rocky habitat are protected under Commonwealth and ACT legislation ... it requires shallow small rocks and native grasses.

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=1665

It's potentially one of those iconic (but rarely seen) species that could help define management priorities and objectives and attract resources to the Pinnacle. I have alerted PCL to the risk of ripping rocky areas. We'll need some volunteers to be trained and then complete survey areas. Let me know if you're interested I know some of my work colleagues are already interested in joining us.

More than enough for now!

Pax