



fotpin update #28 August 2019

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Despite Winter being the quietest time of year at the reserve, there still seems to be quite a lot going on.

Molonglo 3 Watermain Pipeline construction

The construction phase of this project is finally drawing to an end. The pipeline is now fully laid and the contractors have started removing the fencing and planting trees along the cleared construction corridor. There's still a lot of cleaning up to do and the work of restoring the vegetation will take several years.

We will continue to liaise with the contractors involved and relay any important details to the group.

Weed Control

Our intrepid weeding teams have continued to wage war on the reserve's remaining weeds over the freezing winter months, albeit at a reduced rate, and Warren has been calculating our effort for the 2018-19 season. The long-term trends show that overall we're having to spend less time and use less chemical each year as we slowly get more of the weeds under control. From our peak annual effort in 2012 of nearly 1400 hours, we're now down to a tick over half that amount and the reserve is looking better than ever. (Check out the details on our [weeding effort summary](#) page.) However, it's not all good news. Some highly invasive weeds, notably African Love Grass and St. John's Wort remain stubbornly persistent, and reduced spraying capability in the last few years has limited our ability to tackle weed infestations outside the reserve proper in North Kama and the Bottom Pinnacle. So, there's still lots to do and the weeds won't be giving up anytime soon. But we've made great progress and it's all thanks to the huge effort put in by all our regular and seasonal weeding teams.

Upcoming Events

- **Jamison Joint ParkCare Display – September 13 (Fri.) to 15 (Sun.)**

We will be taking part once again in this very successful annual display held at the Jamison Shopping Centre in Macquarie. The other groups involved this year are our neighbours the Friends of Mt Painter, the Friends of Aranda Bushland, the Friends of Black Mountain, the Friends of Grasslands, the Ginninderra Catchment Group, the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park and the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group.

As always, we will need volunteers to staff the stall from Friday morning through to Sunday afternoon. If you'd like to help out, please take a look at the online roster and pop your name in one of the empty slots in the fotpin column:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/189RQmMY_OQjQyadXiAKFkEwgEBV7u4zX5-nOBtCHgAM/edit

Unfortunately, I won't be here for the event this year as I will be over on Lord Howe Island doing bird surveys that weekend, but feel free to drop me an email (convenor@fotpin.org.au) if you have any questions in the meantime.

- **Spring Bird Walk at the Pinnacle – Sunday September 22nd**

Spring is always an exciting time at the Pinnacle as the resident birds and the migratory species come to the reserve to use its woodlands and tree hollows as nesting sites. I will

be leading a walk through some of the best bird-friendly habitat in the reserve to take a discreet look at what the birds are up to.

- **Spring Wildflower Walk at the Pinnacle – Date TBA**

In the hope that we will actually get some decent rain this spring, we are optimistically planning another walk this year to look at the wealth of native wildflowers that bloom every year (almost) at the reserve.

- **Weetangera Primary School Fete – Sunday November 17th**

We are planning to hold a display stall for the Pinnacle at the fete again this year, as usual. We'll send out a reminder email closer to the date, but please note this date in your calendar if you're interested in helping out on the stall.

- **Butterfly Walk – Date TBA**

I will be asking Butterfly guru Suzi Bond to again lead a walk looking at the Pinnacle's butterflies. Watch this space!

Weetangera Paddock Revegetation

Over the winter, long-time fotpin volunteer Len Taylor has been hard at work sprouting and nurturing native grass and forb seedlings from seed gathered on the reserve. His aim is to help restore the groundcover burned off by last year's hazard reduction burns in the Weetangera Paddock. To help with this (and future) projects, fotpin has invested in a compact portable greenhouse for raising seedlings and protecting them from Canberra's harsher frosts.

Len has also spearheaded a project for fabricating small wire mesh guards for his new seedlings, along with short steel stakes used to anchor the guards in place. He and his team have already planted close to 50 new native Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) seedlings in the cleared areas of Weetangera Paddock with plans to plant upwards of 350 seedlings in all. This is all on top of Len's sterling work in rescuing and re-siting Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) tussocks from the pipeline corridor to Weetangera Paddock. Great work Len!

Pinnacle Extension/Offset

We were informed at the end of July that the scheduled ecological burn in the offset was imminent, and we have confirmed that the burn took place on Friday August 2nd. We are optimistic that this will be the more frequently used form of hazard reduction in future, rather than the grazing that has been used in the past. In the past, we have frequently observed the destructive impacts of grazing, both direct and indirect, in North Kama and look forward to a more flexible approach to hazard reduction in the future.

Noticeboard Refurbishment

You may be relieved to hear that we have finally successfully refurbished the Pinnacle noticeboard. The original corflute backing inside the noticeboard had decayed over time and was visibly falling apart, so PCS supplied us with two new sheets of corflute, complete with UV-resistant coating. The redoubtable Gilbert and I installed said new corflute sheets on July 9th and I am now working on putting together new display materials to adorn the new backing sheets. Many thanks to PCS for supplying the materials and to Gilbert for his invaluable assistance.

30 Years of ParkCare

A half-day forum is being organised to celebrate the 30th anniversary of ParkCare in the ACT. The event will be held at the Yarramundi Cultural Centre on Yarramundi Reach, off Lady Denman Drive, on Saturday November 9th, starting at 10 am and finishing with a delicious BBQ lunch. The event will feature exhibitions of photos and other memorabilia from the early days of ParkCare in Canberra and will include a few short speeches by some of ParkCare's local pioneers. The event will also look forward to the next 30 years and hopefully spark some

constructive conversations on how best to address the challenges and opportunities that the future will bring.

Kangaroo Cull

Other than the announcement on the ABC that this year's cull successfully reached its target of just over 4,000 roos (a quarter of which were at Mt Ainslie-Majura), we have not yet had any updates on whether any roos were culled at the Pinnacle or if so, how many. I have asked Marty to make inquiries but have yet to hear back.

Cheers,

John Brannan
Convenor

August 13th, 2019