



Friends of the Pinnacle AGM May 2023 Convenor's Report

In many ways, the 2022-23 year has been a rerun of the previous year, albeit slightly less extreme. We again had abundant rainfall for most of the year, some astonishing displays of native daisies and other wildflowers, and rampant weed growth, especially St. John's Wort, blackberry and a whole suite of woody weeds. And we're still not out of the COVID woods. If anything, it seems to be getting worse again just recently, perhaps partly because we're no longer taking it as seriously as we once did. This more relaxed approach has meant that a lot of the events that were cancelled in the last few years were revived this year, including the Joint ParkCare Display weekend at Jamison and the Weetangera School Fete. Our guided walks programs were well attended, and we also hosted several walks by other groups, including the Canberra Ornithologists and the U3A Nature & Wellbeing walk run by Landcare ACT. We also helped out with the Annual Tree Day at Hawker College in October last year. The key highlights of the year are summarised below.

Weeding & Biodiversity

Our weeding teams clocked up 857 hours spent controlling weeds in the reserve between July last year and the end of April this year. This is an enormous effort and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the weeding teams for all their hard work. I particularly want to thank Warren, not only for the huge amounts of time he spends out in the reserve spraying weeds, but also for his work in coordinating and logging all the effort put in by all our weeders. Warren also spends many hours maintaining lists of native species on the reserve, and thanks to this effort, we now know that the reserve is home to an amazing 914 native species, including 266 native plant species. Thank you Warren!

Farewell Kelzang

Our District Ranger for the last few years has been the indefatigable Kelzang Tschering, and we have been very fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard-working ranger helping us on the reserve. However, Kelzang met with me about a month or so ago to let me know that he is finally moving on. He will be joining the Offsets team where he will gain valuable knowledge and experience. His place has now been taken by Julian Lolicato, a recent recruit to the Northside district ranger team. We wish Kelzang well in his new position and look forward to working with Julian in the months and (hopefully!) years to come.

Molonglo 3 Watermain Pipeline Corridor Revegetation

Our efforts to promote native groundcover in the compound beside the Icon water tanks have yielded very limited success so far, and this has forced us to reconsider how best to use the funding we were given for this revegetation work. We are confident that we can improve on what has been done previously and will continue to look for effective ways to restore native vegetation along the pipeline corridor.

Weetangera Paddock Revegetation

Len Taylor and his team continue to work on promoting the restoration of native grasses and forbs both inside and outside exclosures in the Weetangera paddock. Len was successful in obtaining an ACT Government Environment Grant this year and has been using the funding to build additional exclosures where he is having considerable success restoring native grasses and forbs. He and his team are to be congratulated for their efforts and the positive outcomes they are achieving.

New Pinnacle Brochure

With funding from PCS, we were able to get a new batch of brochures printed earlier this year. The new brochures feature a new cover image, updated information and an updated reserve map that includes the new Kama Link paddock (formerly the Offset area).

Charitable Status

For administrative reasons, we applied for and received charitable lat year. This makes little difference to our how we operate, but it does mean that we can continue to use ".org" in our email and website addresses.

Interpretive Signage

The other ACT Government Environment Grant we received this year was funding for the fabrication and installation of several interpretive information signs around the reserve. Our grant application proposed the installation of two large entrance signs (one at Dungowan St in Hawker and the other in the Springvale Drive car park opposite De Salis St in Weetangera), one large panorama sign to go on the Pinnacle summit, and either two or three trackside signs. Our current plans for the trackside signs are to install one in the Forest and another beside the dam, and the design work for these signs is now largely complete. The two entrance signs will each have a map of the reserve showing suggested walks for reserve visitors, together with a welcome to the reserve in English and Ngunawal language. The design work for these signs is also well under way. The design work for the summit panorama sign is still in progress, though we already have a general idea of what the sign will include. Just recently, one of our members very generously offered to fund an additional trackside sign, and we are currently considering where to site the sign and what information to include. At this stage, we are strongly considering locating the sign at the turnoff to the Kama Link paddock near the 5-ways junction, but we are open to suggestions. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Secretary Anne Aisbett and Coordinating Committee member Alana Wilkes, who have been part of the team working hard on developing and designing these signs. We are hoping that we will have the new signs completed and installed well before Christmas.

Membership

Fotpin membership has remained steady this year at 109, and the total number of people on our email contact list has now climbed to 336.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Warren for setting up and running the Zoom session for members who chose to attend the AGM virtually, and my thanks as always to Weetangera Primary School for allowing us to use their staff room for the meeting. And thanks also to everyone who brought along the delicious snacks for afternoon tea.

Cheers,

John Brannan