



## **Annual General Meeting** **26 July 2015** *Weetangera Primary School* **Minutes**

The meeting opened at 2.05 pm.

### **Present:**

*Members:* Barbara Allan, Rosemary Blemings, Warren Bond, John Brannan, Vaughn Cox (Pax), Nathanael Coyne, Don Driscoll, John Fitz Gerald, Denise Hall, Mike Hall, Lesley Harland, Bob Hodgson, Graeme Muller, Carolynne Parker, Mary Porter, Elizabeth Smith, Len Taylor.

*Non-members:* Claire McInnes (PCS\*), Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent (UC\*), Karissa Preuss (GCG\*), Craig Wainwright (PCS\*), Lizzie Wandrag (UC\*).

\* PCS: ACT Parks and Conservation Service

\* UC: University of Canberra

### **Apologies:**

Mark Hallam, Gilbert Hughes, Nola McKeon (non-member), Keith Thomas, David Tongway.

### **1. Welcome by the Convenor**

The convenor welcomed our speakers - Claire McInnes, Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent and Karissa Preuss, visitors – Craig Wainwright and Lizzie Wandrag, and fotpin members. Pax acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which we meet.

### **2. Guest speakers:**

- Claire McInnes - Pinnacle Extension & Offset Management Plan

Claire is an Offset Planning Officer. She explained that environmental offsets compensate for the adverse impacts on matters of national environmental significance (MNES) as identified under the Australian Government Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Approved offsets in the ACT are currently more than 2000 hectares.

An additional 19.5 hectares will be added to the Pinnacle Nature Reserve as an offset for impacts on Box Gum Grassy Woodland resulting from the University of Canberra Public Hospital development. It will also be managed to protect other conservation values within the site including Pink-tail Worm-lizard, woodland birds and the Red Stringybark Tableland Grass-shrub Forest.

Management issues include weeds, vertebrate pests, restoration works (erosion control and plantings), access (fences, gates, track maintenance and signage) and biomass management (overabundant native animals and bushfire management).

An offset management plan is being developed and takes into account conservation and recreation purposes. Cultural and heritage values will also be taken into account. Fotpin has provided substantial comments to date. Significant resources will be available and PCS will address fotpin's priorities.

- Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent, University of Canberra PhD student, on the Native Grass Regeneration Project

Andrew spoke to the meeting about how his PhD project follows on from Don Driscoll's grassland restoration experiment. He hopes to study native and introduced grassland species in the Pinnacle Reserve under different conditions to understand invasion processes such as what makes

a species invasive and which environments are at risk. Ideally, these findings will be used to inform management and restoration practices in the future.

- **Karissa Preuss on Landcare ACT**

Karissa is the coordinator of the Ginninderra Catchment Group (GCG). The GCG is an umbrella organisation that supports 14 Landcare groups and 4 Parkcare group, including fotpin. Karissa explained her role in supporting groups like ours.

She talked about the role of the newly formed peak body, Landcare ACT. It will provide a voice for community groups at state and national forums e.g. the National Landcare Network, and support the work of on-ground volunteers. This is something we haven't had before. Membership and governance issues are being resolved. The new organisation will help raise community awareness and understanding and prepare a Memorandum of Understanding with Parks to establish how best to work together.

Members asked if a communications flow chart was available to help us understand how everything fits together. Craig explained that a document is available but is hard to keep up to date.

### **3. Minutes of the 2014 AGM**

[www.fotpin.org.au/minutes/Minutes\\_fotpin-AGM\\_20-Jul-14.pdf](http://www.fotpin.org.au/minutes/Minutes_fotpin-AGM_20-Jul-14.pdf)

Warren Bond moved that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted. Seconded: John Brannan. Accepted unanimously.

### **4. Convenor's Report**

Pax spoke about the achievements of fotpin over the last year which included:

- The Clean Up the Pinnacle Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> kangaroo survey
- Autumn and Spring walks programs
- Tree plantings
- Comments on the draft offset management plan
- 1100 hours of weeding effort. Pax thanked Parks for their assistance and equipment, Warren for monitoring the work and the weeding teams for their contribution. The Committee is happy with what has been achieved this year. Our treatment footprint has increased whilst meeting weed control objectives.

Craig Wainwright thanked the Group on behalf of Parks. He noted that he uses fotpin as an example of an evolved group which has moved away from weeding once a month.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Warren Bond presented the audited financial statement for 2014-15:

[www.fotpin.org.au/minutes/fotpin\\_Audited-Financial-Statement\\_2014-2015.pdf](http://www.fotpin.org.au/minutes/fotpin_Audited-Financial-Statement_2014-2015.pdf)

Warren moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Seconded: Elizabeth Smith

John Brannan clarified a date error in the Auditor's report.

Accepted with amendment.

### **6. Stand-down of the current Coordinating Committee:**

Members of the previous fotpin Coordinating Committee stood down in accordance with meeting rules and positions were declared vacant.

Craig Wainwright, Returning Officer, called for nominations from the floor.

## 7. Election of new Coordinating Committee by show of hands

The following office holders and ordinary members were nominated and elected unopposed.

**Convenor:** Vaughn Cox (Pax )

Nominated: Warren Bond; Seconded: Carolynne Parker

**Coordinator:** John Brannan

Nominated: Elizabeth Smith; Seconded: John Brannan

**Secretary:** Carolynne Parker

Nominated: Pax; Seconded: Elizabeth Smith

**Treasurer:** Denise Hall

Nominated: Warren Bond; Seconded: Pax

**Ordinary Members:**

Keith Thomas

Nominated: Pax; Seconded: Warren Bond

Warren Bond

Nominated: Pax; Seconded: John Brannan

Nathanael Coyne

Nominated: Mary Porter; Seconded: Warren Bond.

The incoming committee members were congratulated.

Mary Porter thanked the outgoing committee, the returning officer and volunteers.

## 8. Other business:

- Call for volunteers to establish a working group to develop a restoration strategy for the Pinnacle and North Kama.

Pax explained the need to form a small working group to develop a restoration plan for the Pinnacle, Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama. He committed to sending out an email to fotpin membership asking for volunteers to nominate by COB Friday 31 July. John Brannan, Len Taylor, John Fitz Gerald and Nat Coyne have expressed an interest. Project scoping will commence ASAP.

- Proposed social event in Spring

A social event on the Pinnacle will be scheduled as part of the Spring program.

- Canberra Nature Map

John Fitz Gerald asked that we advise members of the Canberra Nature Map app (<http://canberranaturemap.org/>). Using this smart phone app. members can share images of the Pinnacle. You may also use digital cameras with GPS capability to contribute (image needs to be georeferenced). It is potentially a great way to promote the Pinnacle and collect useful flora info. Please check the website for details/how to.

- BMX tracks in the Park

It was noted that BMX 'bumps' have been constructed in the Park during the school holidays. Craig reported that this is a Canberra wide issue and that we should let Parks know. Mary Porter suggested we engage with the Education Directorate and local schools to encourage young people to take a pride in their reserves. BMX Riders should be encouraged to use the Bruce Ridge facility which will be opening soon.

It was suggested that better/more signage detailing what you can and cannot do in a Reserve should be posted at Reserve entrances.

**Action:** Pax to request signs from ACT Parks.

Meeting close. 4.20pm.